

Policy Seminar on “Tank Desiltation and Silt Application for Agricultural Land”

Introduction: Harnessing the potential of sedimentation, both in water bodies and as a resource for agriculture, presents a unique opportunity for sustainable land and water management. This policy seminar is for highlighting the dual benefits of tank desiltation and the application of silt in fields, offering a comprehensive approach to resource optimization and environmental stewardship.

Part I: Tank Desiltation



Why Desiltation Matters

1. **Water Conservation:** Sediment accumulation reduces water storage capacity, impacting water availability for irrigation, livestock, and domestic use.
2. **Water Quality:** Excessive sedimentation leads to nutrient imbalances and degradation of water quality, affecting both ecosystems and human health.
3. **Flood Prevention:** Desilting tanks reduces the risk of flooding during heavy rainfall events by restoring their original capacity to retain water.



Benefits of Desiltation:

1. **Enhanced Water Storage:** Restores the full capacity of tanks, ensuring a reliable water supply for agricultural and domestic needs.
2. **Improved Water Quality:** Removal of sediments reduces turbidity and pollutant levels, enhancing water quality for various uses.
3. **Ecosystem Restoration:** Promotes biodiversity and ecological balance within the water body, benefiting aquatic habitats and species.



Part II: Silt Application in Field Utilizing Sediment as a Resource:

1. **Nutrient-Rich Soil Amendment:** Sediment contains organic matter and nutrients beneficial for soil health and fertility.
2. **Erosion Control:** Applying silt to fields helps prevent soil erosion, conserving valuable topsoil and reducing sedimentation in water bodies.
3. **Moisture Retention:** Silt enhances soil's water retention capacity, reducing the need for irrigation and conserving water resources.
4. **Application Methods:**
 - **Direct Spreading:** Spread dried or treated silt directly onto fields using spreaders or by hand.
 - **Incorporation:** Plow or till silt into the soil to improve its structure and nutrient content.
 - **Composting:** Mix silt with organic materials to create nutrient-rich compost for soil amendment.

Benefits of Silt Application

1. **Increased Crop Yields:** Improved soil fertility and structure promote healthy plant growth and higher yields.
2. **Cost Savings:** Utilizing sediment as a soil amendment reduces the need for chemical fertilizers and irrigation, lowering production costs.
3. **Sustainable Land Management:** Silt application fosters sustainable agricultural practices by utilizing natural resources effectively and reducing environmental impact.

Why this policy Seminar?

DHAN Foundation is involved in Natural Resources Management focusing mainly on Community based Development and Management of Water Resources. The initiatives taken so far have reached several villages through rejuvenating water bodies benefiting thousands of families. By working closely with the community, DHAN Foundation has gained valuable experience over the past one decade. DHAN believes that for better management of water resources, certain changes in the present policies and practices are needed. Hence, it has been decided to organise Policy Seminar to disseminate the changes needed in specific sectoral issues. This will facilitate Administrators and Field level Organisations in their attempts of better management of scarce water resources.

Policy Seminar focuses more about exploring the ways of scaling up the practice of tank desiltation and silt application based on DHAN's experience. It highlights the importance of silt application in soil health, need for the analysis of silt sedimentation in order to recommend it for its usage to agriculture and small industries. It is proposed to convergence of Government schemes such as MGNREGA to renovate the practice of desilting and application of silt to agriculture fields on large scale.

It is mainly focusing the attention of Maharashtra State government departments of Agriculture, Rural Development, Revenue Administration, Ministry of Rural Development and Agriculture and co-operation, NABARD and Banking Institutions.

Participants

Around 100 participants from various Government department officials of Maharashtra Government, Officials from NABARD, Scientists from Universities and KVK, NGO representatives, farmers and farmers leaders from various farmers associations from Vidarbha region of Maharashtra, DHAN Foundation staff and etc., are participating in this policy seminar.

Venue: Radhamangal Colors Inn, Yavatmal

Date: 7th June, 2024, Friday

About DHAN Foundation

DHAN Foundation is a grassroots development organization and was initiated with the objective of bringing highly motivated and qualified young professionals to the development sector for new innovations in development programmers and for upscaling development interventions to eradicate poverty. The Foundation works towards bringing significant changes in the livelihood of the poor through innovation in themes and institutions.

The approach of the Foundation is to promote people's organization and their networks aiming at improving the livelihoods of poor communities by organizing development works around themes. These people's organizations would sustain themselves and excel in long run. Presently DHAN Foundation is working on the themes namely Community Banking, Conservation of Tanks, Information and Communication Technology for Poor, Rainfed Farming and Panchayats.

Rainfed Farming Development Programme (RFDP)

DHAN Resource Centre, Pandharkawada

Jiddewar Nivas, Chintamani Layout

Pandharkawada, Dist. Yavatmal

Pin - 445302

DHAN FOUNDATION

1A, Vaidhyanathapuram East, Kennet Cross Road

Madurai – 625 016, TamilNadu

Tel. +91 452 2302500,

Email.dhanfoundation@dhan.org