

# Convention on Water for Peace: Advancing collective governance towards sustainable development of water resources

// Date: March 20, 2024 //

The Convention on Water for Peace, focusing on advancing collective governance for sustainable water resources, was held at the DHAN Foundation on March 20, 2024. The event witnessed the participation of key stakeholders, including Vayalagam CEO Mr. V. Venkatesan, esteemed guests, and representatives from various water conservation programs.

Mr. V. Venkatesan extended a warm welcome to all attendees, emphasizing the unity and strength of Vayalagam ayacut farmers. A video presentation showcased the impactful initiatives undertaken in Kadaladi Vayalaga Vattaram in Ramanathapuram district.

Mr. Nagoor Ali Jinnah shed light on significant water conservation missions across different regions, including Kakathiya in Telangana and Sauni in Gujarat. He highlighted the success stories of water-related projects, emphasizing the need for collective efforts in addressing the global water crisis.

Mr. Santanu Basu, Project Director from HCL Foundation discussed the current water situation, stressing the critical groundwater levels in 60% of Indian districts. He underscored HCL's CSR initiatives, including tree plantation and water body renovation projects in collaboration with DHAN Foundation.

Dr. Chelvi Ramesh, Professor, ICAR-KVK, Aruppukottai shared valuable insights on rainfall patterns, water usage, and innovative agricultural practices.



Dr. Madhavi Ganesan elaborated on irrigation schemes, farming techniques, and government initiatives aimed at enhancing water sustainability.

The convention concluded with actionable steps to promote sustainable water management:

- Establish sustainable people's institutions for all tanks.
- Evict encroachments in water bodies with the support of ayacut farmers.
- Conduct Shramdhan at frequent intervals for tank maintenance.
- Raise awareness about use of water for domestic and irrigation purposes in a conservative way.
- Create MOU agreements between Vayalagam and Panchayats.
- Implement modern agricultural techniques and collaborate with government schemes like MGNREGS for Vayalagam sustainability.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Mr.Durairaj, President of the Vayalagam Movement, expressing gratitude to all participants and guests for their valuable contributions.