

Global Closing

// Date: 22.03.2024 //

Global Closing Ceremony of Tamil Nadu Water Week commenced at 3:00 pm on Mar 22, 2024 at DHAN Foundation office premises. In his welcome address, Mr N.Venkatesan, Program Leader highlighted the theme for the year 2024, declared as “Water for Peace” by UN. He emphasized the cultural significance of efficient water usage as a traditional practice and underscored the importance of protecting water resources through the renovation of water bodies via the “Kudimaramarathu System,” a practice championed by DHAN Vayalagam Tank Foundation for over three decades. He extended a warm welcome to all the subsidiaries of DHAN Foundation, including Kalanjiam Foundation, Rainfed, CALL, and various people institutions such as Jeevidam and SUHAM.

Dr S.Mohan, Vice Chancellor, Puducherry Technological University (Virtual), in his address stressed the importance of water body maintenance and system practices by communities, emphasizing the notable contribution of women in water management. He stressed the significance of orienting communities towards fish rearing through Vayalagam institutions and advocated for domestic water reutilization practices to combat pollution. Highlighting successful demonstrations of these practices in Virudhunagar district, he called for concerted efforts in water conservation and management.

In her experience sharing, Ms Poomalai leader from the Palamedu Federation emphasized the importance of water literacy from a young age and advocated for the implementation of kitchen gardens for effective nature conservation. She stressed the need for initiating change within community institutions.

Mr Baskaran highlighted the importance of teamwork in promoting and executing initiatives, particularly in encouraging pulses and millet cultivation and practicing effective water management in farming. He emphasized the

need for advocating for water body renovation and strengthening district-level positions.

Mr M.P. Vasimalai, Executive Director, DHAN Foundation called for advocating for movement towards domestic water reutilization and the establishment of open sewage-free societies. He proposed initiatives such as urban farming in tanks and encouraged rainwater harvesting, emphasizing the need for value-based clubs and water courts at the village level.

Mr P Subburaj, Joint Director of Agriculture, shared valuable insights on water utilization for various crops, highlighting specific water requirements for optimal growth. For crops like sugarcane and paddy, substantial amounts of water, approximately 2000 mm and 1750 mm respectively, are necessary. Similarly, gingelly and small millets require 150 mm and 300 mm of water respectively. He emphasized the importance of agricultural practices such as summer ploughing, weed removal, and land leveling to enhance water storage efficiency. He underscored the significance of water conservation by illustrating that even a single drop wasted in a water pipe equates to 6.5 liters lost in an hour. Additionally, he discussed the importance of water agreements with nearby states, citing the example of the Cauvery River. He advocated for the adoption of drip irrigation and sprinkler irrigation over canal irrigation to minimize water evaporation and ensure efficient water use in agriculture production. Furthermore, he emphasized the benefits of soil mulching, silpan sheets, and green sheds for cultivation, which contribute to water conservation and crop health. He also highlighted the importance of using value-added products such as certified seeds, with a seed duration of 9 months for optimal germination, thereby enhancing agricultural productivity and sustainability.

Various declarations were made by esteemed speakers on Water Commons and Community Collective by Mr.S.Sivanandan, Programme Leader, DHAN Foundation, on Water for Peace by Ms.N.ShanthiMaduresan, Chief Executive, DHAN Panchayat Development Foundation on Water and Agriculture by Ms.K.Shanthi, Chief Executive, Jeevidam Limited, on Water and SAWAS by Mr.R.Rajapandian, Chief Executive, SUHAM Trust and Water balance

and budgeting by Ms.S.Ahila Devi, Chief Executive, People Mutuals. These declarations encompassed a wide range of initiatives, including the revival of traditional farming practices, the implementation of water literacy centers, and the promotion of crop insurance and risk-resilient centers.

Mr. U.Vellaiyappan, Senior Team leader, DHAN Foundation extended his gratitude to all the participants, guests, and institutions involved in making the event a success. He specially thanked the Tamil Nadu Election Board and the Madurai district police department, along with VIT College and Nagapattinam Agricultural College, for their support in organising the events for the Tamil Nadu Water Week.

