

Chapter - 2

Global Inauguration

// Date: March 20, 2024 //

The Tamil Nadu Water Week 2024, which commenced with a reverent prayer, set the stage for the dialogue on effective water resource management. Dignitaries, including chief guests, representatives from DHAN Vayalagam Tank Foundation, Panchayat presidents, and community leaders, gathered to address the pressing need for conservation and sustainability in water management practices.

In his poignant welcome address, Mr. V. Venkatesan, CEO of DHAN Vayalagam Tank Foundation, highlighted the invaluable traditional water management methods passed down by our ancestors. He stressed the urgency for the present generation to uphold and enhance these practices, welcoming esteemed guests and emphasizing their pivotal role in the symposium.

Following Mr. Venkatesan's remarks, Mr. Dixit, Advisor, National Water Mission delved into



technical aspects, outlining four critical points for effective water resource management. These included the imperative need for enhanced community participation, adoption of innovative agricultural technologies, and fostering collaborations among various stakeholders for sustainable water management practices.

Addressing the audience, Dr. Madhavi Ganesan, Director, Centre for Water Resources, Anna University, lauded the efforts of the DHAN Foundation in promoting community-driven water management initiatives. She underscored the necessity of revitalizing water associations and urged proactive measures to combat water scarcity, drawing insights from successful water management models in countries like Israel.

Mr. Sourabh Kumar, IFrS, Former Ambassador of India to the UN Offices, emphasized the global significance of water management, highlighting the challenges posed by uneven water distribution and the imperative need for community compliance with governmental initiatives such as Jal Jeevan Mission and Swachh Bharat Mission.

Dr. V.Geetha Lakshmi, Vice Chancellor of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, stressed the multifaceted benefits of water conservation, emphasizing its pivotal role in economic development, ecosystem preservation, and community welfare. She advocated for the adoption of cost-effective and sustainable farming practices, including drip irrigation systems.

Further insights were provided by Mr. Mohammed Ali Jinnah, Former NABARD Chief General Manager, who underscored the importance of financial prudence in water management projects and urged for policy seminars and grassroots movements to drive change.

Concluding the symposium, Mr. M.P. Vasimalai, Executive Director of DHAN Foundation, outlined actionable plans for urban wastewater management, sustainable water usage, and educational initiatives. A vote of thanks by Mr. J. Mohan, COO, DVTF concluded the inaugural event, marking a step forward in collaborative efforts towards sustainable water management practices.

The global inauguration was concluded at 1:30 PM, leaving attendees inspired and motivated to implement the discussed strategies for a water-secure future.