



2015 Risk Award Top 20  
Disaster risk reduction –  
people centred,  
sustainable and innovative

The project: Building Climate Smart Communities (CSC)  
of the organisation: Development of Humane Action  
Foundation (DHAN)

was amongst the top twenty projects of  
the 2015 Risk Award.

The Risk Award partners UNISDR, GRF Davos and  
Munich Re Foundation thank the applicant for  
the valuable contribution to help improve disaster  
risk management.

On behalf of the jury:

Margareta Wahlström  
UNISDR

Walter Ammann  
GRF Davos

Thomas Loster  
Munich Re Foundation



The 2015 RISK Award jury members are:

Walter Ammann  
President and CEO of Global Risk  
Forum GRF Davos, Switzerland

Susan Cutter  
Professor University of South  
Carolina, Hazards and Vulnerability  
Research Institute, USA

Thomas Loster  
Chairman of Munich Re Foundation,  
Germany

Hon. Maria Mutagamba  
Minister of Tourism and Wildlife, Uganda

Haresh Shah  
Professor Stanford University,  
Founder and Senior Advisor of Risk  
Management Solutions, Inc., India

Margareta Wahlström  
Special Representative of the  
UN Secretary-General for Disaster Risk  
Reduction (UNISDR), Switzerland

Sandra Wu, Wen-Hsiu  
CEO of Kokusai Kogyo Co., Ltd,  
Japan



## Building climate-smart communities (CSC) to combat risks in the semi-arid regions (SAR) of Southern India



The southern peninsular of India is prone to multiple and recurrent risks such as droughts, cyclones and floods. Approximately half the population in this region works in agriculture. Uncertain rainfall, prolonged spells of drought and market uncertainties often force them to leave their lands fallow, borrow from local moneylenders at high interest rates for survival or migrate to nearby towns. This project would help them build resilience by intervening with sustainable soil, water and agricultural practices.

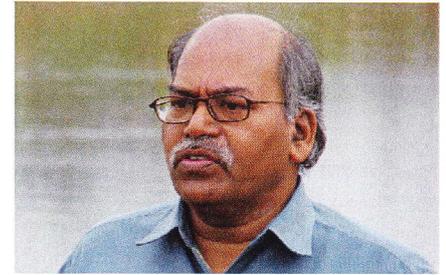
Farm ponds are the most crucial "shock absorbers" for farmers involved in rain-fed farming. They provide life-saving irrigation for the crops during critical growth phases if a prolonged dry spell sets in.



Project goal: "To build climate-smart communities capable of adapting to changes and overcoming risks through independent and collective action for achieving livelihood and ecosystem stability."

The repetitive nature of the disasters in this region has put the agrarian community at high risk in the semi-arid regions (SARS) of Southern India. Multiple risks and stressors, and the uncertainties associated with them, can be viewed as prime factors aggravating vulnerability and undermining community adaptation and resilience to climate stressors in SARS. Addressing climatic issues requires large-scale and holistic intervention at community level. The DHAN Foundation believes in community-led development and action for addressing the issues. It considers the poor and their institutions as partners and enables them to achieve the desired development through their own institutions.

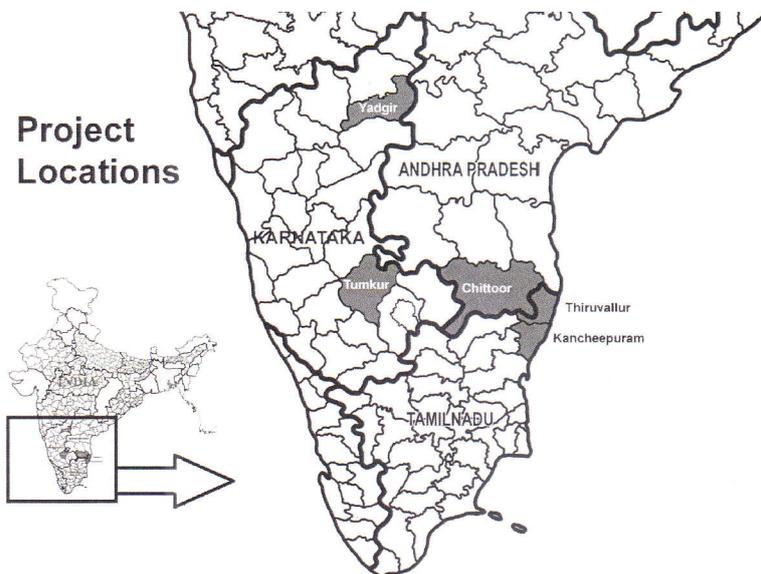
The project addresses multiple risks by encompassing components such as knowledge management, risk transfer through microinsurance, micro weather stations to support insurance products, climate-resilient agricultural practices, improvement of the harvesting potential on common and individual land, improvement of water utilisation efficiency and soil health. The target households are the poor and vulnerable farmers who would otherwise change their livelihood due to income and food insecurity aggravated by the complexity of risks associated with their current farming practices. The project facilitates access to a mix of traditional and modern knowledge to help cope with these risks. It would impact 10,000 households directly and 15,000 households indirectly.



"Farmers know what their needs are. They are mostly unorganised and do not have access to the entitlements meant for them from the mainstream institutions. The project envisages that alone by organisation in self-managed institutions and creating space for collective action, they can overcome risks and achieve food and income security."

M.P. Vasimalai,  
Executive Director,  
DHAN Foundation

## Project Locations



The project proposes to address various risks arising from climate change in the Chittoor district of Andhra Pradesh, the Tumkur and Yadagir districts of Karnataka and the Kancheepuram and Thiruvallur districts in Tamil Nadu.



DHAN Foundation

Development of Humane  
Action Foundation (DHAN)

www.dhan.org