



Inland Fisheries and Livelihoods Learning from Grassroots

(Status, Potential and Challenges for Scaling Up)

September 16, 2011

Madurai Symposium 2011

The Seminar

The Madurai Symposium is a biennial signature event being organized at Madurai as a knowledge management platform for development practitioners to share their experiences on various development themes and to advance their collaboration with other institutions and the general public. The fifth Madurai Symposium (2011) is scheduled to be organized during September 14 – 18, 2011 at Madurai. The focus of the Madurai Symposium 2011 is on integrating livelihoods development with the various development interventions and sharing the field experiences to address global issues of sustainable development. During the Symposium it is proposed to conduct a seminar on Inland Fisheries and Livelihoods: DVTF's learning from Grass root.

Background

DHAN Vayalagam (Tank) Foundation (DVTF) is striving for community inland fisheries development in small scale water bodies such as tanks and ponds. In these minor irrigation tanks, fishery is facilitated by providing dead storage to extend the period of water storage. Dead storage is the stored water below the sill level of the sluice which cannot be taken by gravitational force for irrigation. This will help to store water for an extended period of two months for successful fish rearing.

Salient features of inland fishery in tanks and ponds:

- Making full use of available water in rural common water resources by taking up fish rearing activity.
- Providing additional livelihood for small and marginal farmers and landless agricultural labourers.
- Providing additional income to people institutions to sustain the maintenance of rural water eco-systems
- Providing protein rich food at their reach to offer additional nutrition to rural community
- Employment generation for inland fishermen & landless agricultural labourers

Adopted technique and fish species

Poly culture technique is adopted in rainfed tanks by stocking fish seeds of carps and Murrel. The carp's variety species are Catla, Rohu, Mrigal, Common carp, Silver carp and Grass carp. The seeds of Murrel are wild seeds which are naturally collected. Apart from these, we have stocked Pangasius and Iridescent or stripped shark species.

Composite fish culture technique is adopted in village ponds and farm ponds.

DVTF's Programme: DHAN Vayalagam (Tank) Foundation, a water theme of DHAN Collective is giving importance to conservation and development of small scale water bodies such as tanks and ponds which impound rain water runoff from their free catchments area only without any other supplemental source during the south west and north east monsoon period. Generally these water resources are used for irrigation as well as ground water recharge. The normal duration of water availability in these tanks and ponds is three to seven months and fishing of natural stock is the long-established practice in small-scale water bodies' slowly, that has become changed to rearing of fishes. Even though

this water ecosystem is utilized for irrigation to meet livestock and domestic purposes in addition to ground water recharge. Fishery activity is given least importance in these water bodies due to the uncertainty of water availability.

From 2006 onwards, inland fishery has been given importance expecting a good potential for developing inland fishery through community organisation. Awareness campuses creation, and technical training, and ToT programme to professionals are conducted to develop this activity through Vayalagams (WUA formed by DVTF) and individuals. The growth of fishery development is highly encouraging with the success rate of 70%. From 2006 – 2011, 847 water bodies were taken up (rainfed tanks and ponds are 549 and farm ponds are 298) for fishery activity. The development of fish rearing in commons was supported by providing a onetime grant of 75% of total cost with 25% contribution from people. The financial support was extended by different funding agencies such as FAO under Tele Food Special Fund, OXFAM Novib, SDTT, Ministry of Water resources (FPARP) and HIVOS.

Objectives of the Seminar

- Integrate the livelihoods development & additional nutrition with the theme of inland fishery.
- Showcase inland fisheries development and its impact in added nutrition and additional income, to the stakeholders like NGOs, academic institutions and others
- Build the perspectives among the stakeholders and



practitioners on community based inland fishery development through people institutions.

- Influence policy at mainstream institutions for integrating the concept of inland fishery through Vayalagams
 - Evolve a suitable action plan for integrating the concept through field practices as a way forward.

Participants

The expected participants for the seminar are development practitioners and stakeholders such as mainstream institutions, N.G.O.

Reps., leading farmers, academia and interested individuals who are actively involved in developing inland fishery activity. After the paper presentations, group discussion and deliberations on the theme will follow.

Expected outcome

- Showcasing the impact of inland fisheries development which provides multiple uses
- Showcasing inland fishery as an additional livelihood for small and marginal farmers.
- Disseminating the importance of inland fish rearing in different kinds of water bodies
- Disseminating the learnings and impacts to NGOs, academic institutions and Government staff as to bring importance and improvise this activity as a major livelihood for poor

Programme Schedule

- 09.30 – Registration
- 10.00 – Prayer and welcome
- 10.15 – Purpose and background of the seminar
- 10.30 – Opening address: Chairperson
- 10.45 – Lead paper presentation and discussion on lead paper findings
- 11.45 – Tea break
- 12.00 – Paper presentations on field experience
- 13.30 – Lunch break
- 14.30 – Sub-group discussion
- 16.00 – Group presentation and synthesis
- 16.30 – Resolutions and concluding remarks

Venue and Date of the Seminar

The seminar is planned to be organized in Thamukkam Grounds on 16th September 2011

Registration and contact

Kindly confirm your participation and send your papers if any, along with your travel details through email to

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DHAN Vayalagam (Tank) Foundation, Madurai

Tankfed Agriculture Development Programme was one of the thematic programmes of DHAN Foundation towards the purpose of reducing rural poverty. For up scaling the tank programme and for enriching the water related development interventions, DHAN Foundation promoted DHAN Vayalagam (Tank) Foundation (DVTF) which became operational with effect from October 2, 2006. The DVTF is striving for the conservation and development of small scale traditional water resources such as tanks, ponds, ooranies, supply channels etc in addition to the development of watersheds through people's participation. At present DVTF is working in 6 States with the support of Government, National and International Corporate Philanthropies and other funding agencies.

