



**Workshop on  
"Water Governance for Watershed Development:  
Experience from Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka"**

September 12, 2013  
at Thamukkam Grounds

**Madurai Symposium 2013**  
**Governance for Advancing Development**  
September 11-16, 2013

The history of watershed development in India can be traced to the Famine Commission of 1880, again the Royal Commission of Agriculture of 1928, which recognized its importance for India. After independence in 1947, the government established a special centre at Jodhpur in 1952 and in 1959 this was designated as Central Arid Zone Research Institute (CAZRI). The first large scale government supported watershed programme was launched in 1962-63, and a mega sized project named the Drought Prone Area Development Programme (DPAP) was launched in 1972-73. Then, a special programme for the hot desert areas, the Desert Development Programme (DDP) was launched in 1977-78. Later the Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP) was added. In 1993, the Government of India constituted a technical committee headed by Dr C.H Hanumantha Rao to review these programmes. The Committee proposed a revamp, recommending various measures including sanctioning of works on the basis of the action plans on watershed basis, and introduction of participatory modes of implementation through involvement of beneficiaries of the programme and NGOs. the fourth major is National Watershed Development Programme for Rainfed Areas (NWDPR) under the ministry of agriculture. In the year 2008 common watershed guidelines were brought called Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP).

Apart from government, NABARD is funding various watershed development projects and in addition, some watershed programmes are funded by external agencies like World Bank, SDC, DANIDA, DFID, KFW etc.,

Watershed development in India is aimed at the sustainable distribution of its resources among communities within a watershed boundary.

### **Watershed Governance**

Watershed governance is a manifestation of ecological governance as it relates to natural resources like water and soil where all stakeholders come together and voluntarily share ideas towards better implementation and management of watershed and resolve conflicts among themselves. A key factor for its success is improved collaboration and connections between citizens and decision-makers at the watershed scale. The overarching

goal is to provide alternatives to current systems of governance and planning that are focused too narrowly on water isolating the resource from its broader interactions across sectors and within ecosystems. Watershed governance is emerging as a viable approach in achieving long-term sustainability.

Better governance helps the implementers to use unique capabilities in local community which makes them a valuable partner in governance. This also provides space for women, landless etc., in decision making and policy advocacy. Local governance also helps implementers to rescale its role in decision making and collaborate with other stakeholders on a level playing field rather than in an administrative or hierarchical manner.

In watershed development, governance means 'local governance' and the need for local governance is to create partnerships between donor organizations, private and government institutions, NGOs and community representatives to enhance an 'organizational society' among stakeholders for 'participatory development' through 'collective action'.

### **Watershed Management and Governance**

Watershed management is as much a problem of "governance" as it is a question of science and designing effective policies says Mark.T.Imperial. According to him Governance refers to the means for achieving direction, control and coordination of individuals and organizations with varying degrees of autonomy in order to advance joint objectives. More than the configuration of policies it includes enabling statutes, organizational and financial resources, programmatic structures and administrative rules and routines. It also includes the formal and informal rules, social norms, and structures that govern relationships between organizations. It is inherently political and involves bargaining, negotiation, and compromise. Therefore, the central challenge for watershed managers is finding ways to improve governance.

Participation of community or public in watershed development as part of governance would help to

- Resolve issues
- Reach agreement
- Undertake joint actions
- Share resources such as information, money etc.,
- Evaluation and accountability
- Steering, coordinating and priority setting
- Motivating
- Celebrating
- Increased learning's

### Workshop

Madurai Symposium is biannual event being organized at Madurai for the development practitioners and multi stake holders to share their experiences on various development themes and to advance their collaboration with the institutions and general public. The sixth Madurai Symposium 2013 is scheduled to be organized during the September 11-15 at Madurai. The focus of the Madurai Symposium 2013 is on Advancing the Governance with various development interventions and sharing the field experiences to address the global issues of sustainable development. During the symposium it is prepared to conduct a workshop on "Water Governance for Watershed Development: Experience from Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka" on 12th September 2014.

### Objectives

- To share the experiences of various stake holders on best practices in watershed governance
- To identify challenges in watershed governance
- To evolve strategies to ensure effective governance in watersheds

### Participants

The expected participants for the conference are representatives from Government institutions, NGOs, academic institutions, watersheds, colleges etc., in Tamilnadu, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka.

### Programme Schedule

- 09.30AM: Prayer and Welcome
- 09.45AM: Purpose and background of the conference
- 10.00AM: Opening address by Chairperson
- 10.30AM: Lead paper presentation
- 11.00AM: Experience sharing from various stake holders
- 11.45AM: Tea break
- 12.15PM: Experience sharing continues
- 13.30PM: Lunch break
- 14.30PM: Sub group discussion
- 16.45PM: Synthesis of sub group discussions
- 17.30PM: Concluding Session

### Venue and Date of the Seminar

The seminar is planned to be organized in Thamukkam Grounds on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2013

### 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.



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