



Madurai Symposium 2013

Governance for Advancing Development

11-15 September, 2013



Bulletin

Day 1: 11 September 2013

Madurai Symposium 2013

Since its inception in 2003, Madurai Symposium has emerged as a unique development platform which brings together various stakeholders – community institutions, civil societies, Government, NGOs, Banks, donors and academia to share, learn from each other's experience and practices, and opens avenues for collaborative endeavours. The theme of the Symposium 2013 is 'Governance for Advancing Development'. The Symposium will provide space for show-casing best-practices, new concepts and methods for advancing development through good governance. Discussions and debates would revolve around a range of issues and challenges pertaining to governance in this Symposium.

Inaugural Ceremony

Education and empowerment of women are pre-conditions for growth of the family and the nation, stressed Madurai District Collector Dr. L. Subramanian while speaking at the inaugural event of the Madurai symposium 2013, organized by DHAN Foundation, between 11 and 15 September 2013 in Tamukkam grounds, Madurai. Not only education, they also should get requisite skills for initiating and managing livelihood activities for achieving self-reliance, he added. He mentioned the efforts of the state government to ensure health and education of girl children through various welfare measures. The outcomes of the workshops and conventions in this Symposium would show directions for future policies of the government, he hoped.



Events

- Inaugural Ceremony
- Convention on Governance of Community Federations
- Convention on Strengthening Panchayat Governance by women leaders
- Farmers Convention on Advancing Governance of Seed Systems
- Convention on Effective Governance for Institution Building of Federations of Small Scale Water Bodies
- Workshop on Governance and Micro Justice
- Workshop on Governance Perspectives for Advancing Financial Inclusion through Rural Immersion
- Workshop on Community Governance for Advancing Partnership for Life Insurance
- Workshop on Community Governance for Community Radio
- Workshop on Strengthening Community Governance for Disaster Risk Reduction
- Workshop on Effective Governance for Inclusive Social Protection
- Workshop on Community Leadership for Good Governance
- Workshop on Future Proofing of Madurai City: Urban Diagnostic Report

M.P. Vasimalai, Executive Director, DHAN Foundation in his introductory remarks gave an overview of the 6th edition of the Symposium. He said "Madurai has a long tradition of promoting academic pursuits and known as a seat of learning for scholars since Sangam period. Madurai Symposium tries to revive such practice in a very humble way for the benefit of the society by bringing various stakeholders who can debate, discuss and advocate policies for future implementation".

Speaking at the event, Dr. Baskaran Manimaran, Vice Chancellor of Tamil Nadu Fisheries University emphasized the need for protecting inland water resources by involving the local community who can provide good governance to increase the fishery wealth of the nation and to meet the growing water needs. Importance should be given to management of water resources with knowledge and consciousness towards environment for which

necessary policy changes should be made, he added.

Ms. Usha Anandasubramanian, Executive Director, Punjab National Bank, New Delhi spoke about the plight of women in the society from ancient days to this day. Though women are now coming out of their shackles and getting empowered nowadays, the number is still meagre. Despite impressive economic growth only 26 per cent of women have accounts in bank and only 18.3 per cent of the total loans in the country are availed by women. There is a long way to go for achieving total empowerment of women. She also added that Banks also have to make necessary policy changes for including more women into the formal financial systems.

Mr. Baskaran, Chief Executive of Indian Institute of Banking and Financial services (IIBF), Mumbai said that education and economic empowerment are the key elements to ensure development of family. More than the earning, cautious spending is needed for proper financial management. Speaking about the institute he said, in addition to offering courses, IIBF has started educating the general public to create awareness about the banking sector and the facilities they offer so that they use them in an effective way. He expressed concern that only 51 per cent of Indian population has account in banks and this is due to lack of education and awareness about the banking system.

Dr. Bhuwon Sthaphit, Regional Project Coordinator, Biodiversity International, New Delhi spoke on the mission of the Bio-diversity international. He said conservation of agricultural biodiversity and sustainable use of natural resources by empowering farming community are the twin objectives of the Biodiversity International. The biodiversity wealth is shrinking day by day and also the traditional knowledge which always concerned for the nature is disappearing in fast pace which is a matter of concern to everyone today, he added. This Madurai Symposium has provided a platform for various stakeholders to come together to discuss and come out with measures to address specific issues. Organizing the farming community is the only way to preserve and conserve the agricultural biodiversity, traditional varieties and ancient knowledge and DHAN has demonstrated its success through its various community organizations, he added.

Ms. Kavitha Ramadoss, Country Representative, Ford Foundation said that it is timely that this symposium is held on the theme “Governance for advancing development” when the country is facing many issues with respect to development and when there is a “governance deficit”. No doubt the liberalization policy brought a positive growth in the national GDP, but many of the issues of the poor remains unaddressed. Forty three per cent of our children are suffering from malnutrition, which shows that India trails behind other developing countries. We have an urgent need to relook our policies to ensure

inclusion of entire population in the process of development, ensure accountability and plug the leakages in flow of resources to the people through proper governance. Above all the people who are in need should make their demands in a more organized way since governments accountability cannot be increased without active participation of the people, she concluded.

Earlier, Ms. A. Umarani, Director, Tata-Dhan Academy welcomed the gathering and briefed the focus of the Symposium.

Knowledge Brief

Effective Governance for Institution Building of Small Scale Water Bodies

India has just 4% of world’s fresh water, which needs to be efficiently used. Water is a finite resource and it does not grow when the industries grow. To secure water for future generation, the effective governance is very crucial. Equitable distribution is needed and water bodies must be protected for future generations. Effective governance is required for Institutional sustainability and conserving water and water bodies. Efforts are to be taken to build effective governance of small scale water bodies at a large scale through vayalaga model, motivate farmers and leaders participation in the institutional processes, ensure effective information sharing and decision-making with transparency and accountability, and set mechanisms to enable the voices of Vayalagams (farmers). The role of governance in Vayalagam (farmers) Mutual Movement in ensuring practice of Self-regulation at all levels of the federations and their member institutions is very important for sustainability of the farmers federations.

Governance Perspectives for Advancing Financial Inclusion through Rural Immersion

Financial Inclusion is a core national agenda in providing access to affordable financial services to the poor. It has multiplier effect strengthening local economy through enhanced savings and credit by the poor. Individual account in the bank is important to ensure direct benefits and arrest leakages through transfer system. Financial literacy happens strongly at the SHGs level and SHG-Bank Linkage can be considered as one of the tools and strategies of financial inclusion. The concern is that despite the greater efforts at different levels in the banking sector, still the financial inclusion has not given promising experience and promoted successful model. There is no exclusive fund allocation for financial inclusion. More over the banks could not make profits through business correspondent and business facilitators models. There is a need for developing different financial products and services according to the context and needs of the poor and the banks should not be driven by the target approach but by the purpose. The operational difficulties in handling crowd

at the banks need to be addressed through simple technology which would facilitate smooth functioning of banking operations. There should be a shift from campus banking to outreach banking approach to scale up the financial inclusion. The role of governance in promoting sustainability through financial inclusion with three dimensional – institutional, developmental and financial perspectives needs attention. Financial inclusion should include vulnerable, women, poor and marginalized communities. The role of community, banking and executive governance need to play a critical role in understanding the concept and implementation of financial inclusion for sustainable development.

Farmers Convention on Advancing Governance of Seed Systems

Seed is the most important input in sustainable crop production. Women have more capacity on seed selection rather than men. The distinction between “seed” and “grain” is clear in formal seed production system than local system.

Globally 250,000 crop species identified of which 7,000 crops are being used for food by humans throughout history. Rice, wheat and Maize currently provide 60 % worlds’ food energy intake and 12 crops and five animals provide 75% of worlds’ food today. Farmers’ right to ensure receipt for the purchase of seeds and germination test before sowing and purchase of certified seeds from formal sources for seed multiplication.

Custodian farmers are those farming households (men and women) who actively maintain, adapt and disseminate agricultural biodiversity over time and space, at farm and community levels and are recognized by community members for it. Custodian farmers need to have community-based biodiversity management with the principles: build upon local innovations, practices and resources; diversifying biodiversity-based livelihood; a platform for social learning and collective action; and let local lead.

The farmers have the rights to save and/or sell seeds/materials, access to information and materials, Participation in Research and Development, Recognition (internal or external) for innovation, protection of farmers knowledge in secured way that leads to community benefits and Farmer breeders’ rights.

Convention on Governance of Community Federations

The governance of community federations includes both community leadership and executives who work for enhancing leadership qualities, promote second line leadership, set systems and processes for collective action and provide strategic direction to the federations. Both community governance and executive governance are the pillars of the institution and collectively contributes for

building the sustainable institutions. The experience of urban kalanjiam federations shows that the women manage their institutions very effectively. The experience of the Kalanjiam Mutual Movement which plays a crucial role in spreading the self help concept and self regulation processes. The executive systems enable and enhance leadership qualities among people Institutions through continuous training and capacity building. The experience also shows that the good governance ensures effective monitoring handling conflicts, managing funds, creating assets and setting Institution building processes such as future searching, visioning and building the internal capacity. It also plays a crucial role in ensuring equitable benefits, access to social security schemes and poverty reduction through targeted interventions in promoting livelihoods.

Community Governance for Advancing Partnership of Life Insurance

The Government of India has launched a number of Social Security Schemes for the benefit of least advantaged masses. A number of Life Insurance Schemes are available for the benefit Primitive Tribal Communities and landless labourers living below poverty line. The Government has rolled out two social security schemes - Janashree Bima Yojana (JBY) and Aam Aadmi Bima Yojana, which are fully subsidized to members of tribal communities and landless labourers living below poverty line. The Centre pays the subsidy to the Life Insurance Corporation of India through the state Governments for each of the eligible persons belonging to primitive tribal communities.

The people’s organisations have to understand the significance of these schemes and play a pro-active role to ensure that the target group gets the benefit of the schemes in full measure. They have approach the concerned line department, procure the list of beneficiaries, and verify with the concurrent list available with LIC. It should work for obtaining Insurance Certificate on behalf of the beneficiaries as a measure of ensuring entitlements to the poor households.

Community Governance in Community Radio

Community governance is the sole philosophy of community radio initiative. The community radio (CR) policy of the Government of India emphasises community ownership and management in every aspect of the radio production and dissemination. Most of the discussions among the CR practitioners revolve around financial and technical issues, and not much focus is given for community governance.

Without building capacity of the communities, engaging them in governance of CR cannot be done. Though the CR initiative in many places is done with NGO efforts initially, there should be a clear plan for the turnover of ownership to the community well in advance with definite time frame. Governance in community radios is aimed at

protecting the interest of the communities in content generation and prioritising, creating space for harnessing creative potential of the local communities, financial sustainability of the stations.

Governance and Micro-justice

Access to justice for smaller legal issues is beyond comprehension and reach of the poor communities in India. The process of enabling them to get access to justice for such a micro level legal issues is known as micro-justice. Poor households spend significant amount of their income in litigations resulted from domestic violence, property and labour disputes.

Micro-justice has direct relevance in addressing gender issues and increased participation of women and their SHGs is an encouraging sign. The SHGs of poor women and their federations provide an ample scope for embedding micro-justice in their institutions. Para-legal clinics set-up in women's federations work in unison with the district legal aid services to address micro level issues.

Promoting a network of para-legal clinics governed by the women themselves would empower them to access relevant legal services. This would help them exchange their experiences and learning in addressing legal issues. Creating a facility for a short home-stay for the women affected from domestic violence and embedding counseling services to resolve petty issues were listed as priority of the poor women.

Strengthening of Panchayat Governance by Women Leaders

Woman Rights have a long history. The Indian Penal Code drafted in 1860 was the basis of justice for women. As the country got independence the IPC underwent a lot of amendments only to sharpen the sword of justice. Independent India enacted Special Marriage Act for the betterment of women, along with a "lot of women welfare schemes". After the 73rd and 74th amendment 1/3rd of the Seats were reserved for women at Panchayat level. Ten lakh women at the national level and 40,000 at State Level came to power as a result of reservation, which made them bold. They got more acclamation for their performance as Panchayat Presidents. While they gained confidence, they also face challenges like gender bias both in community and at home. Lack of power is major handicap.

Despite several hardships, the women Panchayat presidents have adopted a number of innovative ideas to strengthen the governance. They have adopted various steps to create awareness about Gramasabha: door to door campaigns, Thandora, street plays, pamphlets, are some of them. Some of the women presidents have ensured safe drinking water facility for all families through water purification plants, basic sanitation to 100 per cent of families in their Panchayats.

Proceedings

Community Governance in Community Radios

The consultation workshop on Community Governance in Community Radios focused on identifying the issues and challenges for ensuring community governance in community radio stations, learning from each other's experiences. Participants from community radios operated by NGOs and academic institutions attended the workshop.

A few of the community radio stations (CRSs) run by educational institutions shared that they need to work on bringing community members in the governance structure of the management. They also accept the fact that at the present scenario direct engagement of community ownership is not possible without sensitizing the community on production and management aspects. Engagement of community ownership in management needs a lot of training and capacity building. Turnover of ownership to the communities has to be defined well in advance with clear time frame.

Participants then deliberated on sustainability aspects of the CRS. Using copyrighted materials, networking of stations in regional languages for content sharing on regular basis were discussed in detail. There was a demand on the Government of India to offer discounted spectrum fees for CRS having community governance structure and processes in their management. The sustainability of the CRS on all aspects is essential for community governance and community contribution can be attempted to instil community ownership.

All the participants accepted the need for a common portal for community radios for sharing contents across stations. This would give expanded volume of shared content. The sharing could help bring enhancing the air time of every station without heavily increasing the cost of running the station. This network could also become a platform for co-learning and sharing of best practices among the stations.

Strengthening governance for disaster risk reduction

The workshop on strengthening governance for disaster risk reduction was organised by the Coastal Conservation and Livelihood (CALL) Programme with the participation of 40 members and leaders of coastal federations of Tamilnadu and representatives from various coastal NGOs. The focus of the workshop was to understand the current status of the DRR and identify the gap in governance in properly channelizing the resources available locally through better governance at community level.

Mr. P. Subburaj, Team Leader, emphasised the need for community based disaster risk reduction and its vision, approach and nation policy. Mr. A. Suresh, Regional

Coordinator, Nagapattinam highlighted the role of governance in disaster risk reduction, process and steps in building the people institutions, and disaster plans with community participation at village level for sustaining the DRR initiatives. Mr. P. Sivasubramanian, Project Executive, shared that the response of the people institutions is very critical during the occurrence of disaster in providing relief services and rehabilitating the affected people (from the experience of Dhane cyclone in Cuddalore district).

While sharing the experience, Mr. Velmurugan, Sylambimangalam Panchayat of Cuddalore district said that the community has to integrate disaster management as part of their development planning with community governance perspective. Mr. Rajendran, emphasised that the coastal resources have to be conserved particularly estuaries and mangroves with active participation of community governance.

Farmers' Convention on Advancing Governance of Seed Systems

The purpose of this convention was to create awareness about farmer's rights and roles on seed production, conservation, its systems, and showcasing various ways of custodian farmers and organisation. The conventions started with a prayer by Mr. Vengaiyan followed by lighting the lamp by guests from community and development stakeholders. Mr. M. Palanisamy, Programme Leader, DHAN Foundation explained the importance of seed in farming and seed supply systems, seed industry and need of conservation of traditional seeds by the farmers.

Mr. Janagan, Joint Director of Agriculture (Retd.) and Mr. G. Murali, Farm Manager – Seeds emphasised Farmers' right to ensure receipt for the purchase of seeds and germination test before sowing. In his special address, Dr. Bhuwon Sthaphit delivered genetic erosion on food crops is in alarming situation which needs to be conserved by custodian farmers. Also he emphasised the need for identifying and increasing the number of custodian farmers with the help of Government and non Government agencies to conserve the bio-diversity. The special address was followed by subgroup discussion on seed production and distribution through farmers.

Custodian farmers award were given to three individual farmers and a women self help group, which was sponsored by Mr. Alagarsamy, Drumstick graft variety innovator. The awards given for different category of crop conservation like,

- Mr. Syed Ghani Khan from Karnataka for Vegetables
- Mr. Jeyaraman from Tiruvarur district for Paddy
- Mr. Jaganatha Raja from Rajapalayam for Fruits – Mango
- Deepa Oli Kalanjia Mahalir Kuzhu from Jawadhu hills for small millets

During felicitation, Mr. M.P. Vasimalai, Executive Director expressed the need of producing seed by farmers in their village itself and the need for promotion of movement or network by the Custodian farmers for seed production and conservation. Farmers are to be motivated to conserve the seeds and undertake innovations. The convention ended with declaration on promotion of Custodian farmer seed network, village level seed production unit and farmer level varietal improvement for site specific crops.

Governance Perspectives for Advancing Financial Inclusion through Rural Immersion

The purpose of the workshop was to explore the possibilities of strengthening Business Correspondent and Business Facilitators and the role of Self-Help Groups in furthering the financial inclusion – a core national agenda. Mr. Bhaskaran, CEO, IIBF said that there is a need to evolve alternative mechanisms and products to hasten the financial inclusion at a large scale, as Business Correspondent and Business Facilitators were not effective and unprofitable to the banks. He also expressed that there exist gaps in understanding the concept of financial inclusion by the regulators, facilitators and the community, which needs to be addressed. In his special address, Mr. M. P. Vasimalai said that the Self Help Groups are providing relevant and affordable services through its banking operations and the SHG Bank linkage can be considered as part of the financial inclusion. The financial literacy takes place very strongly in SHGs, which may be continued. Ms. Padmavathy, CEO, Kalanjiam Foundation, in her presentation, emphasised that SHGs were very good tools of financial inclusion through SHG-Bank Linkage. She also said that DHAN was able to set the proven model across the country and the contexts by promoting strong SHGs and federations and linked them with banking system with financial inclusion perspective.

The participants have reflected that good governance at SHGs level makes the institutions sustainable through SHG-Bank linkage which is one of the strategies of financial inclusion. The governance perspectives need to be integrated as part of three dimensions such as development, financial and institutional development. In the panel discussion it was said that the financial services should be available with adequacy, accessible at the affordable rates and the people should make learned choices with greater awareness. There was an expression by the participants that the appropriate technology should be in place for advancing financial inclusion. Business Correspondent model should be made more profitable to attract the practitioners and financial literacy has to be made as a pre requisite for enabling financial inclusion. The panel members have reinforced that the delivery channels, technology and appropriate products are very critical and the bankers should know the cash flow behavior of the customers to deliver the quality financial services.

Future Proofing of Madurai City - Urban Diagnostic Report

The objective of the workshop was to identify issues in Madurai city future proofing diagnostic study report in the climate change scenario on water management, sewage, transport and carbon emission and energy and possible solutions for effective management of the vulnerable sites in the city.

In his inaugural address, Mr. Nandhagopal, Commissioner, Madurai Corporation, highlighted that the Madurai city is situated in risk free zone particularly earth quake, cyclone, and tsunami but there are possibilities of man-made disasters to occur. The city development plan is very much required to address the issues in vulnerable sites of the city.

Shri Jitesh Brahmshatriya, Atkins, presented the diagnostic study report and expected the forum to select vulnerable zones for pilot study to quantify and qualify for recommendation and action. The focus areas of the presentation were waste and water. He emphasised that the Madurai Corporation has to prioritize the issues and define the role of stakeholders including the citizen of the city. The vulnerable sites/zones were marked on the map showed the seriousness of the issue. The outcome of the study was that the Madurai city is categorised as multiple risk facing city, which needs integrated approach to adapt to climate change.

Mr. Madhuram, City Engineer appreciated the study findings and suggested the team to collect adequate data to quantify the findings considering its future growth. The participants from Thiyagarajar college of Engineering and other colleges expressed that entire Madurai is having ground water problem and waste water pollution in Vaigai River and surface water bodies (tanks). The declaration was on relooking the situation of Sellur area; Atkins will collaborate with networking institutions and seek development finance for implementing action plan for Madurai. The participants suggested to focus on roof water harvesting to recharge the ground water, which needs clear plan and action from Madurai corporation.

Governance and Micro-justice

The Workshop on governance and micro-justice focused on showcasing best practices and models in rendering micro-justice, evolving a design for a para-legal network and the role of community governance in such networks. It also focused on identifying potential areas for linkage with relevant institutions for legal services.

Ms. Jacintha Martin, district legal aid service authority, Madurai appreciated the SHG women for their participation in micro-justice initiatives. Breaking the familial and societal barriers, women should come out and face the challenges with courage. Apart from addressing legal issues, they should address issues pertaining to their entitlements to social security schemes of the Government

like ration card, old age pensions, electricity, drinking water and sanitation.

Ms. C Packialakshmi, women consumer protection association, Madurai shared that every woman should free themselves from financial bondedness. Only when they achieve economic empowerment within the family, they can be empowered socially and culturally. They should be aware of consumer rights and facilities exist for claiming those rights.

Participants discussed on the model of community managed legal aid clinics, capacity building needs and how to address those needs.

Governance of Community Federations

Ms. Shanthi Maduresan, CEO, Kalanjiam Mutual Movement, in her introduction, explained that both community governance and executive system are the pillars of building sustainable people institutions

Ms V K Padmavathy said that the federations promoted 20 years back are still functioning well due to strong governance, internal systems and processes, and functioning of executive system. The sustainability of federations would happen if they grow and advance their development activities on a continuous basis by transferring the leadership roles and guiding the second line leadership. As the people federations are collaborating with different stakeholders, they need to ensure transparency in their financial transactions by revisiting their financial systems

Ms Kavita N Ramdas, Country Representative, Ford Foundation highlighted that the women play leadership role at homes very effectively. They need to understand their inner potential and have courage to exercise their rights by becoming an effective demand system.

Smt. Thiyagarani, Regional Movement Leader, in her presentation said that the federations – nested institutions have given identity for the poor women as empowered society. The federations were able to go through strategic planning process by setting goals and strategies for the next five years. The role of governance in setting the direction is very critical. Most of the poor women became literate and aware of many development issues which can be addressed through their federations.

Smt Meena, one of the leaders of the federation said that the federations are able to take up targeted approach by categorising the members families into different poverty levels to reduce poverty.

The outcome of the sub groups was that the federations were able to facilitate creation of assets, promotion of livelihoods activities, creating access to quality healthcare services through their own hospitals and clinics and financial services through bank linkages, reinforcing self regulation through rule of laws and equitable benefits

through good governance. Strong governance exists wherever the mentoring by experienced leaders is in place, added by the sub groups.

Volunteerism and internal capacity of handling conflicts matter are the important qualities of leadership. In addition capacity of dealing with mainstreams and demanding the quality and timely services is very crucial as part of the governance said by the Kalanjia leaders from Karnataka. A team from Tamilnadu said that role of governance in accessing entitlements for the vulnerable people in SHGs is critical as part of the poverty reduction agenda.

Community Governance for Advancing Partnership for Life Insurance

This workshop focused on identifying gaps in implementation of the schemes meant for the primitive tribes, evolving the roles and responsibilities of different stakeholders, suggesting appropriate systems and processes for effective scheme operationalization to ensure the reach of the scheme benefits to the insured primitive tribes. Delegates from the Life Insurance Corporation of India, Department of Adhi-dravidar and Tribal welfare department, and Community organizations from seven Indian states attended the workshop.

Mr. R Doraisamy, Regional Manager, LIC of India in his introductory remarks said “Government of India, through its “Jansahree Bima Yojana”, has made fully subsidized Life Insurance to every member of Primitive Tribal Communities in the country; and has already transferred the allocated Subsidy to the respective State Governments along with the list of eligible beneficiaries.

Mr. Sivasubramanian, former executive director of LIC of India insisted on the facilitation to be done by the Peoples’ Organisations (POs) by working with relevant departments, LIC of India to reap benefits to the poor tribal households. The POs should ensure that the enlisted beneficiaries are duly registered under relevant Insurance Schemes in the respective Insurance Companies and are issued with Insurance Certificate.

The POs should invest substantially in creating awareness among Primitive Tribal Communities and the BPL Landless Labourer families about their entitlements under the scheme, and the procedure to avail it. They should support them to claim Insurance and ensure that the families of victims indeed avail their insurance claim.

Strengthening of Panchayat Governance by Women Leaders

A Convention of Women Panchayat Presidents was organized with the aim of bringing field experience of women presidents, the challenges and obstacles they faced and the success stories they have in their office. The convention aimed at advocating for policy changes in

favor of Women Panchayat Presidents and their enhanced performance.

Mr. K. Vallinayagam, an expert in Panchayat Administration said that on account of inadequate information Women and Dalit Presidents face a number of functional problems. The power of Panchayats has been curtailed systematically. Long tedious procedures to get approval even for a routine and regular works turn performance snail-pace. The 4th Tamil Nadu State Finance Commission says, “The Panchayat Account Number-1” will have deficit for coming four years, come as a death knell.

S. Singarayar, Programme Leader, DHAN Foundation, said that Panchayats can attain autonomy only when it stands on its own legs. Panchayat income can be increased through regularizing taxes.

The convention adopted a number of resolutions for removing policy and procedural hurdles that prevents Panchayats from delivering their mandated functions.

People Convention on Effective Governance of Small Scale Water Bodies

The People convention on effective governance for institution building of federations of small scale water bodies was organised by the Vayalagam federations from Tamilnadu, Andra Pradesh and Karnataka of Vayalagam (Tank) Foundation.

Event was inaugurated with lighting of lamp by the chief guests, Vayalagam leaders and senior DHANITES. Mr. A. Gurunathan, Chief Executive Officer, welcomed the participants from Andhra, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. He shared about the importance of water and its conservation and also asked all 26 Vayalagam federations to focus on self regulation and effective self-governance.

Mr. N. Venkatesan, Chief Operating Officer, in his lead presentation, emphasised importance of Governance, dimensions of Governance and policies that are relevant to the Vayalagam (farmers) leaders. Mr. Durai Murugan, Thiruvalangadu Vayalagam Federation Coordinator, shared the experiences on achieving institutional sustainability through farmers’ governance.

Mr. Kuchanoor Kizhar, a farmer, shared the importance of water conservation. He said human beings cannot exist without water. The UN resolution to conserve water must begin from the village. He insisted that farmers have to participate in water conservation works on a voluntary basis.

The sub groups deliberated on the need for promoting governance in small scale water bodies, roles and responsibilities at various level institutions and interfacing with social, economic, political, and environment factors to improve governance and finally they made eight important resolutions.

Exhibition of Handicrafts and SHG Products

As part of Symposium, an exhibition cum sale of handicrafts and consumer products made by Self-Help Groups was set up and it would be organised for all five days of the Symposium. Mr.Dhandapani, Chief Manager, Zonal Office of Corporation Bank, Trichy inaugurated the Fair. Sixty stalls have been erected and diverse product range including batik, handmade toys, terracotta, clothes and ornamental jewellerys, food products made of small millets were displayed for sale. Over 4000 people visited the Fair on the first day and sales trends showed good reception for such products among the visitors.

9th Development Film Festival on 'Youth for Change'

DHAN Foundation's Centre for Development Communication organises Development Film Festival every year on a select theme. The ninth edition of the Festival focuses on the theme 'Youth for Change'. The Festival attracted more than 100 entries from all over the world and 13 films were shortlisted by a panel of film-makers from among them for screening at the Festival. The four-day festival will have screening of three films each

day, which would be curated by a jury consists of experts in film making and media for final award of prizes for three films.

Dr. R. Murali, Principal, Madura College inaugurated the Festival. In his inaugural address, he emphasised the need for increased participation of youths in film making. In the context of today's cultural erosion films are seen as catalysts of change, which widens the scope and opportunities for film-makers. At the same time it calls for increased social responsibilities of film-makers.

Ms. A.R. Meyyammai, senior special correspondent, Deccan Chronicle in her felicitation said "Nowadays short films with powerful messages and convincing arguments are effecting immediate changes on certain key issues in the society, thanks to the socially concerned film-makers for their powerful production that kindles such changes. What is needed is increase in audience for such short films. This type of Festivals would certainly provide space for them and encourage film-makers to come out with many more such films.

The first day of the Festival had screening of the following films:

1. Next Sunday, by Mr. A.R. Rajarajan; 13 minutes, Tamil
2. Neighbour, by Mr. Chinniah Muralidharan; 13 minutes, Tamil
3. Kanavu Nijamagum, by Mr. Gnana Rajasekaran; 15 minutes, Tamil

Films to be screened today (September 12, 2013)

1. Muyarchi, by Ms. Nandhini; 9 minutes, Tamil
2. Atrinaikal, by Mr. Ilangovan; 29.29 minutes, Tamil
3. Oru Oorula, by Mr. Ponraj; 13.34 minutes, Tamil

News in Press



Folklore Festival

Folklore Festival is organised for the public as part of the Symposium. On all four days of the Symposium, cultural performance by folk artistes is organised between 5.30 and 8.30 p.m. Dr. Naga Ganesan, Assistant Regional Director, Department of Archaeology, Tamil Nadu inaugurated the Festival. Mr. Thavasi Gnanasekar, folklore researcher and Ms. Shanthi Maduresan, Programme Leader, DHAN Foundation felicitated the event. Madurai based folk artists groups have performed the folk dances such as oiyilattam, kolattam, kummi, silambam, paraiyattam, karakattam, sattaikutchi attam, kazhiyalattam, and kondathan attam.

Events for Day 2 (September 12, 2013)

- Chakkarathazhvar Kalaikuzhu to perform oiyil karagam, oiyilattam, periya kambattam, karauppusay attam, paraiyattam, sattaikutchiyattam
- Ramu Silamabatta Kalai Kuzhu to perform a variety of silambam skills