



Madurai Symposium 2013

Governance for Advancing Development

11-15 September, 2013



Bulletin

Day 2: 12 September 2013

Knowledge Brief

The Madurai Symposium is designed to be a platform through which different development stakeholders including community institutions, non-government organizations, civil societies, the Government, financial institutions, and academia convene to share their knowledge and experiences with the purpose of advancing development practice. The following brief highlights some of the key lessons learned during the second day of Madurai Symposium 2013.

Convention on Governance of Community Federations

Financial management is one of the important dimensions of sustainability, in which the governance is expected to play a critical role. In community federations, ensuring financial discipline and professional management demands clarity on the financial concepts and mechanisms to monitor the financial performance. The indicators for good governance are running the institutions by the executive system at times of crisis; transparency in accounts and audit; financial discipline in fund management, investment of surpluses and proper utilisation of loan funds. The involvement of governance in building partnerships with banks, government organisations and other people organisations through networks would lead to sustainability of the institutions. There is a need for having clear financial policies, procedures and mechanisms to enforce the practices. To be effective governance, the internal capacity has to be built through continuous training on financial management. The successful experiences on effective financial management were observed in the federations from Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh particularly in establishing linkages and partnerships with apex financial institutions, commercial banks, government organisations, NGOs and training institutions. The financial management should be a regular agenda in the board meetings of the federations to promote effective governance.

Events

- Convention on Governance of Community Federations
- Convention on Strengthening Governance for Coir Making Producers' Companies
- Convention on Community Governance for Mutual Insurance – A Decade Experience of People Mutuals
- Convention on Strengthening Governance in Federations for Healthcare
- Workshop on Water Governance for Watershed Development: Experience from Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka Watersheds
- Workshop on Strengthening Governance of Dairy Associations
- Workshop on Recent Advancements in Varietal Improvement of Small Millets
- Workshop on Scaling up of Umbrella Program on Natural Resource Management
- Workshop on Governance for Inland Fishery Development in Water Commons
- Workshop on Strengthening Self Health Governance in People Institutions
- Workshop on Showcasing MAVIM Model with the Perspectives of Gender and Governance
- Workshop on E-Governance for Advancing Development

Community Governance for Mutual Insurance – A Decade Experience of People Mutuals

People Institutions need to act as Nodal agencies that link eligible members with appropriate departments/institutions and enable them get their entitlement benefits; Creating awareness among members about the insurance schemes; Setting up of user friendly institutional systems and processes; Integrating insurance plan with regular development agenda.

Access to Insurance is an important aspect of financial inclusion. Each person and every member of his/her family should have a comprehensive insurance coverage against all probable risks. However in reaching this goal, federations shall follow process by which graduated insurance cover is extended to the member families. The graduation could be life cover for members, member's

family members, and health insurance for family members and coverage of other risks like livestock, crop, old age pension, etc.

Since insurance offers only intangible benefit at the time of purchase, such a graduated approach would make the members family aware and involved in the schemes. The Community Governance need to ensure entitlements by making eligible members participate in the Government sponsored insurance schemes.

Recent Advancements in Varietal Improvement of Small Millets

Despite widespread acceptance for their nutritive values and presence across the country, small millets do not enjoy large scale cultivation and consumption. All India Coordinated Project made headway in improving the varieties, which was followed by the States wise release of varieties. But fact is poor spread of varieties and acceptance among the farmers. Participatory varietal selection gains significance in improving local varieties and penetrating them into interior areas.

Availability and access to a large pool of small millets germplasm is our strength, on which we need to build the improvement plan. Commercialisation of seeds eroded the genetic stock of a numerous varieties of crops, which needs protection through appropriate legislations and policies. The role of NGOs is gaining significance in promoting open source seeds, community seed villages. We have to promote millets other than pearl millet, finger millet and sorghum. Krishi Vigyan Kendras should build capacity of farmers in seed production. Alongside the varietal improvement, focus needs to be given for improving management practices, large scale production of seeds and promoting recipes for enhanced consumption.

E-Governance for Advancing Development

Information highways span the globe and connect the world citizens. Rapid expansion of information and communication infrastructure brought more people into communication loop. India, with its diverse landscape, population and culture offer a wider scope for e-governance and internet based solutions for some of the governance related issues.

There are remarkable progress in expanding e-governance services. National Information Centre (NIC) provides a wide range of services to the beneficiaries such as application for old age and widow pensions, birth and death registrations, educational scholarships, access to land records and so on. After introduction of e-tender system chances for corruption and malpractices have been reduced to a greater extent. Andhra Pradesh and Punjab show promise in using e-governance for agriculture.

Evolution and continuous updation of information and communication technology throws challenges for

innovating interface services that enable the communities to avail services at cheaper cost, lesser time and without paying bribe to anyone. Evolution of 3G and 4G technologies has widened scope for building sophisticated e-governance infrastructure. Toll free numbers help government agencies to serve a particular section of the population like farmers, women, children, which makes their access easy and instant. Similarly, advancements in technology has made banking simple, client friendly and reduced a lot of paper works. Internet based kiosk banking with smart cards is a promising solution for financial inclusion. Village information centres have a larger scope for connecting the people with e-governance services at the grassroots.

Strengthening Governance of Dairy Associations

Dairy activity is a livelihood for 72% of rural families in our country along with farming. Milch animal rearing is one of the oldest domestication activities of animals in the world. Milch animal rearing by new technology is very essential to make it as a sustainable livelihood. Breed selection by considering the context of resources and water availability is prerequisite for dairy. HF breed gives 10-15 litres per day with fat content of 3.5-4 and Jersey gives 7-12 litres per day with fat content of 4-4.5. The milk price fixed based on fat content so rearing Jersey is good for poor farmers to get good returns and this breed is adaptable to our climatic conditions. Azolla, CO4 fodder grass, and urea water sprayed straw feeding to increase the fat content of the milk is easy way to get good price for the milk.

Governance in Dairy is very essential particularly for effective marketing of the milk, as it is highly perishable commodity demands timely action. Accountability of both the members and leaders, regular leadership rotation, understanding and following byelaws by members, and rigorous monitoring by the responsible persons are non-negotiable for sustainability of community owned dairy associations.

Dairy associations' need to be maintained by trained associates, and associations should fix milk procurement rate like government to ensure better income for its members. Veterinary services and feed supply are very important to increase the yield of the animals and volume of procurement in the associations to reach sustainability.

Governance for Inland Fishery Development in Water Commons

India stands second in freshwater aquaculture due to presence of large extent of freshwater bodies. Potential for freshwater aquaculture in Tamil Nadu is 5 lakh tonnes worth of Rs. 1500 crore annually, whereas the current harvest is only 1.5 lakh tonnes. Human interference is a cause of constraining the yield potential. Inland fisheries can be taken in a range of resources like rivers, lakes, tanks, ponds, reservoirs, coastal wetlands and swamps.

One of the key features of the inland fisheries is a large number of species and their diversity. The communities should consume different types of fishes to protect the bio-diversity in fishery. The Government should ease the policies and procedures in favour of fishery in water commons. It should introduce fast growing species, introduce cage culture in reservoirs and promote breeding centres.

Governance in inland fisheries signifies increased participation and ownership of the local communities in managing fishery in common water bodies, effecting community control and monitoring for preventing poaching and pollution, reviving some of the traditional fish rearing methods that promote diversity and sustainable fishing. Promotional agencies like Government and non-government organisations need to work on facilitating financial, technical and managerial support needed for inland fishery along with suitable policy and procedural changes.

Scaling up of “Umbrella Programme for Natural Resource Management” (UPNRM)

Umbrella Programme for Natural Resource Management (UPNRM), a Unique Loan based pro poor programme is being implemented by NABARD through different channel partners across India. In Phase I till march 2013, about 176 projects were supported with a credit amount of Rs.300 crores. The programme enhances the livelihoods based on appropriate Natural Resource Management as well as NRM + activities that fulfil NRM policy of NABARD. DHAN Vayalagam Tank Foundation and Kalanjiam Development Financial Services have successfully demonstrated the UPNRM under Phase I. The good governance ensured from better system and appraisal mechanism at community institutions level. To scale up, “watershed plus livelihood” is suitable for expansion in Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh. As part of up scaling, DHAN Vayalagam (Tank) Foundation decided to take up need assessment in block level, the activity unit amount, case studies, and up-scaling mechanisms of UPNRM project.

Water Governance for Watershed Development: Experience from Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka Watersheds

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. Watershed programmes were implemented at large scale with an aim of sustainable distribution of natural resources among communities within a watershed boundary.

Good governance would provide space and opportunities for local communities to get involved at every stage of implementation as equal partners. Governance in

watershed development signifies community ownership and participation in village level organizations and their networks across villages.

Though the project guidelines insist on post- project maintenance, it is not followed in practice. Whereas, community organizations with good governance mechanism would provide continuity even after the project period. In order to sustain the associations promoted at different levels and to ensure the governance, DHAN is promoting an apex institution at Block/Taluk Level called Federation with the membership of all the village level institution. The federation will work towards sustaining the activities taken up already along with watershed plus activities.

Strengthening Self Health Governance in People Institutions

There is an increasing need for exclusive health agenda to influence the behaviour of Individuals and Community; Self Help Groups function as their Village Health Forum to promote health education, awareness and other health agenda; The representatives from all SHG groups of a village jointly evolve exclusive institutional systems to formulate and implement health policies and programmes. A participatory health programme can be implemented through existing system; This structure, process and mechanism constitute Self Health Governance.

There is a need for evolving sound mechanisms for sustaining existing health initiatives and continuous efforts to enhance the capacity of Self Health Governance with time frame. Establishing clear identity for Self Health Governance among SHGs and mainstream institutions is need of the hour to make it as effective demand system. Exploring means of sustaining health initiatives even after project funding from external sources and Identifying mechanisms and strategies to build effective governance need to be given due attention

To make the health programmes successful, the health agenda needs to be started with small target group and gradually expand to the entire village. The community needs to be involved in prioritizing the health agenda and Identifying new leaders to take the agenda forward. Health funding should not be seen as expenditure, but it is an investment.

Showcasing MAVIM Model with the Perspectives of Gender and Governance

MAVIM’s Gender Governance initiative started with identifying the women belonging to most poor section of the community and from Dalit communities. Democratic leadership and organizational training; creating access to information, finance and bureaucratic power structures, the women were made strong and competent. Eradicating alcoholism from their target villages, and abolition of female foeticide are quite encouraging. In all their gender

conscientization programmes they involve men of the target families as well.

SIPPO has organized over 123 Economic Federations and enabled over 1500 women gain sustainable entrepreneurial space. The secret lies in creating viable market access – exhibitions and mobile markets in case of Silk Weavers Federation.

FLA could relate with Adidas, SYNGENTA. They manage to open their production houses for Human Rights Audit and propose to them a list of nine Gender Justice Measures. SYNGENTA even has taken up proactive campaign among its workers for gender justice behaviour. The strategy is (1) Go with foolproof data and information; (2) Find entry point through strategic partners; and (3) Make untiring effort and persistent follow up.

Proceedings

Governance of Community Federations

The focus of the convention was on role of governance in financial management. In her lead paper presentation Smt.T.V. Padmashankari has highlighted that the good governance means, at critical times, the institutions' routines are taken care by the executive system, transparency in accounts and audit systems, showing accountability in achieving development parameters, financial discipline in terms of repayment, effective participation of leadership and the members, need based interventions, strictly practicing financial policies and byelaws, fixing and ensuring responsibilities for everyone in the organisation, using self regulation tools as part of the self appraisal, cost coverage, internal capacity in handling finances through continuous training, ensuring effective utilisation of loan funds, and compliance with legal aspects of financial matters.

Smt Indrani, President, State Mutual Movement, Andhra Pradesh, shared that the women federations could meet the financial needs of their members through effective linkages with apex institutions such as NABARD, HDFC, SIDBI and commercial banks, promoted savings and kept surplus funds in fixed deposits, and promoted skill building through collaboration with government institutions with active participation of governance.

Smt Usharani, member, State Mutual Movement, Karnataka said that the executive committee and board members of women federations meet regularly to discuss the matters related to budget, cost coverage, loan appraisal, utilisation of loan funds, quality check of the audit process, reach of government schemes to the needy, and availing skill building and training opportunities to help the poorest.

Tmt Vasuki, member of executive committee, Kanchi region, proudly shared that the members could increase

their savings in their groups, access adequate credit about Rs 9 crores from banks and sustain their federations financially by covering the cost of operations. The federation leaders could monitor the investment portfolios and facilitate educational scholarships to the school going children.

Tmt Linagammal in her speech said that the capacity of saving is increased among the women and some of them maintain about Rs 70,000/-. Because of intervention by the governance, banks were responsive in providing credit linkage, she added. She also said that every SHG is managing the savings very effectively.

Strengthening Governance of Dairy Associations

The purpose of the workshop was to assess the present governance in the community owned dairy associations and find the gaps and challenges to address it and strengthen the governance to compete with the private players.

Mr S Sivanandan, Regional Coordinator, DHAN Foundation shared the purpose and need of the workshop. He shared that there were 28,600 poor women from Kalanjiam Self Help Groups involved in dairy business who were from Theni, Dindigul, Madurai, Cuddalore, Tanjore, Salem and Sivagangai Districts of Tamil Nadu. They are organized into 374 primary milk producers' groups through which more than 1.35 lakh litres of milk is procured every day and marketed. There is no enough chilling units to preserve and transport milk to the markets; it is an important need to be addressed to advance the milk marketing.

India lags much behind in milk productivity than many other countries though it is blessed with a rich cattle wealth. There is a growing demand for milk in the country which can be met by organizing people in large numbers into self governed milk producer groups said Prof. Pannai Muruganandham, Professor and Head, University Training and Research Centre, TANUVAS Madurai.

Mr. R.C. Ramesh, Secretary of Bathrakalliamman Dairy, Palamedu shared the experience of their society. At present the dairy association has 1,500 members who supply 10,000 litres of fresh milk per day. The key success criteria are transparency accounts and accountability of governance, regular leadership rotation, adhering to byelaws and rigorous monitoring and evaluation.

Smt. Muthumari, Treasurer of Upputhurai Dairy, Kadamalaikundu shared the 25 years experience and struggles of the dairy association. She recalled the difficulties to bring a shared understanding among the members. Then the compulsory practice of norms of the association by the members helped promote trust among the members. Livelihood graduation approach and developing common fund concept became the binding

factors for the association to reach its success and sustainability.

In sub groups the participants discussed solutions for strengthening the governance, leadership performance and promoting good practices.

Strengthening Governance for Coir Making Producers' Companies

Two producers companies are functioning - one at Singampunari, Sivaganga district and another at Periyakulam, Theni district. A people convention was organised with 150 coir producers from Singampunari location with a focus on strengthening the governance for coir making producers company.

Mr. T. Dhanabalan, Chief Executive, Kalanjiam Thozhilagam Limited, shared that Rs 33 lakhs worth of machines were provided for the coir producer company through scheme of fund for regenerating traditional industries (SFURTI) and the roles and responsibilities of the share holders, board of directors and management. Mr. C.P. Chandrabhan Singh, Retd., Joint Director, Agriculture Department, Sivaganga district, explained about the schemes of the coir board, Government of India and six schemes enumerated for implementation by Singampunari Coir Regeneration Kalanjiam Producer Company Limited (SCOREKPC).

Mr. S. Shankara Pandian, Project Executive, Periyakulam Vattara Kalanjiam, Theni Region has explained about objectives of SFURTI project and the status of the Periyakulam and Singampunari coir clusters which include the details of capacity building, common facility centres, machineries, beneficiaries, financial status of both the coir cluster, and their roles and responsibilities involved in this project.

Participants discussed in the sub groups on governance for strengthening coir making producer companies, roles and responsibilities of governance, increase of the share capital, production and increase of the profit of producer's company, and challenges and plan for the next five years.

E-Governance for Advancing Development

Focus of the this workshop was to bring all stakeholders of e-governance such as service providers, technology providers, implementing agencies, NGOs and beneficiaries availing e-governance services to discuss the desired model for e-governance. The workshop was also a learning opportunity for the operators of village information centres to learn various websites offering e-governance.

Mr Michel Raj, District Information Officer, Madurai explained the e-governance services offered by Madurai Collectorate for availing welfare programmes like pensions, applying for certain records from revenue department, online payment for services and so on. He further highlighted the Facebook account operated by the

Collectorate and its benefits to the people. He encouraged the village information centres (VICs) to introduce such services to the villagers, and he expressed his willingness to work with the VICs for ensuring the reach and benefits of e-governance initiative.

Mr Sathya Seelan, Deputy General Manager, BSNL explained the evaluation of technology like first, second, third and emerging fourth generation technology and their features. He highlighted the low cost technology introduced by BSNL like Wireless Local Loop for e-governance initiatives and Toll Free facilities for government agencies within the BSNL network that made the e-governance user-friendly.

Mr Selvanayagam, Manager, Rural ICT from Indian Bank elaborated the technology based kiosk banking of Indian Bank. Also he explained the online banking services like biometric ATM, net-banking, mobile banking that make the banking operations simple and client friendly. He said VICs can work with the Indian bank to mediate such services to the rural population.

Governance for Inland Fishery Development in Water Commons

This workshop focused on developing and popularising inland fisheries in water commons through enhanced community governance. It was an attempt to bring all the relevant stakeholders involved in inland fishery development to share and discuss on the roles of governance to promote this activity among the farmers and improve productivity.

Dr. R. Sakthivadivel, an expert in water resources management said that the Cambodian experience of integrating fishery, poultry with the pond system should be emulated in India as well. In Cambodia, even the farmers rear fish in paddy fields. If we economise the use of water for multiple activities we can harvest 10 times more income from it. What is needed is supportive policies from the Government to rear fish in water commons, he added.

S.P. Madhan Mohan, Team Leader, DHAN Foundation emphasised the need for community ownership and governance in fishery activity taken up in water commons. He said "We need to protect the rights of the farmers' institutions over fishery activity in common ponds and tanks. The communities should evolve governance mechanisms to prevent poaching and poisoning, revive traditional methods of fishery".

Ms. Chinnapillai, Chairperson of Kalanjiam Mutual Movement narrated experience of Kalanjiam groups in her village, Pilluserry, who have taken the village tank on lease for fish rearing. She recollected how difficult it was to protect it from poachers and manage the activity. For five years they could earn a net income of Rs. 2 lakhs, which was shared among all the member families.

Dr Jawahar, Associate Professor, Fisheries College and

Research Institute (FCRI), Tuticorin elaborated the technology of inland fisheries. He reiterated proper harvest of fish and use of scientific methods in fishery. He raised concerns over exploitation of water resources, destroying fish dwelling places, increasing pollution of fresh water resources, lack of finance to take up fishery

Ms Noorjehan, Joint Director, Fisheries Department; Dr Jeyaraman, FCRI, Tuticorin; and Er Venkatasamy, former Superintending Engineer have explained social and technical aspects of inland fisheries.

Scaling up of "Umbrella Programme for Natural Resource Management" (UPNRM)

Mr. Balasubramanian, Assistant General Manager, NABARD presented various NABARD Projects, including UPNRM. He also shared the learnings and final outcome from the UPNRM project to NABARD. Mr. Thananjayan, GIZ, presented on climate change adaptation programme and joint forest management committees functioning in tribal villages for conservation of natural resources. Mr. Joseph Raj, Chief Executive, KDFS, explained about the KDFS, its coverage and performance.

In his "Scaling up UPNRM" presentation, Mr.A.Gurunathan described the objectives of UPNRM Project and its activities (NRM and NRM+ activities on soil and water conservation, marketing and doing innovation activities), its budget outlay details and expected rate of return.

The farmers and field staffs from various Vayalagam locations of Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh shared their experience on utilizing NABARD – UPNRM loan products for the activities such as tank silt application, orchard farming, land development works, and jungle clearance work, and also they shared their experience on implementation of UPNRM Project, monitoring system and challenges.

The farmers demanded increase in loan amount and loans for goat rearing, drip irrigation, preparation of farming orchards, organic chilly cultivation, cotton cultivation, seed farming, deepening of open wells, and preparation of agro forestry crops. Finally the workshop participants made seven resolutions.

Strengthening Governance in Federations for Healthcare

Participants from community based organisations (CBOs) from Salem, Madurai, and Dindigul districts of Tamil Nadu participated in the convention. It was organised by Tamil Nadu AIDS Initiatives and Voluntary Health Services (TAI-VHS).

Dr. Vijayaraman explained about the available healthcare facilities for the people and importance of governance to improve the leadership quality by forming health SHGs and in strengthening the CBOs with the examples of Anna

Hazare movement and Gandhian movement. He expressed his willingness to support in making the federations of CBOs as a big movement. He also emphasised that people, as a group, should avail all government healthcare facilities, and they should approach all government health departments like PHC, VHN (village health nurse) for quality healthcare services.

Dr. Paneerselvam, Director, Communications, TAI-VHS, spoke about SHGs and their importance and impact in addressing the needs of the members. He insisted that the CBOs can be sustained with promotion of primary groups – SHGs and strengthened through various capacity building programmes on governance and institution building processes. He also said that there is a need for giving importance for livelihood enhancement to ensure sustainability.

Mr. James, Zonal Manager, TAI-VHS, shared his views on group, cluster, federation, regular savings of the group and livelihood activities for self-development and sustainability.

Mr. Johnson facilitated the sub group discussion process among the participants on three lead questions such as (i) ways of forming effective SHGs in CBOs, (ii) challenges in forming effective SHGs and (iii) implementing disease preventive activities through CBOs. Finally the participants could come out with six resolutions for action.

Water Governance for Watershed Development: Experience from Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka Watersheds

The focus of the workshop is to understand about water governance in watershed development, find policy issues on using the water by community in the watershed. Mr.M.Kiran Kumar, Regional Coordinator, DHAN Foundation, gave a lead presentation on Andhra Pradesh experience in watershed development. Large scale watershed programmes sponsored by state and central governments were implemented here. In addition, NABARD and few external donors supported watershed projects were also implemented.

Mr. H.G. Raghavendra, Regional Coordinator, Tumkur district presented experiences of Karnataka. The GoI has launched a massive watershed programme in 7th five year plan and extended to 693 watersheds of 99 districts including Karnataka. This Project was re named as NWDPR during the 8th five year plan and was implemented in 85 watersheds in Karnataka ranging from 5000 to 10,000 hectares. The project felt that to sustain the assets created under the programme the participation of the community as well as Panchayat Raj institutions are essential.

DHAN's model of tank based watershed development addresses the issues of post project maintenance through

its strong community organisations promoted at village level and networked across watershed villages, which are further networked at Mandal level as federations.

Dr. Krishnasamy, Chief Scientist, AICRP in his special address highlighted that at national level, India has an abundant water but in reality there exists geographical, technical and governance issues. Mr. R. Adhinarayanan, Faculty, Tata-Dhan Academy shared his experience and study findings on ground water recharge and use in watersheds with equity and equality. Er. R. Venkatasamy, former Superintending Engineer shared that 77% of pulses, 85% fruits and 66% oil seeds come from rainfed areas.

Participants discussed about the need for special funds for rainfed farming development as most part of the food security is met by the rainfed areas. Scientific study with data on yield of water from watersheds and newly created surface water bodies should be part of watershed plan. Ground water is common but used by the rich without sharing it to the farmers whose land helped water recharge. National level groups should work on water policy involving the communities who are conserving water at the ground.

In the sub-groups, participants discussed on water budgeting at watershed level, identified roles and responsibilities of watershed associations and involvement of Panchayats on water governance, participatory ground water management and effective use of micro irrigation.

Recent Advancements in Varietal Improvement of Small Millets

The workshop on varietal improvement in small millets focused on the issues of varietal improvement, application of participatory varietal selection methods and generating innovative ways for dissemination of improved varieties among the farmers. Participants of this workshop include plant breeding scientists, practitioners involved in implementing the project – Revalorising Small Millets in Rainfed Areas of South Asia (RESMISA).

Dr. Seetharaman, former Project Coordinator (Small Millets), Indian Council of Agricultural Research said Participatory varietal improvement of small millets by involving farmers in the varietal selection process can play an important role in spreading improved varieties in a quicker span of time". In the context of food security, finger millet, pear millet and sorghum are going to play a major role in future, he added.

Mr Karthikeyan, Project Coordinator, RESMISA, said that to improve millet cultivation and consumption for meeting future food and nutrition needs, on farm conservation of small millet varieties, improved agronomic practices, appropriate post-harvest technology and value addition and reviving indigenous knowledge are being done through an action research project for reviving small millets. Through this project 129 local varieties of small

millets were identified across different project sites and participatory varietal trials were done involving more than 2000 farmers in which 76 released varieties and 36 local varieties were tested.

Dr. Rabisankar, All India Coordinated small millets improvement project, Bangalore shared that the project was instrumental in releasing many high yielding varieties, especially in finger millet. Dr. Ramakrishna, NRC New Delhi presented a research paper on "Isolation of characterization of finger millet 6 zip transcription factor is presented. Dr. Patil, Agricultural scientist stressed the future research need for identification of blast resistant small millet varieties in finger millet to improve its production and productivity.

Dr. Bhuwon Sthaphit, Biodiversity International, New Delhi said that involving the farming community through on farm breeding trials, seed production and dissemination will enhance food security and community resilience, also they are crucial to protect local varieties from vanishing. All the scientists in one voice accepted the need for working hand in hand with the farmers in crop varietal improvement.

Strengthening Self Health Governance in People Institutions

The Workshop on Self Health governance focused on understanding the current status of Self Health Governance at different levels; revisiting the structure of existing governance and to set mechanisms, strategies and ways and means to build effective health governance.

Dr. P Anandan, Joint Director of Health Services, Health and Family Welfare Department of Tamil Nadu initiated the workshop with his presentation on the increasing need for a forum with exclusive health agenda to influence the behaviour of Individuals and Community.

Dr. Yasodha Mau insisted on Self Help Groups to function as their Village Health Forum to promote health education, awareness and other health agenda.

Mr. R. Rajapandian, Team Leader, DHAN Foundation, in his lead paper, outlined structure and function of Self Health Governance. He proposed that the representatives from all SHG groups of a village can select leaders and evolve exclusive institutional systems to formulate and implement health policies and programmes effectively.

The workshop also identified certain action points, such as: Evolving sound mechanisms for sustaining existing health initiatives; Initiating effort to enhance the capacity of Self Health Governance with time frame; Establishing clear identity for Self Health Governance among SHGs and mainstream institutions; Exploring means of sustaining health initiatives even after project funding from external sources; Identifying mechanism and strategies to build effective governance.

Exhibition of Handicrafts and SHG Products

Second day of the exhibition had an overwhelming response from the public with a lot of influx of visitors to the stalls. There were around 60 stalls occupied by the SHGs and NGOs, who have displayed their products for sale. An exhibition displayed by DHAN Foundation's rainfed farming development programme had a collection of more than 25 types of edible greens that disappeared from our menu. Also a collection of traditional implements developed by the farmers themselves to meet their cultivation needs were displayed in the exhibition, which attracted many visitors to the stall.

Development Film Festival

On second day of 9th development film festival, which focused on "Youth for Change" showcased three development films.

- *Muyarchi*, a 9-minute Tamil short film made by Nandini visualised the plight of an unemployed youth and how he gets motivated to find a job for himself.
- *Atrinaikal*, a 29.30 minutes short film in Tamil depicts

the painful life of transgender, how they are stigmatised and inhumane treatment meted out to them.

- *Oru Oorula*, a Tamil short film for 13.34 minutes made by Ponraj captures the legacy of traditional water resources through a story teller and it narrates vividly how water is commercialised and being exploited by the vested interests.

Films screened on 3rd Day (September 13, 2013; 6.30 – 8.30 p.m.)

- *Dhuruva Natchathiram* (Polestar), by Aravaind, 9.32 minutes in Tamil
- *Khi-Khi*, by Pavel Navageethan, 16 minutes in Tamil
- *Promise*, by Rohin, 4.55 minutes, Tamil

Folklore Festival

The second day of the Folklore Festival had performance by two cultural troupes. Chakkaratahazhvar Kalaikuzhu, performed traditional dances like Oyil karagam, oyilattam, periya kambattam, karauppusay attam, paraiyattam, sattaikutchiyattam.

Another troupe from Mannadimangalam village, Madurai - Ramu Silamabatta Kalai Kuzhu performs a variety of silambam and gymnastics skills.

key message at me



INDIA'S ISS' Foundation
-PHOTO: S
Staff

தலைப்பின்
12-09-2013

26 சதவீத வணிகர்களுக்கு
மட்டுமே வங்கிக்கணக்கு

மாண்புமிகு பேரவைத் தலைவர்: இந்திய மின்சாரத்துறைக்கு 26 சதவீத வங்கிக்கணக்கு வழங்க வேண்டும் என்று கேட்டுக் கொள்ளும் முறை மட்டுமே மின்சாரத்துறைக்கு வழங்கப்படும். மின்சாரத்துறைக்கு 26 சதவீத வங்கிக்கணக்கு வழங்க வேண்டும் என்று கேட்டுக் கொள்ளும் முறை மட்டுமே மின்சாரத்துறைக்கு வழங்கப்படும்.

மலர்

DECCAN Chronicle
12-09-2013

for Sellu
The Youth Brigade in Madurai would work towards restoration of the Sellu tank. As its members brace themselves for reviving the significant expert body in the city, an conservation has suggested that they work hand in hand with the government authorities and the local bodies for the success of the project. The Youth Brigade should also focus on water bodies that are crucial for the overall success of the task, said the expert.

Indian Children Hurting India's
Tortured Women, Under the Symptom of a...
The symposium was apt and timely due to the urgent need to plug the leakages in the government policy, she said. Through the discussion on the effective governance in coming up with solutions for effective governance to meet the direct needs of the poor, she added.

DANCE
Kalai Kuzhu from Thuvankurichi part of the 5-day Madurai symposium 'Advancing Development' that commences in the city on Wednesday.