



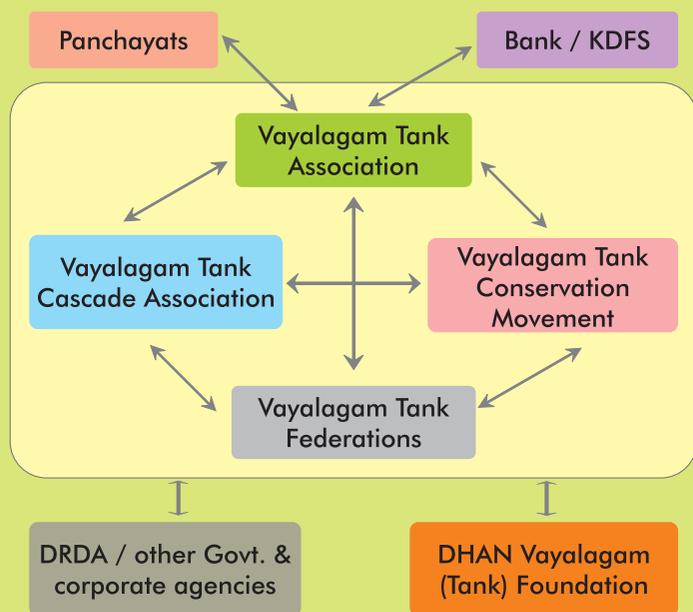
# People Convention on Vayalagam Federation's Governance and Sustainability: Scope and Challenges

September 11, 2013

Madurai Symposium 2013

## Background

DHAN Foundation's water theme was initiated as a pilot focusing on community owned tank rehabilitation project by collaborating with mainstream institution at Madurai way back in 1992. This pilot Project of “Tank Rehabilitation” with an aim to enhance livelihoods of poor and marginal farmers evolved into “Vayalagam Tank fed Agriculture Programme” during 1998. The major



focus of sustaining tankfed agriculture of small, marginal and underprivileged farming community by creating access to water, crop production technology and institutional governance become inevitable. In new millennium, the programme integrated micro finance, insurance, extension ( through Plant Clinics) and tank based watersheds reached over 2298 Villages in 6 States and promoted 2987 Vayalagams, 26 federations by end March 2013. The primary institution viz. vayalagam (tank association) promoted at hamlet/around small fresh water resources such as tanks, village ponds, community wells and the like. Due to ensure better water sharing on

hydrologic basis, these Vayalagams are integrated at cascade/Watershed level and then at block level as Federations as shown in the structure called nested People institutions for sustaining the initiatives for generations:

These institutions undergoes four generation concept for graduation of sustainability from one level to another level with time frame and significant transformative institutional processes and interventions. In its two decades of growth, vayalagams nested institutions evolved context specific development agenda with community governance through continued empowerment.

## The Convention

Madurai Symposium is a biennial event being organised 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 6th Madurai Symposium is scheduled to be organised during the 11 to 15th September 2013 at Madurai. The focus of the Madurai Symposium is on integrating Governance with the 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 people convention on Vayalagam Federation's Governance and Sustainability on 14th September 2014.

## Objectives of the Seminar

The objectives of the Convention is

- To share the present experiences of governance and sustainability practiced at federations of Vayalagams at TamilNadu, and Karnataka for consolidating its best practices

- To evolve the common policies, standards and operating mechanisms for governance and sustainability across all Vayalagam federations for bench marking the best practices.
- To build the perspectives among the Vayalagam leaders and participants on Governance and Sustainability
- To evolve new ways of working with local government and mainstream and pathways for better governance and sustainability as way forward.

## Participants

The expected participants for the convention are office bearers of the 30 more Vayalagam federations exists in TamilNadu, Andhrapradesh and Karnataka and States. The Vayalagam leaders in the governance of the above federations would participate, share their experiences and evolve the new ways of working for the objectives proposed for the convention.

## Expected outcome

- The best practices of Governance and Sustainability of federations shared across for taking home
- Concrete actions plan for better governance and sustainability of the federations
- Develop policy and action leads for further discussions at respective federations for integrating them with the action plan for coming years.
- New ways and means of Governance and Sustainability

## Programme Schedule

- 09.30 am: Prayer and Welcome
- 09.45 am: Purpose of the convention
- 10.00 am: Opening address by the Chairperson
- 10.15 am: Lead paper presentation
- 10.30 am: Sharing of the experiences by the Federations
- 12.30 pm: Discussions on the presentations
- 01.30 pm: Lunch break
- 02.30 pm: Group Discussion on the theme
- 04.30 pm: Synthesis of group discussions
- 05.30 pm: Concluding remarks

## Venue and Date of the Seminar

The seminar is planned to be organized in Thamukkam Grounds on 11<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.

