



People Convention on Vayalagam and their Self-Regulated Governance: Scope and Challenges

**September 14, 2013
at Thamukkam Grounds**

Madurai Symposium 2013



Background

Vayalagam

A community Nested Institution for fresh water resources and management and Governance

Vayalagam Tank Association at Village level

Primary institution at each water body level responsible for collection of contribution, planning & implementation of works, maintaining accounts, operation, maintenance and management of the rehabilitated water bodies.

Vayalagam Tank Cascade Association

Institution at chain of tanks on hydrology basis for the Maintenance of link channels connecting the tanks in the chain, resolving conflicts in water sharing among the tanks in the chain of tanks.

Sub Basin Management association

Formed sub basin / basin management association with the tank farmers association and the tank cascades associations as members for Maintaining and managing the canal diversions in each of sub basin under basin.

Vayalagam Tank Federations

Institution at block or district level for mobilizing funds from the Government and other agencies, monitoring the functioning of above. The tank federation is a legal entity; registered under Societies / Trust Act.

Vayalagam Tank Conservation Movement

The movement is conceived as an offshoot of advocacy efforts of tank farmers and their associations at various levels. The activities are mainly aimed at mobilizing the participation of tank farmers from different states in the country. By getting together, they feel that they could be strengthened and better able to speak out on issues pertaining to the conservation of small scale water bodies.

Need for Self-Regulation

The nested institution concept of Vayalagam have been evolved with the perspective of local management of small scale water bodies at village level by the villages & users' themselves. These practices have been followed in the early stages of history itself as 'Kudimaramathu' concept. But over the years, the concept of local management is getting reduced gradually by erosion of local system of governance by people themselves as they took lead role. In this back ground, the DHAN Vayalagam (Tank) Foundation through its Vayalagam tankfed agriculture development programme, tries to bring back the concept of local management system and build self-regulation as concept and over the years as culture. To make every individual as well as the institutions to own the agenda (or) basic purpose with which it has been created which leads to ownership building among members & member institutions.

The Convention

Madurai Symposium is biennial 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 organised during the September 11-15 at Madurai. The focus of the Madurai Symposium 2013 is on advancing the Governance with the various development interventions and sharing the field experiences to address the global issues of sustainable development. During the Symposium it is proposed to conduct the People convention on "Self-Regulation practices in Vayalagam Nested people institutions: scope and challenges".

Objectives of the Convention

- To share the experiences of Vayalagam Movement on self-regulation practices over the years in the Vayalagam Nested People Institutions and consolidating the best practices and making available them across all people institutions.

- To evolve the policies, procedures and mechanisms among the Nested People Institutions as to ensure the institutional, financial and development standards as to sustain the institutions with the vibrancy across all levels.
- To build the perspectives among the leaders at different institution level on the concept of self-regulation and its importance for practices.
- To evolve the action plan for implementation of Self-Regulation across all institutions through Vayalagam Mutual Movement

Participants

The expected participants for the convention are from the Nested people institutions exist at TamilNadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Bihar. Some of the participants from NGOs also would participate. All the expected participants join together and deliberate on the theme of the self-Regulation and its implications on the sustainability of the institutions and evolve appropriate polies and action leads for taking them forward to their institutions further debate and put them in practice.

Expected outcome

- Best practices of Self-Regulation practices consolidated and taken home for the practices by the people institutions.
- Shared understanding on the self-Regulation practices among all participants
- Developing action plan for mainstreaming the self-Regulation practices at people institutions.
- Develop policy leads for further discussion action through People institutions for putting the self-regulation in practices.

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 14th 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.

