

## PARTICIPANTS

The expected participants for this workshop are farmers from Palar river basin, representation from BPCL, TI CSR, development practitioners, stakeholders such as mainstream institutions, bankers, NGO representatives, leading farmers, Academia and interested individuals

## EXPECTED OUTCOME

- Impact of Tank system in the resilience to cope up with climate change in Palar basin
- Impact of creating surface rain water harvesting structure in stabilizing the agriculture and domestic need.
- Shared understanding on the resilience to cope with climate change.
- Developing action plan for the resilience to cope with climate change in Kolar District under Palar River Basin

## VENUE AND DATE OF THE WORKSHOP

The workshop will be held at Thamukkam Grounds on 21st September 2017.

## PROGRAMME SCHEDULE

- 0.00 -10.30 : Registration
- 10.30 – 10.40 : Prayer (Anjinamma and Mala) and Welcome by Raghavendra H.G
- 10.40 – 10.50 : Lighting of lamp by the guests
- 10.50 – 11.00 : Purpose and background of the Workshop – Raghavendra H.G
- 11.00 – 11.10 : Invocation address by Mr. N. Venkatesan, CEO, DV (T) F, Madurai
- 11.10 – 11.30 : Special address: Thyagaraj. Honorary wildlife warden, Kolar
- 11.30 – 11.40 : Tea Break
- 11.40 – 12.00 : Special address by Dr. Chandrashekar, Scientist, Institute of Wood science Technology, Bengaluru
- 12.00 – 12.20 : Chief Guest address: Mr. G. Venkateshappa, Retired Deputy Director of Sericulture and Present President of Karnataka state Kolar district Sandal Wood and Krishi Forest Farmers Trust, Kolar
- 12.20 – 1.00 : Lead paper Presentations on Resilience building in Palar Basin – By Raghavendra H.G
- 1.00 – 1.30 : Reflection on Presentation – Panel members
- 1.30 – 2.30 : Lunch break
- 2.30 – 3.00 : Experience of Community and Experts Views
- 3.00 – 4.00 : Sub group discussion
- 4.00 – 4.30 : Group presentation and synthesis
- 4.30 – 5.00 : Sharing Key Outcomes and Resolution
- 5.00 – 5.10 : Vote of Thanks – Ramesh. M

# MADURAI SYMPOSIUM 2017



**Thamukkam Ground, Madurai**

**September 21, 2017**

## RESILIENCE BUILDING IN PALAR RIVER SUB BASINS

Sponsored by



Organised by

DHAN VAYALAGAM (TANK) FOUNDATION  
Madurai



## MADURAI SYMPOSIUM

Madurai Symposium is a 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 Eight Madurai Symposium 2017 is scheduled to be organized during September 20 to 24, 2017 at Madurai. The focus of the Madurai Symposium 2017 is on Building Resilience for Sustaining Development.

## ABOUT DHAN FOUNDATION

DHAN Foundation is working on water sector for about two decades. The centrality and focus of the institution is on community-owned and community-led conservation & agriculture development for poverty reduction in rural areas. The space for participation, institutional infrastructures and leadership creates democratic platforms for the community. The intervention part of the institution is engineered to adapt basin and sub-basin approach for addressing the issues holistically. DHAN Foundation has collaborated with Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and Texas Instruments (India) private limited (TI) for the rejuvenation of water bodies in Palar Basin. The intervening projects have multi-level interventions for facilitating achievement of water and food security. Such direct efforts build the resilience of community and help them to work together collectively.

## OVERVIEW OF PALAR BASIN

The Palar Basin is an important basin among the 12 basins lying between the Pennar and the Cauvery basins. This basin is divided into three major topographical divisions namely, i) the hill ranges of Eastern Ghats ii) the plateau region and iii) the coastal plains. Though most of the drainage area lies in Tamil Nadu, its drainage area extends to cover the South-East and South-Western parts of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh respectively. The shape of the basin is rhombus and finds its outlet in to Bay of Bengal. The Palar drains an area of 17,871 Sq.Kms out of which nearly 57 percent lies in Tamil Nadu and the balance in the states of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. The State wise distribution of the drainage area is given below:

| Name of State  | Drainage Area (sq km) | Percentage of total |
|----------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Karnataka      | 3044                  | 17.0                |
| Andhra Pradesh | 4681                  | 26.2                |
| Tamilnadu      | 10146                 | 56.80               |
| Total          | 17871                 | 100                 |

The river Palar rises beyond Talagavara village in the Kolar district of Karnataka state at an elevation of about 900 m above MSL. The total length of this East flowing river from its origin to its outfall into the Bay of Bengal is about 348 Km. The flow is generally in the South-Easterly direction for the first 93 Km. Then it flows through the Kolar District of Karnataka, before entering the Chittoor District of Andhra Pradesh, through which it flows for another 33 Kms. After passing through the States of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh the river enters the Vellore District of Tamil Nadu and reaches Bay of Bengal.

## CHALLENGES IN THE RIVER BASIN

Palar River is not a perennial river and it flows only during the rainy seasons. Due to shortfall and scanty rainfall in the river basin the flow of the river is limited. There are more than 2500 tanks in the Kolar district and there are about 1319 tanks comes under the Palar river basin. The majority of the farmers under the basin are small and marginal farmers who depend more on rain fall and tanks for their livelihoods. But majority of the tanks have not got water for the past several years and there by the river also not flown during the last decade. All kinds of farmers in the basin like rain fed, tank fed and bore well owned farmers are facing problems in taking up agriculture due to pattern of rain fall, depleted ground water table up to 1500 to 1800 feet, periodical drought, pollution and other things. In spite of that, farmers have found their own ways and means of resilient mechanisms to cope up with the situation.

As the soil (Red sandy loam) and the climatic conditions are congenial for taking up vegetables, mulberry and dairying, lot of techniques have been adopted by the farmers. All the farmers have adopted Drip irrigation instead of flood irrigation and gone for intensive cultivation methods like net house, poly house, providing mulching for the vegetables crops and so on. These types of methods could reduce the availability of water for the particular crops, but could not address the drought and affects the ground water status.

## INTERVENTIONS OF DHAN VAYALAGAM (TANK) FOUNDATION

DHAN Foundation through its DHAN Vayalagam (Tank) Foundation, a water thematic initiative is working with the community in, Head reach (Kolar district of Karnataka), Middle reach (Chittoor district of Andhra Pradesh) and Tail reach (Pondicherry) to cope up with the challenges faced by the community. The organisation has organised the farmers into Vayalagam (Users Group) association at village level to address the issue through the community lead measures.

### COLLABORATION:

In order to make the community to adopt the different drought resilient measures the organization has collaborated with Corporates like Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited and Texas Instruments under their Corporate Social Responsibility. With the experience of organisation in working towards sustainable development of Farming community from the past two decades, it has initiated its water and agriculture related interventions in the Kolar district during the year 2006. The organisation has taken up the lifelines of livelihoods called "TANKS" as interventions to address the issue and we have also taken up the watershed treatment activities like Farm Ponds, Mini Percolation Tanks in order to make the community to adopt to use the surface water for the agriculture.

The small scale water harvesting structures taken up in the farmer's field is giving good results in terms of water harvesting even for small rains and getting crops out of that. This found to be one of the resilient mechanisms to cope up with the drought and there are lot more mechanisms that farmers also following on their own.