



Madurai Symposium 2017

Building Resilience for Sustaining Development

20-24 September, 2017



Bulletin

Day 2: 21 September 2017

Building Resilience among Farmers in Palar Basin



Rivers are not just carriers of water; they are social-ecological systems connecting human, fauna and flora. Palar River is a rain fed river of southern India, rises in Nandi Hills of erstwhile Kolar district and passes through Kolar district of Karnataka. There are 1319 tanks come under the Palar river basin and the river has not flown for several years due to activities such as sand quarrying and discharge of industrial effluents. Farmers in the Kolar region have shifted from their traditional rainfed small millets and tank-fed paddy crops to cultivation of vegetables, mulberry and dairy farming with the large-scale exploitation of ground water, which led to depletion of ground water.

Some of the practice changes were shifting from flood irrigation to drip and sprinkler irrigation, mulching to conserve soil and water, construction of farm ponds for life saving irrigation, Guni method (Like SRI in Paddy) of ragi cultivation, cultivation with poly and net house coupled with drip and sprinkler irrigation practices.

The farmers transformative actions to meet the challenges of drought are insurance for crop, livestock and life risks, tree plantation to maintain minimum of 33% of tree cover including Government and private lands, integrated farming systems practice, revival of surface water irrigation systems like Tanks, farm ponds, mini percolation tanks. Reducing usage of insecticides and pesticides that affect the soil health and animal health in long run, following live fencing for improving soil fertility and reducing pest infestation, practicing organic farming systems using locally available resources were other transformative measures came up.

DHAN, in partnership with BPCL took up tank restoration, formation of farm ponds, and construction of mini percolation tanks (MPTs), check dams, roof water harvesting structures benefiting 3800 families across all the five blocks of Kolar district, creating additional storage of around 20.58 crore litres of water every year. Similar works have been taken up with the support of Texas Instruments benefiting 2670 families with the creation of additional storage of 5.38 crore litres of water.

Linking Urban Sanitation and Urban Agriculture through Faecal Sludge Management (FSM) approach

Urban sanitation is increasingly occupies government’s agenda today, while the sixth goal of SDG focuses on ‘Clean water and sanitation’. Urban Agriculture is an emerging concept worldwide and it is viewed as one of the resilience building measures among urban households. Despite treatment plants established by the State, 63% of all sewage is let into water bodies untreated. Sewage and sludge are seen as a burden, which can be converted as a valuable resource for nutrient recovery and reuse of human waste can in fact build resilient cities.

BORDA-SA organised training on faecal sludge management, connecting sanitation and urban agriculture as part of Madurai symposium. A case study on “Faecal sludge Treatment Plant (FSTP) at Devanahalli” was showcased as a resilient model in FSM. It covers around 6500 households



dependent on septic tanks and pits for waste disposal. Since there are no proper Underground Drainage connections (UGDs), faecal sludge is disposed at farms, drains and water sources. The 8000 LPD Capacity FSTP was established by with collaborative effort of Municipal authority, CDD, BORDA-SA and local community. Easy, affordable operation and maintenance cost, minimal usage of electro mechanical inputs for treatment as well as disposal, reasonable capital cost and construction area requirements are the special features of this FSTP.

Two cases of Madurai urban wastewater issues were discussed in depth. For the issue of 'Sottathatti channel' discharging sewage water into Kaathiyanoor tank, 'Reed bed system' filtration method at the inlet point of the tank was proposed as a solution for safe usage of waste water for agriculture. For preventing the sewage outlets in the Vaigai River, The Madurai Corporation shall take up measures such as imposing fine for not connecting to UGD, subsidising initial UGD connection charges, restoring the non-operational pumping stations and gradients of UGD pipelines. Also as an immediate coping mechanism, it was suggested to construct small linear trench along the beds of the river to collect the disposed sewage, treat it with reed beds at regular intervals and treat solid waste along with sewage.

Round table on Climate Resilience for Tribal Communities



The round table focused on how tribal communities resist, absorb, and recover from the effects of hazards caused by climatic stress in a timely and efficient manner. Tribal households, by and large involve in subsistence agriculture, shifting cultivation, fishing, hunting and gathering. Extreme climate events have made their farming unsustainable and pushed them deviate from their traditional cultivation methods.

The climate change has led to erosion of mountains and forests due to landslides during typhoons and heavy rainfall; decrease in the population of forest animals, birds and bees;

depletion of forest products such as honey, orchids and plants, bamboos and small trees for building and changes in the practice of shifting cultivation in forest areas. Traditional healing practices faded away due to disappearance of medicinal herbs. Climate change further aggravates pre-existing environmental degradation due to extractive mining, logging and mega-dams.

There is an alarming increase in diseases associated with increasing temperatures and vector-borne and water-borne diseases like cholera, malaria and dengue fever. Dried water sources pushed women to walk longer distances to reach springs and other sources of water.

Resilience building in Tribal households could be done through:

- Mixed and inter cropping system for minimising risks
- Indigenous knowledge pooling and adjusting agricultural practices
- Diversifying livelihoods and adopting climate-resilient native species and seeds
- Increasing forest coverage and taking up afforestation programme
- Improving bio diversity through local seed system for ensuring food and nutrition security

Enabling Resilience through Gender Empowerment

The development interventions will be more appropriate and impact-full if resilience-building interventions are seen with a gender equality perspective. Adopting gender equality in resilience lies in going beyond the women-men binary to look at the intersection between and interaction of different social identities (e.g. gender, status, ethnicity, class, age, religion, disability). It requires recognizing social differences, roles, expectations and needs accorded to women.

Practicing gender equality needs to get started from the family. In general, women themselves are not coming forward to see it as a pressing issue. Domestic violence is still underreported. Some of the government programmes are not gender sensitive and perceive women as a weaker gender.



Technological advancement in terms of social media, usage of internet is still a restricted domain for women.

Empowered gender is about women gaining confidence and self-esteem resulting in dignity to womanhood. Shocks and uncertainties have given strength to women to cope-up with the issues and become resilient. Women get their experience inherited and transformed to next generations.

The Gender equality and human development of a State are inter-connected. The countries with higher gender equality such as Norway, Sweden, Japan, and Canada are also high in human development. On the other hand, the countries which are lower in gender equity (many African countries, Arab countries, Latin American and South – Asian countries) are also lower in human development parameters. Hence, to achieve resilience, gender equity is one of the pre-conditions.

Gender empowerment is an integral part of ensuring resilience. Gender is not just about women competing with men, it involves men and sharing equal responsibilities. In most of the households, savings, supporting earnings, safeguarding the income are greatly taken up by women. Role of women-led people institutions, such as SHGs and its nested institutions have proved the power of women and their collective action in family level resilience. People owned institutions have contributed significantly in achieving economic freedom, gender equality and provided them a platform for cross learning, help mutually in distress situations through which the resilience gets achieved.

Advancing Farmers Producer Organizations



Organizing small farmers as collective has been recognized and adopted as a key strategy for building household resilience. There is growing focus on promoting Farmers Producer Organizations (FPOs). Making the small farms viable and sustainable is a foremost challenge to the national policy priority of doubling farmers' income. Small Farmers Agricultural Consortium of Agricultural Ministry, Govt. of India and NABARD have been investing in the promotion of

FPO's.

Mr.M.Kalyanasundaram, CEO, INAFI India clarified that FPO is a tool for resilience building targeting the producers, technology of production, and access to financial services like credit or insurance. Mr. M.P Vasimalai in his address lauded South Indian Federation of Fisher Men Society (SIFFS) as a role model for FPOs. He stressed on transforming FPOs into Farmers Producer institutions (FPIs) for long term viability and sustainability, seeing it as a social enterprise that promote open source seeds.

Lack of awareness about FPOs among bankers and lack of tools to identify quality FPOs are the major factors preventing bankers to provide loan for FPOs. Creating forward and backward market linkages, appointing trained professional, misuse of capital investment are the some of the issues put forth by various stakeholders.

Government funding or promoting FPOs, forming core committees for procurement, commodity partnership with agencies, launching of specialized products like credit linkage for farmers and software's, intensive monitoring, enhancing equity support to the tune of Rs.50 lakhs in a phased manner, policy measures on equity and working capital contribution, bridging the gap between farm gate and mill gate. Capacity building on business Plan, running the company and legal compliances, access to Technology, Financing FIGs and FPOs, access market intelligence, enabling farmer members to access the Crop Insurance, establishing APEX body of FPCs, exemption of FPCs and FPOs from income tax for five to ten years were some of the measures proposed.

Workshop on Road to Resilience: Role of Microcredit

Microcredit refers to the small loans extended to the poor people for carrying out income generation activities to move them out of poverty. Kalanjiam Development Financial Services (KDFS), created with an objective of bridge financing to SHGs, provided poor the opportunities to start and reinvest in their livelihoods, generate and enhance their



incomes. Microcredit helped the poor come out from debt-trap and build resilience at their households.

The workshop focussed on gaining insights from the use of micro-credit to build household resilience. It was showcased how micro-credits are able to help the poor relieve from the clutches of moneylenders and initiate livelihoods. A Kalanjiam member from Chinnamannur shared how she built a new house with the loan from Kalanjiam and Canara Bank, another member, who lost her husband at her 24 years, was able to manage with credit from Kalanjiam. It was stressed to focus on lending to business activities.

Measures for building coping / adaptive capacity are as follows:

Short term measures

- 1 Encouraging Bridge Finance for SHGs denied of Bank finance
- 2 Making timely linkage for delayed credit by banks
- 3 Identifying and providing need based loan products
- 4 Ensuring prompt utilization of funds
- 5 Rescheduling of accounts / allowing instalment holidays
- 6 Lending need based additional finance

Long term measures

- 1 Arrange marketing through FPOs
- 2 Make the products to market at affordable price
- 3 Arranging to make storage of farm produces
- 4 Ensuring Risk funds
- 5 Increased skill building on various income generation activities
- 6 Restructuring of assets

Transformation Actions are,

- 1 Timely release of adequate credit to all SHG members
- 2 Financial literacy to all SHG members
- 3 Educating the products through simplified pamphlets
- 4 Ensuring apt & adequate Health Insurance
- 5 Insurance for crop, livestock, health and life

Enhancing Resilience in Safe Water access through Roof Water Harvesting (RWH)

The Seminar on safe water through roof water harvesting focused on different cost effective RWH structures available across the country, its advantages and disadvantages in addressing the issues related to this scarce commodity as safe drinking water. Strategies for creating awareness about its importance and the ways and means to use the harvested rain water in an efficient manner for the best of the humanity. The major challenges are groundwater depletion, lack of awareness about the initiative and health issues related to unsafe water. The major gaps identified are lack of



technical knowledge with demonstrations of the structures and unavailability of different cost effective model structures.

The water resources available are inadequate, contaminated and most of the cases it becomes not potable. Water available is often severely polluted due to industrialization and urbanization. The scanty rainfall with erratic distribution results in the depletion of the groundwater table with less availability of drinking water. The morbidity level increases because of the contaminated water used for drinking purposes. This leads to loss of person-days, reduced income, water quality and economic viability leading to poverty.

The behavioral change communication coping mechanism topped the list of resilience mechanisms, in addition to cost effective models, maintenance of balance between demand and supply of water by estimating the same at the family levels.

Choosing the best possible method for roof water harvesting dependent on range of factors such as roof type, cost, water proofing chemicals, durability of the structures, tank types, longevity of water storage, filtering and purifying methods both traditional and modern. Ferro cement circular tanks are considered advantageous in many aspects like those of durability, cost, contamination and water holding capacity. Being inert, plastic tanks and wax tanks were considered the best in places that lacked space.

Banks shall provide subsidies on loans offered for establishing rainwater harvesting structures. RWH can be promoted through cost effective designs, integration of RWH structures with other housing structures. Popularising the concept of RWH and bringing behavioral change by educating the people about RWH was felt as the need of the hour.

Reducing Healthcare Expenditure: Jan Aushadhi Experience

Health expenditures in poor households keep them in poverty. To build resilient health systems at household and community level, the medicines should be cost-effective and



affordable for the poor. India, being a hub of pharmaceutical drugs, exports generic drugs to as many as 150 countries. Sadly, the consumption of generic drugs in India is shockingly low. The price of branded drugs is excruciatingly high as more money is being spent on packing and transportation of drugs. Jan Aushadhi, an initiative of Central Government, on the other hand, slashes the cost of drugs more than half of branded drugs. This is possible due to direct distribution of drugs to Jan Aushadhi outlets. Jan Aushadhi drugs are available with same quality and efficacy of branded medicines. Besides making huge impact among community by giving quality medicines at affordable prices these stores cut down monthly medical expenses.

Mr. Rajasekar, Senior Marketing Officer, BPPI sensitized the participants about 'Pradhan Mantri Bharatiya Jan Aushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) and the subsidies they can avail from the Department of Pharmaceuticals under the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers. Mr. Hariharan, Professor, KM College of Pharmacy explained about generic medicines and its market share in Indian pharmaceutical industry and informed generic medicine is equivalent to branded drugs in all aspects like efficacy and composition. Mr. Dhiraj Sharma, Manager (Marketing and Sales), BPPI, said availing the benefits of Jan Aushadhi outlet and generic medicines by the people is really a boon, because of its affordability, quality and effectiveness.

Convention on building health resilience by ensuring quality and affordable medicines Jan Aushadhi Initiative resolved to initiate Behaviour Change Communication on the usage of generic medicine through extensive educative process on generic drugs vs. branded drugs. Participants resolved that Jan Aushadhi stores will be expanded in Kalanjiam, Vayalagam and Neithal federations.

Resilient people Institutions for Conservation of Coastal and Marine resources

Globally about 3 billion people rely on fish for animal

protein, and some 300 million people find their livelihoods in marine fisheries—90 percent of those are small-scale, artisanal fishermen. In Tamil Nadu, around 5500 mechanised boats are used for fishing from Vedharanyam to Palk Strait coastal alone. Flora and fauna of coastal ecosystem are exploited to a greater extent in other stretches. In either way, it should be controlled and monitored for a sustainable development. Fattening of lobster, red algae(Sea weed), crabs, dry fish production by tunnel solar drier, marine ornamental fish breeding, worm fishery and community pond aquaculture, coastal tourism are some of the alternative or additional livelihoods to build the resilient coastal ecosystem.



In 1981, about 80 fishermen from Kadiyapattinam, Kanyakumari migrated to Kombhudurai village situated between Thiruchendur to Thoothukudi and started their living by Line Fishing (Thundil). For three decades, they are following the same Line Fishing technique (size: 6-9m length, 2.3m breadth, 1-1.5m depth) which is a sustainable technique. Now, there are 700 families skilled in fabrication and operation of hooks and lines, long lines, troll line and squid jigs.

The community has well defined self-regulation system and earning more profit than the other village fishermen. They also formed a society and framed their own regulations for marketing their catches. They introduced many simple innovations like Wooden jigs, fly kit lures for live fish catch, spark plug jigs, long line marker lights, modified dip nets and LED fishing light. Adopting GPS battery assembly, and sea anchor not only yield good catch, but also ecologically safer than other exploitative systems. The self-regulated Kombhudurai fishermen community earned more profit

The resilient strategies proposed by fishermen communities are implementing existing fisheries regulation and laws without any deviations, reviving traditional fishermen panchayat and extricating it from mainstream panchayat exclusively, focusing on alternative livelihood activities and promoting nursery farms through SHGs and jointly monitoring banned boats.

without exploiting the coastal resources to the larger extent. Fisheries department showcases this village for sustainable fishing practices.

Seminar on Health Insurance Resilience building against Health Risks

Ms. Annette Houtekamer van Dam, Micro Insurance Advisor from the Netherlands, in her special address on "Health Insurance to build resilience", revealed that between 2030 and 2050, climate change is expected to cause approximately 2,50,000 additional deaths per year, from malnutrition, malaria, diarrhea and heat stress. Areas with weak health infrastructure – mostly developing countries – will be less capable to cope without assistance to prepare and respond. She opined that strengthening the resilience of health systems would both save loss at present and protect populations from much of the potential health impacts of climate change at least till the middle of the coming century. Promoting more sustainable public policy and individual choices could bring substantial reduction in climate pollution, and bring large, immediate and local health gains.

Mr. V. Ponnusamy, Senior Divisional Manager of National Insurance Corporation in his key note address stressed the importance of Health Insurance coverage for poor. He told that in India more than 35 crore people are living below poverty line and they cannot afford to go in for treatment for the diseases. However, so far very nominal numbers of poor people are covered under Health Insurance. He called for building resilience against health hazards with the help of health Insurance which is the only way to protect the poor families from financial loss due to medical expenses for treatment of diseases. Hence, all poor members in Kalanjiam, Vayalagam and other thematic people institutions have to enroll all the members under Universal Health Insurance Scheme (UHS).

Unleashing the power of collective: Farmers Producer Organization

The Green Revolution replaced low-impact traditional crop varieties and farming systems that had developed over hundreds of years in consonance with regional soils and climate - without absorbing the accumulated indigenous knowledge. Topsoil depletion, groundwater contamination and decline of family farms were the other impacts of it. Along with these factors, the climatic change, liberalization and the rapid change in the marketing have seriously affected the small and marginal farmers. These farms are becoming unsustainable due to low productivity, low income, lack of institutional credit support and low water availability.

The concept of farmers producer organizations flourishing now aimed at economic empowerment of farmers through resilience building is in the nascent stage of growth. To guide these FPOs to evolve institutional mechanisms and programmes which will make the poor farmers to come out

of the risks and shocks a convention of farmers was conducted inviting the board of directors of many FPOs in the state with more than 300 farm producers participated in it. Crop insurance, consumption credit, counseling at time of distress, relief measures and ensuring the reach of government entitlement as the coping mechanism after getting affected by the risks, farm pond promotion, water conservation measures, mixed cropping, production credit, seed production and crop selection were proposed as adaptive strategy. Mr. Pamayan spoke on organic farming as an important resilient practice and he insisted that integrated farming is important for the farmers to cope up with all issues of farming.

Leads for action

- Identification and documentation of coping mechanisms and best practices of farmers.
- Collective marketing to bring sustainability
- Ensuring 100% crop insurance and facilitating entitlement card for all the farmers
- Promoting 20 model farms to demonstrate different crop production mechanisms with resilient practices.
- The board of directors would spearhead this with democratic governance process.

SRO for Institutional Resilience

Institutions dealing with development challenges are often caught up between handling change and ensuring continuity. Rapid changes happening in social and economic spheres necessitate transformative changes in the institutions, since adaptation or incremental change would not be sufficient to handle those challenges.

Institutional norms and rules, policies and procedures need constant reviews, adaptation and reinforcement. Resilience is not just absorptive capacity or speed of recovery from an unforeseen shocks and trends, it is decided by the empowering space for the members to work on creative adaptations, which can be made possible through self-regulation processes taken up by the members themselves.

Institutions are expected to work on self-renewal to adapt to changing social and economic climate. Instead of preserving conventional patterns and focusing on continuity, crises could be used as an opportunity for learning and adapting. Self-regulation offers space for such learning and adaptation.

The convention of SHG women held as part of Symposium focused on self-regulatory practices for promoting household resilience. Participants deliberated on existing practices. Kalanjiam institutions would promote "Handful Rice" and "Kaanikkai Thittam" to mobilise support from the poor women and share it with the most vulnerable and destitute. They would go beyond their groups to fulfil civic

development needs of the villages. Value building would be the key for promoting self-regulation.

Self-regulation process would kindle environmental consciousness among members and their institutions to support eco-friendly products and activities. SRO will help mobilise community responses at times of natural disasters, facilitate relief and restoration from the adverse effects of disasters, and promote social security as a safety-net against risks faced by the poor households.

Convention of Mutual Insurance for Building Resilience

Ms. Annette Houtekamer-van Dam's elucidated the uniqueness of mutual insurance. She said mutual insurer is an insurance company which is collectively owned by its members and acts in the best interest of its members. It operates on the principles of mutuality and collective pooling of risks.

In agriculture poor people can experience great financial disruption when unexpected events occur. A farmer's property may be limited to a few crops, but the loss of them may be a great blow to the family's economy. All over the world the current penetration of micro-insurance (in particular for agriculture) is very negligible. Even small sums insured can ensure protection and dignity.

Risk associated with health

Health insurance for low income people has inadequate penetration in the rural areas due to insufficient supply and regulation of health services there. In India, centrally organized free health provision's lack funding and is hampered by facilities operate without qualified health professionals. Hence, even poor people resort to private healthcare providers.

The solutions for this are created by mutual insurance. DHAN Foundation's People Mutual provides health interventions including nutritional security of women, safe drinking water and sanitation. This is combined with health insurance and a curative health care check-up programme by SUHAM hospital. Mutual insurance offers solutions at very low rates and fast claims. Mutual insurance combined with technological innovation and an integrated approach of risk management offers the solution to enhance community resilience by reducing the risks.

Mrs. Pachaiammal, SHG leader from Salem Region shared experience of her federation in ensuring life insurance schemes such as PMJBY and PMSBY through Pallavan Grama Bank coverage for 4,000 members. Four members expired and the family got a claim amount of Rs. 2,00,000 each emphasizing the importance of life insurance as an resilience tool.

Building Resilience through Sustainable Livelihoods

Pre-symposium Round Table @ Chittoor, Andhra Pradesh

Farmers and women from Vayalagam and Kalanjiam SHGs, officials from agriculture department, district water management agency, water resources department, Andhra Pradesh Farmers Federation came together to meet at the round table organised as part of Madurai Symposium at Chittoor on September 16, 2017.

Participants exchanged their experiences over climate change with an increased exposure to drought and other hazards in the recent years. They said the seasons of rainfall and number of rainy days have fallen drastically; recurrent droughts and flash floods are common nowadays. Decreased water availability and soil fertility have made a serious impact on agriculture productivity, farmers have been pushed to sell off their livestock and lands, and migrate to nearby town and cities in search of livelihoods. Community coping mechanisms and adaptation techniques were discussed in breakout groups. They came out with following strategies:

- Constructing farm ponds in rainfed lands through different projects
- Applying tank silt to enrich soils and augment storage of water in tanks.
- Stabilising micro climate through dry land horticulture and agro forestry and providing shade and fodder for livestock and to minimise heat in summer
- Rejuvenating failed bore wells.
- Promoting short duration crops, small millets, mulching in all vegetable crops
- Reducing unnecessary usage of inorganic fertilizers by going for soil testing
- Adopting organic farming in large scale
- Ensuring insurances covers against risks for life, livestock, crop and health insurance to reduce risks and vulnerability
- Generating alternative livelihoods in the areas of agriculture, poultry, and livestock development.
- Promoting green fodder plots, dry fodder banks, silage pits, livestock hostels etc., for livestock development
- Taking up fish rearing in all water bodies including farm ponds, wells, tanks to bring ecological balance and nutritional security.
- Encouraging water sharing in agriculture through providing incentives or benefits
- Popularising micro-irrigation methods such as drip, sprinkler, rain guns among ground water users

- Promoting PPGs, PMGs, Producer Companies among farmers to reduce dependency on middlemen
- Creating drought mitigation fund at people institutions or panchayat level.
- Leveraging resources through partnerships among NGOs, corporate, peoples institutions and mainstream institutions.
- Providing reliable information on weather through Village Resource Centres, community radios, SMS alerts to facilitate farmers for effective crop planning.

Pre-symposium Round Table @ Karnataka

In Karnataka, a roundtable on resilience building for livelihoods enhancement based on experiences from community, farmers and women from Tumkur, Ramanagara, Kudur and Mysore districts participated. Experts from soil and water conservation, leaders from Kalanjiam and Vayalagam Federations attended the consultation.

Resilience building at farm level can be done by investing on soil and water, important factors of production. With the advent of green revolution, chemical fertilisers replaced the traditional methods of manuring and the soils became sterile and unproductive. With shrinking availability of water for farming, dry land farming becomes a resilience building measure. For instance, Indian gooseberry, demonstrated by

the KVK in Devarayanadurga, showed promise and with value addition in the form of candy, juice and sweets, farmers can get benefit out of meagre investment. Also, farmers can adopt select varieties of Ragi and Paddy like ML322 and Aerobic paddy which gives better yield under stressed environment. Some of the proven strategies proposed for scaling up for enhancing resilience were as followed:

- Supportive machineries can reduce the cost of cultivation
- Organic farming can benefit both the producers as well as consumers
- Water harvesting through traditional water bodies, roof water harvesting at the household level
- Taking up large scale tree plantation
- Promoting country breeds of cattle, which can withstand harsh climates to combat the climate change
- Mixed cropping of pulses along with plantation crops
- Creating enabling and supportive markets through producer organisations
- Value addition of crops can fetch good return
- Promoting resilient crops such as small millets and local varieties

Madurai Symposium in Media

The collage features several newspaper clippings:

- தினமணி (Dinamani):** Headlines include "பற்கலை இயக்குனர் எச்சரிக்கை" (Warning from the Director of Handicrafts) and "21 செப்டம்பர் 2017".
- THE HINDU:** Headlines include "Sustained development" and "Madurai Symposium on Sustained Development".
- Indian Express:** Headlines include "Mass cleaning of Vaigai River on September 28: Madurai Collector" and "The district administration has formed a river restoration trust to undertake the task".
- THE TIMES OF INDIA:** Headlines include "Symposium on resilient sustaining development" and "Madurai district collector inaugurates river restoration trust".

The clippings contain detailed reports on the symposium, the river cleanup, and the formation of the river restoration trust, highlighting the involvement of the Dhan Foundation and local community members.