



Madurai Symposium 2017

Building Resilience for Sustaining Development

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Bulletin

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Building Household Resilience through Financial Products and Services: Kalanjiam Community Banking Experience

Over 300 women representatives from Kalanjiam SHGs across India came together and deliberated on building household resilience with enabling financial products and services. Kalanjiam initiative of DHAN for the past 25 years has been consistently advancing the theme of community banking, by way of evolving contextually relevant microfinance products such as savings, credit, insurance, pension and livelihood products and services. The central focus was building household level resilience so as to graduate them out of poverty and preventing them from slipping back into poverty.

This convention assimilated the resilience building practices and experiences of SHG members at their households with the support of Kalanjiam. Unexpected health issues of the family members, death of breadwinners, natural disasters like droughts and floods, loss of livelihoods, push them into vicious cycle of poverty unless they are resilient to such shocks. Household resilience is influenced by the state of poverty and vulnerability of families, who have been categorised into Survival (S1), Subsistence (S2) and Self Employment (S3), and again stage of the family life cycle newly married couple (F1), with studying children (F2), with employed children (F3), with children ready for marriage (F4), with aged couple (F5). These families take financial decisions such as borrowing, saving, asset creation, enrolling into insurance, initiating livelihood activities based on their state of vulnerability and life cycle.



Some of the propositions came up from practices of Kalanjiam community banking are as followed:

- Savings is a resilience building strategy and special savings can ensure certain financial needs.
- SHG model increases the credit access of the poor, credit planning is lacking among the poor families. Special loan products for housing, education and livelihood can also build resilience.
- Micro-insurance is considered as one of the financial services which has significant role in addressing the issues of Poverty. It provides security against risks in case of any mishap of the members.
- Micro-pension can be regarded as a risk management mechanism that the poor could use to compensate for the lack of appropriate protection at the old ages.
- Alcoholism among the husbands of the SHG members is another major disaster; members intend to release their husbands from this evil, which is expected to enhance their household resilience.
- Financial Counselling Centers will be established at Cluster and Federation level so as to take the Financial Counselling to the higher level among the members and families.
- One percentage of loans can be allocated as Resilient Fund from each member and deposited at Federation level for the emergency purpose of the members.

In Ramanathapuram, after so many rounds of convincing, a Kalanjiam member got enrolled herself and her spouse in the Micro-insurance programme. Unfortunately, within a month, her husband got expired in an accident. She got a relief with the support from insurance. Educating the members on risk assessment and management is also considered as an essential need of the hour. The efforts are being taken to ensure 100% enrollment of the members in different micro-insurance products and schemes. Government is also playing a critical role in providing insurance services to poor. Educating the Members on credit planning, cash flow analysis, predicting the future needs can help them build household resilience.

Building Resilience through Incremental Housing



Lack of proper housing is an important dimension of poverty. Improper sanitation, lack of electricity, inadequate living space, non-availability of water or bad quality of water reduces the productive opportunities and diminishes the physical and psychological well being of the people. Suitable housing material leads to good health and protects them from natural and manmade disasters. Thus, appropriate housing structures directly correlate with the resilient household and resilient community. For a poor person who owns a small house the choice of incremental housing addresses all the above issues and makes him protected against all hazards/risks.

Incremental housing includes addition of rooms, floors, cement flooring, electrification, fencing, and roofing, construction of toilets, water connection, and extension of house, rehabilitation of existing house, white washing and the like. The impending scope to enable the poor and vulnerable people's access housing stands at crossroads. While the urban housing shortage in India stands at 18.78 Million units, 95% of this shortage affects directly the economically weaker and low-income group of population, who both by inadequacy of income and informality of employment to service the debt remain unable to access the formal housing finance market.

DHAN HOPE has been promoted to address the issue of housing for the poor and it has organised a one-day workshop titled "Resilience through Incremental Housing" as part of Madurai symposium to consolidate the aspirations and expectations of poor communities, understand their financial affordability, evolve suitable credit products for scaling up. The resource persons attended the workshop include Mr. M Kalyanasundaram, Chairperson DHAN HOPE, Mr A Madhan Kumar, Programme Leader, Mrs A Madhumathi, Architect and Mr A.R Ramalingam, Architect. The community leaders participated actively and contributed in the deliberations.

Leads for future action

- Quality houses with affordable low cost material without sacrificing the quality
- Purchasing housing plots in one area by SHG members to construct cluster houses
- Vertical expansion in urban context is suggested because of high rate of land value and horizontal expansion for rural context due to availability of land at lower price
- Low cost housing using locally available eco-friendly and readymade materials with innovative appropriate technology
- Reducing plinth area by using thinner wall concept and environment friendly materials
- The share of family income towards housing EMI or rent can be 30-35 percent
- Equip quality masons through training with new and low cost technologies

Building Resilient Urban Livelihoods - Showcasing Kalanjiam Livelihood models

The livelihoods in urban contexts are complex and they are endowed with wider opportunities and challenges. The adaptive, absorptive and transformative capacities of the urban poor livelihoods have unlimited stress caused by natural capital, social capital, human capital, political capital and physical capital. The ability of the urban poor to handle these capitals displays their resilience capacity.

For instance, to meet financial capital needs special savings, insurance, linkage and collective leverages are practised. Under Physical capital, adoption of community toilets, better management of solid waste and sewage, exploring public-private partnership on basic services are highlighted. Social capital provides the advantage of social cohesion, collective livelihoods in commodity marketing, formalizing the regional council with regular activities, coverage of ultra poor and ensuring entitlements from the government. Under political capital, Kalanjams encourage organized poor becoming a pressure group for ensuring the basic services and for facilitating better governance. Human capital calls



for building capacities, healthcare, skill building, urban agriculture for mitigating household expenditure, and sustaining livelihoods were insisted upon. Natural capital demands the need for secured shelter, recycling waste, housing green technologies and roof water harvesting.

Sri Ramachandran, IIT, Chennai highlighted the enhancement of livelihood through technical inputs in the area of energy efficiency, cascading water tanks, self-reliant villages, manufacturing sanitary napkins and arresting open defecation in the adopted village at Sriperumpudhur was shared. Sri Ramkumar, Vishakhapatnam shared the initiative of strengthening the livelihood of servant maids by way of claiming entitlements from the City Corporation, health facilities, skill enhancement, providing social security. Formation of Community Interest Groups, providing skill enhancements, awareness building on personal hygiene, handling kitchen garden, handling electrical appliances and handling domestic pets could add value to skills of housemaids. Sixty-one participants from urban and peri-urban areas of Madurai, Vishakhapatnam and Salem participated in the event.

Promoting Household Resilience through Sanitation and Elimination of Open Defecation



Mission clean India aspires to eliminate open defecation by 2nd October 2019, the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. The Govt. of India proposed to construct 1.2 crore toilets so that every household has a toilet and open defecation is eliminated. It is reported that inadequate sanitation costs 2.4 lakh crores and the draft national health policy reports each year 6.3 crore Indians are pushed into poverty because of health expenses.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr Ponraj, an expert in public health told people never realize that diseases like typhoid, cholera, hepatitis and trachoma are caused by open defecation. Eliminating defecating in open alone could not give the desired result, as littering in public places is also a cause of concern. He called for ensuring adequate sanitation facilities at schools. In the present scenario, schools do not have adequate sanitation facilities resulting in a silent outbreak of disease among kids.

Ms. Juliana emphasized that sanitation does not stop in the construction of toilet. She called for promoting awareness on personal hygiene, construction and use of toilets, safe water and environmental awareness. Mr Subburaj, Director of SCOPE, a pioneer in promoting sanitation products also spoke at the event.

Technicians, village presidents, community leaders, health workers and community volunteers deliberated on promoting sanitation to build household resilience. Participants expressed that saturating sanitation reach at village, panchayat, block and district levels and creating adequate sanitary complexes in urban areas and at public accessing government offices is the need of the hour. In its absence, elimination of open defecation cannot be achieved. They also appealed to the government to create mechanisms to include the excluded target beneficiaries.

There were suggestions for promoting context based cost-effective environment-friendly models. Environment-friendly sanitation products like twin leach pits in inland and ecosan toilets for coastal areas can be promoted. Ensuring behavioural change communication education from Anganwadi itself could help promote health-seeking attitude from childhood. Creating mechanisms for the discharge of septic drains are very much needed as it is a reflection of open defecation.

Emerging Trends in Processing & Value Addition of Small Millets

In India, declining cereal diversity in diets is one of the key factors behind malnutrition and prevalence of non-communicable diseases such as diabetes. Bringing back small millets in the mainstream diets could be an answer. To mainstream small millets in regular diets, DHAN Foundation implements an action research project titled “Scaling Up Small Millet Post-harvest and Nutritious Food Products Project”, in partnership with McGill University, Canada and Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore, with the support of International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada and Global Affairs Canada (GAC) through Canadian International Food Security Research Fund (CIFSRF). Under the aegis of this project a two days national seminar on “Emerging Trends in Processing and Value Addition of Small Millets” was organized as part of Madurai Symposium.

Mr. M. Karthikeyan, Principal Investigator and Program Leader, DHAN Foundation invited the participants and shared the purpose of the event. He informed that the main objective of the event is to pool the recent developments in processing and value addition of small millets and share with different stakeholders and identify the areas in need of



further research. Dr S Parvathi, Dean, Home Science College & Research Institute, TNAU, Madurai, in her inaugural address said “For mainstreaming small millets in our diet, area under cultivation of small millets should be increased at higher level combined with easy processing mills and ready to eat small millet products so that the consumers can afford the small millet products at affordable price”. She also stressed the need for bringing out innovative food products in millets and the need for entry of many small enterprises in the value chain. Dr Vijaya Raghavan from McGill University, Canada, stressed the need for focused research on small millets and the need for adoption of proven technologies across the country.

The two days seminar was organised into five technical sessions. In the first day lead paper was presented by Dr A Sundaravalli, Ph.D, HOD, Dept. Food Science & Nutrition Mount Carmel College, Bangalore on ‘Health & nutritional benefits of small millets’ and by Dr V Palanimuthu, Head, AICRP on Post Harvest Technology, University of Agricultural Sciences, GKVK, Bangalore on ‘Machinery used in primary & secondary processing of small millets’ and Dr Usha Dharmaraj, Senior Technical Officer, Dept. of Grain Science Technology, Central Food Technological Research Institute, Mysore, Karnataka on ‘value addition of small millets’.

Oral presentations were made by industrial experts and researchers from different parts of the country on recent researches on health benefits of small millets, development of processing machinery and development of value added food products. Dr. Valerie Orsat from McGill University, Canada was among the dignitaries present on the occasion. Farmers, representatives from academic & government Institutions, equipment manufacturers, food processors, food enterprises, NGOs and research scholars attended the seminar. Dr N Varadharaju, PhD, Professor and Head, convener of the seminar, Post Harvest Technology Centre, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore proposed a vote of thanks.

Small millets include finger, little, proso, barnyard, foxtail and kodo millets. Performing well in marginal environments, they have superior nutritional properties, including high micronutrient and dietary fibre content, and low glycemic index. However, there has been a drastic decline in production and consumption of small millets in the last few decades, mainly due to limited productivity, high drudgery involved in their processing, negative perceptions of small millets as a food for the poor and policy neglect when compared to other crops.

Integrity of Freshwater Bodies – Building Resilience against Sea water Intrusion in Coastal Region



On third day of Madurai Symposium 2017, a workshop on building resilience against Sea Water Intrusion with a special focus on Puducherry was organized by DHAN Vayalagam (Tank) Foundation. This region is characterised by a fragile ecosystem due to poor upkeep and utilization of 84 irrigation tanks and 600+ local ponds resulted in over withdrawal of ground water that led to seawater intrusion, a major environmental problem faced by the coastal zones.

Dr R Sakthivadivel, Emeritus Professor, Centre for Water resources, Anna University emphasized renovation, restoration and maintenance of surface rainwater harvesting structures. He explained the importance of tank system irrigation in coastal areas to reduce the pressure for groundwater. He suggested that a water catchment area should be treated and feeder channels of tank systems need to be revived. Mr J Saravanan appreciated the traditional wisdom on water management in five types of ecosystems and the wisdom on Neidhal is still relevant for coastal and marine zone preservation. The participants mostly farmers and women shared their experiences relating to rehabilitation of surface water bodies, which was considered to be the best coping mechanism to avoid sea water intrusion.

Check dam construction across the river course, roof water harvesting and renovation of small village ponds are the adaptive mechanisms to improve the ground water table. The tank silt application has minimized water requirement and increased the productivity. The irrigation method by using the closed pipes instead of open channel is also an adaptation technique to reduce water consumption. An exclusive department to be formed integrating the entire existing player who are involved in renovating managing and conserving the water resources. Crop diversification, incentivisation to farmers to cultivate crops other than Paddy should be a major government policy. Regulating the use of water from aquifers by using both surface and ground water conjunctively, and recycled wastewater for use in agriculture or recharge into sea to dilute the salinity level in the sea came up as potential adaptations.

Pension - A Key Instrument for Building Resilience at Old Ages

“Life expectancy of Indians at birth is 67 years for men and 73 years for women (WHO, 2013). But when women who finally reach 70 years of age, will on an average live another 13 years, leading to increased population of aged women, who are often faced with the risks of destitution. By 2050, the number of over-60s in the developing world may jump to 1.5 billion from 375 million today. The United Nations estimates that over 1.2 billion older people will be without access to secured income by 2050, unless action is taken”, says Annette Houtekamer-van Dam, an Insurance Expert from the Netherlands.

Speaking at the Seminar on Pension – A Key Instrument of Resilience in Old Ages, organised as part of Madurai Symposium 2017 at Tamukkam Grounds, Madurai today, she says “In Europe state provision for addressing vulnerabilities of older population is being stretched to its limits, and whilst coverage is expanding in many Asian countries, it is unlikely to reach the European scale. Formal welfare provisions, like pensions, health and social services are critical to extend protection to vulnerable older population”.

Ms S Gayathri, People Mutuals, an insurance initiative of DHAN Foundation says “Atal Pension Yojana rolled out by

the Government of India in May 2016 is an opportunity to include the unorganised communities of old age people in pension cover. What is needed for expanding its reach is pension literacy among the vulnerable and low-income households. Commercial banks are important partners in this drive to make micro-pension inclusive”. She called for government, NGOs, banks and insurance companies to work together for taking this concept of micro-pension forward and enrol all the eligible members”.

The seminar had participants from women SHG Federations, Farmers’ Federations across Tamil Nadu, representatives from banks and insurance companies. They were explained about the features of Atal Pension Yojana and micro-insurance product.

DHAN undertook a detailed feasibility study and found that members are capable of and willing to pay for the micro-pension. DHAN Foundation and LIC of India have jointly designed a tailor-made micro-pension programme to serve the poor families organised into Kalanjams, Vayalagams and Fishermen Groups. About 25000 members from 26 federations have been enrolled in the micro-pension programme.

Building Climate Resilient River Eco-system: Challenges and Pathways for Vaigai and Gundar Rivers

“Climate Change should not be an excuse for brushing aside the damages done to river ecosystem. Time has come to introspect and correct human interventions that affect the rivers”, says Dr S Janakarajan, Professor (Retd.), Madras Institute of Development Studies. Speaking at the Multi stakeholders’ dialogue on Challenges and Pathways for Vaigai and Gundar in Tamil Nadu organized by Water Knowledge Centre of Tata-Dhan Academy in Madurai today, he said “We are yet to learn from 2015 Chennai floods, reducing width of river flow by constructing walls on both sides of the bank defeating the main purpose of river flow caused enormous damage to people and properties”. He insisted upon greening of natural account in assessing real GDP, by subtracting economic value of environmental damage caused to river and freshwater ecosystems should be practiced.

He told from the study of Blacksmith Institute, UK 1996, Palar river in Tamil Nadu got dubious distinction and is one of the fourth highly polluted and hazardous rivers in the world mainly because of more than 750 tannery effluents is discharged into it without treatment and sand mining. He said that the stopping of sediment flow in the river because of dams across river, result in reduction of storage capacity in dams besides subsidence of delta in tail reach near coasts and seawater intrusion along the eastern coast.

Vaigai and Gundar rivers have cascades of tanks, underwent degradation due to multiple factors. DHA has shifted its





strategy from renovating isolated tanks to Cascade of tanks included in a river basin. Green river project is one such initiative aimed at restoring Gundar river basin, working right from its source till its delta. DHAN initiated its works on restoring Vaigai River with a Pageantry, mass cleaning and tree plantation drive, creating zonal council along its bank, conducting “Nathivalam” events. Recently the district collector constituted Vaigai River restoration Trust, in which DHAN plays the role of secretariat. Dr Geethalakshmi, Professor, Agricultural College & Research Institute, Dr Sudha of Lady Doak College, Dr. Nirmala of National Biodiversity Authority also spoke at the event.

Leads for action

While considering restoring a river, each stream and springs contributing to the river has to be looked at. An empathetic approach towards rehabilitation of encroached landholders should be carried out. As a short-term solution introducing enzyme culture in polluted waters that help in purifying water acting as pollutant absorbents is suggested. Greening of National accounts has to be introduced. Public-private partnership in rejuvenating the river should be taken in priority. Students at the school and college level should take up projects on these lines. Construction of check dams at appropriate places in river Vaigai and Gundar to harvest sand and removal of *Prosopis juliflora* from the banks and riverbeds were the other strategies.

Sustaining Resilient Practices in Heritage Development

Most of the Indian Heritage Resources are deteriorating because of poor heritage literacy among the host communities. Lack of livelihoods opportunity in the heritage villages leads to migration towards nearby urban centers. Knowledge on Heritage, an intangible resource of heritage conservation helps in protecting the tangible resources such as caves paintings, folk dance and temples.

For the past eight years, DHAN has been organizing Heritage walks through its Tourism for Development theme. This heritage walk creates awareness among the host

community to understand the importance of their village culture and heritage. Once the people get awareness they readily get into preserving their heritage. ‘Heritage’ event organised Tata Dhan Academy, ‘Life Frontier Engagement’ of Lady Doak College, Internships by students of Pondicherry University are different initiatives that kindle the light of heritage literacy among the villagers in collaboration with organised women groups along with mentorship of heritage experts.

To showcase the impact of heritage literacy and community ownership Arittapatti Village case was discussed. Arittapatti is a model village where villagers conserved their heritage structures. Hillocks in ‘Arirtapatti’ were threatened by quarry mining. Villagers feared that the springs irrigating farms would be destroyed. They understood that protesting to conserve heritage sites will be much more effective than the protest to conserve agriculture. So the villagers searched for the heritage sites in the hillock. They have identified 2500 years old paintings, heritage inscriptions and cave sculptures. They organised the villagers, sensitized the heritage importance of the village, moved to the hills carrying their ration cards, protested there for more than three days, pulled attention of media and conserved the hillock. Mr Ravichandran, President of Thonmai Padhugappu Sangam is the key person the behind this.

The deliberations thereafter provided leads such as forming “Heritage Club” in each college which can adopt five villages around them and document their history, heritage, culture, values, identity, best practices, village games, crafts, folklores, puzzles and maths, traditional science and technology, and medicinal practices. The documented findings are to be vetted by heritage experts and should be disseminated to the local primary and high school students in form of books, stories, events and festivals. Local volunteer youth groups, organized women institutions could be engaged in conserving, cleaning and popularizing their own heritages. Documenting current practices which would be the ‘future heritage’ was accepted by everyone as the best way forward.



Building Resilience Childhood: Convergence Strategies for Intensive 1000 Days Care

Nutrition is a core pillar of human development. Concrete and large-scale programming not only can reduce the burden of under nutrition and deprivation in countries but also can advance the progress of nations. The workshop on 'Building resilience Childhood: Convergence Strategies for intensive 1000 days care' identified gaps as factors hindering in accelerating the focus on 1,000 days care and also working out the convergence strategies and mechanisms.

DHAN Foundation's health initiative through its 1000 days intensive care programme aims at building resilient childhood. The major focus is on antenatal care including regular examination, immunization and checkup, pregnant mothers gaining weight of 10 kg and above, institutional delivery, postnatal follow up, birth weight of an infant @ 3 kg and above, colostrums feeding, immunization of the children, exclusive breast feeding for six months, supplementary feeding from six month onwards and periodical growth monitoring of the children.

Dr Sathish Raghavan, City Health Officer, Madurai in his key note stressed the importance of aligning the strategies of various stakeholders. He said that care during pregnancy and the first 2 years of child's life is called the crucial 1000-days care. He told that government has recently implemented software of PICKME for ensuring early registration and monitoring the maternal services. He asked DHAN to act as a resource institution to monitor the high risk factors among pregnant mothers in Madurai Corporation level and evaluate the outcomes of pregnancy related issues and find concrete solutions to resilient community health care.

Dr. Mathiarasan, Director, Institute of Child Health and Research Centre, Madurai, pointed, 1000-days care divided into three spans, every span is essential. Neonatal death majorly depends on the care provided to children during the period of 1st week of delivery. The postnatal care provided through the PICU and CSU in the hospitals should be strengthened. The solution to these problems can be optimal early breast feeding, supporting healthy growth and reduction in nutrient deficiency. Weaning is an important

aspect, which is often neglected in families. Also hygienic practices during weaning mark the reduction in the child morbidity.

Resilience building in 1000 day care could be done through

- Action Research focusing on 1000-days care for the period of one year on pilot basis with Public Private Partnership would be taken up.
- Monitoring and education on utilization of Dr.Muthulakshmi Reddy Scheme and Janani Surksha Yojana which are aiding safe motherhood towards ensuring intake of nutritious food.
- Providing care of new born baby up to three years compulsorily.

Vayalagam Way of Building Resilience

Vayalagam Mutual Movement (VMM), a pan India community-led organisation working on policy, reviving community management and community-led conservation has organised a convention with the participation of farmers from five states viz., Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Puducherry, Karnataka and Telangana. The focus of the event was on resilience building. Prof. Muthusanthanam, in his special address shared that natural resources are highly unreliable nowadays and human resources have also become unreliable, as the agriculture sector is facing severe decline. Over the years, the sector has failed to attract youth due to its vulnerability to natural disasters and changes in climate. Farmers must shift to climate smart agriculture rather taking-up conventional water intensive crops. Transferring the best practices across generations can serve as key to success.

The VMM has insisted community social responsibility and facilitated them to work on tank maintenance through shramdhan (Voluntary labour). Further it has mobilised over 20 millions from community towards renovation of water bodies. Over 4200 people across different states have participated in the shramdhan. The farmers representing various associations from different districts resolved to institutionalise resilience building at various levels.



After deliberations farmers have resolved to introduce neerkatti system, demand management measures, organic farming, farm ponds, and self-regulation process to use the available water resources efficiently and succeed in farming. At times of disaster, exclusive committees have to be promoted to protect tank structures and apply the water resources efficiently. Insurance was accepted by everyone as an excellent mitigating measure against risks associated with life, health and livestock. Farmers have insisted to evict encroachment in all forms and protect water bodies. All thorny shrubs present in the supply channel, water spread area, bunds and catchment area affecting the water storage must be removed. Vayalagams must work for preventing pollutions through community reinforcements. Farmers have taken a pledge to build more than 100 model villages.

Towards Building resilient agriculture: Promoting Sustainable Farmers Producer Organizations (FPOs)



About two hundred farmer producer organizations have been promoted so far with the support of Central Small Farmers Agri-Business Consortium (SFAC), Tamilnadu Small Farmers Agri-Business Consortium (TNSFAC) and NABARD. Farmer Producer Organizations promoted with the support of central SFAC have completed three years. Experience from those FPOs showed that the concept of sustainability is yet to penetrate down the line. There are varied levels of understanding, only a few FPOs have crossed the mark of Rs. one crore worth of turnover. In this context, a workshop on Promotion and Sustainability was organized jointly by Kalanjium Thozhilagam Limited, Erode Precision Farming and TNSFAC

Mr M P Vasimalai, Executive Director of DHAN Foundation, in his inaugural address insisted that FPO should aim for ensuring incremental income of at least Rs.5000-10,000 per member per year. FPO is a social enterprise and should impact triple bottom line. Resource persons from TNSFAC, senior officials from Department of Horticulture, Agricultural College and Research Institute, Madurai and Mr.K.Karthikeyan, National level Monitoring and

Evaluation Expert from New Delhi, gave technical inputs on sustainability of FPOs. Dr.E.Vadivel, Former Dean, TNAU and Mrs.Padmavathy, Mr.T.Dhanabalan, Mr.G.Chandrasekaran and Mr.V.Shanmuganathan from DHAN spoke on the theme.

FPOs should imbibe quality consciousness for fulfilling the preference of markets and consumers. Farmers' capacity to understand the market dynamics, consumer preferences and demand needs to be built. FPOs can build resilience at small holder farms against price volatility of inputs and commodities.

Recommendations

- 1 Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) Act needs to be amended to enable the FPOs to participate policy action at the national level.
- 2 Government of Tamilnadu should emulate the model followed in Karnataka, wherein the State provides Rs.25 lakhs as revolving fund per FPO as repayable.
- 3 Exemption may be given to the FPOs from Income Tax by Government of India.
- 4 Procedures and fee structure for filing with ROC shall be simplified to ease FPOs and avoid paying additional fees in case of delay in ROC filing.
- 5 Government of Tamilnadu shall ensure quick disposal of application to obtain input licenses.
- 6 FPOs shall undertake seed production and marketing of traditional varieties of crop.
- 7 Strengthening the group activities and preparation of business plan to have sustainability should be the prime focus of each member and group.
- 8 Board of Directors shall ensure efficient use of available share capital to scale up the business activities of the FPO.
- 9 All the FPOs shall develop a network relationship with in the state and outside to establish successful market linkages for the products of the FPOs
- 10 Training shall be organized to bankers about the FIG and FPO, to familiarize with the concepts, to facilitate the release of loans.

