

# Seminar on **Climate Change and its Impact on the Environment – Role of Community Institutions and Women**

*DHAN's Experience and Learning of Pennar Basin  
in Tamilnadu and Pudhucherry*

19<sup>th</sup> September, 2019  
at Thamukkam Grounds, Madurai



**Madurai Symposium 2019**

Fostering Development Knowledge

## About Madurai symposium & the Seminar

The Madurai Symposium is a biennial signature event being organized at Madurai as knowledge, management platform for development practitioners to share their experiences on various development themes and to advance their collaboration with other institutions and the general public. The Ninth Madurai Symposium (2019) is scheduled to be organized during September 18 – 22, 2019 at Tamukkam Grounds, Madurai. The focus of the Madurai Symposium 2019 is on Women Empowerment for Sustaining Development.

During the Symposium it is proposed to conduct a Seminar on “Climate Change and its Impact on the Environment – Role of Community Institution and Women : DHAN Foundation's experiences and learning in Pennar Basin of Tamilnadu and Pudhucherry” on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2019.

## Climate Change and its Impact on the Environment

**(The poorest and most vulnerable people are being affected the most.” – Goal 13, UN Sustainable Development Goals).** Climate change is no more an environmental concern. It has emerged as the biggest developmental challenge for the planet. Its economic impacts, particularly on the poor, make it a major governance issue as well. Climate change caused by the global increase in temperatures triggers multiple negative effects on the planet. These effects interrelate with each other and increase their violence, putting at risk the species that inhabit the Earth, including the humans. It is disrupting national economies and affecting lives, costing people, communities and countries dearly today and even more tomorrow. People are experiencing the significant impacts of climate change, which include environment changing weather patterns, rising sea level, instant Rain fall, Flood and drought, reduce agriculture production, Availability of fresh water, degradation land and water resources , reduce forestation, and more extreme weather events.

DHAN Foundation has working in Lower Palar (Kanchipuram), Varaganadhi ( Villupuram and Pudhucherry) , and Kosathalai ( Thiruvallur) in Pennar

basin since 2000 . To preserve the natural resources with involvement of community and aligning with various stakeholders for doing various intervention to addressing on the same and also ensuring assured agriculture production in rural areas through assured irrigation and financial credit happen through community Institution.

Women are Key members of each Community Institution to supporting for conservation of Water and Agriculture apart from their family meet. They are spearheads of climate change adaption in their living villages to initiate on supporting for collective action on successfully conserved traditional drinking water bodies, engagement on Traditional way of agriculture and financially supporting to Agriculture and Family.

Now Women has lead role in on decision making of in various interventions on preservation of Environment in Village and Block level community institutions in Thiruvallur, Kanchipuram, Villupuram, Cuddalore districts of Tamilnadu and Union Territory of Pudhucherry under the assistance of DHAN Foundation.

The experiences gained in regenerate of traditional of water resources for maximize harvesting of rain water during short fall period of rainy season, Improving the catchment area through soil and water conservation measures for stabilization agriculture productivity and increased the yield even affect from climate Changes and preserve the Eco system in rural areas through tree planting, reduce usage of inorganic during agriculture cultivation and encourage water Improved practices and Management in Agriculture for conserve from climate change. Reflection and Experience about climate changes in Part of Pennar basin of Northern Tamilnadu and Pudhucherry are going to be shared by DHAN Foundation and other stakeholders in this proposed Seminar

## Objective

To deliberate the effect of Climate Change and its impact of the Environment (Water, Agriculture and Rural Economy) and the role community institution and women in preserving the Environment for future generation.

## Expected Outcome

- ♦ Awareness on Climate Change and Its Impact on Environment in coastal context and the way to address the issues collectively
- ♦ Understanding the importance of community Institution to act as conservers of Environment and involvement of Women to taking challenges on addressing the impact of Climate change in their living area
- ♦ Facilitating the Aligning with various stakeholders and addressing the issues collectively with action orient
- ♦ Showcasing the Demonstration and Practices in Water improved Management Techniques in Agriculture to reduce pressure on both surface and ground water utilization
- ♦ Emphasis the role of women on preservation of the Environment
- ♦ Planning to Promotion of Agro forestry and Nursery Farm in each villages through community institution

## Venue and Date of the Seminar

The seminar is planned to be organized in Thamukkam Grounds on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2019

**Registration and contact:** Confirm your participation and sending your papers for presentation to:

### Mr.R.Prakash

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## Programme Schedule (19 Sep 2019)

- 09:30am : **Registration**
- 90:45 am : **Prayer**
- 10:00 am : **Welcome Address**  
**Mr.Pranov**, Block Integrator, Pudhuhcerry
- 10:20 am : **Lighting Lamp**
- 10:25 am : **Purposes and Background of Seminar**  
**Mr. K.N.Rajkumar**, Team Leader, DVTF, Madurai
- 10:30 am : **Inaugural Address: Chairperson**  
**Mr. N.Venkatesan**, CEO, DVTF, Madurai
- 10:45 am : **Special Address: Chief Guests**  
**Mr.K. Kalamegam**, Environmental Engineer, Dept. of Science, Technology and Environment, Pudhucherry  
**Er.R.Venkatasamy**, Consultant – Watershed Management, Former Superintending Engineer, AED, Govt. of TN
- 11:15 am : **Lead paper presentation**  
**Mr.R.Prakash**, Team Leader, DHAN Foundation
- 11:30 am : **Paper Presentations by the practitioners**  
**Mr. Suresh Mariaselvam**, Consultant - Community Development, Master in Development Studies, Denmark  
**Mr.S.Sudalai**, Assistant Professor, Centre for Pollution Control & Environment Engg., School of Engg. & Technology, Pondicherry Central University  
**Dr. Chandrasekaran**, Asst Professor & Head, Dept. of Civil Engineering, Acharya Engineering Technology, Villiyanur, Pudhucherry  
**Mr. Balaji and Mr. Panner Selvam** – DSTE, Pudhucherry
- 01:30 pm : **Lunch break**
- 02:30 pm : **Sub-group discussion : Facilitation by**  
**Mr.K.Udayakumar**, Block Integrator, Devakottai
- 04:00 pm : **Group presentation and synthesis**
- 04:30 pm : **Resolutions and concluding remarks**  
**Mr. Sudhagar**, Block Integrator, DHAN Foundation
- 05.00 pm : **Vote of Thanks by Mrs.Thiru sellvi**, Community Accountant, DHAN Foundation, T.Kallupatti
- 05.15 pm : **National Anthem**

## About Pennar Basin

The Pennar Basin extends over states of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamilnadu and Union Territory of Pudhucherry having an area of 55,213 Sq.km with maximum length and width of 433 km and 266 km. The basin lies between 77°1' to 80°10' East longitudes and 11°18' to 14°27' North latitudes. The Pennar River originates in and comprises five independent rivers (directly draining into Bay of Bengal) are Pennar (Andhra), Chennai River, Palar, Pennaiyar, Vellaru (Tamilnadu) and Varaganadhi (Pudhucherry). The rainfall in the basin varies from region to region, the coastal districts in the basin get heavier rainfall than the western parts. The rainfall decreases from 1270 mm at the eastern extremity of the basin to 762 mm at the western extremity. This basin is supporting more water resources and the Potential is 14909MCM, of both surface and Ground water in around 39582 Sq.km of Basin areas in Tamilnadu and Pudhucherry. Pudhucherry is in over exploitation of Ground water for irrigation and industrial purposes and having high scope of increased sea water intrusion which penetrates to the adjacent blocks of Tamilnadu State.



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