

Women Empowerment for Sustaining Development

Seminar on
Women Empowerment in Agribusiness through FPOs

Madurai Symposium 2019

Thamukkam Grounds, Madurai

September 20, 2019



Madurai symposium, since its inception in 2003, has emerged as development knowledge platform where various stake holders, people/community Institutions, Civil societies / NGOs, Government , Banks Insurance companies, CSR Foundations, Donors, Philanthropists, Research and Academia, gather to share and learn from each others' experience and practices to serve the under privilege community. This is the Ninth Edition of Madurai symposium.

Inspired by the universal agenda of SDGs, the Madurai Symposium 2019 would focus on the theme: "Women Empowerment" as the crucial element of sustaining development processes which make women have Self – Esteem, Pride, Dignity from the holistic development perspective.

Women Empowerment and its relevance for Advancing Development

Madurai symposium 2019 would provide a platform broadly on six thematic areas. A seminar on "Women Empowerment in Agri Business through Farmers Producer Organizations" is being organized by Kalanjium Thozhilagam Limited (KTL).

India stands first place in 25 crops and in the second place in 26 crops in Agricultural Production in the World level. Introduction of Green Revolution in India has increased the productivity of crops from 50-500 percent over past 4 decades. Still there exists greater scope for growth in this sector. But the issue is that agrarian community has not tasted the benefits of increased productivity due to challenges posed from climate, agricultural market and trade domain in the globalized context.

Besides, subdivision and fragmentation of lands, urbanization and climate changes has resulted in the decrease in cultivated area resulting in poor returns from agriculture. This has resulted in migration of men farmers from agriculture in search of alternate opportunities of livelihoods. A compulsion has raised for the women to take over agriculture in the absence of men farmers in addition to their household responsibilities. Now they have to be equipped well to undertake agricultural activities successfully. To overcome the challenges and maximize the scope, collectivization of producers, especially small and marginal farmers into producer organizations by adopting SHG movement model has emerged as one of the most effective strategy. These collectives need to be infused with the corporate virtues to manage effectively and sensitized to perceive "Agriculture as a Business" and the farmer as an "AGRIPRENEUR".

Women in India are the backbone of the society and important resource in agriculture and rural economy. Traditionally, women play an important role in agriculture as Farmers, Co-farmers, Wage labourers and managers of the farms. They play a crucial role in agricultural production i.e. Crop Production, Post harvest operation, and also in allied activities such as Horticulture, Dairy, Poultry, Sheep and Goat Rearing, agro forestry, fisheries etc. Labour intensive works such as sowing and transplanting, weeding, harvesting operations, precleaning and cleaning of produce are undertaken by them. They play a dominant role in managing poultry and



dairy animals. Women also play a key role in housekeeping such as cooking, cleaning, care for children etc. All these are labour intensive and involve lesser usage of mechanical devices which have a say on their physical health. From analysis of data, it could be understood that 49% work as wage earners, 24% in own farm and as agricultural labourers, 17% work in their own farms and 10% in supervisory cadre.

In spite of such vital roles played by women, they are not extended equal rights that are given to men. The following are the main challenges faced by women farmers in agriculture:

1. Unequal land rights to enjoy the ownership of land directly in their names.
2. Lack of skill in adopting latest technology in agricultural production
3. Poor access to direct credit
4. Lack of managerial skill
5. Poor accessibility of Agricultural Inputs and services
6. Poor marketing skill
7. Difficulties in all physical operations
8. Difficulties in allocating time for agriculture and household responsibilities.
9. Lack of Logistic Management
10. Poor negotiation skill in marketing of agricultural produces
11. Lack of skill in accessing and availing of entitlements from the Government.

Now there exists a good scope to involve women in Agri business through FPOs. Presently, around 5000 FPOs are in existence in the country, which were formed under various initiatives of the Govt. of India (including SFAC and TNSFAC), NABARD and other organizations over the last 8-10 years. Of these, around 3200 FPOs have been registered as Producer Companies and the remaining as Cooperatives/ Societies, etc. About 10,000 FPOs are expected to be formed in next five years. Women should take a lead role in agricultural production and marketing through these FPOs. They have to be empowered in the challenges they face right now.

A seminar on “Women Empowerment in Agri Business through Farmers Producer Organizations” is being organized as a part of Madurai Symposium 2019 on 20.09.2019. at Tamukkam Grounds, Madurai.

Objectives of the Seminar

1. To sensitize the women farmers on their role in decision making process in their farm and FPO level
2. To increase their participation in the regular FPO activities
3. To empower the women farmers to have access to technology and schemes
4. To provide a platform to share their experience as successful agripreneur
5. To identify the challenges faced by women farmers and developing strategies to address them
6. To empower them with the avenues before them to increase their sustainability through allied activities and value addition

The Sessions

- Resource Lecture by Successful agripreneurs
- Support of Government to promote women enterprises
- Various allied business activities available for women entrepreneurs
- Trainings and capacity building for empowering women entrepreneurs especially in agri business.

The Participants

Women Directors, Active Group leaders, Women CEOs of FPOs, Successful women agripreneur, Women Academicians, Senior Women Officials from Department of agriculture and Research Institutions, Women from Corporates, Women Caterers and Mahila bank

The Venue, Date and Time

Tamukkam Grounds, Madurai-2 on 20th, September, 2019, Friday and 10 am to 5 pm.

Kalanjium Thozhilagam Limited (KTL)

KTL is the business initiative of DHAN Foundation, promoted with the objective of accelerating the product marketing of small producers thereby increasing their income and reducing the poverty. It is a Public Limited Company with the Farmer Producer Companies as its share holders. The first Producer Company in India was promoted by KTL in 2004 with the name “Ramnad Pesticide Free Chillies Producer Company Limited” in Ramnad District. It is a Community owned, Community Governed and professionally managed organization. KTL has made a turnover of Rs 30 crores in the past 14 years. Based on its past experiences, KTL has been empanelled as Resource Institution by SFAC & TNSFAC to promote twelve FPOs for Pulses, Millets, Coconut and Ground nut in Tamilnadu. With the fund support from SFAC & TNSFAC, KTL has facilitated these FPOs to carry out a business of Rs 21.50 crores in the past four years. It provides marketing support to 45 FPOs promoted under DHAN Collective institutions. KTL is also Resource Institution for 26 FPOs formed under Collective Farming Project in 13 Southern Districts of Tamilnadu to give Capacity building and Training to CEOs and Board of Directors.

For further information, please contact

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