

Tamil Nadu Water Week 2024

Water for Peace: Unite around water



Date: March 20 -22, 2024
DHAN Foundation, Madurai

Water for Peace

Water can create peace or spark conflict. When water is scarce or polluted, or when people have unequal, or no access, tensions can rise between communities and countries. More than 3 billion people worldwide depend on water that crosses national borders. Yet, only 24 countries have cooperation agreements for all their shared water. As climate change impacts increase, and populations grow, there is an urgent need, within and between countries, to unite around protecting and conserving our most precious resource. Public health and prosperity, food and energy systems, economic productivity and environmental integrity all rely on a well-functioning and equitably managed water cycle. The theme of World Water Day 2024 is 'Water for Peace'. When we cooperate on water, we create a positive ripple effect – fostering harmony, generating prosperity and building resilience to shared challenges. We must act upon the realization that water is not only a resource to be used and competed over – it is a human right, intrinsic to every aspect of life. This World Water Day, we all need to unite around water and use water for peace, laying the foundations of a more stable and prosperous tomorrow.

- World Water Day 2024: UN Message

Water in Tamil Nadu: Sources and Challenges

There are 17 river basins in Tamil Nadu. Cauvery is the only major basin. Of the others, 13 basins are medium and 3 are minor river basins. At 75 percent dependability, the annual surface water generated in the State is 692.78 TMC (19,619 MCM). The State depends on neighbouring States for considerable quantum of flows. Tamil Nadu constitutes 4 percent of India's land area and is inhabited by 6 percent of India's population, but has only 2.5 percent of India's water resources. More than 95 percent of the surface water and 80 percent of the ground water have already been put into use. Major uses of water include human/animal consumption, irrigation and industrial use.

The demand for water in Tamil Nadu is increasing at a fast rate both due to increasing population and also due to larger per capita needs triggered by economic growth. The per capita availability of water resources however, is just 900 cubic meters when compared to the national average of 2,200 cubic meters. Agriculture is the largest consumer of water in the State using 75 per cent of the State's water resources.

The State is heavily dependent on monsoon rains. The annual average rainfall is around 930 mm (47 percent during the north east monsoon, 35 percent during the south west monsoon, 14 percent in the summer and 4 percent in the winter). which is about 261.70 TMC (7411 MCM) annually. (*Reference: EIACP PC-HuB: Tamil Nadu, State of Environment and Related issues*)

Challenges faced by the state

1. Lack of integrated approach on water management for using surface and ground water judiciously
2. Degradation and/or reduction of cultivable lands
3. Lack of strategies towards sustainable management and maintenance of water bodies.
4. Limited cost effective technologies to treat or reuse waste water generated at households
5. Rapid urbanisation
6. Limited encouragement for water saving technologies
7. Lack of effective management and governance on water sector

Tamil Nadu Water Week 2024

DHAN Foundation is hosting Tamil Nadu Water Week from March 20 – 22, 2024 at Madurai on the theme of World Water Day 2024 called 'Water for Peace'. This is the fourth edition which focuses on demand management of water resources and sustainable solutions to address contemporary challenges in water and agriculture. The first edition of Tamil Nadu Water Week was held in the year 2013 at TNAU,

Coimbatore and the subsequent editions were held at Madurai. The events aim to promote collective actions from various stakeholders working on the water resources of the State for addressing the future challenges of Water Scarcity and its implication on food production and food security in Tamil Nadu. It also envisages to provide space for the primary stakeholders especially the farming communities to share their experiences of collective action at various regions on water resources management towards food security.

Objectives of the Tamil Nadu Water Week 2024

- a. To showcase proven experiences and success stories from the grassroots, academia and research
- b. To highlight the voice of the community in the last mile and find alternative solutions for the issues faced
- c. To understand the water supply & demand gaps and list out the challenges
- d. To evolve framework and integrated approaches for sustainable water demand management

Themes & Sub Themes

Theme 1: Water Commons and Community Collective

- 1.1 Social capital for sustainable development
- 1.2 New social order on water governance

Theme 2: Water and Peace

- 2.1 Advancing partnership for water conservation
- 2.2 Women and Water Commons
- 2.3 Prevention and Eviction of Encroachment

Theme 3: Water and Agriculture

- 3.2 Productivity enhancement: Technological solutions
- 3.2 Water security for agriculture: Approaches and outcomes
- 3.3 Social security for farm-based livelihoods

Theme 4: Water and SAWAS

- 4.1 Safe drinking water
- 4.2 Partnership for hygiene and health

Theme 5: Water balance and budgeting

- 5.1 Water resource management: Blue, Green, Grey and Virtual
- 5.2 Coping-up climate change: Resilience building

Participants

The Tamil Nadu Water Week 2024 invites experts, practitioners and water aspirants from academic institutions including water experts, faculties and students, CSR units, mainstream institutions, and community institutions to showcase and exchange their success stories in sustainable water management.



Date : **March 20 – 22, 2024**

Venue : **DHAN Foundation,**
No. 1A, Vaidyanathapuram East,
Kennet Cross Road,
Madurai 625 016, Tamilnadu
Ph: +91-452-2302580,
Email: dhantank@dhan.org

Events list

Day 1: 20.03.2024 (Wednesday)	Day 2: 21.03.2024 (Thursday)	Day 3: 22.03.2024 (Friday)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I. Global Inauguration II. Convention on Water for Peace: Advancing collective governance towards sustainable development of water resources III. Seminar on Role of women SHGs in efficient management of water commons – Showcasing the experiences of Kalanjiam women groups IV. Workshop on Operationalizing water policy for Panchayats in Tamil Nadu 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I. Technical Session on Localising Water Balance towards sustainable development: Decoding blue, green, grey, and virtual water II. Workshop on Building Climate Resilience using Roof water harvesting for drinking at individual and institutional infrastructure III. Seminar on Building climate resilient agro-ecosystems IV. Workshop on Water Security and Agriculture Livelihoods enhancement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I. Convention on Advancing Community Governance in water commons through Vayalagam Movement II. Seminar on Productivity Enhancement through Agro Advisory: A Technological Solution for grassroots III. Seminar on productivity enhancement by women farmers: A gender perspective IV. Workshop on Ensuring access to adequate safe water by sustainable partnership with Jal Jeevan Mission V. Global Closing

Note: The events listed above will be held in DHAN Foundation's premises at Madurai. Besides this, few more side Events like Technical sessions and Seminars will be held in select Academic Institutions.

DHAN Foundation

DHAN Foundation is a professional, not-for-profit and secular development organization working with 3 million people. The operations are spread in more than 22000 villages covering 16 states in India. The themes of focus include women empowerment (Kalanjiam Community Banking Programme), Water Conservation (Vayalagam Tank-fed Agriculture Development Programme), Agriculture, Information Communication Technology for Poor, Education, Climate Change, Local Governance, Youth and Development, and Migration. Through its 3 decades of community-led water conservation models, the institution has restored around 5000 waterbodies at National level benefitting around 4.5 Lakhs poor farming families. DHAN Foundation has implemented over 100 watershed development works and served as Resource Support Organisation and supported cultivation in 1.5 lakhs hectares of agriculture land. Besides restoration of Ooranis, about 10000 farm ponds were constructed to support farmers in combating climate change and also to provide life-saving irrigation.

For further details, please contact:

DHAN Foundation

No. 1A, Vaidyanathapuram East, Kennet Cross Road,
Madurai 625 016, Tamilnadu

Ph: +91-452-2302580, Email: dhantank@dhan.org

Mr. V.Venkatesan, Programme Leader Mobile: 638114033

Mr. J.Mohan, Programme Leader Mobile: 9943295985

