



**Workshop on  
Sustainable Access to Drinking Water  
(Pambar and Vaippar Basin experiences)**

**16<sup>th</sup> September, 2015  
at Thamukkam Grounds, Madurai**

**Madurai Symposium 2015**  
Localizing Sustainable Development Goals

Access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation services is vital to human health. The world Health Organization (WHO) reported that 748 million people in the world lack access to improved drinking-water and it is estimated that 1.8 billion people use a source of drinking-water that is faecally contaminated. 'Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all' is one of the seventeen Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and it focus on the followings.

- ❖ By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all
- ❖ By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations
- ❖ By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally
- ❖ By 2030, substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity
- ❖ By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate

- ❖ By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes
- ❖ By 2030, expand international cooperation and capacity-building support to developing countries in water- and sanitation-related activities and programmes, including water harvesting, desalination, water efficiency, wastewater treatment, recycling and reuse technologies
- ❖ Support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management

In southern India most of the villages have drinking water ponds called as “Oorani” which are used for harvesting the rainwater for fulfilling the need of water for drinking and cooking. These ponds are formed in rural areas where ground water is either inadequate or unfit for use. Square or rectangular, they are dug to depths of two to five meters below the ground level. The size depends on the storage needed to meet the demands of the village.

Oorani s will continue to be the primary and preferred source of drinking and domestic water needs in rural areas. Although the professional and government agencies have not accepted oorani s as a safe source with reference to the general health standard, people consider them the best available. People prefer the Oorani water for the following reasons.

- ❖ Good taste
- ❖ Color and quality of food
- ❖ Availability of water throughout the year
- ❖ Time saved in fetching water

As the symposium focus on localizing the Sustainable Development Goals, the workshop has been planned on the sustainability of Drinking water management with the participation of people and people representatives with government officials on 16th September 2015. The workshop would focus for deriving action points on the following areas.

- ❖ Revival of drinking water ponds
- ❖ Reducing pollution and contamination of water
- ❖ Upgrading the quality of the water
- ❖ Ensuring adequate water
- ❖ Effective management of Oorani water



## Programme Schedule

- 10.00 am : Registration
- 10.15 am : Reflections and Prayer
- 10.30 am : Lead paper presentation
- 10.45 am : Chief Guest Address
- 11.00 am : Experience sharing by the Participants
- 11.30 am : Sub group discussion
- 12.30 pm : Sub group presentation
- 01.15 pm : Synthesis and concluding remarks
- 01.20 pm : Vote of Thanks

## Venue and Date of the Seminar

The seminar is planned to be organized in Thamukkam Grounds on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2015

## Registration and contact

Kindly confirm your participation and send your papers if any, along with your travel details through email to

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## **DHAN Vayalagam (Tank) Foundation, Madurai**

Tankfed Agriculture Development Programme was one of the thematic programmes of DHAN Foundation towards the purpose of reducing rural poverty. For up scaling the tank programme and for enriching the water related development interventions, DHAN Foundation promoted DHAN Vayalagam (Tank) Foundation (DVTF) which became operational with effect from October 2, 2006. The DVTF is striving for the conservation and development of small scale traditional water resources such as tanks, ponds, ooranies, supply channels etc in addition to the development of watersheds through people's participation. At present DVTF is working in 6 States with the support of Government, National and International Corporate Philanthropies and other funding agencies.

