



Workshop on Sustainable People Institutions through Farmers' Producer Organisations

15th September, 2015
at Thamukkam Grounds, Madurai

Madurai Symposium 2015
Localizing Sustainable Development Goals



The Background

In Tamil Nadu, more than 50% of the population is engaged in farming livelihood which is prone to various natural hazards. More than 80% of the farmers are marginal and small and their land holding size has declined over years. The average land holding size of a farmer in India is 1.16 ha whereas the average land holding size of a farmer is 0.83 ha. Most of the farmers are unorganized and they buy and sell produces through intermediaries who make lion's share of income. Farmers realize less than 50% of the market price in the field. The multiple pulling factor that keep farmers under poverty is,

1. Frequent crop failures forcing farmers into the debt trap of money lenders.
2. Increased cost of cultivation and poor return of investment
3. Lack of hassle free access to credit results in high dependency of farmers on number of intermediaries.
4. Exploitation of trade intermediaries.
5. Poor level of awareness on collective marketing
6. Absence of appropriate human infrastructure to facilitate collective action
7. Poor level of awareness on mainstream services and inability of farmers to access services

Several studies and field experiences reveal that farmers need multiple level of intervention that include securing water for agriculture, enhancing farm production, introducing appropriate technology and facilitating collective marketing. Climbing-up in the value chain would help farmers to earn more.

What is a Farmer Producer Organisation?

About 500 to 1000 farmers in a particular area, who are engaged in homogeneous activity and organised in to Farmers Interest Group, promote producer organisation for enhancing the farm based livelihood. Each farmers become a shareholder by investing the share capital. The FPO provide a legal identity for the small and marginal farmers and helps them to work collectively for improving the income out of farming. This organisation will be registered under Companies Act 1956. Farmers through their organization can have access to credit, negotiate with bulk sellers and buyer for purchases and sales, and introduce necessary infrastructure relevant to agriculture.

What are the potential activities of Farmers Producer Organisation?

Farmers' Producer Organization deals with Production, Harvesting, Procurement, Grading, Pooling, Handling, Marketing, Selling, export of primary produce of the members or important of goods or service for their benefit. Processing including preserving, drying, distilling, brewing, canning and packaging of produce of its members. Manufacture, Sale or Supply of machinery, Equipment or consumables mainly to its members. Financing of procurement, processing, Marketing or other activities which includes extending of credit facilities or any other financial services to its members.

Why it is Needed?

1. To connect producer with buyers
2. To facilitate farmers to work collectively and negotiate with sellers (inputs) and buyers
3. To provide possible value addition services

4. To enhance the livelihood income of marginal and poor farmers
5. To Introduce appropriate infrastructure relevant to the context (warehouse, machines, tools etc.,)
6. To Introduce relevant technologies required for enhancing farm production

Purpose of this Workshop

DHAN Foundation has a rich experience in building farmers' collectives and has facilitated them to move-up in the value chain. In 2015, DHAN Foundation collaborated with NABARD for promoting twenty three farmers producer organisations in 11 districts of Tamil Nadu. It is a new experience for the farmers organized into farmer interest groups and producer organisation. Farmers organised need confidence, awareness on best practices, purpose of people infrastructure and vision carry their institution to the next stage. Hence DHAN Foundation decided to organise a stakeholder workshop with the participation of experienced farmers, experts and farmers of newly promoted groups. About 50 farmers from 6 district would participate in this workshop. The workshop organized with the participation of experts, experienced farmers and farmers from the project areas would facilitate cross learning on best practices and helps to shape the future activities of FPO.

Outcome

1. Mutual learning among the participants on collective marketing, best practices and best models
2. Improved awareness, willingness and participation of farmers in farmers producers organisation
3. Developing the annual plan and working out the strategies for addressing the challenges

Programme Schedule

- 09.30 am : Registration
- 10.00 Am : Prayer and Welcome Address
- 10.15 am : Purpose of Workshop
- 10.30 am : Chief Guest Address
- 11.00 Am : Lead Paper Presentation
- 12.00 am : Sharing Among Farmers on Best Practices and Success Factors
- 01.30 pm : Lunch Break
- 02.30 pm : Sub-group Discussion of Strengthening Farmers Producer Organisation
- 04.30 pm : Synthesis of Group Discussions
- 05.00 pm : Feedback and Concluding Session

Venue and Date of the Seminar

The seminar is planned to be organized in Thamukkam Grounds on 15th 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.

