



Building Resilience for Sustaining Development

**Convention on
Advancing livelihood resilience of
coastal communities in various coastal ecosystem**

Madurai Symposium 2017

Thamukkam Ground, Madurai

September 20, 2017

Supported by



Bureau of Pharma PSUs of India (BPPI)

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Sustainable Healthcare Advancement (SUHAM) Trust

(A Healthcare Initiative of DHAN Foundation)

Advancing livelihood resilience of coastal communities in various coastal ecosystem

Tamilnadu, with an area of 1,30,058 sq. km has a long coast line of 1070 km. The coast comprises Coromandel Coast, Palk bay, Gulf of Mannar and west coast in few packets of Kanniyakumari. The coast has various eco system, natural resources, diversified species and livelihoods. A large number of habitations are dependent on coastal agriculture as their primary livelihood. The coastal agriculture abounds with green paddy fields, tall coconut groves, mango, banana, vegetables, cereals, millets, pulses like, black gram and green gram. Next to this, non food crops like, cotton, groundnut, chillies, coriander, gingelly, casuarina and cashew are also cultivated.

In most habitations, large proportion of farmers have very small land holding and agriculture in coastal areas is under tremendous pressure with the dams and check dams constructed across the rivers playing a vital role in controlling water availability for agriculture in these areas. Coastal agriculture is complicated due to salinization of water and land because of the proximity to ocean and the issues such as tidal ingress through back water and estuaries. When the area is of low lying the effect of sea level rise during the disasters will be greater. High rainfall intensity in shorter period results in lodging and submergence of crops. The floods will be drained to sea within week.

The agriculture in coastal areas is plagued with extreme events including cyclones, floods and drought. Moreover salinity issues, reduction of agriculture land due to shrimp farming, sea food processing industries, special economic zone and housing are the other issues faced by the coastal farmers.





For the farming families in the coastal villages, agriculture supports only to meet their survival needs. To sort out the disadvantages many institutions like agriculture departments, state agriculture universities, ICAR, NGOs are doing research and extension activities in Coastal Agriculture by introducing different technologies, seeds and packages of practice etc. Moreover in few places farmers also adopt novel approaches and indigenous wisdom to get full benefit and avoided the effect of disasters. They wisdom aid to found alternate solutions to tackle the flood, cyclone, drought and soil related issues. Even with this situation, farmers accepted the crop failure and took better in next time. The climate change is undeniable and they look into this from various angle. A diversified list of solutions to combat the disadvantages of coastal agriculture is available, which is used less or not practiced by the farmers.

In this context, DHAN Foundation proposes to organize a convention on advancing livelihood resilience of coastal communities through its Coastal Conservation and Livelihood Programme as part of Madurai Symposium 2017. The convention focuses to understand the issues faced by the farming communities in Coromandel Coast, Palk bay and Gulf of Mannar and documenting the best practices, alternative solutions, indigenous wisdom in these ecosystems.

Objectives of the conference

-  To understand the issues in coastal agriculture and coping mechanisms in the different coastal ecosystems
-  To learn the best practices and experiences on coastal agriculture in three different coastal eco-system
-  To consolidate and document the risk, vulnerabilities and resilience strategies adopted by the farmers through their traditional knowledge and practices

When and where

20th September 2017

Tamukkam Grounds, Madurai, as part of Madurai symposium, 2017

For whom

Agriculture Department, Professors and Students from Agriculture Colleges, NABARD, and Progressive Farmers

About Coastal Conservation and Livelihoods Programme

DHAN Foundation responded immediately after the tsunami in 2004 and took up relief works. After the relief phase, DHAN took up the task of enabling the restoration of livelihood activities in the affected regions. It has now evolved into a full-fledged and area-based programme. The programme follows an integrated and holistic approach to address the issues in livelihoods and conservation of coastal ecosystem without upsetting the social fabric and cultural identities of communities. Presently, CALL programme is been working in Palk Pay, Gulf of Mannar and Coromandel Coast of Tamilnadu, Andhra Pradesh and



Odisha. This Programme has sustainable people organizations by involving the most vulnerable communities, marginalized fishing communities, affected coastal farmers and affected women families. As part of the programme savings, credit and insurance services are made possible, along with the support of their livelihoods activities. The major focus the programme is, conserving coastal natural resources such as coastal eco-system, marine bio-system, water bodies and coastal farm system to reduce poverty and vulnerability, and thereby to make fisheries and coastal agriculture as sustainable.

For further information, please contact

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