

Natural Resources Based Livelihoods Development

DVTF's Experiences of Implementing UPNRM Programme of NABARD

September 14, 2011

Madurai Symposium 2011

The Seminar

Madurai Symposium is a biannual event being organized at Madurai for development practitioners and multi stake holders to share their experiences on various development themes and to advance their collaboration with the institutions and general public. The fifth Madurai Symposium 2011 is scheduled to be organized during September 14 – 16 2011 at Madurai. The focus of the Madurai Symposium 2011 is on integrating the livelihoods development with various development interventions and sharing the field experiences to address the global issues of sustainable development. During the Symposium it is proposed to conduct a seminar on "Natural Resources Based Livelihoods Development".

Background

DVTF (DHAN Vayalagam (Tank) Foundation) and Kalanjiam Development Financial Services of DHAN Foundation have jointly evolved a programme to support the poor farming community to address their livelihoods depending on the natural resources like land and water through an innovative concept of bankable products with the financial support of the NABARD's "Umbrella Project for Natural Resources Management (UPNRM)". The objective of UPNRM is to provide financial support for improving the livelihoods of the rural poor based on the use and management of natural resources. The programme aims at assisting community managed sustainable natural resource management based livelihood projects.



Salient Features of UPNRM

The programme's objective is to contribute to the mainstreaming of holistic, participatory and financially sustainable livelihood solutions into public NRM policies and financial instruments for improving the livelihoods of the rural poor based on sustainable natural resource use and management. UPNRM envisages a shift from project based approach to programme based approach and a gradual shift from grant based to loan based NRM projects. The funding will be through a corpus comprising financial cooperation from KfW as well as fund mobilized by NABARD from various sources.

DVTF's Programme

Under NABARD's UPNRM support DVTF has evolved a programme based on its 20 years grassroots experience with the Vayalagam Tankfed Agriculture Development Programme (VTADP) and implementation of watershed development projects. Under this programme, DVTF has identified potential livelihoods intervention such as tank silt application, land development activities including clearing prosopis jungle, laying pipeline, bunding, summer ploughing, land levelling, farm ponds, orchard, fish rearing in tank and farm ponds, cultivation of herbal plants, community well development, and Drinking water pond development. These activities are supporting the farming communities in rural areas to enhance their livelihoods for addressing the poverty reduction. DVTF earlier implemented all these activities through grant support from various watershed development programmes with 80% contribution from the mainstream agencies and 20% contribution from the community. Simultaneously DVTF also implemented these activities on bankable products on an experiment basis at a few places to maximise the grants from watershed projects. But this UPNRM programme collaborated with NABARD is fully implemented as bankable products on loan basis. In the first phase DVTF through Kalanjiam Development Financial Services (KDFS) has applied to NABARD for Rs. 20 million worth of project comprising the above said NRM based interventions. This project has been implemented in 10 blocks of Tamil Nadu. These loan products have been distributed through the microfinance groups promoted under the Vayalagam and Rainfed Farmers Associations of DVTF and Rainfed Development Programme of DHAN Foundation. This project has gained momentum and very good impact has been realised during the last two years.

Objectives of the seminar

- Conceptualize the relation of livelihoods development with the theme of natural resources development.
- Build the perspectives among the stakeholders and practitioners on natural resources based livelihoods development and poverty reduction.
- Influence the policy at mainstream institutions for integrating the concept.
- Evolve suitable action plans for integrating the concept through field practices, as way forward.

Participants

The expected participants for the seminar are development practitioners and stake holders such as mainstream institutions, NGO representatives, leading farmers, academia and interested individuals who are actively involved in implementation of different watershed development projects. The select organisations would make lead paper presentations that would be followed by discussion and deliberations on the theme.

Expected outcome

- Conceptualize the theme from the field experiences by DVTF field locations on context specific UPNRM products for livelihood enhancement
- Shared understanding on the proposed subject.
- Develop action plans for mainstreaming the concept
- Develop policy leads for further discussion and action through networks or collaborations to influence the mainstream to adopt the lessons from the implementation of the UPNRM by DVTF.

Programme Schedule

09.30 – 10.15am	: Prayer and welcome
10.15 – 10.30am	: Purpose and background of the seminar
10.30 – 10.45am	: Opening address: Chairperson
10.45 – 11.15am	: Lead paper presentation
11.15 – 11.45am	: Discussion on lead paper findings
11.45 – 12.15pm	: Tea break
12.15 – 13.30pm	: Paper presentations by the practitioners
13.30 – 14.30pm	: Lunch break
14.30 – 16.00pm	: Sub group discussion
16.00 – 16.30pm	: Group presentation and synthesis
16.30 – 17.00pm	: Resolutions and concluding remarks

Venue and Date of the Seminar

The seminar is planned to be organized in Thamukkam Grounds on 14th September 2011

Registration and contact

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



N.Venkatesan and A.Karthigairani
Programme Leader and Project Executive
DHAN Vayalagam (Tank) Foundation,
17 Vellai Pillayar Koil Street, S S Colony, Madurai 625 016.
Tel: +91 452 2601673 Fax: 2602247
Email: dhantank@adhan.org; n.venkatesan@adhan.org
Website: <http://www.dhan.org>