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International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID)



**Mr. J.Mohan, Chief Operating Officer, DHAN
Vayalagam (Tank) Foundation, India**

**Community Institutions for Sustainable
water governance: Processes and
outcomes**

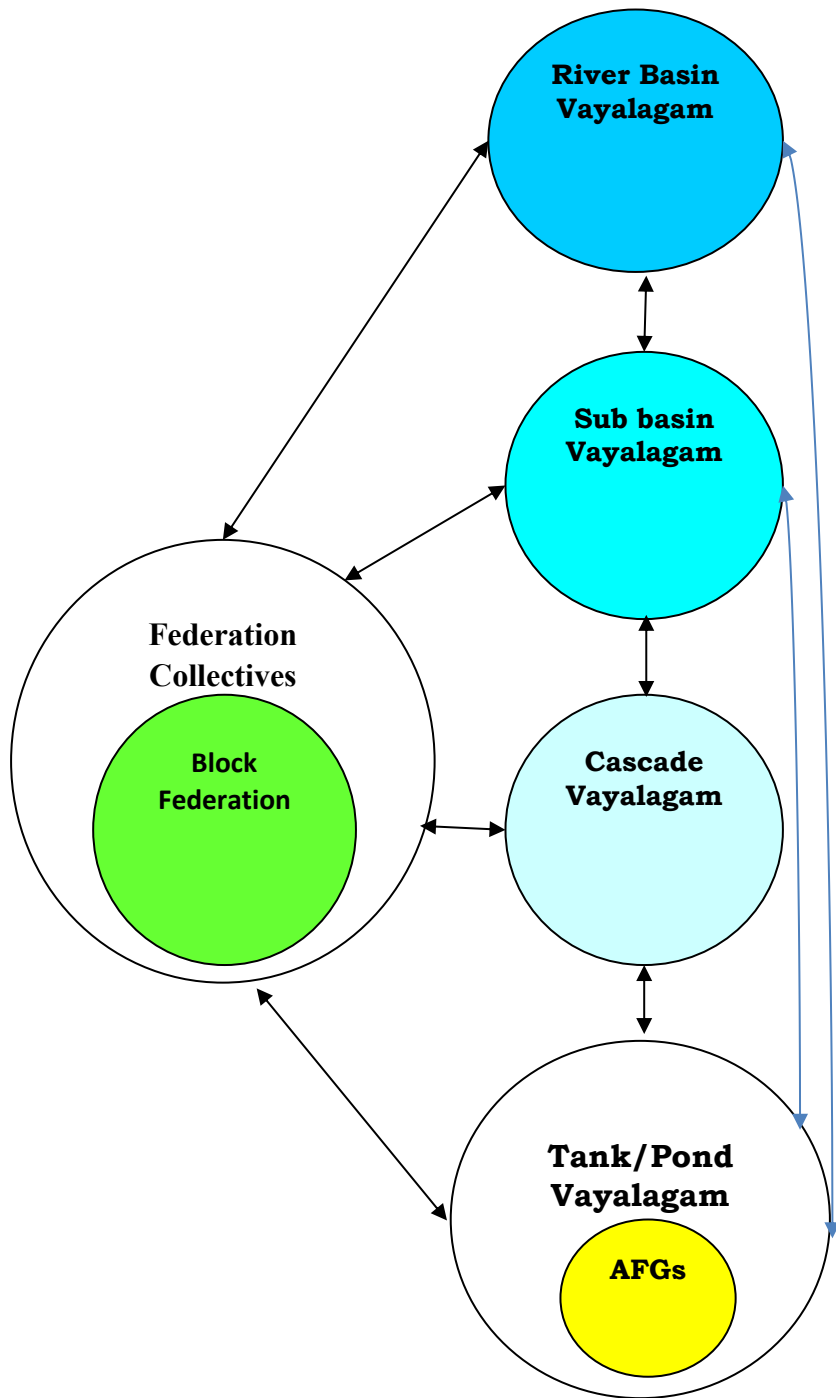
2nd Indo Global Irrigation Summit

24-25 June 2026, New Delhi India

Community Institutions for Sustainable water governance: Processes and outcomes

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Nested People Institutions



- ✓ Bottom Up Institutional Model
- ✓ Tanks and Ponds are the Micro units of the the river basin– are the basic units
- ✓ Tanks – Cascades – Sub Basins - River Basin are Hydrology Units
- ✓ Block Federation is the administrative unit
- ✓ Federation Collectives at Block level ensures integrated development services

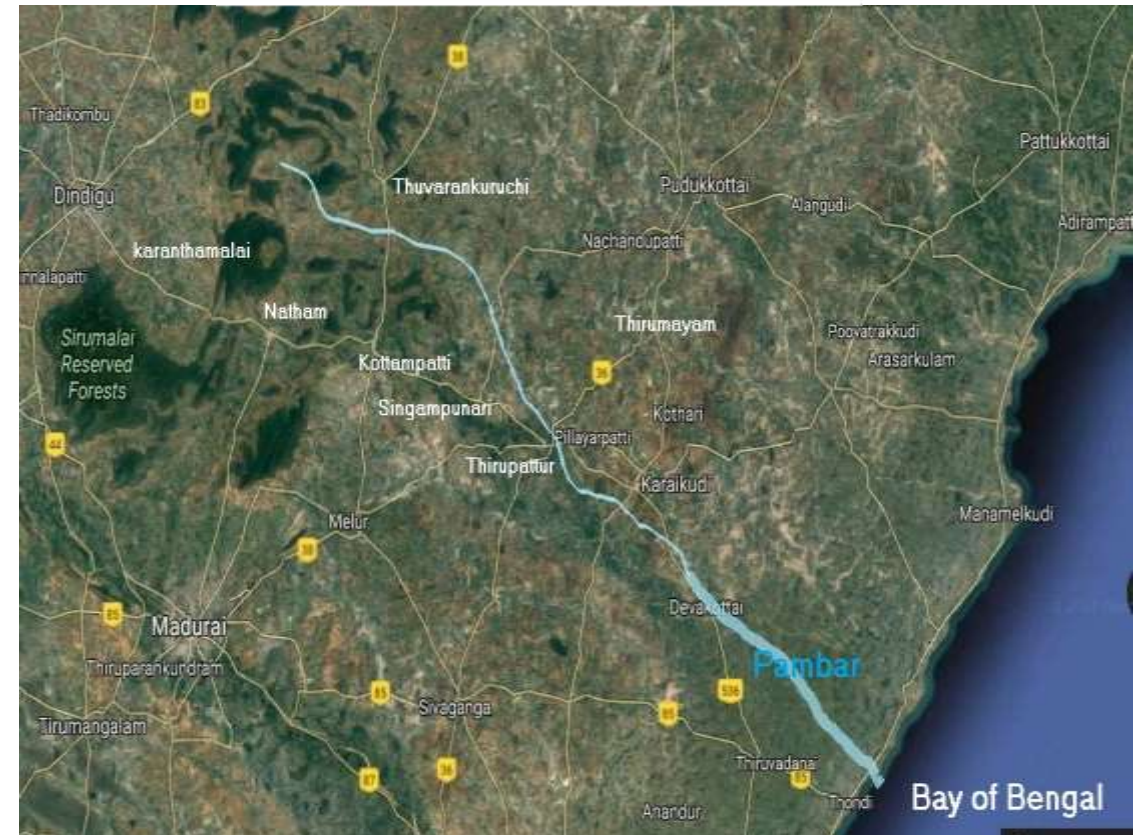
Purpose of Vayalagam (Tank Association)

- ▣ To conserve the tank and its components for increasing performance efficiency of the tank system
- ▣ To enhance the productivity of agriculture through stabilizing agriculture
- ▣ To mobilize resources for rehabilitation and implement the rehabilitation
- ▣ To ensure future maintenance of the tank system (Ex. Endowment Fund..)
- ▣ To integrate water and other development interventions for sustain the vayalgams for generations



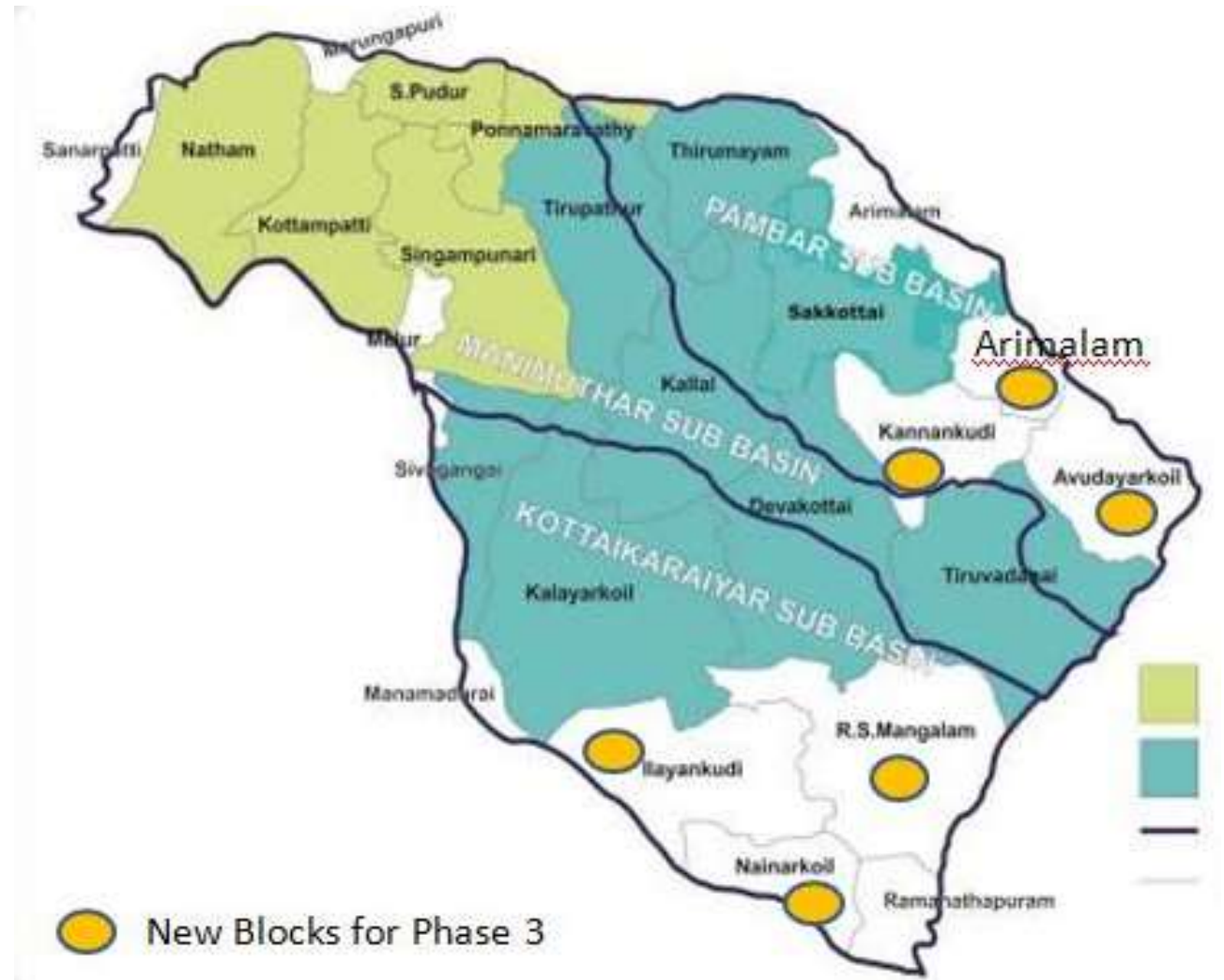
Experience from Pambar River Basin

- One of the 17 river basins in Tamil Nadu (Rainfed river)
- Spread in- Dindigul, Madurai, Sivagangai, Pudukottai and Ramnad Districts
- Total area : 5867 sq.km
- Mean annual rainfall: 875 mm (424 mm in NEM)
- Tanks and Ponds are the predominant source (7200 tanks and 4000 ponds)
- Highly vulnerable to Floods and Droughts

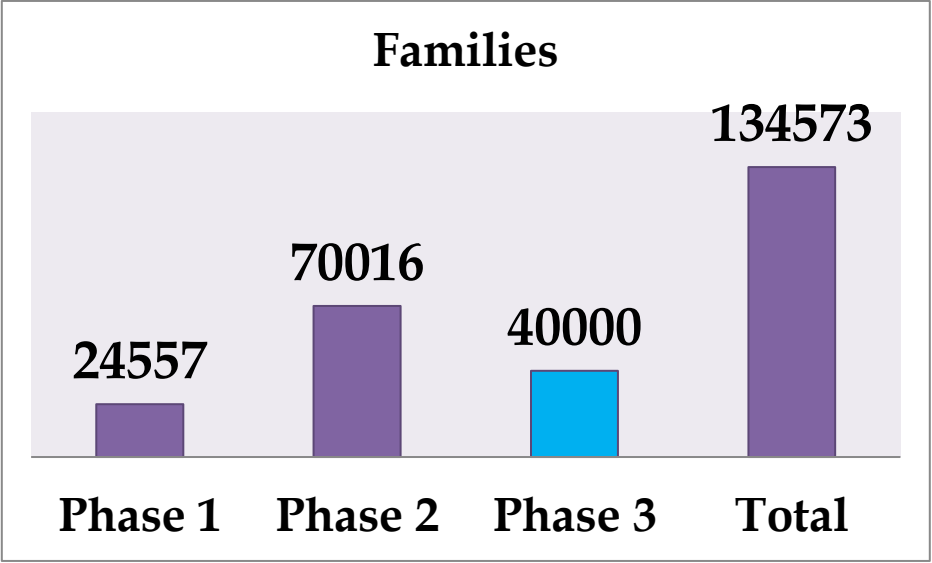


Experience from Pambar river Basin

- ✓ Reach in all administrative blocks in the basin (19 locations)
- ✓ Reached families – 1.34 lakhs
- ✓ Community Governance at – 2500 Tanks, 100 Cascades, 3 sub-basins and at Basin
- ✓ Sustained Federation collectives in 19 locations towards integrated development



Model CSR partnership with ABF & DHAN Foundation (DHANA)



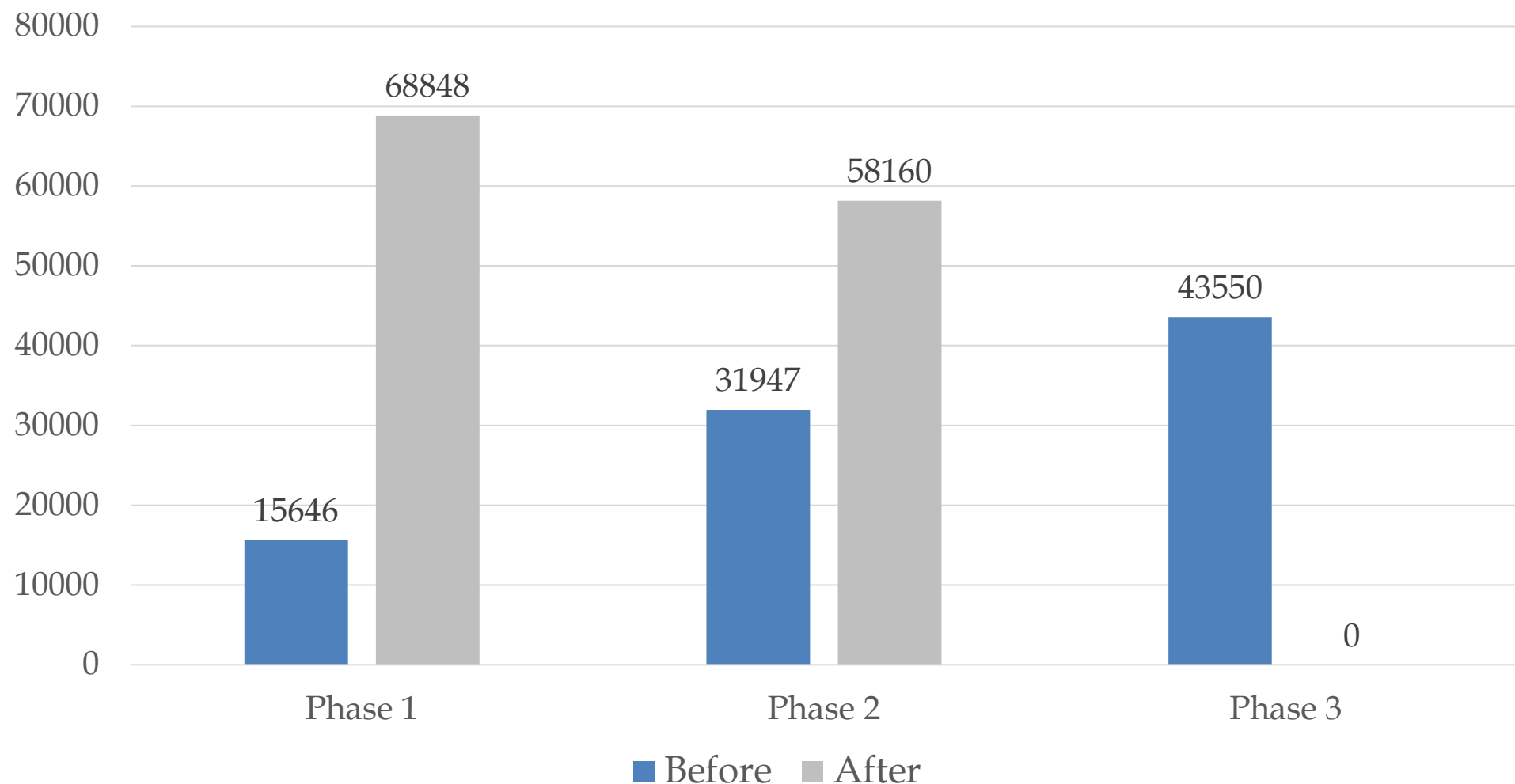
Key Achievements with Community Governance:

- Community-led tank desilting, channel cleaning, and bund strengthening
- Regular maintenance through shramdhan and local contributions.
- Protection of water bodies and prevention of encroachments.
- Water regulation and sharing norms decided by members
- Revival of traditional water management practices.
- Stronger institutions with regular meetings and conflict resolution (2165 vayalagam, 2650 AFGs)
- Enhanced linkages with Panchayats, banks, and line departments



Key Outputs/ Outcomes across 10 Years

Average Net Income



Net Income:
Phase I: 340%
Phase II: 82%

Note: Impact Assessment study by Deloitte – July 2022

Community governance for sustainability

- All the development interventions were planned and implemented by the community through the people institutions
- The people institutions are maintaining and effectively using the improved water resources
- The people institutions are mobilizing all stakeholders together for the integrated development



Water Resource Development



- ▣ 4.2 Billion liters of additional water storage was created through renovation of 1448 tanks and 150 pond.
- ▣ Around 31500 acres of land in the ayacut area had assured water for irrigating the crop. In which paddy is the major crop which yield was realized maximum of 2050 kgs per acre.

Best Performance on water conservation



Awards

Green Champion





Thank You

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