



ICID•CIID



International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID)

**Mr. N. Anbuselvan,
Singampunari Vattara Vayalagam, Tamil Nadu, India**

**Journey of Singampunari Vattara Vayalagam
showcasing community ownership and
institutional resilience**

2nd Indo Global Irrigation Summit

24-25 June 2026, New Delhi India

Journey of Singampunari Vattara Vayalagam showcasing community ownership and institutional resilience

**Mr. N.Anbuselvan,
Treasurer,
Singampunari Vattara Vayalagam, Tamil Nadu, India**

The Core of Federation Sustainability

Beyond Resources

Federation sustainability relies on people institutions, not just financial resources. It is about the social capital and community structures that drive long-term viability.

HUMAN CENTRIC

Governance

People institutions ensure collective action, self-governance, and long-term viability. They provide the framework for organized community management.

SELF-RELIANCE

Ownership

Sustainability is achieved when people take full ownership and manage activities independently, especially among marginalized groups.

COMMUNITY DRIVEN

Defining People Institutions

AFGs & Vayalagams

water user
associations,
Finance Groups

Producer Orgs

Primary
producer
groups

Mutual Federations

Insurance for
Members,
Spouse. And
also for
Livestock's
and crop

SUHAM Federations

Health
products for
the members
and their
family

Foundation of Development

People institutions are community-based organizations that serve as the fundamental building blocks for sustainable social and economic growth.

Collective Management

Organized communities provide a platform for active participation, allowing members to collectively manage resources and solve shared problems.

Mobilizing Participation & Social Capital

Community Participation Building Social Capital

Active Involvement

Encouraging every member to take a proactive role in institutional activities and initiatives.

Democratic Decision-Making

Promoting a culture where voices are heard and decisions are made collectively and transparently.

Collective Responsibility

Strengthening the bond of shared accountability for the success and growth of the institution.

Trust & Cooperation

Developing deep-rooted trust among members to facilitate seamless collaboration and synergy.

Mutual Support

Fostering a networking environment where members provide social and emotional safety nets for each other.

Community Solidarity

Enhancing the unity of the group to stand together against external challenges and economic shifts.

Mr. Anbulselvan Narrates his Experience that: He is the member of Amman Tank Vayalagam was established in the year 2012. He joined as the treasurer of the association and later promoted the Rajanvaikkal cascade association, and served as a treasurer. He extended his support to promote the 05 vayalagams in Rajanvaikkal cascade. He also a member of Paari vallal AFG since 2016. His savings is around Rs. 30000/-.

Economic Empowerment & Resource Management

Economic Empowerment

01 Financial Inclusion

Facilitating systematic savings and credit activities to build community-led financial resilience.

02 Livelihood Growth

Improving local opportunities and promoting entrepreneurship for sustainable income generation.

Resource Management

03 Natural Assets

Ensuring the sustainable use of water, land, and other common natural resources.

04 Environmental Stewardship

Managing common assets effectively while supporting long-term conservation initiatives.

Singampunari Vattara

Vayalagam:

Singampunari Block has 249 Vayalagam institutions. Conservation works were carried out in 241 tanks to the tune of Rs. 6.1 crore. In total 10771 families are benefitted.

Mr. Anbuselvan has facilitated the encroachment eviction in his tank with the support of revenue department. Through which around 35 acres of agriculture land is saved for sustaining agriculture activity.

Collective Action in Vayalagam Groups

Institutional Structure

A federation is a higher-level institution strategically formed by local Vayalagam groups to scale impact and reach.

Scaling Impact

The Bedrock of Sustainability

Collective action serves as the fundamental foundation, ensuring that the federation remains resilient and self-sustaining over time.

Unified Resilience

Resource & Negotiation

Through unity, federations mobilize larger resources and gain significant negotiating power with external agencies and government bodies.

Stronger Voice

Singampunari Vattara Vayalagam:

The Singampunari block handles their annual expenditure around Rs.25 – 30 laks per year through the community fund. Hence this federation is a self sustained one

In attaining the sustainability by Singampunari federation Mr.Anbuselvan role was very vital with respect to mobilizing the community fund.

Key Drivers of Sustainability

Shared Vision

Sustainability begins with a unified purpose. Members work toward common objectives, ensuring that collective efforts are aligned with the long-term goals of the federation.

Leadership

Local leaders are the stewards of the institution. Continuous training and development empower them to manage resources effectively and maintain institutional integrity.

Ownership

True sustainability is rooted in member ownership. Financial contributions and active participation ensure that the community remains the primary stakeholder in its own development.

Singampunari Vattara Vayalagam:

Mr. Anbuselvan disseminated the vayalagam objectives to various vayalagam in the block. He trained many leaders to run their vayalagam institutions as self sustained one. The endowment fund g\is generated across 172 tanks securing Rs.26.8 lakhs for future maintenance works in tanks. Usufructs agreement is executed with 5 Panchayats.

Governance & Growth

Transparency & Accountability

Proper governance systems are essential for building and maintaining member trust. Clear reporting and open processes ensure that every member feels secure in their contribution.

BUILDING TRUST

Knowledge Sharing

The exchange of experiences and best practices among different groups fosters collective intelligence. Learning from shared successes and failures accelerates institutional growth.

COLLECTIVE WISDOM

Institutional Integrity

Maintaining high standards in management and reporting leads to self-reliance. Strong governance enables federations to sustain operations independently over the long term.

SELF-RELIANCE

Singampunari Vattara

Vayalagam:

In this federation, Executive Committee meetings are conducted every month. This is the non negotiable one wherein all the leaders from different people institutions gather. Here social Audit play a vital role for quality assurance. Mr.N.Anbulselvan has facilitated executing the social audit process across vayalagam in Singampunari block.

Capacity & Financial Sustainability

Capacity Building

Continuous Training

Enhancing leadership, financial management, and organizational skills among all community members.

Skill Empowerment

Equipping local stakeholders with the tools needed to manage complex institutional frameworks independently.

Financial Self-Reliance

Internal Resource Mobilization

Relying on regular member contributions, savings, and service charges to meet operational expenses.

Reducing Dependency

Moving away from external funding through income-generating activities and disciplined financial management.

Singampunari Vattara Vayalagam:

In Singampunari block 221 AFGs are present covering 3068 members. The loan outstanding is around Rs.4.16 crore.

Mr. Anbuselvan has contributed for grading of groups to facilitate bank linkage. Similarly he trained all the treasurer of AFGs on the grading process to go for credit linkage.

Outcomes of Sustainable Institutions

Improved Livelihoods

Sustainable institutions drive enhanced income security and provide reliable access to essential financial services for marginalized communities.

Increased Resilience

Communities become better equipped to withstand and recover from economic shifts and environmental challenges through organized action.

Social Cohesion

By fostering trust and cooperation, these institutions build stronger community bonds and a unified sense of collective resilience.

Resource Stewardship

Effective management of natural resources ensures long-term environmental sustainability and community-driven growth.

Singampunari Vattara Vayalagam:

By restoring 241 tanks, around 4820 hec of agriculture land are benefited in Singampunari block.

Around 716 acres of fallow land were brought back under agriculture. Mr. Anbuselvan has contributed a lot in sustaining vayalagam across the Singampunari block by meticulous efforts



2nd Indo-Global Irrigation Summit
24-25 June 2026, New Delhi, India