

# 75<sup>th</sup> International Executive Council meeting & 9<sup>th</sup> Asian Regional Conference



75<sup>th</sup> IEC Meeting & 9<sup>th</sup> Asian Regional Conference  
1-7 September 2024, Sydney, Australia



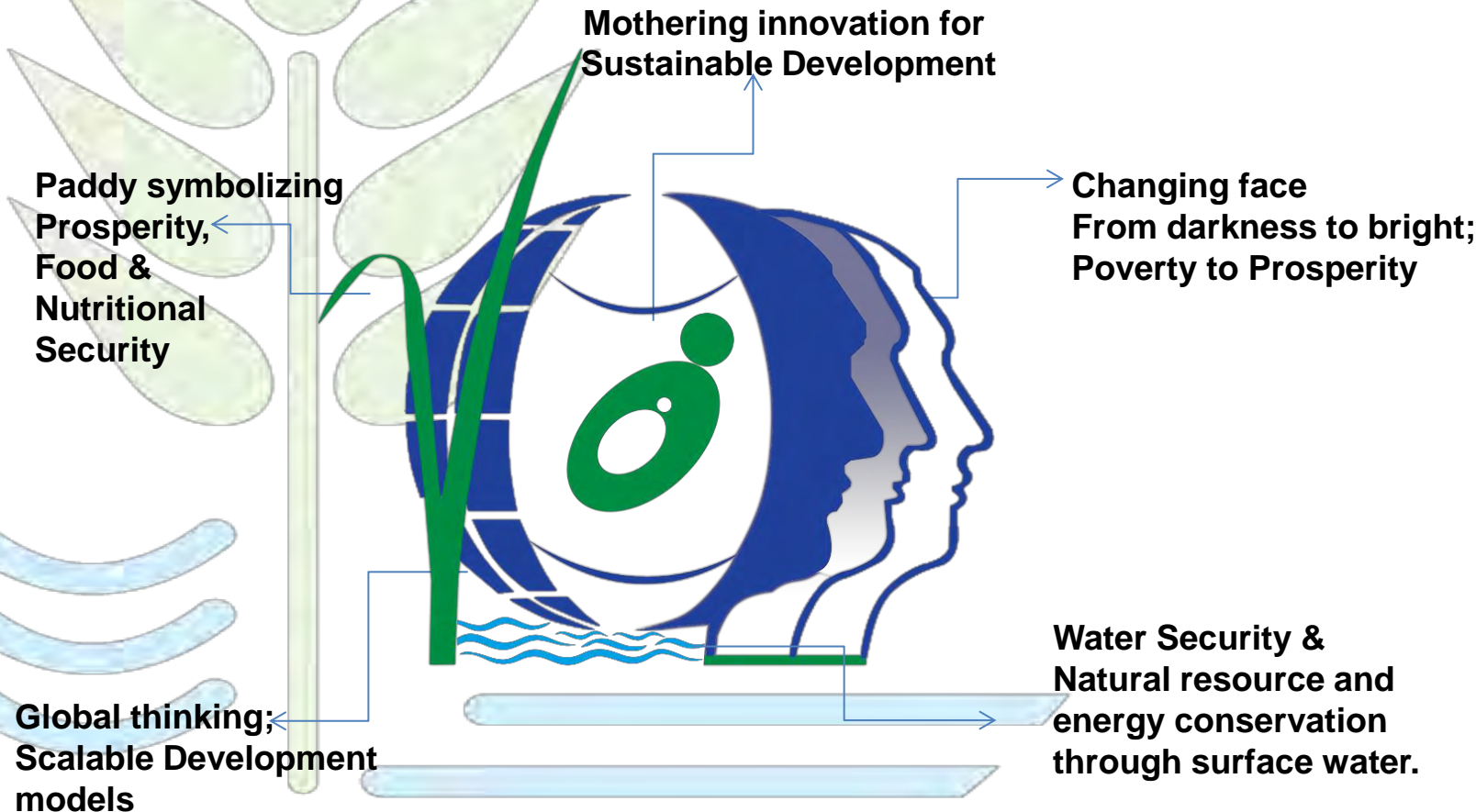
# COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE AND THE WATER-ENERGY-FOOD NEXUS: DHAN'S WAY

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## DHAN Foundation

- ▣ A Professional development organisation builds community institutions
- ▣ Our way of work with the principles of Mahatma Gandhi and Community Swaraj
- ▣ Out of 4.9 Million families, 0.58 Million families self-declared themselves as Moved out of Poverty\*

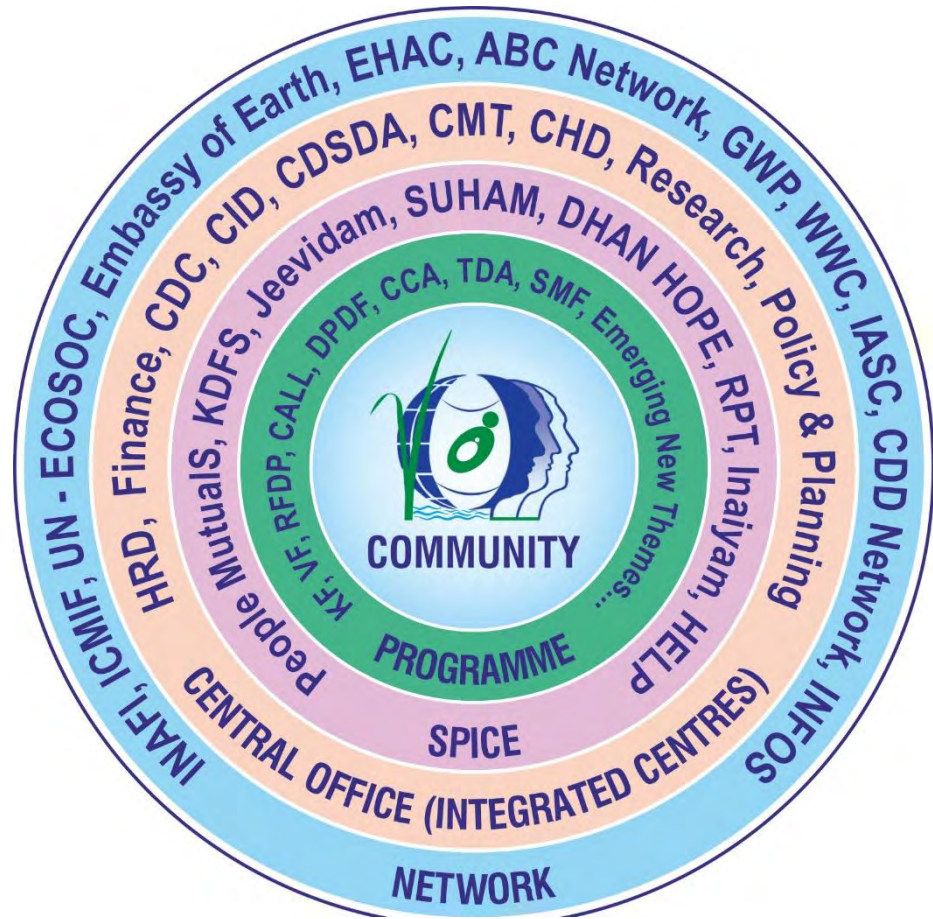
\*Multidimensional Poverty



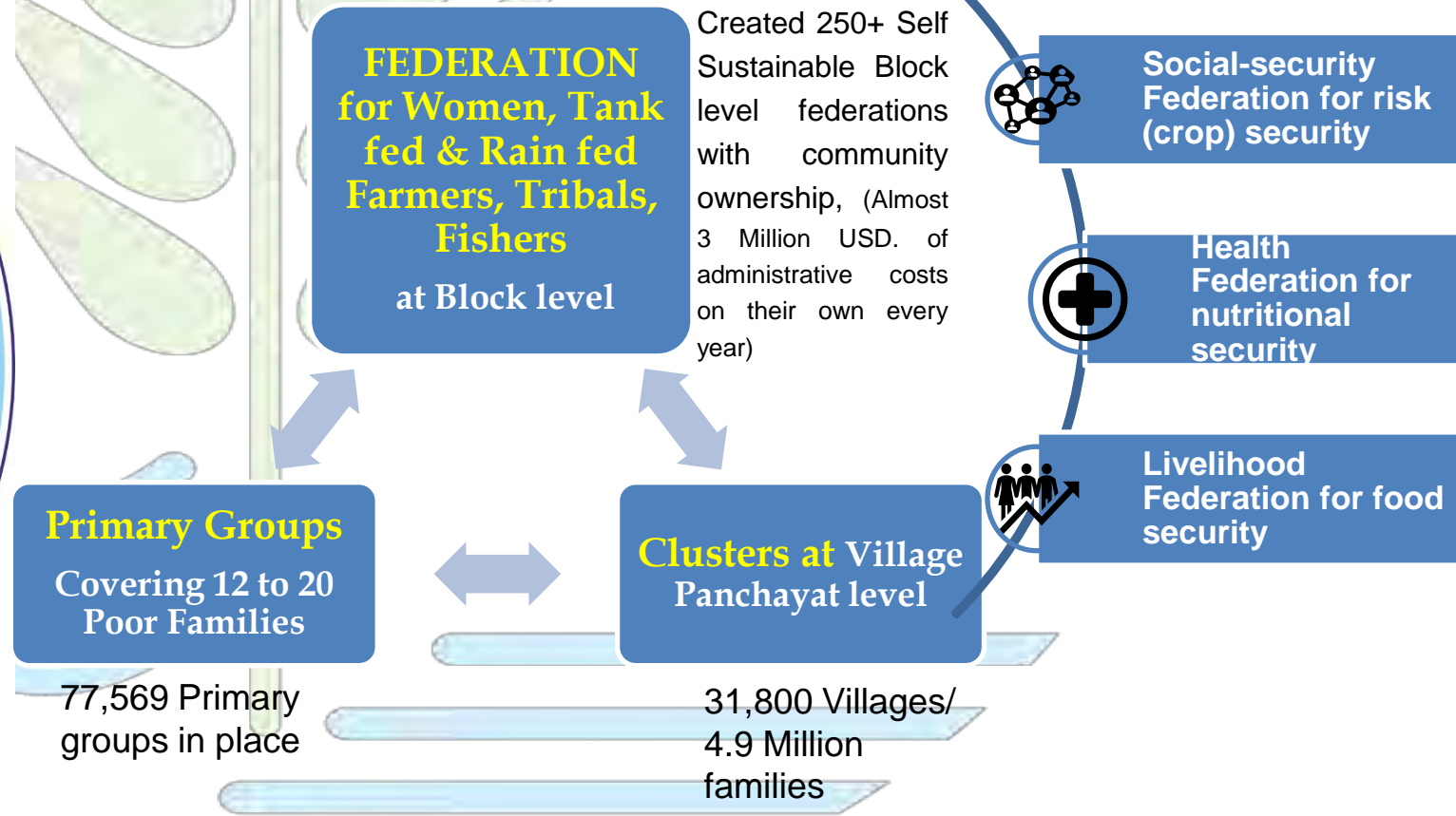
**Our logo explains the nexus**

# A Model supports for Community-Driven WEF Nexus Management

## Central DHAN Collective Structure



## Community-level Nested Institutions



# Nurturing Community-Driven WEF Nexus Management through Stages of Institutional Evolution

## Foundation Stage

- Nesting the community institutions
- Through Kalanjiam (Self-Help Groups), Vayalagam (water User associations), Ulavaragam (Rain fed farmers association), FPOs

## Advancement Stage

- Integration and Deepening the nexus on water-Food-Energy.
- Intervening in the gap of nexus
- Augmentation and conservation measures starts

## Institutional Stage

- The holistic efforts are integrated here to evolve the big picture of community institution.
- Facilitates Cross learning both national and International level

## Scaling up stage

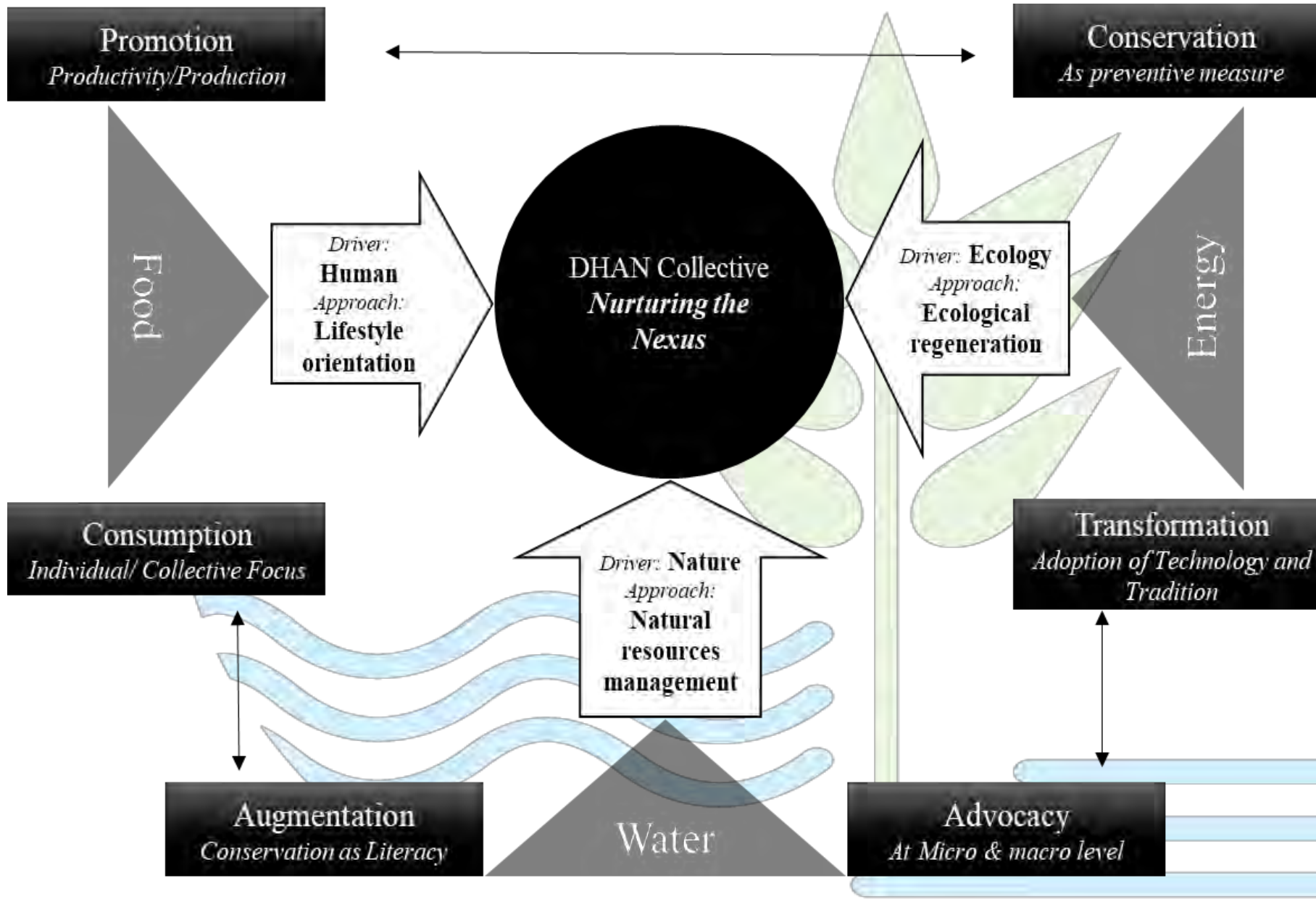
- Promotion of Subsidies
- Through Livelihood, Health, Social Security and mainstream Linkages

## Sustainability stage

- A self sustained community institutions can become collectives on local action on WEF Nexus
- Advocacy and Transformation starts in this stage

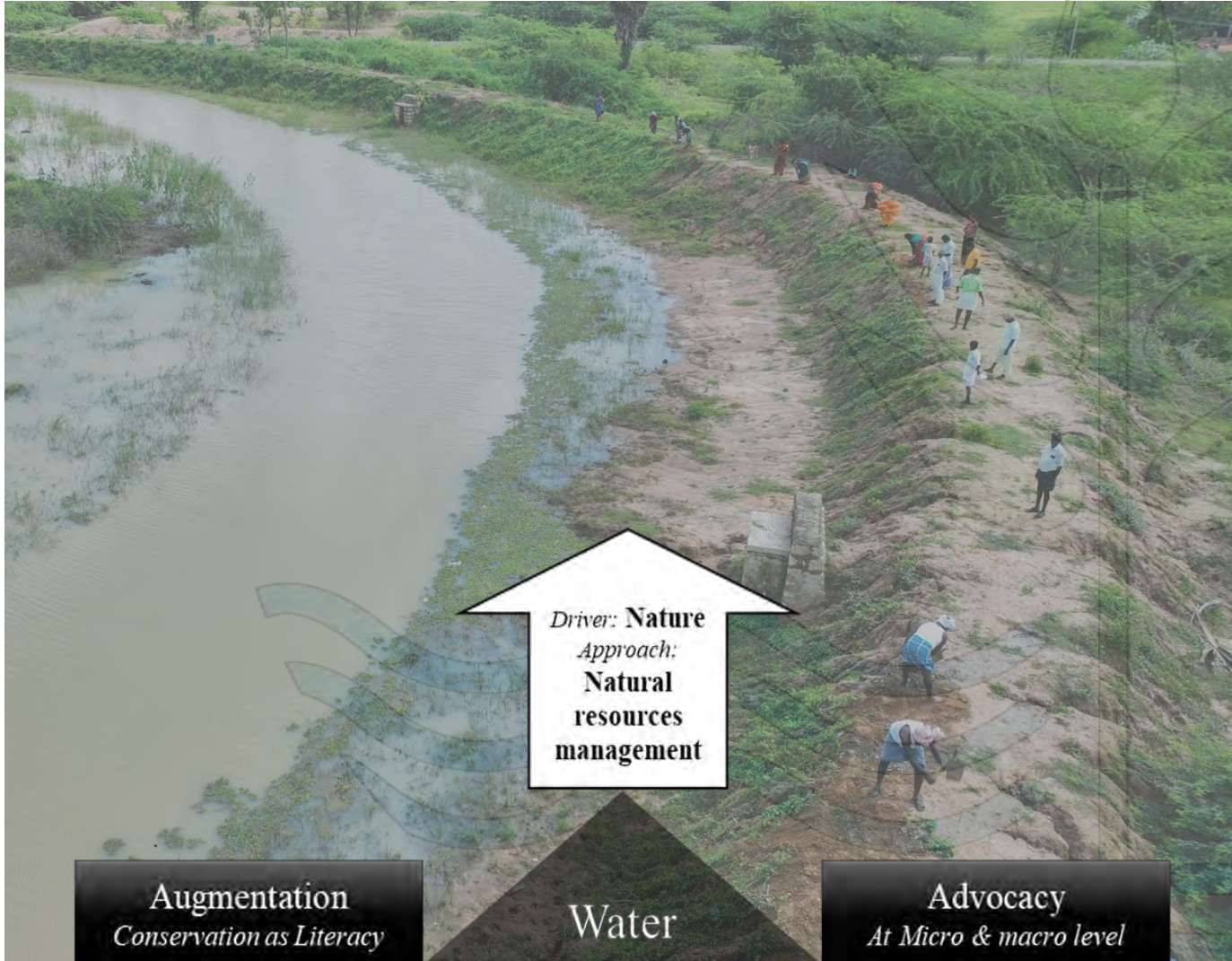
## Learning Organization

- Leader community institution thinks globally for the local action.



## Delving Deeper: DHAN's Collective Contribution to Each Pillar of the WEF Nexus

# Water: Nature as Driver-A Focus on Natural Resource Management



**Augmentation:** conservation as a form of literacy.

- ▣ DHAN facilitates CAUSE (Conservation, Agriculture development, Usufruct rights, Social enterprises, and Eviction of encroachment) initiatives at the grassroots level.
- ▣ Nurtures traditional wisdom amongst communities.

**DHAN Vayalagam: Basin-Level Management:**

- ▣ Recognizing communities as the true custodians of water, the program empowers them to utilize their inherited wisdom in preserving this vital resource.
- ▣ Almost DHAN Collective spends 4000crores in NRM.

# Water: Nature as Driver-A Focus on Natural Resource Management

## Advocacy: Micro to Macro

- ▣ This bottom-up approach empowers local communities
- ▣ Notably, DHAN has revived over 6,000 traditional water bodies with the participation of 400,000 farmers across 15+ river basins in India.
- ▣ The concept of Community Swaraj (self-sufficiency), advocating for policies in National & International level

## DHAN Kalanjiam: Enabling Women and Water Security:

- ▣ Focuses on community banking, has a significant indirect impact on water security, particularly for women.
- ▣ This improved financial situation allows women to play a more active role in ensuring water security for their families and communities.



# Food: Human Driver- A Focus on Lifestyle Orientation

## Promotion:

- **DHAN Ulavaragam** utilizes a watershed approach to support rainfed agriculture, a crucial sector in India. Almost 800 acres of degraded land are retrieved in this community action.
- **DHAN Jeevitham** fosters the formation of Farmer Producer Companies (FPOs). These companies provide farmers with access to credit, markets, technologies, and skill building opportunities.

Promotion

*Productivity/Production*

Food

Driver:  
**Human**  
Approach:  
**Lifestyle**  
orientation

Consumption

*Individual/ Collective Focus*

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# Food: Human Driver- A Focus on Lifestyle Orientation



Consumption:

- ▣ **DHAN Small Millets Program** leverages the "Prosumer" concept to scale up the production and consumption of small millets. This promotes not only food security but also improved nutrition and diet-related health due to the millets' nutritional value.
- ▣ **DHAN SUHAM:** This program focuses on adolescent nutrition security. It promotes behaviors that reduce anemia amongst adolescents and ensures proper nutrition for all through screening and behavior change communication.



*Kudimaramath refers to the traditional system of tank management widely practiced before independence. Kudi means the villagers, maramath means maintenance work. A village elder, assisted by a committee, would coordinate and motivate the local community to maintain the irrigation structures. Villagers provide their labour freely. The Vayalagam tank farmers' organisations have revived the practice of Kudimaramath in all the conservation works taken up by them.*

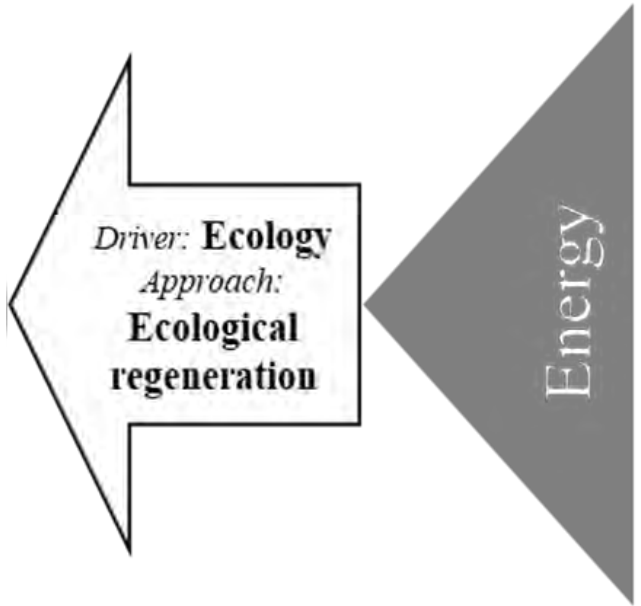
# Energy: Ecology as Driver- A Focus on Ecological Regeneration

Conservation as a Preventive Measure

**Ecological Regeneration:** This strategy emphasizes activities that restore natural ecosystems, leading to long-term energy security. Examples include:

- ▣ **DHAN CCA (Climate Change Adaptation) Program:** This program promotes solar panel distribution in tribal areas as a youth employment.
- ▣ **Soil Moisture Conservation:** The program promotes traditional practices like applying silt from revived water bodies to farmland.

Conservation  
*As preventive measure*



Transformation  
*Adoption of Technology and Tradition*

# Energy: Ecology as Driver- A Focus on Ecological Regeneration

Transformation: Embracing Technology and Tradition

▣ DHAN Inayam (ICT for Agro-advisory) utilizes information and communication technology (ICT) to provide agro-advisory services information on energy-efficient agricultural practices and alternative energy solutions, empowering communities to make informed choices.

▣ Traditional Practices: Reviving Surface Water Bodies promotes gravity-flow irrigation, eliminating the need for energy-intensive pumping systems.



# WAY FORWARD: DEEPENING COMMUNITY-DRIVEN WEF NEXUS MANAGEMENT

## Major Impact Indicators: Self-Declaration and Outcome Measurement

Water:

Self-declaration of "members out of retrieving water commons" AND "members out of poverty" demonstrates the positive impact of improved water management on livelihoods.



Food:

Self-declaration of "members out of anemia and alcohol addiction" indicates progress in nutritional security and overall well-being.



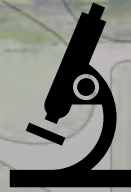
Energy:

Self-declaration of "members out of poverty" highlights the link between access to clean energy and economic empowerment.





**Expanding the WEF Nexus Network  
through Community Stakeholders**



**Recognizing Less-Noted  
Traditional Conservation  
Features**



**Public- Private- Civil Society  
Partnerships: A Model for Replication**



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**Multiple Investments for  
Multiplier Effects:  
Demonstration as Key**



**Demand-Driven Systems for  
Deeper Nexus Management**



**Preventive Care and  
Traditional Values for  
Long-Term Sustainability**



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Thank  
you!



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