

**REGIONAL SEMINAR CUM WORKSHOP ON
ISSUES IN WATER CONSERVATION FOR AGRICULTURAL
DEVELOPMENT**

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SOUVENIR

**FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY
GANDHIGRAM RURAL INSTITUTE - DEEMED UNIVERSITY
GANDHIGRAM**

Paper
by
G.Vasudeo,
VK-NARDEP

T.IV.2. DEVELOPMENT OF OORANIS (TRADITIONAL WATER RESOURCE) AND RECHARGING OF WATER AQUIFERS IN RAMNATHAPURAM DISTRICT, TAMIL NADU.

G. Vasudeo

Natural Resources Development Project, NARDEP is a part of the service activities carried out by Vivekananda Kendra, Kanyakumari. Traditional water source development for drinking water is one of the thrust areas of activity, which is being implemented, with the support of CAPART, New Delhi. Ramanathapuram district in Tamil Nadu, one of the project areas is known for frequent droughts and water scarcity as well as salinity problem. The Administration has attempted various measures like setting desalination plants to provide assured and safe drinking water but the situation remains pathetic in many pockets. Madukulattur Block is one such area with brackish water sources only, where the Kendra has involved the local people in developing the traditional "Oorani" (surface water pond) for providing protected drinking water. The fenced and protected surface water source with draw well having filter bed channel to collect turbidity free water, recharge tube wells directing rainwater and flash felts in new Oorani to improve the water quality of existing tube well source and the mass awareness campaign are the activities which proved successful. This has to be proved effective in controlling salinity and providing drinking water cost effectively.