



Thanal Newsletter

Vol. 03 | Issue 12

December 2024

2024

**THE HOTTEST YEAR IN
RECORDED HISTORY**

**FARMER SCIENTIST
CONFERENCE
*at Malaysia***

**LISTEN TO THE FUTURE
*World Children's day***

2024





Year 2024 comes to an end as the hottest year in recorded history. The recent COP29 summit in Baku has become, once again, a platform of broken promises and lost opportunities, especially for developing nations like India. While there were urgent calls for serious climate finance to help vulnerable communities, developed countries closed their ears and agreed on 300 billion dollars compared to 1.3 trillion which was needed to tackle the growing climate emergency. India vociferously spoke out against this agreement calling it 'stage managed' and said this amount was "abysmally poor" and "paltry". The betrayal of trust such as this negates the very rationale of such global meetings.

Fossil fuel interests of many petrostates remain powerful, blocking measures toward cutting out these climate-wrecking fuels. Delay in meaningful action puts our planet's future in increased jeopardy and is an unfair burden on those least responsible for the crisis. The operationalization of the Loss and Damage Fund provides little more than glimmers of hope, but its meagre capital serves as a continued reminder of the profound inequalities that exist. After almost a decade of negotiations, countries agreed on rules for carbon credits under the Paris Agreement. While this is a positive step for reducing emissions and boosting investment in emerging economies, concerns about the integrity of these credits remain.

Another notable positive element at COP29 was the commitment from various countries to tackle methane emissions, with more nations joining the global methane pledge originally established at COP26. Thus COP29 was a brutal reminder that the struggle for climate justice continues. We need to amplify the voices of the vulnerable and demand accountability from polluters. In the face of global inaction, we must empower local communities to lead the way. By investing in sustainable initiatives and incorporating cities and local bodies in climate action planning, we can drive faster and fairer progress. Let us seize this moment to build a more resilient and equitable future, from the ground up.

FARMER SCIENTIST CONFERENCE *at Malaysia*



Thanal team participated in the Farmer Scientist Conference and PANAP Congress, organised by PAN-Asia Pacific in Malaysia from November 6th to 9th. This gathering brought together inspiring delegates from across the Asia-Pacific region, fostering valuable exchanges on agroecology, food sovereignty, and climate justice driven by people's innovation.

Thanal had the honor of presenting our impactful work in Biodiversity Monitoring and Conservation and the Protect Our Children Campaign, sharing our commitment to building resilient communities and nurturing the next generation.

Field Learning Sites from different countries were recognized for their dedication to advancing agroecology. Among them, the Thanal Agroecology Centre also received recognition for its exceptional role in engaging, educating, and empowering farmers and the public in advancing agroecological practices.

VIKALP YATRA TO TAEC

Vikalp Yatra Participants visited Thanal Agro ecology Centre (TAEC), Panavally on Nov 15th. This was organised by The Travellers University during Nov 10-16, 2024 ahead of National Vikalp Sangam in Kachchh, Gujarat. Vikalpa Yatra is a learning journey to explore the significance of meaningful and regenerative livelihoods in our current times. This particular Yatra, which happened across Kerala, was an opportunity for Malayali youth who are inclined towards social ecological engagement to understand the different kinds of alternative ground work happening in the areas of food, ecology



and climate, learn from grassroots initiatives and innovators and expand their world views to journey towards the alternative futures we all hope to see.

'We started the penultimate day of Vikalp Yatra with an engaging jeep ride through the ghats of Wayanad. Our first destination of the day was Thanal Agroecology Centre, where they explained Thanal's work in rice conservation and took us through their paddy fields. Currently they are growing 342 varieties of rice as part of the rice conservation work. We got to interact with Sudha Chechi. She's been working with Thanal for almost 10 years. She along with other members from Thanal took us along their paddy fields and gave us a taste of a few local shrubs. It was heartening to listen to Sudha chechi how she takes care of and nurtures each paddy as her children. We got the chance to have a dialogue regarding the business model and how accessible

organic products are for different classes of society.

After having the delicious puzhukku they had prepared for us, we moved on to meet Rajesh Chetan who is a co-founder of Tirunelli Agri Producer Company Limited (TAPCO). We had an engaging discussion with him, where he explained the history of TAPCO as a farmer producer organisation, describing various challenges faced by farmers and the pricing model they follow to ensure that farmers get a fair reward. Personally the interaction with him gave me a profound sense of hope. There was a sense of pride in being a farmer when he said “The vibe you get when you walk through your crop is something else”.

Next we had an interaction with the co-founder of Thanal, Usha chechi. She explained how Thanal was formed and how it transformed to the current state of engaging in healthy food, waste management, climate action. She also proudly explained the role Thanal has played in enforcing many policy level changes in the field of organic farming. After an intense day of knowledge sharing we had a fun game session to end the day. A quote that Rajesh mentioned stayed with me, “The grass is greener where you water”.

As shared by Mrinal, a Vikalp Yatra participant, on his Facebook page about the TAEC visit.



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CNM AWARENESS FOR KUDUMBASREE MEMBERS



In November 2024, the MNAL team conducted a series of awareness sessions to advance the Carbon Neutral Meenangadi (CNM) initiative, fostering community engagement and sustainable practices. Held in Krishnagiri and Kakkavayal Wards, these sessions brought together 31 participants from the various Kudumbashree, to explore the significance of carbon neutrality and practical solutions for sustainability.

Key topics included energy-efficient stoves, composting techniques, tree banking, and menstrual hygiene. Participants showed interest in energy-efficient stoves for their eco-friendly benefits. Composting challenges, such as odor and pest issues, highlighted the need for improved models and training. Discussions on tree banking and bamboo cultivation highlighted their environmental and economic benefits, while addressing misconceptions about menstrual cups underscored the need for focused awareness initiatives. Interactive poster exhibitions featured initiatives like the Manivayal Solar Project, community parks, and Haritha karma sena waste management encouraging participants to adopt sustainable practices such as waste segregation, organic farming, and water conservation.

These sessions stressed on actionable steps toward sustainability, addressing real-life challenges and fostering a better understanding of carbon-neutral practices. Tailored training, accessible resources, and continued community participation remain vital to achieving Meenangadi's vision of a carbon-neutral future.

“LISTEN TO THE FUTURE” WORLD CHILDREN’S DAY



Every year on November 20, the United Nations celebrates World Children’s Day. It is a day to bring people together, raise awareness about the challenges faced by children, and work to improve their lives.

This year’s theme, “Listen to the Future,” reminds us to pay attention to children’s ideas and dreams. At NAA UPSchool Manikavu, we celebrated this special day by starting a Nutrition Garden. This initiative, part of the Protect our Children campaign, encourages students to grow their own food without using pesticide, so that they get fresh and pesticide free vegetables, steady supply of nutritious food and environmental sustainability which shall improve their overall well- being, learn about organic farming and enjoy a healthier diet.

The Nutrition Garden is more than just a place to grow vegetables, it’s a learning space. Children will discover how food grows, understand the importance of healthy eating, and develop a closer connection to nature.



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CONFERENCES, MEETINGS AND SEMINARS

Anjana N.S (Research Fellow) and Neha Madhavan (Project Officer) from our Carbon Neutral Accelerator Lab represented Thanal at the Pune International Conference, sharing key updates on “Carbon Neutral Meenangadi” —Kerala’s pioneering initiative

to transform a panchayat into a sustainable model of climate action.

‘Carbon Neutral Meenangadi’ focuses on reducing green house gas emissions, enhancing carbon sequestration, and building climate resilience through innovative, community-driven development strategies. This project represents a crucial step in showcasing how local actions can address global challenges.

At the conference, which explored ‘Land Tenure



Transitions: Climatisation or Communitisation’*, our team joined a panel discussion led by Mr. Srajesh Gupta (C-GEM) alongside experts like Dr. Jiju P Alex (Kerala Agricultural University), S M Vijayanand IAS, Dr. Satish Gogulwar (Amhi Amchi Arogyasathi), and Mr. Manas Satpathy (PRADAN). Together, they explored PRI-led solutions that blend traditional knowledge with climate-smart approaches, reaffirming the vital role of local communities in shaping India’s sustainable future.

TRAININGS

Ms Usha S, Co founder, Thanal and Director, Thanal Agro Ecology producers Company, took a one day training session on organic certification with special focus on Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) for the Agriculture Officers of the Palakkad region at the Malampuzha Block Panchayat Training Hall, Palakkad. Thanal’s co-founder, Ms. Usha S, shared her expertise on healthy food and food safety at the Ayurveda Medical Association of India (AMAI), Muvattupuzha area. The discussion highlighted the importance of ensuring safe and healthy food availability amidst growing challenges.

TAILORING CLASS



As part of our NABARD Integrated Tribal Development project to empower tribal communities at Kulathupuzha, total 6 tailoring classes were conducted at hamlets Cherukara and Kuzhaviyodu for our tribal beneficiaries by expert trainer Deepa Chandran. Total 30 beneficiaries from two hamlets participated in this month and they acquired knowledge on how to measure and stitch churidars, nighties, saree blouses, frocks and learnt to stitch those in different styles according to the latest trends. Beneficiaries have started stitching clothes for their loved ones and have started seeing improvement in their skills. Everyone has also started wearing churidars stitched by themselves.



Your donation, regardless of its size, holds the power to catalyse positive change towards a greener and sustainable future.

Your support will enable us to extend our outreach to a wider range of beneficiaries, including farmers and marginal communities. With your contributions, we can provide essential assistance to small scale or disadvantaged farmers by giving them training, supplying organic seeds, saplings and other resources that are crucial for sustainable agriculture and safe food. These resources often come at a higher cost compared to conventional alternatives, making your support even more valuable.

For your convenience, we have provided our account details below:

Account Name: Thanal

Account Number: 21780100017799

**Bank Name: Federal Bank,
Sasthamangalam**

IFSC Code: FDRL0002178

Thank you once again for your generosity and commitment to our shared cause