



THANAL

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THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF PLASTIC BAGS

ORGANIC FARMING TRAINING AT KOOLATHUPUZHA

WINGS OF DIVERSITY: CULTIVATING A BUTTERFLY HAVEN

**CELEBRATING ONE YEAR OF
CARBON NEUTRAL LAB**

2024





The Environmental Impact of Plastic Bags



Marine Pollution: Each year, millions of plastic bags reach our oceans, causing harm to marine life through ingestion and entanglement.

Land Pollution: Discarded plastic bags litter our landscapes, clog drainage systems, and degrade soil quality.

Resource Depletion: The production and disposal of plastic bags rely on non-renewable fossil fuels, contributing to resource depletion and significant greenhouse gas emissions.

Observed worldwide on July 3rd, International Plastic Bag Free Day, is a powerful reminder for individuals, businesses, and governments to combat the pervasive issue of single-use plastic pollution. Plastic bags, though convenient, pose severe threats to our environment and its inhabitants. Over time, these bags break down into and remain as microplastics, which are literally, omnipresent. They are found everywhere - from the depths of the Atlantic Ocean to the remote expanses of Antarctica, and even in the air we breathe and within the bodies of living organisms.

A Month of Sustainable Alternatives: On this day, and extending throughout July, Plastic free July is observed to encourage the adoption of sustainable alternatives to single-use plastics. By reducing our dependence on plastic and embracing eco-friendly options, we can safeguard our planet for future generations.

As we observe this day, At Thanal, we have consistently championed the use of sustainable alternatives. Our social enterprise, Thanal Organic Bazaar promotes the use of cloth bags, offering home deliveries in these reusable bags. Many of our customers return these bags for future use, reflecting their commitment to sustainability, as we do not charge for the cloth bags. Additionally, we encourage the return of plastic packaging for reuse. Together, we can drive meaningful change and move towards a future free from single use plastics.



Celebrating One Year of Carbon Neutral Lab

It has been one year since the Carbon Neutral Accelerator Lab is operating at Meenangadi Panchayath, Wayanad. Thanal has been supporting Meenangadi Panchayath in all its activities on its journey to attain Carbon Neutrality in 2025.

The first anniversary of the Carbon Neutral Accelerator Lab "Thulitham" was organised at Meenangadi Community Hall on Friday, June 14. Meenangadi Grama Panchayat President, Sri K.E. Vinayan presided over the annual celebration function inaugurated by Honourable District Panchayat President Sri Shamsad Marakkar. Thanal Executive Director Jayakumar C delivered the keynote speech.

An exhibition fair with the theme of climate replication, a speech competition among children and adults and an open discussion on the topic 'Climate change and agriculture' were also organised

Following this, at the closing ceremony, Honourable Assistant Collector, Gautam Raj IAS, released the Malayalam version of the report "Carbon-neutral Meenangadi: Recommendations and Assessments" which contains the release and authentication of greenhouse gases at the panchayat level in India and later honoured the farmers' community of Manivayal which has achieved great success through regenerative agriculture.

Notably in the program, Thanal volunteers from the Govt Polytechnic College of Meenangadi exhibited still models of Carbon Neutral house, Carbon neutral Meenangadi and Solar Powered Regenerative agriculture at Manivayal

"Beyond politics, a sustainable future can be achieved only if everyone irrespective of age and other differences, join hands for the sake of nature," commented Sri C. Assinar , the Block Panchayath President who inaugurated the closing ceremony.

Students from various schools and colleges of Meenangadi Panchayat participated in the programme and shared their vision for an environment friendly future through Words, arts and speeches



Organic Farming Training at Kulathoopuzha

On June 13th, a training session on organic farming was held for the beneficiaries of the Integrated Tribal Development Project at Kadamankode and Kuzhaviyodu hamlets. The agriculture officer from Thanal, Mr. Bharat, delivered a comprehensive lecture on organic farming techniques during the session. Around 50 beneficiaries, including the members of the village planning committee, were present at the training. The program included in-depth classes on crop sowing techniques, fertiliser application, pest management, soil preparation, and irrigation methods.



The primary goal of this project is to achieve the holistic development of tribal communities by implementing sustainable agricultural and livelihood systems tailored for the identified tribal families. This collaborative effort by NABARD and Thanal aims to benefit 413 families residing in the eight hamlets of Kulathoopuzha Grama Panchayath in Kollam through providing agricultural support, sustainable livelihood opportunities, and water resource development programs. These components are expected to significantly enhance income generation and create employment opportunities, thereby addressing the basic needs of the community.



IMMERSION IN SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES: MY INTERNSHIP AT THANAL

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During my month-long internship at Thanal I was assigned to a variety of tasks, including completing surveys on waste management and organic farming. This allowed me to interact with the nearby organic farmers that gave me insightful knowledge about the realm of organic farming methods and the difficulties the farmers confront in the area. My knowledge of organic farming and its importance for the environment and human health has increased as a result of these exchanges.

In addition to agricultural surveys, I focused on assessing community waste management practices. This involved identifying key issues and proposing practical solutions. I had also written a paper on sustainable waste management practices in the country and all over the world.

My experience at Thanal as an intern was incredibly rewarding. It allowed me to gain valuable experience and knowledge offering a hands-on learning experience and gave me a deeper understanding and appreciation for environmental sustainability.

Wings of Diversity: Cultivating a Butterfly Haven

In our fast-paced world, where concrete jungles often overshadow natural beauty, butterfly gardens stand as vibrant oases that celebrate biodiversity and enchanting aesthetics. These sanctuaries are not only visually stunning due to their kaleidoscope of colours, but they are also essential for the preservation of many species and the maintenance of ecological harmony. The Magic of Butterfly Gardens Picture yourself entering a garden full of brilliant flowers and fluttering butterflies-A butterfly garden is a living testament to the balance between flora and fauna. These carefully crafted gardens are meant to draw butterflies, providing them with flowers rich in nectar, host plants for depositing eggs, and secure spaces for them to undergo metamorphosis.

The selection of plants is what matters most. Since, native plants are acclimated to the local temperature and offer vital food and shelter, they frequently take centre stage in butterfly gardens. For example, milkweed not only provides food for the famous monarch butterfly but also represents the complex interrelationships that exist among ecosystems.



Biodiversity at Its Finest

Beyond their aesthetic allure, butterfly gardens play a crucial role in preserving biodiversity. These gardens sustain a large variety of insects, birds, and other wildlife by growing a diversified assortment of plants. In particular, butterflies act as pollinators, guaranteeing the propagation of numerous plant species and enhancing agricultural yield. Beyond its aesthetic value, biodiversity promotes resilience to environmental changes and improves the stability of ecosystems. The diversity of butterfly species highlights the interdependence that characterises our natural world by representing a unique niche within the complex web of life.



Conservation and Education

Butterfly gardens are not just tranquil retreats; they are also powerful educational tools. They provide chances for individuals of all ages to connect with nature, which cultivates a greater awareness and respect for the intricate balance of ecosystems. Butterfly gardens are a common program addition for educational institutions, community organisations, and botanical gardens. They encourage people to be environmentally conscious and curious. These gardens also support larger conservation initiatives. They motivate actions that support sustainable practices and habitat restoration and increase public awareness of potential threats to butterfly populations, such as habitat loss and climate change.

Cultivating Your Butterfly Haven

For beginners and experienced gardeners alike, designing a butterfly garden may be a rewarding project. Begin by learning about the local native butterfly species and choosing suitable host and nectar plants. Include a range of flowering plants to guarantee a seasonal bloom that will last and give butterflies a steady supply of food. Beyond just plants, take into account the ecological requirements of butterflies. To preserve a healthy environment, offer shaded areas like rocks or fallen branches. Additionally, refrain from using pesticides. If you are patient and hardworking, your garden will quickly draw a wide variety of butterflies, converting your backyard into a colourful nature haven.

In short, Butterfly gardens are more than just an assortment of plants; they embody the delicate interdependence of all species and the delicate balance of life. By taking care of these gardens, we support sustainable living methods and biodiversity preservation in addition to creating aesthetic appeal. We forge a stronger bond with the natural world and contribute significantly to the creation of a more peaceful future for our world when we embrace the fascinating world of butterflies.

PACHA THURUTHU: MEENANGADI PANCHAYAT'S SUSTAINABLE INITIATIVE

Meenangadi Panchayath is dedicated to fighting climate change and improving environmental health through its Carbon Neutral Meenangadi Project. This project aims to increase tree cover and greenery filled with native plants in public spaces and unused properties across its 19 wards to reduce carbon footprint. Pachathuruthu in Manivayal shows the successful model of ecological regeneration and social empowerment. It has a diverse landscape including 21 species of bamboo, mature trees and orchards. This diverse vegetation not only rejuvenates the local environment but also provides essential habitats for diverse bird species, supporting biodiversity. The Chundali River flowing nearby lends the place an added charm and has played a major role in the preservation of various species and habitats. As bamboos have high carbon absorption capacity, they offer a sustainable solution to offsetting carbon emissions and fostering a green environment. Moreover, these bamboos are not only ecological assets but also potential sources of income for local communities. Once harvested, they can be processed and sold, providing sustainable livelihood opportunities for those living near green islet.

Volunteers near Manivayal area and local senior citizens actively participate in nurturing the greenery, ensuring its long-term sustainability. Their continued work ensures the vibrant energy of these ecosystems, preserves biodiversity, conserves soil and water resources, and moves towards carbon neutrality, is the common aspiration for a sustainable tomorrow. Beyond the environmental benefits, the Pachathuruthu initiative fosters community stewardship and engagement. Women farmers are collectively doing vegetable farming at the end of the islet. Recognising the importance of fun and recreation, in the future, the initiative will include amenities such as a children's park, a food court serving native delicacies, and seating areas, inviting families to enjoy peaceful evenings in the embrace of nature.. It is also a prime spot for save the date s and wedding shoots nowadays. This year, as a part of maintaining Pachathuruth, the residents of Manivayal and NSS Polytechnic students planted marigold and sunflowers in the pachathurth and along the roadsides eyeing the Onam market. Thus, pachathuruthu initiative in Meenangadi Panchayath stands as a beacon of hope and innovation in the face of climate change.

TO KNOW MORE: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tXaPALQnWSC>



THE INSPIRING JOURNEY OF LATHA

Latha Madhu, a resident of Manakayam hamlet, has transformed into a beacon of hope for her community. From the moment the residents of Manakkayam hamlet sought her out for her literacy skills, Latha has dedicated herself to uplifting her fellow villagers. Despite her initial lack of confidence, the arrival of the Nabard project in the hamlet sparked a fire within Latha. She pushed past her limitations and took charge, becoming a voice for the families of Manakayam. Through her leadership, Latha united the families of Manakkayam, forming a cohesive group that embarked on various activities. As a member of the village planning committee, Latha fearlessly advocated for her community's needs and found solutions to their problems.

As part of the project Latha received 3 goats and chickens. She reared new goats and chickens were born. By selling the goats, she managed to earn a substantial income, proving that even in a wildlife-prone area like Manakayam, success is possible with dedication and care. Under Latha's guidance, the group members worked together to raise chickens, implementing innovative methods to protect their livestock. Their efforts paid off, resulting in a profitable poultry farming venture that boosted the group's assets. As the secretary of the self-help group, Latha's unwavering commitment laid the groundwork for their achievements. Despite facing numerous challenges, she tackled each obstacle head-on, proving herself to be a true leader in every sense of the word.

Latha has endured countless trials, from her husband's harrowing fall from a tree to his sickbed, to her daughter's prolonged hospital stay, all while grappling with overwhelming fear and uncertainty. Yet, through it all, nothing has managed to deter the indomitable spirit of Manakayam. Latha remains steadfast in her commitment to caring for the saplings entrusted to her as part of the agroforestry project. She credits the transformative impact of the Nabard TDF project as a pivotal moment in her life, one that has brought hope and resilience to the community of Manakkayam hamlet.

Without the intervention of the TDF project, Latha believes that the families of Manakkayam would have faced unimaginable hardship and suffering. In the face of adversity, Latha stands as a beacon of strength and determination, a testament to the power of perseverance in the face of adversity.



Events in July

Inauguration of Integrated Tribal Development Programme at Kulathoopuzha first in Kollam

Thanal, in partnership with NABARD is launching a five year project to improve the livelihood of tribal communities in Kulathupuzha Panchayath. The official inauguration will be done by CGM, NABARD Sri Baiju N Kurup on 8th July at Kadamakudy Mahadeva temple auditorium on July 8, 2024.



TRIBAL DEVELOPMENT FUND INTEGRATED TRIBAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT - 2024 - 2029



Account Details Account name :Thanal
Account number : 21780100017799
Bank name : Federal Bank, Sasthamangalam
IFSC code : FDRL0002178

Your donation, regardless of its size, holds the power to catalyse positive change towards a greener and more equitable 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, manures 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 invaluable.



People Planet

Sustainability

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