



THANAL

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EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES
SUSTAINABLE WATER SOLUTIONS
World Water Day

CELEBRATING
Agroecology & Climate Resilience

2025





It is World Water Day on March 22. As we reflect on the critical importance of freshwater and the urgent need for glacier preservation, the whole world is facing a stark reality of escalating water scarcity. With India, despite its abundant water resources (4% of world’s freshwater resources), grappling with severe water stress and pollution due to rapid urbanisation, industrialisation and rise in population (India has 18% of the world’s population), the call for sustainable water management has never been more pressing. In this context, however small our efforts are, Thanal works with NABARD in the Integrated Tribal Development Project (ITDP) in Kulathupuzha to address these challenges at the grassroots level. Recognising the direct impact of water scarcity on local communities, we've implemented targeted initiatives to ensure reliable water access. This month, we are constructing a borewell in Arippa hamlet, hoping to secure year-round water availability for agriculture and livelihoods. In Peruvazhikala hamlets, specifically Randam Mile and Vattakarikom, we renovated three ponds and distributed pumps and motors, empowering Self-Help Groups (SHGs) to overcome water scarcity in their farming endeavors. Building on these successes, further pond renovations are planned, with one currently underway in Cherukara hamlet. Through these initiatives, we hope to foster sustainable water practices and community resilience in the face of increasing water stress.

Meenangadi Panchayat bags Swaraj Trophy award for the 4th consecutive Year



Meenangadi Panchayath received the Swaraj Trophy Award for the fourth consecutive year for the best grama panchayath in Wayanad. and also secured 2nd prize for the efficient organisation and deployment of MGNREG schemes in the Panchayath. Panachayath President Sri Vinayan attributed the success to the colleagues and staffs sincerity and hardwork . Several political leaders, including MP Rajesh, delivered speeches highlighting the importance of sustainable development and local

governance. The event was a proud moment for Meenangadi Panchayat and a recognition of its efforts in sustainable and community-driven initiatives. This was also a proud and gratifying moment for the Thanal team who have been working closely with Panchayath on its climate literacy, sustainable development and carbon neutral initiatives.

Celebrating Excellence in Agroecology: Smt. Thankamani Suresh Wins Kisan Jyothi Award 2025

Congratulations to our organic farmer Smt. Thankamani Suresh for receiving the **Kisan Jyothi Award 2025**, presented by Meenangadi panchayath and krishibhavan, in recognition of her remarkable contributions to organic farming and land restoration.

With a deep commitment to Agroecology, Thankamani has transformed fallow lands into farming fields with thriving ecosystems, cultivated indigenous rice varieties, vegetables, tubers and spices while ensuring land conservation and soil health. Her dedication extends beyond her own farm—she actively leads and empowers fellow farmers to adopt climate resilient, sustainable agricultural practices.

At Thanal, we are happy and proud to support and handhold farmers like Thankamani in their journey towards agroecology. We currently work with nearly 400 women farmers in Wayanad who practise agroecology, proving that farming can be both environmentally responsible and economically viable. Her journey is a strong reminder that traditional wisdom, combined with innovation, can create a more sustainable future for farming.



Thanal Attends International Workshop on Wetland Greenhouse Gas Estimation

Reflections by Anju M Nair

Attending the International Workshop on Wetland Greenhouse Gas Estimation was an insightful experience, bringing together experts and researchers to discuss advancements in wetland methane and carbon dynamics and emission modeling. The sessions covered key methodologies for estimating greenhouse gas fluxes, the role of wetlands in methane emission, and the latest tools for data collection and analysis.

The two days workshop was organised by Amrita Centre for Wireless Networks and Application on 3rd and 4th February 2025 at Vallikkavu, Kollam district of Kerala, India. Two International experts gave us guidance and hands-on learning experience. Prof. Mark O Gessner from IGB & Institute of Ecology, Technische Universitat, Berlin | TUB. He is an expert in Eco-hydrological processes in inland water bodies. Dr Armando Sepulveda- Jauregui from Leibniz- Institute of Freshwater Ecology & Inland Fisheries, IGB, Stechlin, Germany. He is an expert in field based estimation of carbon biogeochemistry. One of my key takeaways was the importance of standardized methodologies to improve the accuracy of emissions reporting and ensuring better integration into climate policies. Engaging discussions with fellow participants also highlighted the need for continued collaboration to bridge knowledge gaps and enhance global monitoring efforts.

Overall, this workshop reinforced the critical role of wetlands in climate change mitigation and inspired new approaches to improving greenhouse gas estimation. I look forward to applying these insights in future projects and collaborations.



Carbon Neutral Awareness Programs

On February 16, 2025, an awareness session was held as part of the Carbon Neutral Meenangadi (CNM) initiative, at the Meenangadi Panchayath. Thanal team is conducting such sessions across the panchayat in gramasabhas, schools, colleges and offices. This session, focused on practical sustainable living, was conducted for the Kudumbashree members, with 18 participants from three different Kudumbashree groups attending. It began with an introduction to the CNM concept and an explanation of the community's pivotal role in achieving its carbon-neutral goals.

A poster exhibition showcased various CNM projects. Each initiative's benefits were explained interactively, helping participants gain a deeper understanding of their significance.

One of the highlights of the session was the discussion on energy-efficient stoves, which sparked significant interest as participants delved into their mechanisms, benefits, and challenges in adoption. Composting practices also generated conversations, with issues such as limited resources and lack of guidance also were raised. Solutions were suggested to overcome these barriers. The session also addressed menstrual health, particularly focusing on menstrual cups, with strategies shared to increase their acceptance and ease of use. Bamboo cultivation and the creation of community parks were discussed as essential elements for sustainability. The ecological and economic value of bamboo was emphasized, along with the importance of community parks in fostering biodiversity and community engagement. The session concluded with practical household sustainability tips, including waste segregation, organic farming, and water conservation, empowering participants to take meaningful steps toward sustainability.



Do you want to know more about our Carbon Neutral Program? Follow this series on Instagram https://www.instagram.com/reel/DGFsw7GSXjO/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link&igsh=MzRIODBiNWFIZA==

Unity Blooms: ORUMA SHG's Success Story

In a shining example of community spirit and sustainable agriculture, the ORUMA Self-Help Group (SHG) in Kulathupuzha, under the guidance of Thanal's collaborative NABARD project, has achieved remarkable success! This dynamic group of 16 women, embodying the true meaning of "ORUMA" (unity), has not only embraced organic farming practices but has also become a powerful force for positive change in their community.

Building upon their previous triumphs in cultivating organic vegetables through the nutri-garden scheme – including bountiful harvests of ash gourd, bitter gourd, cowpea, and brinjal, ORUMA has now taken a significant leap forward in promoting soil health and sustainable practices.

Their latest achievement? The production and distribution of over 700 kilograms of high-quality, Trichoderma-enriched compost, selling it for an impressive Rs 21,000! This initiative, part of the integrated tribal development project, demonstrates their commitment to enriching the soil naturally and fostering healthy plant growth.

The women of ORUMA have not only mastered the art of creating this beneficial compost but are also planning to expand their sales to reach even wider markets, ensuring that more farmers can benefit from this sustainable solution.

This story is a testament to the power of unity, the dedication of the ORUMA SHG, and the effectiveness of Thanal's approach to empowering communities through organic farming and sustainable practices. We are incredibly proud of their achievements and are inspired by their commitment to building a healthier and more sustainable future for Kulathupuzha.



Learning experience with Thanal

Jagjeewan S Dhami

Jagjeewan Dhami is doing his MSc in Forestry in Kumaun University, Nainital, Uttarakhand. During his internship with us, one of his assignments was to find solutions for mitigating wild animal attacks in tribal hamlets of Kulathupuzha , Kollam and help protect their crops.

“

From December 16th to February 16th, I worked in three districts of Kerala as part of my internship at Thanal. I spent most of my time in the Kulathupuzha region of Kollam district, which shares its border with the Shendurney Wildlife Sanctuary. This area is home to the Kani tribe, one of the oldest Adivasi communities in the world. The community has a deep connection with cultivation and agriculture, while also excelling in fishing and hunting.

During my time here, I conducted an extensive survey for over a month, visiting these hamlets daily. My primary task was to understand the impact of wildlife on their crops and the challenges they face due to animal invasions and to suggest mitigation measures. After speaking to the community members, I was able to identify some specific patterns and could recommend some measures which are likely to mitigate the wild animal attacks in the region. Along with my work, we explored the nearby forests, around Villumala and Peruvazikala hamlets, which are rich in bird and butterfly diversity.

Being a person from himalayan region and a vegetarian, I initially faced some difficulties adjusting to the local cuisine, as I usually consume more Chapati than rice. However, the variety and richness of Kerala's rice and vegetable spreads and its unique flavours left a lasting impression on me. It was a cultural and culinary learning experience.

It was not just fieldwork; it was an experience that changed my perspective on conservation. Before coming here, I was familiar with wildlife and forest conservation, but after working with Thanal

organization, I gained in-depth knowledge about agroecology, tribal agriculture, and compost making. It strengthened my observation skills, adaptability, and ability to learn from the grassroots level, which will be useful in my future endeavors. In all seven hamlets, I was talking to the hamlet people, and the way they were treating me was heartwarming. I was completely unfamiliar with the Malayalam language, yet I managed to gather data with the help of my team and the local people.





My Learnings from the Internship:

- Understood the struggles of tribal farmers dealing with wildlife interference in their farming.
- Learned about traditional Adivasi agricultural practices and their deep-rooted connection with nature.
- Developed interpersonal skills by engaging with local communities and understanding their way of life.
- Experienced the biodiversity and forest ecosystem of Kerala, which broadened my perspective on conservation and sustainability.
- Adapted to a new cultural and culinary environment, expanding my understanding of different lifestyles. ””

Want to set up a butterfly garden?



Watch this video to know how to set up a butterfly garden
[https://www.instagram.com/reel/DGkkgPPyOu4/?
utm_source=ig_web_copy_link&igsh=MzRIODBiNWFIZA==](https://www.instagram.com/reel/DGkkgPPyOu4/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link&igsh=MzRIODBiNWFIZA==)



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