



# UPDATES

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11

Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives Philippines, Inc. (GIAAI)  
Citizen consumer and civic Action Group (CAG)  
Thanal Trust

COP30  
BRASIL  
AMAZÔNIA  
BELÉM 2025

*“COP30 showed that climate cooperation is alive and kicking, keeping humanity in the fight for a livable planet.”*

*— Simon Stiell, UN Climate Chief*

2025



November was a month of global visibility and grounded local action. As the world gathered in Belém for COP30, Thanal shared Kerala's story of decentralised waste management, agroecology, and community-led climate action with international audiences. Back home, teams continued their steady work across soil health, livelihoods, water security, and climate innovation. New training sessions, community participation, and school-based initiatives reflected how climate resilience grows through people, practice, and perseverance. These stories from November show how global conversations and local efforts move together toward a more sustainable future.

## Cover Story

# Thanal at COP30 Brazil Local Voices at a Global Table

Thanal represented Kerala and India at COP30 in Belém, Brazil, where Executive Director C Jayakumar participated as part of the GAIA and PAN Asia Pacific delegations.

At GAIA's official side event titled "From Landfills to Livelihoods: A Just Transition for Methane Reduction", he presented Kerala's experience in decentralised waste management and community participation. He shared how local governments, waste picker networks, women's collectives, and small enterprises created a people-centred system that reduces methane and supports green livelihoods.

At the Super Pollutant Solutions Pavilion, he

spoke on Methane and Ozone, highlighting Kerala's work in agroecology, zero waste, and decentralised waste systems. These engagements affirmed that Kerala's climate action model is gaining international relevance.

Thanal also contributed to the Agroecology Case Study Series released by Pesticide Action Network (PAN) and global partners. The series documented community-led farming efforts from across India, with Thanal's work presented as a model for ecological resilience. Throughout COP30, Kerala's message remained consistent: when communities act together, climate solutions become both practical and just.



# Carbon Neutral Meenangadi

## Community Engagement and Data Strengthening Across the Panchayat

November focused on deepening community participation and strengthening data systems across Meenangadi. The CNM team worked closely with households, farmers, and local institutions to support informed climate decisions and improve the accuracy of ongoing project components.

## MNREGA Plantation and Temple Garden Planning at Purakkadi



The CNM team monitored progress of the MNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act) plantation at Purakkadi, where five hundred saplings representing fifty six native varieties were

planted over 1.6 acres. Regular follow ups tracked survival rates and irrigation needs.

Discussions with the Purakkadi Temple Committee and Aamees Garden led to the planning of a sustainable flower garden for temple use. A list of culturally significant flowering species was prepared to guide plantation design. The initiative supports local biodiversity while reducing dependence on external flower supply.

## Solar Monitoring in Anganwadis



Solar installations at Thachambath and Mundanadapp Anganwadis were closely monitored through field inspections, bill reviews, and final checks with an electrician. The assessments confirmed that the systems are functioning efficiently and have reduced grid electricity use. The monitoring offers valuable insights for future renewable energy planning within the Panchayat.

## Mapping the Panchayat's Solar Capacity

On 7 November, the CNM team met with the Panchayat Secretary to consolidate data on solar installations across the Panchayat.

Information on system types, capacities, and locations was compiled into a single resource document. The mapping exercise provides a foundation for future emission reduction strategies and helps the Panchayat understand its current renewable energy potential.

## **Planting Initiative at Manikavu Devaswom**

A field visit on 12 November to Manikavu Temple explored possibilities for new plantation work on Devaswom land. Two planting areas of about 1.25 acres were identified. An official proposal was submitted outlining irrigation needs, layout plans, and an estimated requirement of eight hundred and fifty saplings. The inauguration is expected next month.

## **Mannorukkam Strengthening Soil and Community**

### **Field Visits Strengthen Farmer-Led Soil Knowledge**

Regular field visits continued through November with the soil team collecting updated data from master farmers and offering guidance on organic input use, soil moisture regulation, and pest management challenges. These visits help tailor recommendations to field realities and deepen farmer confidence in ecological practices.

## **Soil Samples and Seasonal Input Kits Distributed**

Master farmers provided soil samples which were tested for key parameters including pH, nutrient balance, and organic carbon. Input kits containing essential biofertilizers and organic amendments were distributed based on the results. The personalised support improved farmers' understanding of soil needs ahead of the next planting cycle.

## **Master Farmers Prepare Liquid Bioinputs**

Several master farmers prepared liquid bioinputs including Jeevamrutham, fish amino acids, and microbial solutions for in situ soil enrichment. The Mannorukkam team provided regular guidance to ensure correct preparation, fermentation, and field application. These inputs support low cost cultivation and reduce dependency on external inputs.

## **Hands On Training with the Arkashine Soil Testing Team**

Representatives from Arkashine Innovation Pvt Ltd conducted a hands-on demonstration of their soil testing machine at the CNM Lab. The session covered equipment handling, calibration, safety measures, reagent preparation, and interpretation of results. Three soil samples were analysed during the training, after which the soil team independently completed a test to reinforce their learning. This strengthened technical capacity and improved the accuracy of soil health assessments under Mannorukkam.

# ITDP Kulathupuzha Livelihoods, Water, and Training

## CSR Water Project Nears Completion in Arippa

The CSR funded water resource development project in Arippa Hamlet is nearly complete. The borewell, pump house, and distribution outlets are now functional, bringing water closer to sixteen households. The improved availability will support drinking water needs and encourage small scale horticulture.

## Pond Renovation Improves Water Access

Renovation of the pond at Villumala Hamlet was completed, significantly improving water access for households and livestock. The pond will support year round water storage and enhance community resilience during dry months.



## Training and Capacity Building

November saw continued skill-building efforts across hamlets:

### Apiculture Training



Participants from multiple hamlets took part in practical sessions on bee box handling, hive care, pest prevention, and sustainable honey production. The training helped improve confidence and readiness among new beekeepers.

### Organic Farming Sessions

Farmers attended classes focused on pepper and banana management, soil nourishment, compost preparation, pest prevention, and intercropping practices. The sessions emphasised ecological solutions that reduce dependency on chemical inputs.

These trainings continue to strengthen indigenous communities by improving skills, reducing risks, and enhancing household-level resilience.

### Petty Shop Strengthens Women's Livelihoods

A new petty shop was set up as part of livelihood support for women in the Villumala hamlet. The shop provides daily essentials for the local community and offers a steady income stream for the beneficiary. Regular monitoring continues to help stabilise operations.

## Success Story



Santha from Cherukara once doubted whether development projects could bring real change in her life. Through the ITDP initiative, she received 18 poultry birds and a cage along with regular guidance that helped her turn a small start into a steady source of income.

She also learned to prepare Trichoderma-enriched manure using cow dung, creating an additional livelihood option that supports soil health in her community.

Her progress grew stronger after joining the Keerthi SHG. Savings, peer support, and interest-free credit helped her move away from high-interest loans that once caused financial stress. Today she manages her expenses with confidence and meets her household needs without debt.

At 66, Santha has built a livelihood based on stability and dignity. One of her proudest moments was using her own earnings to buy Onam gifts for her grandchildren, a simple act that reflects a larger transformation. Her journey shows how consistent support and community networks can unlock meaningful change at any stage of life.

## CSR Updates

### KIMS Health CSR Food Processing and Flour Mill Units Continue Steady Growth

The chapathi making unit and flour mill in Meenangadi continued stable operations throughout November. Both units expanded their product range to include snacks, pickles, spice mixes, and masalas made from locally sourced ingredients. Updated packaging and branding improved market visibility.

Sales continued to be consistent, with the Food Processing Unit recording total sales of one lakh twenty eight thousand rupees and the Flour Mill Unit reaching one lakh nine thousand rupees. Discussions with supermarkets, local

retailers, and institutional buyers advanced further, strengthening pathways for regular supply.



# Engagements & Partnerships

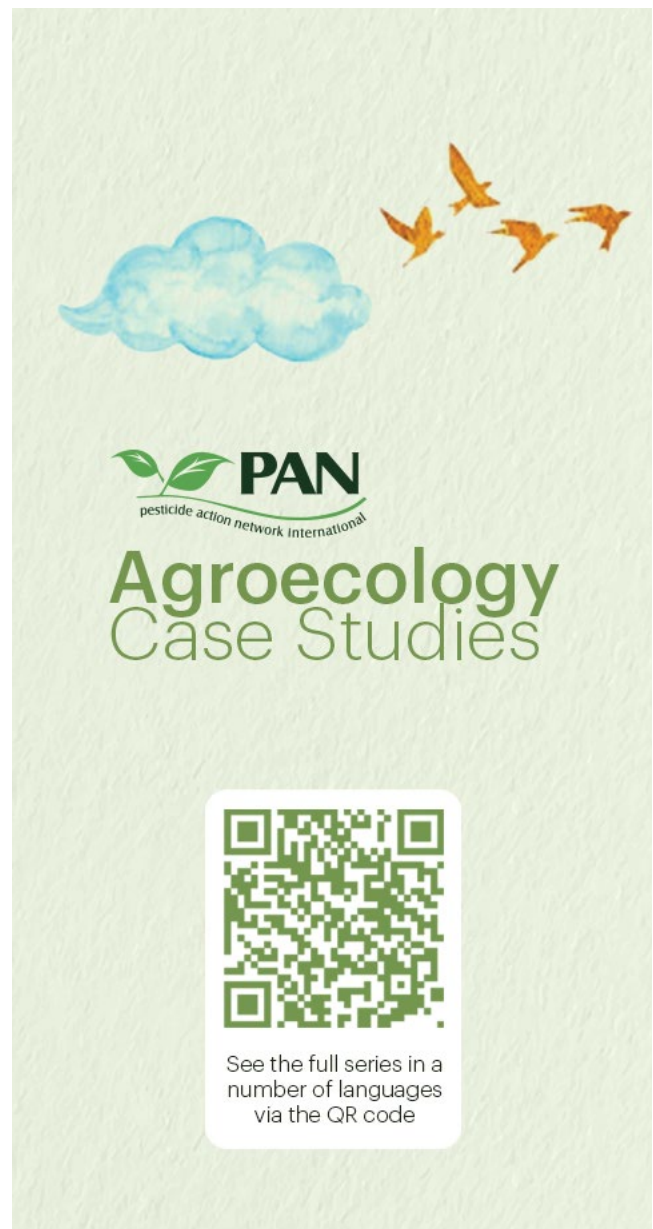
## Thanal at COP30 Brazil

Thanal participated in COP30 in Belém, Brazil, where Executive Director C. Jayakumar contributed Kerala's experience in decentralised waste management, agroecology, and community-led climate action. Alongside sessions at the GAIA side event and the Super Pollutant Solutions Pavilion, he also attended COP do Povo, engaging with grassroots leaders, practitioners, and climate networks from across the world. Thanal's presence carried a clear message. Local action builds global climate resilience, and Kerala's communities continue to model pathways that are practical, inclusive, and rooted in lived experience.



## Agroecology Case Studies Released with Global Partners

Thanal contributed to the Agroecology Case Study Series released at COP30, developed with Pesticide Action Network Asia Pacific and global partners. The series brings together stories of community-led farming, seed sovereignty, and ecological resilience from around the world. Kerala's experience through Thanal forms a key part of this collection. The booklet is now available digitally, and a QR code will be included in this edition for easy access.



# Training for PGS Organic Farmers at Kovalam Demo Farm



In November, Thanal staff conducted a practical training session for PGS organic farmers at the Kovalam Demonstration Farm. The session focused on preparing organic manures, fermented inputs, and natural pest repellents using locally available materials. Farmers engaged actively, sharing field challenges and learning techniques that can be applied immediately in their farms. The session strengthened Thanal's ongoing commitment to supporting farmer networks and promoting ecological cultivation across Kerala.



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