



# UPDATES

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Rooted  
in the Soil,  
Growing  
Hope



INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE  
**WOMAN FARMER**  
2026

**2026**  
HAPPY  
NEW YEAR



## Carbon Neutral Meenangadi

### Maintaining Green Spaces and Climate Infrastructure

Routine maintenance and follow-up continued at the Purakkadi Smrithivanam site during December. The CNM team monitored sapling survival, cleared invasive growth, and ensured the planted area remains protected and healthy. These follow-ups are essential to sustaining the ecological intent of the site beyond inauguration.

At the Government Higher Secondary School, Meenangadi, the Augmented Weather Station (AWS) underwent inspection and minor corrective work. The team reviewed system performance, addressed technical issues, and ensured uninterrupted data flow. The AWS continues to support local farmers and planners with reliable, real-time weather data for informed decision-making.



December arrived with a quieter pace. A month of year-end reflection and moments of pause, even as the work continued. Across Thanal's projects, teams stayed rooted in care and follow-through, tending to soils, water systems, livelihoods, and learning spaces shaped through the year.

From classrooms and farms to community spaces and institutions, December's efforts reflected a commitment to continuity rather than speed. Maintenance, training, and steady support shaped the month, reminding us that meaningful change often grows through attention and patience.

As the year drew to a close and the new one came into view, these small but essential acts carried forward the values that guide our work. Collaboration, trust, and a belief that climate action lives in everyday practice.



## Mannorukkam | Soil, Schools, and Awareness

World Soil Day Observed with Students at Manikavu



World Soil Day was observed on 5 December at NAAUPS Manikavu School as part of the Mannorukkam project. The session introduced students to soil health, conservation, and sustainable farming in a simple and engaging way.

Through interactive discussions and live demonstrations using soil samples, students learned about soil formation, different soil types, and the role of soil in food systems and ecosystem balance. A poster-making activity encouraged creative expression around soil protection and sustainability.

The programme helped build early awareness among students and strengthened Mannorukkam's outreach beyond fields, reinforcing the importance of soil education in schools across Meenangadi.

## ITDP Kulathupuzha

## Water Access Improves as Infrastructure Nears Completion



At Arippa Hamlet, the CSR-funded water resource development project moved into its final stage during December. Households now receive water through a borewell, pump house, and distribution system, easing long-standing water scarcity and supporting horticulture and daily needs. Final works such as painting and masonry are ongoing and nearing completion.

Pond renovation works at Kadamancode and Kuzhaviyodu Hamlets also progressed. At Kadamancode, the motor pump and water supply system are already operational, while remaining civil works are advancing steadily. With these developments, most planned water interventions under the project are now nearing completion, strengthening agricultural resilience and community well-being.

## Livelihood Trainings Continue Across Hamlets



Skill-based livelihood trainings continued across multiple hamlets in Kulathupuzha. Apiculture training focused on hive management, disease prevention, and sustainable honey production, with close monitoring of master farmers to reduce losses.

Tailoring classes enabled women to stitch garments and blouses, reducing household expenses and creating income opportunities. Additional trainings in soap, lotion, and candle making introduced women to small-scale enterprise options rooted in creativity and self-reliance. These ongoing efforts continue to build confidence, skills, and income pathways for tribal households.

## SUCCESS STORY



## Radhakrishnan Rebuilds Livelihood Through Small Livestock

At 74, Radhakrishnan from Manakayam hamlet found a renewed source of livelihood through the NABARD-supported TDF project. With support that included goats, chickens, training, and regular follow-up visits, he began

livestock rearing without prior experience.

Over time, income from goat sales, eggs, and meat improved his financial independence and stability. Beyond income, the project helped build confidence and security in later years, showing how sustained handholding and appropriate support can restore dignity and livelihood even at an advanced age.

## ENGAGEMENTS & CAPACITY BUILDING

### PGS Training Conducted with Kaipad Farmers in Kannur



PGS Project Coordinator Ajin K. Shyjlil visited the Malabar Kaipad Farmer Producer Company in Kannur to conduct a training session on Participatory Guarantee System certification. The session covered the principles, benefits, and processes of PGS, with a focus on peer inspection and collective responsibility.

Farmers engaged in discussions on field verification, transparency, and trust-based certification systems that strengthen organic farming communities.

### Session on Plastics at Kerala Law Academy NSS Camp



On 29 December, Thanal conducted a session on plastics at Kerala Law Academy, Peroorkada, as part of the institution's

NSS camp. The session covered types of plastics, their impacts, challenges in waste management, and broader environmental and health implications.

Participants engaged actively with the discussion, gaining a comprehensive understanding of plastic pollution and the need for both systemic and individual action. The session connected legal education with environmental responsibility, reinforcing the role of informed citizens in addressing plastic pollution.

## NEWS & EVENTS

### Thanal at the Agro Biodiversity Conference, Vellayani



The agroecology team participated in the Agro Biodiversity Conference organised by the Kerala Biodiversity Board and Kerala Agricultural University at the College of Agriculture, Vellayani, on 22 and 23 December.

They attended sessions covering soil health, organic farming, challenges of monocropping, and genome conservation. Thanal also hosted a stall showcasing its work, projects, and publications. The space enabled dialogue with farmers, students, officials, and researchers, while book resources from Thanal were shared and sold, expanding outreach and visibility.

## SHG Products Reach Wider Audiences at UNARVU Fest



ITDP Kulathupuzha participated in the three-day UNARVU Fest exhibition and sales event organised by the Kerala Association for Rural Development. The stall showcased organic manure, banana products, flour mill items from Karshakasree SHGs, pickles, and palm broom products.

The exhibition provided women with hands-on exposure to marketing and customer engagement. Hon. MP Sri. N. K. Premachandran visited the stall and was presented with SHG products. The event helped boost sales and build confidence among women producers while expanding visibility for their work.

## Thanal Releases 2026 Calendar Honouring Women Farmers



Thanal released its 2026 calendar in December, marking the International Year of Women Farmers. The calendar features twelve women farmers from across Thanal's projects, sharing photographs and brief stories drawn from their everyday agricultural practice.

The calendar brings attention to the often unseen work that sustains soils, food systems, and local livelihoods.



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