



UPDATES

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Dr. Jane Goodall (1934–2025)

*"What you do makes a difference,
and you have to decide what kind of
difference you want to make."*



2025

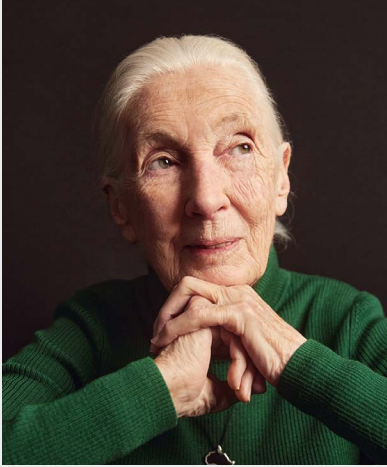




September was a month that reminded us of the power of collective action. Communities took steps toward resilience by planting trees, forming farmer groups, learning new skills, and celebrating achievements. From Panchayats exchanging knowledge on carbon neutrality to SHGs gaining confidence through festivals and enterprise, each effort reflected how small beginnings can grow into wider change. These are stories of people taking ownership, of villages finding strength, and of the environment becoming a shared responsibility.

In memory of

|Dr. Jane Goodall



We mourn the passing of Dr. Jane Goodall, a luminary whose life work bridged compassion, science, and conservation. A pioneering primatologist and conservationist, she transformed how the world understands our connection to nature. She showed that animals are sentient beings with emotions and social bonds, and she dedicated her life to protecting forests, advocating for animal welfare, and inspiring young people to act for the planet.

Her legacy continues to guide us at Thanal. She reminds us that change begins with listening, empathy, and small steps rooted in respect for all beings.

Awareness Session at Manivayal Ward

Carbon Neutral
Meenangadi



An awareness session was held at Manivayal Ward with 11 Kudumbashree members, including the Ward Member. The session explained climate change and the greenhouse gas effect in simple terms and connected them to everyday life. Participants discussed

how waste management, efficient energy use, and eco-friendly lifestyles can reduce impacts. They also learned about the objectives of the Carbon Neutral Meenangadi project and the importance of community involvement in shaping the Panchayat's vision.

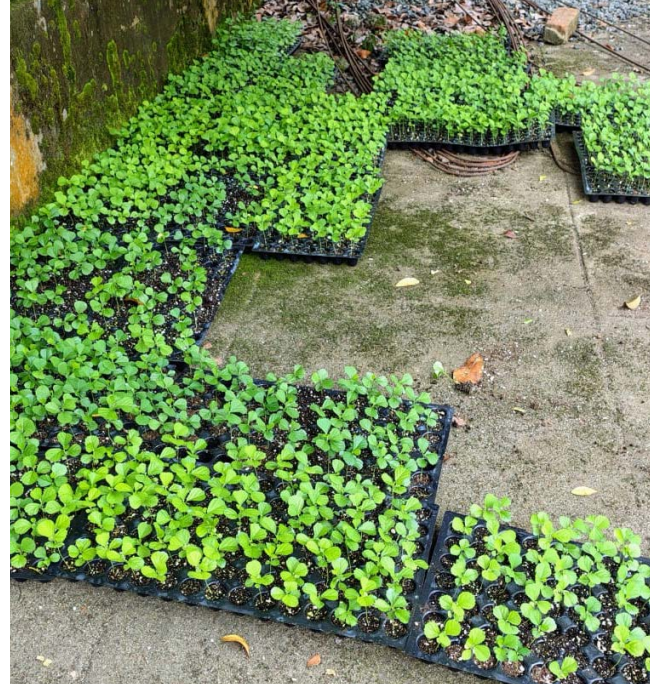
Veliyannoor Panchayat Team Learns from Meenangadi



On 16 September, a 30-member delegation from Veliyannoor Panchayat visited Meenangadi to study its carbon-neutral practices. The team included the Panchayat President, ward members, Secretary, VEO, and other officials. The Thanal team and the Meenangadi Panchayat President led discussions on waste management, renewable energy, afforestation, energy-efficient stoves, and community participation.

Participants spoke openly about the challenges of implementing similar practices in Veliyannoor, given its different landscape. By the end of the visit, their doubts turned into determination. The Panchayat has now decided to seek Thanal's technical support to start carbon-neutral initiatives of their own.

Plantation Efforts Begin in Manivayal Pachathuruth



At Manivayal Pachathuruth, members of the community worked together to prepare the land for planting. Using funds left from a tiller initiative, brush cutting was carried out. Fifty trays of Kurunthotti saplings were received from Ambalavayal and planting began with the participation of 14 members. The effort combined preparation and plantation, showing the strength of working as a group toward ecological restoration.

Thanal Honoured for Leading Sustainability in Meenangadi



On 28 September, a recognition ceremony at Manivayal Sickle Cell Anemia Hall celebrated the collective achievements of Meenangadi Panchayat's 19th Ward. Nearly 40 people gathered as students, MNREGA workers, organic farmers, the Krishi Officer, and Haritha Karma Sena members were acknowledged for their contributions.

Among the honours, Thanal received special recognition for its continuous role in shaping Meenangadi's sustainability journey. The Panchayat highlighted how Thanal has built awareness, guided community participation, and supported eco-friendly practices through the Carbon Neutral Meenangadi initiative.

Success Story



At 58, Presanna from Kurubanmoozhy has created a livelihood she never thought

possible. She received three goats and 24 chickens with a cage through the NABARD TDF project. With training and mentoring, she began rearing animals for income. Today she earns nearly ₹1 lakh from goat sales and adds a steady weekly income from eggs.

Her life has changed beyond finances. Once hesitant to speak and limited in options, she is now active in her SHG and is planning to start a small snack shop in her hamlet. Presanna's journey shows how the right support and determination can rebuild lives even in later years.

Smrithivanam Prepares to Open

Preparations continued in September for Smrithivanam at Purakkadi. The three-acre site was surveyed, GPS data collected, and land finalised. Measurements between trees were taken and fencing arrangements are underway. The project, created in memory of Sugathakumari Teacher, will combine conservation and learning. It will feature native plants of the Western Ghats, an open-air classroom, and a museum, making it a living space for both biodiversity and education.

Mannorukkam Building Soil Knowledge Through Farmer Groups

Mannorukkam is Thanal's soil health programme in Meenangadi, part of the Panchayat's carbon-neutral journey. It works to improve soil fertility through ecological farming and farmer-led learning.

Seven New Women's Clusters Formed

Seven organic clusters were formed across Meenangadi during September, bringing together women farmers to learn and share. Sessions focused on soil types, rainfall, pH, preparation of Jeevamrutham, the role of green manures, and pest management. Clusters were formed in Ambalappadi, Cheeramkunnu, Kakkavayal, Kolambatta, Sudhikavala, and Choothupara. Farmers voiced their struggles with mealy bugs in papaya, tomato wilt, cowpea and chilli leaf curl, and monkey raids. These clusters are now acting as community platforms for peer learning, problem solving, and collective resilience.

POLIMA Onam Fest Brings Sales and Confidence

On 2 and 3 September, POLIMA Onam Fest at Organic Bazaar, Kowdiar, brought SHGs from Kulathupuzha into the spotlight. Sales touched ₹50,000 in two days. Visitors included teachers, women workers, auto drivers, officials, and community members, many of whom placed pre-orders.

Stalls displayed homemade food, honey, palm brooms, vegetables, medicinal plants, and crafts like bamboo puttu makers and wooden spoons. The event gave women confidence in entrepreneurship and direct connections with customers.



Thanal Shares Organic Farming Experience at National Workshop



In September, a workshop on Organic Farming brought together practitioners and policymakers to discuss achievements and challenges in the sector. Representing Thanal, Executive Director Sri. Jayakumar C delivered a session on "Organic Farming Experience of Thanal: Achievements and Way Forward."

His presentation highlighted Thanal's pioneering role in promoting ecological farming, farmer networks, and soil health initiatives such as Carbon Neutral Meenangadi and Mannorukkam. The talk also stressed the way forward: scaling farmer-led approaches, strengthening seed sovereignty, and building resilience to climate change.

The workshop underlined the importance of sharing experiences across organisations and reaffirmed Thanal's position as a knowledge leader in the organic farming movement.

Thanal at GAIA South East Asia Consultation in Nepal

Executive Director Sri. Jayakumar C represented Thanal at the GAIA South East Asia Members' Consultation held in Kathmandu,



Nepal. The four-day gathering brought together 61 participants from 35 organisations across nine countries to strengthen solidarity and chart the way forward for a Zero Waste future.

Discussions centred on real solutions, just transition, and the power of people-led movements.

The meeting also marked the 25th anniversary of GAIA, celebrating a global network that continues to connect and inspire organisations working toward a waste-free world. For Thanal, it was an opportunity to stand with allies across South Asia and reaffirm our commitment to advancing the Zero Waste vision.

Water and Soil Investments in Kulathupuzha



Water projects in Kulathupuzha moved forward in September. At Arippa, a borewell and pump house reached 70 percent completion, bringing water closer to households. At Villumala, pond construction reached 75 percent progress. Compost ring units are being built to turn household waste into farm inputs that can also be sold for income.

Training Roundup Tailoring and Beekeeping

Tailoring classes at Kadamancod helped women learn to stitch children's clothes, saving money and creating freelance opportunities. Beekeeping training at Kadamancod and Kuzhaviyod focused on hive management and splitting. An orientation for new apiculture beneficiaries was held at the ITDP office, building both skill and confidence in sustainable practices.



Governance and Community

Pathanamthitta TDF Project Closes Society Charts New Path

On 22 September, the final meeting of the Village Planning Committee (VPC) for the NABARD TDF project in Pathanamthitta was held at Thanal's Ranni office. The session was chaired by VPC President Rajappan, with Pathanamthitta DDM Shri Vishnu, Thanal CEO Smt. Manju M. Nair, and Executive Director Shri Jayakumar present. Thirteen VPC members attended.

The meeting confirmed the official closure of the project. The joint account under the VPC will be wound up, with ₹5,63,852 transferred to the Pamba Tribal Society and ₹33,936 to

NABARD. Members shared reflections on how the project had strengthened incomes and stability in their hamlets.

Looking ahead, the society decided to adopt QR codes for all financial transactions, set up a seasonal hub during the Sabarimala pilgrimage, and open a special shop run by members from Manakkam to serve pilgrims. These decisions mark the transition from a project-led model to one owned and driven by the community, carrying forward the gains of the Pathanamthitta TDF initiative.



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