



THANAL UPDATES

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UPDATES ON TDF PROGRAMS
LIVELIHOOD PROGRAMS IN KULATHOOPUZHA

2025



NABARD ITDP Projects empowering remote hamlets

Pathanamthitta, In a significant step towards empowering tribal communities, the NABARD Integrated Tribal Development Fund (TDF) project has taken root in five tribal hamlets of the Ranni block — Karikulam, Kurumbanmozhy, Manakkayam, Adichippuzha, and Cholanavayal. These hamlets, nestled within the villages of Pazhavangadi and Kollamula under the Naranamoozhi Grama Panchayat, collectively span an area of 33.61 km².

As the groundwork is laid, the project now enters its implementation phase — a journey that hopes to transform lives, preserve cultural identity, and build resilient tribal communities in the heart of Kerala.



SWEET SUCCESS: HONEY SALES BOOST TRIBAL LIVELIHOODS IN KURUMBANMOOZHY

A small yet impactful initiative under the NABARD TDF project has brought meaningful income to six tribal beekeepers in Kurumbanmoozhy. On May 5, they sold 49.2 kg of raw, organic honey—harvested from project-provided bee boxes—for ₹19,680 at ₹400 per kg.



Sourced from wildflower-rich forest areas, the honey is pure and chemical-free. After refinement, it was sent to Thiruvananthapuram's Organic Bazaar, providing assured market access and boosting beekeeper confidence.

“This income helps families repay loans and cover essentials, while reinforcing faith in sustainable livelihoods,” said a project official. Encouraged by the success, the team is exploring branding the honey under the society's name to enhance market visibility and profits in future seasons.

Empowering Voices: Focus Group Highlights TDF Project's Positive Impact on Tribal SHGs

Pathanamthitta: A recent focus group discussion (FGD) held across four Self-Help Groups (SHGs) from various tribal hamlets has revealed the transformative impact of the NABARD Integrated Tribal Development Programme (ITDP) project on the lives of its beneficiaries. Conducted as part of the project's monitoring and evaluation efforts, the discussions offered valuable, firsthand insights into how the initiative is shaping both economic and social well-being within tribal communities.

Guided by a structured set of questions, the sessions engaged members from different hamlets, creating a platform for open and reflective conversation. The results were overwhelmingly positive.

Nearly 95% of participants reported earning a consistent secondary income through the project — income that has proven crucial in managing household expenses, repaying debts, and funding their children's education. An encouraging trend observed during the discussions was the responsible financial behavior among SHG members. Several beneficiaries reported starting savings through chit funds within their groups, reflecting improved financial literacy and community-based economic planning fostered by the project.



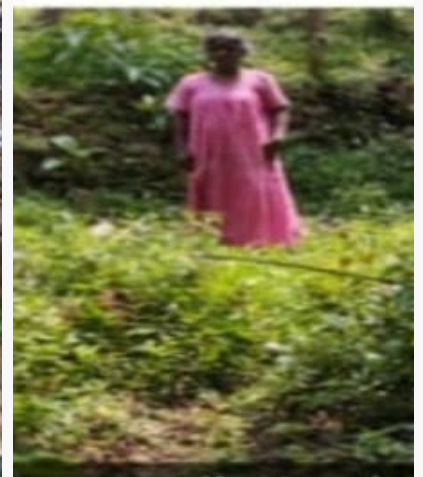
While a few participants admitted facing early challenges, they credited the project's continuous support and training for helping them overcome those hurdles. The discussions were marked by enthusiastic participation, with beneficiaries engaging openly and offering thoughtful responses, further underscoring the depth of the project's grassroots impact.

Food Forests Flourish Amid Challenges in Tribal Hamlets

Thanal's CCF-supported Food Forest Initiative is showing strong early results, with 550 of 650 saplings thriving across 13 tribal sites in Kurumbanmoozhy, Manakayam, Cholanavayal, and Karikulam—some already bearing fruit.

Despite this progress, around 100 saplings were lost to pests, climate challenges, and issues like porcupine attacks and fungal infections in mango plants. Thanal views these as learning opportunities and is planning to replace the damaged saplings with resilient, locally suitable varieties. "This is about more than planting trees—it's about building resilient ecosystems and livelihoods," said ITDP Project coordinator.

The initiative continues to foster environmental stewardship and food security, with growing ownership among tribal households and a strong foundation for long-term impact.





Kulathoopuzha in a path of holistic tribal development

Tailoring Trainings Spark Skill and Interest

As part of ongoing livelihood development efforts, Thanal conducted tailoring training sessions across the hamlets of Villumala, Kadamancode, and Peruvazhikala this month, benefiting 50 participants. Under the guidance of trainer Mrs. Deepa Chandran, a total of nine sessions were held, focusing on practical skills and fashion techniques.

Taking advantage of the vacation period, many beneficiaries attended along with their family members, creating an engaging learning environment. Notably, the sessions also inspired an interest in stitching among children, nurturing a potential hobby and skill from an early age.

Participants learned how to cut and stitch pants, while also exploring new styling methods—enhancing both their confidence and creativity. Enthusiastic participation was noted across all three hamlets, reflecting the growing interest in skill-based livelihood opportunities among tribal communities.



‘Sangamam’ for strengthening community ties

A new Self-Help Group (SHG) named Sangamam was formed at Cherukara hamlet, marking another step forward in community development under the ongoing tribal empowerment initiatives. The group currently comprises eight members, with beneficiary Prakash elected as President and Suma as Secretary.

During the formation meeting, the roles and responsibilities of the President and Secretary, along with the broader purpose of the SHG, were clearly explained. Members were provided with the SHG's rules and regulations, and guidance was given on initiating paperwork for opening a bank account and managing monthly collections.

The SHG aims to serve as a collaborative platform for members to share experiences, build financial literacy, and work together towards common livelihood goals. As part of its ongoing development, members will also be introduced to concepts of savings, credit management, and proper record keeping—laying the foundation for a stronger, self-reliant community.

Hands-On Beekeeping Training Boosts Confidence at Kadamancode Hamlet

A hamlet-level beekeeping training session was conducted at Kadamancode in May, benefiting 15 participants from both previous and current project phases. The session focused on practical skills in handling beehive cages and enhancing honey production.

Beneficiaries learned essential techniques such as cage division for increased yield and have already begun harvesting and selling honey. The training also helped several hesitant participants overcome their fear of bees, with the trainer offering effective tips on handling wasps safely.

The hands-on approach greatly boosted the confidence of the participants, equipping them with the skills needed for successful and sustainable apiculture practices.



Livelihood training class conducted

In this month training class for livelihood poultry was conducted on 21st by veteran doctor Hisham of kulathupuzha veterinary hospital. He began his class by addressing beneficiaries who has experience in poultry rearing, their concerns and expectations. He briefly described about the hi tech cage which will be distributed along with poultry chicks, its importance and specialities and the need for chicks to stay closely in the cage for egg production. He recommended them the food and nutrition for poultry and made them aware about mistakes to avoid while poultry rearing. Beneficiaries were also taught about seasonal care of poultry and tips to increase egg production. It was implied that once their poultry lay eggs, income of selling eggs should be noted for future references.



Kulathupuzha, Kerala, India



Kulathupuzha, Kerala, India

Petty Shops Inaugurated in Tribal Hamlets to Support Sustainable Livelihoods

Two new petty shops were inaugurated this month in the tribal hamlets of Kadamancode and Kallupacha, marking a significant step toward sustainable income generation for local beneficiaries.

On May 19, the petty shop of beneficiary Krishnankutty was inaugurated at Kadamancode by Ward Member Santhosh and VPC President Rajashekaran Kani. Just two days later, on May 21, beneficiary Sukumari's petty shop was launched at Kallupacha by Ward Member Chandrakumar.

Both inaugurations were attended by fellow beneficiaries and received strong local support. The shops aim to provide steady income for the beneficiaries in the years ahead. Encouragingly, both shops reported a good start in their first week and are hopeful for continued success with ongoing support from the Village Planning Committee (VPC).



Enumeration Visit Assesses Project Impact Across Tribal Hamlets

From May 26 to 29, NABARD's Enumerator Mr. Nikhil conducted a detailed field assessment across the hamlets of Cherukara, Peruvazhikala, and Kadamancode, evaluating the progress and impact of ongoing livelihood and horticulture activities under the development project.

During the visit, Mr. Nikhil inspected the benefits received by individual beneficiaries and SHGs, including pond renovation sites. He confirmed that water was being effectively supplied to both SHG-managed fields and individual plots, and noted the conservation of natural springs as part of the water resource development efforts.

The enumerator interacted with SHG members, encouraged continued teamwork, and listened to their concerns. He also reviewed the income beneficiaries had generated through the project and took note of all training and support provided to them.

As part of improving project documentation, Mr. Nikhil recommended that remaining signboards be installed near fish ponds and honeybee boxes. The visit served as a valuable check-in on the ground-level outcomes of the project and reinforced the importance of monitoring and community feedback in ensuring long-term success.



→ Accolades



We are proud to share that the ITDP Kulathupuzha project has been ranked as an 'Excellent' project among 11 NABARD ITDP projects across Kerala. Recognised as a model initiative, this achievement is a testament to the unwavering dedication, teamwork, and commitment of the entire project team.

Kudos to the ITDP Kulathupuzha team for setting a benchmark in community empowerment and sustainable development.

→ Events



Thanal founder member smt Usha S spoke at the three-day Jackfruit Festival held at the Agricultural Research Station, Mannuthy, Thrissur. This was the first-ever jackfruit festival organised by Kerala Agricultural University (KAU) in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture, Ollukkara Block Panchayat, and the Association of Horticulture Professionals.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from farmers, experts, and food enthusiasts. It was heartening to meet many participants who were already familiar with Thanal's work and shared encouraging feedback. The festival served as a vibrant platform to celebrate Kerala's rich jackfruit diversity and promote sustainable food practices.

→ Internship



Joel Sona V

MSW Disaster Management student from Loyola College of Social Sciences



As an intern I got the opportunity to be part of a project working towards reducing the methane emission of Trivandrum Municipal Corporation. The project/study was highly relevant since present waste management scenarios lack effectiveness. The study aimed at quantifying the waste responsible for methane emission. As an intern, I acted as a field investigator and helped the team in collecting primary data for the study.

Friendly working environment in the office allowed me to work effectively without any stress. The team members briefed me about the work before the field work so that I could get the full picture. At first there was some sort of confusion regarding the coordination of the field work, it was resolved at the earliest. It was indeed an experience that contributed to my professional growth as well as my personal growth as a social worker. I feel documenting and showcasing the work of Thanal in a more creative way could boost the growth of this organisation in the coming years.



Thanal is on a mission to champion sustainability circular economy practices reducing carbon emissions organic farming and environmental conservation with a special commitment to uplifting marginalised communities. We invite you to be a catalyst in this mission.

Your donation will help provide resources, education and sustainable livelihoods to communities often overlooked ensuring they actively contribute to and benefit from environmental initiatives. Your contribution will support projects that promote organic farming practices preserving biodiversity ensuring healthier and safer food systems and reducing carbon emissions and preserving our planet's vitality.



Every contribution, big or small, counts.

All donations are eligible for tax exemption under Section 80G of the Income Tax Act.

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