



The year 2016 began with a lot of dreams and hopes; and we are happy to share what we could realise amongst them when the year ended.

The most beautiful and well appreciated effort from around the world was our Rice Diversity Block at Thanal Agroecology Centre, Panavally. The team cultivated 219 indigenous varieties of paddy exploring the idea of 'asynchronous flowering'. This was visited by students, farmer groups, and eminent persons from across the State, including our Agriculture Minister.

From our other initiatives -

- The Seed Festival started by Thanal in 2012 has now spread to other sites in the State along with NABARD and allied organization's support in some of these festivals. We could help organise four seed festivals in the Northern and Central Districts of Kerala.
- Save Our Rice campaign started by Thanal has now expanded to East India, mainly in Chattisgarh, Jharkhand and northeastern Madhya Pradesh. The farmers associated with the campaign have also received awards in recognition of their efforts on seed conservation and seed development.
- Thanal is associated in a leadership role in the Alliance for Sustainable and Holistic Agriculture (ASHA) and could play an active role in the discussion on the impacts related to Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) and raising the concerns of agro-biodiversity and food safety in the issue of release of Genetically Modified Mustard. Our advocacy led to the state government sending letters to the central government on the same issue in the anti GM (Genetically Modified) Crop movement in India – Coalition for a GM-Free India –with a very strong support from Kerala State for the anti GM Mustard campaigns, which lead to the State Agricultural Minister sending a letter to the Central Government.
- Sustainable Resource Use and Management (SRUM) Team has extended campaign support given for Thiruvananthapuram Corporation's 'Ente Nagaram, Sundara Nagaram' (My City, Beautiful City) campaign for source level waste management strategies. The Zero Waste Himalaya group has now expanded to Arunachal Pradesh as well.

Climate Action team was launched as a collaborative effort between our program areas SRUM, with support from Pesticide Action Network (PAN) India and Promotion of Organic Farming (PoF) team. The team facilitated dialogues on creating 'Carbon Neutral Grama Panchayats' and 'Climate Resilient Kerala' with international organizations and State government. We could also collaborate with various agencies to provide inputs for the revision of Kerala's State Action Plan on Climate Change.

- PAN India became a part of an international fact finding mission lead by IUF, Global Network on Food and Nutrition (GNRtFN), and FIAN. The FFM team visited Indian tea plantations (in Assam and West Bengal); and

published a report titled 'A life without dignity - the price of your cup of tea: Abuses and violations of human rights in tea plantations in India'.

- Thanal Agroecology Centre is now recognised as a field learning site of International People's Agroecology Multiversity (IPAM).
- PoF team could support 166 farmers to market their produce, train 60 farmers, many of them women, to become experts in organic farming. Thanal also received a portal in the National Centre of Organic Farming (NCOF) website and is in the process of becoming a Regional Council for the Participatory Guarantee Scheme (PGS) certification of organic farmers.
- The Down to Earth programme with 35 beautiful children was held in Thanal in the month of April. We had the worst summer then, but Nature blessed us with some summer rains when we camped in the forest.
- Organic Bazaar (OB) has now expanded to Bangalore city. OB Trivandrum, in addition, has expanded its customer base and offered more varieties of fruits this year, including apples from Himachal. The organization now supports more organic farmers in the city.
- Zero Waste Centre (ZWC) moved to the Thanal campus in Kowdiar this year and the women-led team has been able to generate financial support for themselves through production alone. It has been now recognized as a source for alternatives to plastic-free non-toxic products.
- Director (Agriculture and Food Sovereignty) actively participated in a workshop on FTAs in Kuala Lumpur. He was also a core team member, supporting the farmers' organisation platform, Kisan Ekta, led by senior farm-food analyst and agrarian sector reformist Devinder Sharma. He has also joined the effort, as a core team member to develop a system for Economic Security for farmers in India.
- Director (SRUM) received the Asianet Keerthi mudra Nomination in recognition of his continued efforts towards environment conservation in Kerala.
- Director (SRUM) became a part of the delegation for New Plastics Economy - Global Consultation International Consultation on Low value small format plastics organized by Ellen Mac Arthur Foundation in New York.
- PoF and SoR team was part of the Asian workshop on youth and agriculture organized by PAN Asia-Pacific at Philippines.
- Pan-India team and Human Rights Lawyers Network joined hands to discuss and brainstorm on pesticides and Indian law for the efforts required to protect people and environment from illegal pesticide usage.
- PAN-India Coordinator was a part of the Right Livelihood Summer School 2016, held in Bhutan.
- SoR Coordinator wrote a book on Birds of Kerala for children commissioned by D C Books.
- Thanal and PAN India have now been granted 12A status by Government of India.

With the hopefulness that kept us going last year, and the love we have received from you all, we hope the journey onward to 2017 is filled with aspirations for an ecologically conscious world. Wishing you all a joyful year ahead,

The Thanal family

