

The heart of the Deccan plateau, Telangana is started experiencing heat wave because hot sun after a beautiful winter. As usual Rabi crop season (October-March) of the state came to end; without any positive changes in the lives of the farmers. The shortage of underground water in beginning; and hailstorm rains in the end are once again proved that nature is not a good friend to farmers until there is a qualitative ecological changes in the state. These situations are forcing agriculture into crisis and ending with farmers' suicide. Already, some institutional efforts started to address these issues but it is all of our responsibility to help farmers and protect environment. On this motive, we started a project called 'tharunam' to address climate change and agricultural crisis which are leading farmers' suicide in Telangana, India.

## About tharunam:

'tharunam' is a not for profit initiative, working to see a nation where people are proud to be a farmer for preserving the nature and feeding the nation. Our mission is help people to understand the impacts of their food choices on environment, health and sustainable economy. People use food literacy as a tool to question climate change, to adopt eco-friendly farming methods and preserve indigenous farming knowledge and methods.

We started this Project during kanthari international leadership training program in Kerala. This is seven months intensive leadership training program to empower social visionaries. Our Founder, Lingala Naresh attended this program to learn different tools and techniques to run social projects effectively. During this program we got good network with likeminded organizations around the world.



Dear friends, well-wishers and kind supporters, it is time for our first quarterly news letter of 2018. We studied farmer's problems and feasible solutions in different parts of South India. Please find below the highlights of past three months of 'tharunam'.

## National Farmers Day Celebrations:



Founder of tharunam, Lingala Naresh was participated in the panel discussion about 'The contribution of farmers to the Nation' on National Farmers Day celebrations which held in Marri Krishna hall, Tarnaka on Dec 23, 2017. In this panel, we urged for immediate interventions to attract and retain youth into agriculture to build hunger free and self employable nation.

Panel discussed about the role of farmer movements for policy level changes in both local and global platforms. We emphasized about pro farmer stand of 'tharunam' to get farmer rights by questioning monopoly of policy makers.

Another important topic raised by tharunam in the discussion about the relation between natural resources and migration problem in India because more number of rural-urban migrations is occurring in the places with more natural resources. From this we explained policy makers are intentionally neglecting agriculture sector to take natural resources out from those places.

#### Observation visit in Agri Market-Warangal



Yenamamula market is one of the national markets in India, where more number of farmers will come from nearby districts to sell their yield. So, we visited market on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2018 like a farmer to interact with fellow farmers, commission agents and working people. This visit helped us to understand the clear multi level marketing dynamics where farmers are becoming victims to get supportive price!

#### Joined nationwide movement for Kisan Mukti Bills to prevent farmers' suicide!

We participated in 'Kisan Mukti Sadassu' state convention organized by the All India Kisan Sangharsh coordination committee (AIKSCC) in Hyderabad, Telangana. AIKSCC is the common platform for more than 190 farmer organization in India to run nationwide movement for 'Kisan Mukti Bills.' The main demands of the Kisan Mukti Bills are 'Assured Remunerative price for Agricultural produce' and 'Farmers' freedom from Debt'. This program helped us to understand the importance of policy level interventions and farmer movements to prevent farmers' suicide in India.

#### Field visit to Better cotton Initiative supported by Deshpande foundation



We participated in Development Dialogue hosted by Kakatiya Sandbox in Nizamabad on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2018. It was a two days program with conference followed by field visit to their partner organizations.

Founder of tharunam, Lingala Naresh was visited Better cotton initiative in Sidhipeta district. It was an impressive project with visible results in terms of cotton production and water conservation in barren lands. Cotton is one of the commercial crops of Telangana and most of the farmers suicide linked with cotton crops because of high investments and low returns. This field visit gave us an opportunity to understand sustainable farming practices.

#### Awareness Program about Waste Decomposer!



Waste decomposer is a multipurpose farm solution developed by National institute of Organic farming to minimize investments in farming. This solution can help farmers to handle agri waste produced in the farm by converting it into compost and for seed treatment to get a good germination.

We collected mother culture of waste decomposer from Hyderabad and demonstrated to few farmers in Duginepally village on March 11<sup>th</sup> 2018. The important observation of this program is that farmers are showing interest to experiment this solution in their farms because of less complexity in preparation.

### Getting ready to be part of 'knock'!

Kanthari network of change and knowledge is shortly known as 'knock'. Indian kanthari participants gathered in kanthari campus Trivandrum on 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> March to discuss about the knock Indian chapter which can serve as umbrella organization for 36 Indian kanthari participants for mutual support in different ways. We are very happy to be part of the knock Indian chapter to contribute as well utilize the resources.



### Intensive Digital Literacy Manual for Farmers

After long hours of brainstorming with resource persons, beneficiaries and supporters, we prepared first edition of intensive digital literacy training manual for farmers. Our curriculum developed to enable farmers to utilize benefits of digital revolution in terms of information, communication and services. We are calling it as 'downloading in four clicks' because of its four pillar formula.

### Man made tropical forestry

Founder of tharunam, Naresh attended a program on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2018 about developing tropical forestry in barren lands which was hosted by Bernard in Pebble garden, Pondicherry. It was inspiring to observe the status of pebble garden and its tree diversification growth of the forest. Here, we learned about mulching and bedding procedures for self sustainable agro forestry.

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*Dear Friends, well wishers and Supporters*

*The tharunam activities would not be possible without your support and contributions. Therefore on behalf of all elements in the nature, we say thank you very much for your ongoing support.*

*Thank you also by sharing this News Letter in your circle.*

*Presently, we are looking for committed volunteers who can believe in our vision to take tharunam activities forwards. You can join with us [here](#)*

*With Green Regards,*

*'tharunam' team*

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*If you wish reach/support tharunam activities*

*You can help from [here](#)-Thank You Very Much!*

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