



Second Quarterly Newsletter-2020

The showers of south-west monsoon; and fragrance of soil kicked off work for coming up crop season in Telangana. As usual, deccan plateau turns into green carpet with flourishing flora after a hot summer. Hot wave was the one which used to trend in every summer; but corona wave across the world put people in homes; And over takes the news hours.

The number of Corona positive cases are increasing; and unlocking process began in Telangana. So, most of the people are still away from their work places; but we farmers can't stay at home while mission of combating Covid with healthy food. Meanwhile, Policy makers proposed the controlled farming model for Telangana; and it is again proved the gap between farmers aspirations & policy makers interests. As per the proposed model, government will control what crop farmer should grow in their field. And in a bold move, they are pushing the monocrop cotton crop about half of the total cultivated land in state. Monocrop farming itself is a problem for farmers; and the same time hungry for cotton can worsen the socio-economic & ecological conditions at large scale. If we are minimizing the number of crops growing in the place means, we are minimizing the number of food value chains, innovation & opportunities. So, policy makers should work out on the models to tackle root causes of the problems, but not on symptoms.

Dear friends, it is time for the second Quarterly Newsletter of tharunam for the year 2020. Here, we are happy to share the activities of tharunam from past three months. Due to corona, our work in schools paused for some time, but we are continuing to work with farmers.

National Food Literacy Mission

National Food Literacy Mission has been initiated with the vision to empower at least every school in India to Adopt Food Literacy skills are part of their schooling curriculum by 2030.



In the total three phases of the mission, the first phase of the project is to spread the idea of Food Literacy through various operational strategies which includes encouraging food literacy ambassadors in the communities; literature development; developing digital outreach content; conducting training program for students & partnerships etc. Due to corona lockdown, the training programs in schools paused for some more time. But we are working intensively to bring more food literacy advocates in various communities.

Ambassadors of the Food Literacy program

Since, initial stages of the project, we intend to make people to understand the role of Food Literacy to address food & environmental crisis across the regions. The role of the ambassadors is to spread the concept of Food Literacy in their network. Any individual can become ambassador for food Literacy while understanding the impacts of their food choices on health, environment & sustainable economy. Here, we completely believe that behavior changes of the people are very important for us; and definitely it will inspire others to join mission by becoming seeds of change.

To become a volunteer with us >>>[click here](#)

Here, some of the pictures shared by ambassadors while started growing some food in their places.



Digital platform for promote Food Literacy

Due to Covid-19 pandemic, schools are not opened; and virtual learning environment entered into various schools. Virtual learning environments can't replace the hands-on training & activity-based learning of food literacy skill. After hours of brainstorming, our team agreed to work virtual platform which can benefit schools, students and any individuals to understand the dream of National Food Literacy Mission. Hopefully, the developing work will began shortly.

On field experience

During the lockdown period, I worked in fellow farmer's farms to understand the real time problems faced by farmers due to corona lockdown in April & May month. **"Karuvaina; corona ayina karshakudu cheyi kadalaka pothe meerem tintaru"** (In English: **"Whether it is drought or corona, if farmers won't work what you will eat?"**) said one farmer while interacting about corona. It is very heart touching for me to hear such a confident statement of farmer while he intends for food security of people.



Millet for All, farmer experiences

'Millet for All' project has been initiated with the vision to empower every individual to include ecologically friendly and nutritious rich millets are part of their food intake. We started this project by encouraging farmers to grow millets. Presently, Anantharam village in Janagaon district. Here, we have online links for farmer experiences

How farmer inspired his village president about millet farming?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VnhDwbj6o8I>

Farmer shared his first-time experience of growing foxtail millet in his village!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TB41TCSJ1-Q>

team tharunam statement on Millet for All project

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bspm6-YU2KY>

News Coverage:

Kanthari International Institute for Social Change is covering the stories of several projects across the world during Corona Times. Our Food Literacy intervention is also published in the blog; and its importance to address hunger & Nutrition security during Corona Times.

To read <https://www.kanthari.org/corona-blog-day-14-07-04-2020/>

Our video statement on role of farming during Corona Pandemic

Please find the video:

<https://www.facebook.com/kantharis/videos/vb.237241116368520/185561049131551/?type=3&theater>

Dear Friends, well-wishers and Supporters

The tharunam activities would not be possible without your support and contributions. Therefore on behalf of all, we say thank you very much for your ongoing support. Thank you also by sharing this News Letter in your circle.

Stay safe! Stay healthy! Have a healthy food!

With Green Regards,

Team 'tharunam'

If you wish reach/support tharunam activities,

<https://www.tharunam.org/> Email- founder@tharunam.org