



## Fourth Quarterly Newsletter-2020

### Remind; Rewind; Rebuild!

One year, A single year taught us so many lessons whether it is running multi-million-users company from home; or inter technology integration for quick vaccine development; or helping hand for the needy through charity. The role of civil society organizations is clearly visible in terms of handling the pandemic, feeding the needy or voluntary support etc. So, the key outcome of the year 2020 is 'Resilience'. A year which gave us a space to reinvent ourselves to tackle all sort of situations. We are crossing our fingers for the green recovery of the planet post pandemic situation.

### Wishing you all a very Happy New year!

Dear friends, well wishers and supporters, it is time for fourth quarterly newsletter of tharunam for the year 2020. Thanks everyone for being there for us; and support during hard times. In this newsletter, we are very happy to share activities of tharunam in last three months.

During the second quarter of the year, we have published about **controlled farming** decisions taken by government of Telangana; and the expected consequences. Here, a snapshot of the text which we published is "**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".

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.

**The rainy crop season experiences proved that our predictions are correct; and government of Telangana abandoned the controlled farming from this crop season onwards.** If we analyse what went wrong, the problem is not about the government involvement in farming but about the type of crop recommendation. For example, government urged farmers to grow 'SONA' fine paddy variety of in large scale; and farmers implemented it in field level. Unfortunately, due to change in climate pattern there was a heavy rain fall; more diseases; more pesticide usage and low yield. Same time millers delayed procurement of rice. **Entire process was messed up; and farmers faced so many**

**problems during corona times.** Government tried their best to address the problem, but already it is out of their hands as well.

Amidst of such experiences, government has taken another bold step in terms of marketing. On Dec 27, 2020, the official social media pages of government quoted that “Due to the Corona pandemic, the government had set up purchasing centres in the village itself and purchased the agriculture produce on a humanitarian consideration that farmers should not suffer losses. **It is not possible to do the same thing every time. The government is not a business organisation or trader. It is not a rice miller or a Dal miller. Sale and purchase is not the responsibility of government. It is not possible to set up purchase centre in the village from next year onwards.** The new Farm Laws being implemented in the country allowed the farmers to sell their crop anywhere. Hence, the state government need not set purchase centre in the villages and as there is no need. But sale and purchase at the Agriculture markets should be done properly. Farmers should not get their produce at one time to the markets instead they should get them in phased manner and on turns. Rythu Bandhu Samithies, Marketing Committees, Agriculture extension officers should work in coordination and decided which village produces should come to market on which day. Issue tokens accordingly. It will be convenient for the farmers to get his produce on the appointed day. Implement this policy strictly,” the participants at the review meeting unanimously stated.

Another learning government should understand the role of decentralized market structures for strengthening the farmers interests in competitive market. So, on behalf of farmers’ we are requesting honourable chief minister to reconsider the village level marketing facilities while diversifying farm produce.

### Legal guarantee for MSP

After government of India passed three farm bills; farmers entered into streets of Delhi for showing their concerns. One of the main demands by farmers are about legal guarantee for Minimum support price of farm produce. Yes! Even, earlier we have MSP, but data is proving that farmers didn’t get MSP within their market yards itself. Through the proposed bills, millions of unorganized sector farmers are pulling into free trade. So, legal guarantee for MSP is assurance for farmers where traders can’t buy below that price.

### Interesting comments from beneficiary families

“Due to Covid, schools are shutdown; children are spending so much time outside for playing. probably first time in last five years, I haven’t taken my son to hospital. Earlier he used to get sick regularly” told a 35 years old mother.

“I think this year, it is looking like my children grown up very fastly” told a 45 years old mother from different community.

If we could understand above statements, it is clear that both stunting & immunity power of kids connected with outdoor time by mothers. Definitely, that should take into notice by schools to address stress & stunting while designing their curriculums accordingly.

### Crop damage due to heavy rains



Overall Telangana state experienced rains; and left thousands of acres of paddy & other crops in water. The paddy fields are about to harvest about a month before rain; and it is really heart felting to see pathetic paddy fields in flood waters. Our paddy field is felt down; and we began to lift them up and tie with threads. But recovery rate is quite low, so I am waiting for crop insurance claims. Due to bad state of affairs, we can't claim crop insurance while showing farmer as a unit. As per policy, if large part of nearby farms also damaged, then only we can claim insurance. So, waiting only the option left with while chances of insurance claims remain uncertain. It is a tough time while corona pandemic and climate crisis worsen the situation in farmers lives in the state.

### Floods in Hyderabad

Rain is always fun & stress buster for several people in Hyderabad while it gives relief for plateau region. Rain started as usual; but didn't stop for this time for three days. there were several videos roaming in social media about floods; and how roads were thrashed away in water.



Source: Wikimedia commons

Power substation was in knee height water which located next to the lake; and we stayed without electricity and proper telephone communication for almost 36 hours. And rain didn't stop for 4 days. Only one positive incident was that flood water not entered into our office, while all nearby roads were blocked. Hyderabad is common capital for both Telangana and Andhra Pradesh states situated at the heart of Deccan Plateau. Due to hilly surface, the drainage network itself complicated. The



former rulers of the city who build drainage systems were little concerned and build several lakes as nodes points for excess water handling during excess rainfall in short time. It is very unfortunate that most of the lakes and drainage canals were encroached, So, low lying areas are completely submerged in the water; and above 30 people died due to floods while thousands shifted to relief centres. Within four days, city experienced above 700mm rainfall; and uncountable damage happened within 4 days which city never experienced in past 5 decades.

#### Interacted with students from ST. Peter Engineering College, Hyderabad.

We got an opportunity to interact with the students from St. peter engineering college in Hyderabad during their orientation program. We are delighted to pitch about the role of food literacy skills while enabling new engineering opportunities with diversified choices.

#### Agro forestry awareness programs

Janamangal is a non-governmental organization founded by efficient social workers those affected by violence, societal harassment in their life. They are also building farmers institutions in above 40 villages. With the support of **Janamangal organization**, we have conducted orientation program on ecologically feasible and economically viable agro forestry farming model for Gadachandi farmers club.



#### News Coverage

Scroll.in: <https://scroll.in/article/978003/fact-check-did-telangana-cm-release-rs27718-crore-towards-farm-loan-waiver-in-six-years>

Inspolife: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i9N-LHqQ3VA>

#### 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,

'tharunam' team

[www.tharunam.org](http://www.tharunam.org) Email- [founder.tharunam@gmail.com](mailto:founder.tharunam@gmail.com)