



First Quarterly Newsletter-2021

It is already a year since government of India imposed lockdown on March 25, 2020. They lifted up restrictions in different phases. However, several sectors are still suffering from the consequences of lockdown; and school education is mostly affected. At certain extent, online education is helping a bit, but it can't replace school education completely.

There are attempts from government to reopen school after a year to restart academic year. Unfortunately, the second wave of Covid forced schools to shut down again. It impacted our planned activities for schools too. We are crossing the fingers to start hands on training programs in schools from coming up academic year. Our work with farmers is continuing, but unfortunately we couldn't start hands on training program for school students.

Dear friends, well-wishers and kind supporters, it is time for the first quarterly Newsletter of tharunam for the year 2021. Here, we are happy to share the activities of tharunam from past three months.

Spreading the idea of Food Literacy:

Interacting with students from Varthaman Engineering college



On Jan 16, we got an opportunity to interact with engineering students from Varthaman Engineering college. It was great opportunity to spread the idea of food literacy; and the projects of tharunam with students

Our heartfelt gratitude to Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship of Varthaman Engineering college for this opportunity.

Special appreciation for 'kaanthi' organization for co-hosting and mobilizing participants for event.

Visual touch for Food Literacy concept



Two guests visited our office who began their journeys in film industry. Naresh (Yellow shirt) is an aspirant film maker; and Radha Krishna (Blue checks shirt) is working as a script writer.

We had a resourceful interaction regarding the scope of food literacy ideas in visual media. Visual medium is playing an important role for taking ideas into people. We are thankful for their positive response on giving visual touch for food literacy ideas in their coming up works.

Interaction with students on what does food literacy means for agro innovations?



VITe Talks |What does food literacy means for agro innovation opportunities? by Shri. Lingala Naresh

Institution's Innovation Council & Dept. of Information Technology of Vishnu Institute of Technology conducted online workshop on What does food literacy means for agro innovation opportunities? And founder of tharunam, Lingala Naresh delivered session. You can watch our online lecture at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w5a_wXRzYzE

Technical assistance for snehan home

I had pleasure to visit Snehan, an organization in Pondicherry that supports the homeless. Snehan founded by Anumuthu who is a fellow kanthari graduate in 2017. I am glad for his hosting support in Pondicherry during seed collection trip. I assisted snehan home to develop a project proposal, sustainability plan and income-generating activities for snehan.

Visit to Lakshmi Narayana Tissue Culture Center, Puducherry



During our visit to collect seeds, we got an opportunity to meet PadmaShri Dr. T. Venkadapathy ji, the founder of Lakshmi Narayana Tissue Culture Centre in Puducherry.

We are glad to meet passionate traditional farmer, who had a deep desire in bringing changes in the farming sectors to generate income without compromising on ecological footprint.

Even though he stopped his education at class 4, he had an avid interest in science; and dedicated his life to flower cultivation with natural techniques. We had one hour talk, knowing his passion and ideas for farmers.

Sesame crop growing (on right side of image) at our farm.



During the last rainy season, we cultivated paddy crop. And unpredicted heavy rains damaged our crop. Based on weather prediction, this time we cultivated sesame seed. Crop is growing well and It is about to harvest in two weeks.

Become part of virtual Food Literacy portal development

In the coming quarter, we will focus on development of nflm.in portal where schools can access our food literacy material. In order to achieve our goals, we are looking for volunteers; and for financial support. We will create video tutorials, school level competitions and food literacy tool kits for digital platforms. The estimated cost for these activities are INR 11,56,000 or USD 15777. If you are in a position to support us with this, then please make a donation via this link <https://tharunam.org/make-a-donation/> Any amount helps. THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR SUPPORT.

News coverage:

Kanthari newsletter

<http://media.kanthari.org/pdf/en/QN1-2021.pdf>

Snehan blog post

<https://snehan.org/2021/03/28/innovative-farming-techniques-by-padmashree-dr-t-venkadapathy-reddiar/>

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 Newsletter in your circle. Stay safe! Stay healthy! Have a healthy food!

With Green Regards,

'tharunam' team

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