



Third Quarterly Newsletter-2021



92 days old plants from food forestry at Duginepally village

Tharunam is a non-profit organization working on a mission to use food as a medium for social change, and make it universally accessible and affordable. At tharunam, we strongly believe the role of each leaf; and its contribution to absorb atmospheric carbon while converting them into vegetation. It is already three months since we are growing food forestry at Duginepally village, Telangana. We have planted more than 400 plants and two vegetable varieties in 1.25 acre of land. Despite early days challenges from pests and heavy rains, our plants are growing healthily and our forestry is in making. And it is slowly turning into a resource center for farmers to understand the benefits of multi crop natural farming practices.

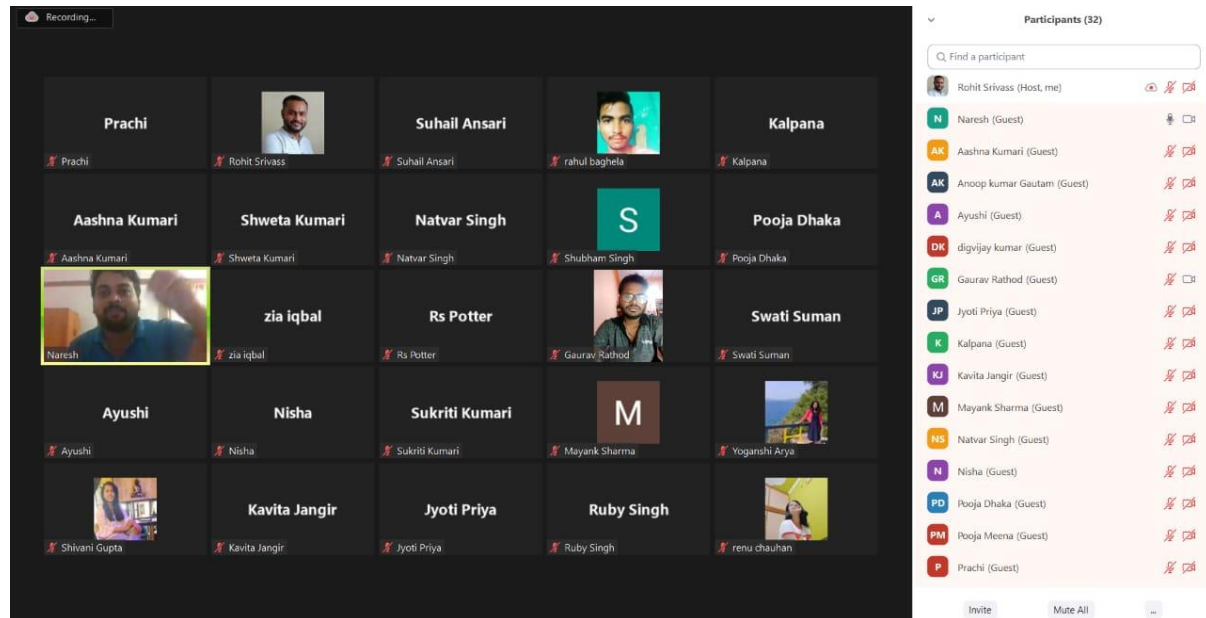
Dear friends, well-wishers and kind supporters, it is time for the third quarterly Newsletter of tharunam for the year 2021. Here, we are happy to share the activities of tharunam from past three months



90 days old food forestry is in making at Duginepally village

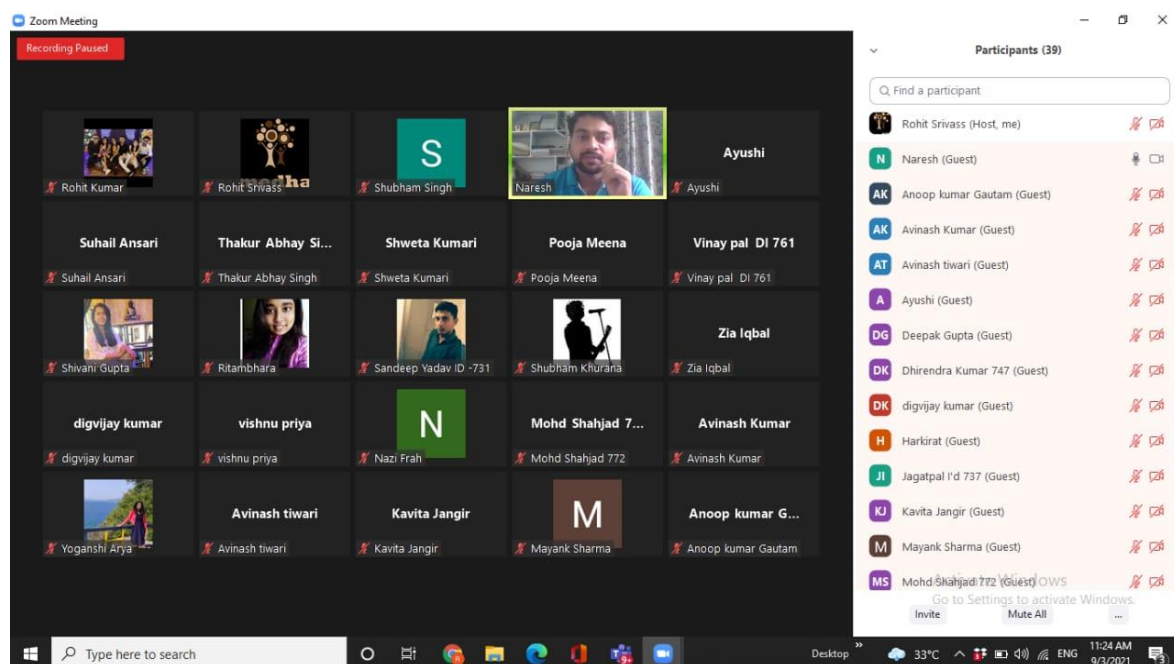
Guest Lecture for students from Jhansi Lakshmi Bhai central agricultural University

Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University is central agricultural university located in Jhansi district of Uttar Pradesh established by the government of India. We are glad and thankful to Medha organization(medha.org.in); and Rohit, Devarsh for facilitating the guest talk to interact with students. We utilized the platform to spread the idea of food literacy and agro forestry concepts.



Hosting Agricultural university students for Industry Guided Project

A week after our lecture, we glad and honoured to collaborate with Medha organization to host 46 students for their Industry Guided project from Rani Lakshmi Bhai Central Agricultural University. It is a work from home and work at home work learning experience for participants while their learning journey will be in four phases which includes community outreach to spread food literacy. We have been completed three-week session so far. As it is a central university, our collaboration with students will further enhance the idea of food literacy to take it into different parts of the country.



Keynote speaker at Tulunadu's recipe book Release, Inner wheel club, Mangalore North

On 4th Sept, part of nutrition week, the BSc Microbiology students of University College Mangalore, with Inner wheel club of Mangalore North released a CD of 100 Tulunadu recipes and recognition was given to the contributors. I am thankful to students, Bharati Prakash ji and Mrs Mitra for having me as a guest of honour for this great event. Tulunadu, its culture and tradition are a totally different experience know food diversity of the region. It is grateful to see the efforts of the micro biology students and their supporters to document the traditional culinary of Tulunadu region.

Please check on YouTube link here to access the virtual event. <https://youtu.be/2ccOxuh15Gs>



Identified Challenges & lessons learned so far in the process of developing food forest:

Developing the food forestry is a great mission while taking care of different food crops at single farm. So, in the first three months of our journey, we came across several challenges and successfully tackled so far. We learned lessons from the challenges and happy to some of our observations.

During the months of June and July, we witnessed the heavy rainfall in our region. And we were unable to reach farm for two days. It was shocking to see the growth of caterpillar pests at farm. Instantly, we are going to each plant and destroying caterpillars manually. It worked well and we haven't noticed pest for a week though. However, there is a sudden spike of the pests are literally destroying most of the plants. Almost, two months, we started using neem oil and other natural pest repellents to control the growth. It worked well and the key lesson is to control caterpillar life cycle to tackle this issue.

And second lesson is to protect the plants from flood. Our farm is surrounded by paddy farms which needs lot of water. And the same time we witnessed the heavy rainfall. So, we witnessed the excess water at farm even though we have separate canal for drainage discharge. The learning from this experience is about maintaining proper drainage to save farm from water clotting.

Due to continuous rainfall, other issue we faced in the form of weed management at farm. The shortage of labour and rain helped the flora to grow much faster which became challenge for us to manage in the beginning. However, we are able to overcome the challenge with the help brush cutter and human resources.



Caterpillar pest attack on plant; and field is under flood

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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