



Fourth Quarterly Newsletter-2021

Dear friends and well wishers,

Firstly, on behalf of team tharunam, we wish you and your family a very happy new year.



Six months ago

now

fruiting stage of Kashmir Ber

"You know what? Your generation is quite unlucky though! You don't know the taste of many fruits and veggies. Maximum you might have tasted 8-10 varieties of food. During my childhood, we used to get at least 20 edible fruits and vegetables from forest itself" told a 65 years old farmer while sharing her food habits.

It is absolutely true. The Earth has more than 30,000 edible foods for humans. However, our mono crop farming practices are not bringing diversity of food in plate. It has been happening in Duginepally from last two decades. However, we planted different crops food forestry model farm to promote alternative crops such as five layers of plants in a 1.25 acres of. This land used to grow only one crop from last two decades. There was a huge rejection since nobody ready to experiment multi layer farming at Duginepally village.

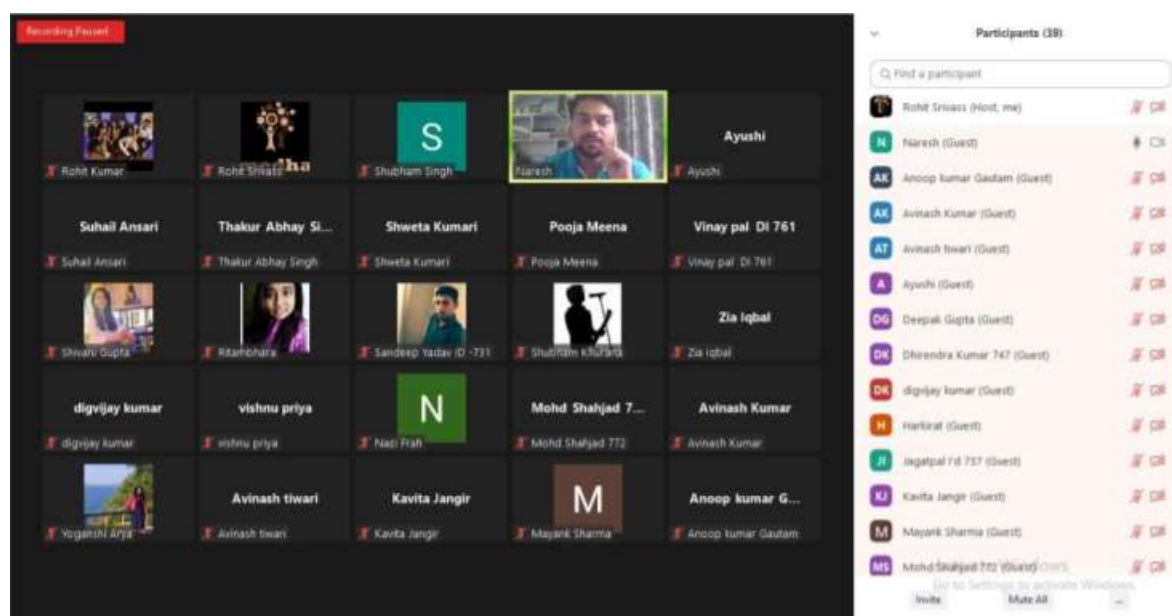
It is true that there are many challenges in every transition. In our region, rainfall is so high and our farm is fully surrounded by paddy fields. So, in early days, we worked so hard to stop plant mortality. And yes! We made it. We saved plants from heavy rain and flood.

The unnecessary weed growth at our farm is the second challenge. As, our farm was surrounded by paddy fields, we were not able to complete the tillage between the plants. We decided to improve the soil humus while controlling the weeds with brush cutter. A month ago, paddy crops were harvested; and our route cleared to reach farm. So, we successfully completed the top layer soil tillage with the help of tractor disks.

The After tillage of the soil, we made trenches and beds for making soil feasible for root based crop plantation such as turmeric and onion plantation. Typically farmers used to burn rice straw after harvesting. However, we collected 6 tractor trucks of rice straw for mulching from nearby farm field. The collected rice straw was used for mulching of soil beds. This mulching can help us to prevent weed growth in farm.

So far, we have three layers of crops such as mango, citrus, banana and Kashmir ber are growing in our farm. Now, we want to grow intercrops such as cowpea, green gram, black gram, turmeric, groundnut crops as intercrops. We successfully sowed most of these crops except turmeric and groundnut. We will complete other crop plantation in coming months.

Successful completion of virtual training program on agro forestry and food literacy



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) to collaborate with Medha organization to host 46 students for their Industry Guided project. It was a 6 week virtual training program where different hands on tasks were given to students. Out of 46, total 37 participants submitted final deliverable and received certifications.

Some of our participants learning experiences with tharunam are

"I liked all the sessions which are conducted every week by Naresh. Through these sessions, I come to know what is food literacy, wood wide web, agroforestry models, and plant health management techniques (Home clinics)."- Vishnu Priya

"For me it was an eye-opening experience, I have learnt an array of new things like Importance of food literacy, Wood wide web, and Black soldier flies etc. It provides a new perspective to me on agriculture and about the food

we eat in general. The most important thought that will live with me was “To follow multiple schools of thoughts”. In a sector as diverse as agriculture we cannot impose “One size fits all approach”. Following multiple facets will provide a holistic view on agriculture. At first, I was not convinced with the concept of food literacy. But now when I look back, I can see the vision, to bring a bottom-up change in society and in agriculture. I see myself as a catalyst to spread the word and bring a cascading effect in society. Finally, I am glad to be a part of this wonderful journey”. – Mayank

“I have learned something new during that period of making assignment. At earlier time, I faced some difficulties but after doing some assignment, learnt and it became easy for me. This activity is really very helpful for me, not only I learnt that how to make report on any topic but also learnt and knew about new things about some topic such as: - Wood Wide Web – This is really very interesting to me that I knew how fungi work in the ecosystem and balance it by creating network and connecting entire forest. I also knew about the food literacy that how it grows and how it affects our health, environment and the economy.”- Sukriti

BASCH course:

During the act3 of kanthari course 2021, kanthari invited few alumni to attend newly introduced BASCH, which stands for business and social change course. I am (Naresh) glad to become one of the kantharis who got selected for this program at kanthari. It was a great experience while updating my financial literacy knowledge. This time we got a good experience while sharing the learning room with other generation kantharis. There is a lot of information exchange and hands on support in act3 during this course

Food branding: During the BASCH course, one of the sessions was completely dedicated for food branding of the organization. The idea of the activity is to make people to aware of food that represents your organization. Being an organization which is working for food literacy, we presented the different layers of food available from plants.



Awareness program on food literacy: One of the activities of BASCH course is setting up a stall during spread the spice challenge event in Trivandrum. We setup a stall in the name of food for social change.

Despite heavy rainfall, our stall got more than 40 visitors, and 15 coir pots were sold as part of our social business activity. It was a great experience, since more than 20 people signed up for our newsletter to know our food literacy activities and spread the concept in their communities.

12A & 80G certificates:

Tharunam is a non-profit organization and Registered under the Indian Trust Act 'Reg 34/2019, Date 09/05/2019, Narapalli, Hyderabad. This year, we got 12A & 80G certificates from Income Tax Department, India, so the donation made to Tharunam are tax exempted for donor organizations. By the time of first quarterly newsletter in 2022, we will complete three years of activity and get the CSR Form 1 certificate. It will be grateful if any company looking for CSR collaboration to work for environment, farmers, water and sanitation, nutrition etc., please feel free to reach out at founder@tharunam.org.

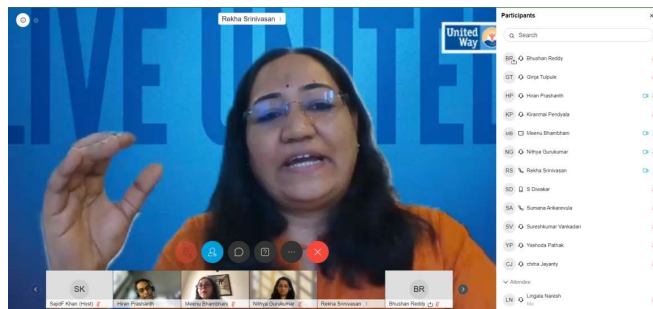


Paddy procurement challenges in Telangana:

From last three and half years, we have been advocating for crop diversity and thus protect the environment. However, government of Telangana decisions were in favor of mono crop culture. This time, there is huge confusion among farmers, since both union and state governments are not ready to procure paddy which is grown during rabi season (November – March). Here, the problem is with transition to other crops. Within the short time, government tried to create awareness on alternative crops, however confusion is continuing. We request, policy makers should join hands with grass root organizations to promote alternative cropping patterns.

Attended UWH program on CSR SAMWAD

On October 1, I (Naresh) attended the CSR SAMWAD meeting hosted by United Way of Hyderabad. It was a resourceful session regarding the various project ideas and CSR collaborative opportunities.



Hosting kantharis in Hyderabad

During the last quarter of the year, two kantharis visited Hyderabad, Telangana. Whenever kantharis visit our place, we consider it as our pleasure to meet them and discuss contemporary social issues and possible solutions. KR Raja who is a 2011 kanthari participant graduated from nalsar Law University. I am glad to attend his graduation program. And another kanthari, Sanoj, 2014 kanthari participant visited tharunam office in Hyderabad along with his team mates. We had wonderful conversations regarding different issues and possible solutions related to farming.

Kanthari alumni meet with Joseph Fernandez at kanthari International

Joseph Fernandez is an author and communications leader who has worked since 1990 in media and communications. He is the author of 25 books including Corporate Communications: A 21st Century Primer (Sage Publications, 2004). He is part of kanthari's effective communication sessions. After 4 years, it was a great pleasure to interact with Joseph and share the progress of the project.

Knock meet in Odisha:

Knock network of change and knowledge conducted a first ever meet in Odisha. The group of kantharis from Odisha hosted event for three days. The first two days of the program intend for training 7 grass root organizations along with kantharis on Accounting practices, tax matter, Finance and foreign contributions. I am glad to be a one of the facilitators for this program. Follow-up to the training, we have knock meet at konark. It is an awesome experience since different generation kantharis meet and exchange ideas for positive social change.



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 www.tharunam.org

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