



ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021



THONDAIMANDALAM FOUNDATION

The Year in Summary:

2020-2021 was an eventful year for Thondaimandalam Foundation. As livelihoods throughout the world was affected due to the ongoing covid-19 pandemic, working at the grassroots level has become even more important. In such a scenario, the work of civil society organizations has been tantamount. As moving towards its vision to enhance and sustain rural and peri-urban livelihoods in the Thondaimandalam bioregion of Tamil Nadu, we continued our ongoing projects and began new projects towards our goal. We continue to conserve *insitu* 156 varieties of paddy varieties in three different districts of Tamil Nadu - Villuppuram, Kancheepuram and Thiruvallur, maintaining their genetic purity by physical characterization - a journey we started in 2018. This year, we also started a new livelihood project providing country chicken chicks to low income households at Pandeswaram village, Thiruvallur district. We also conducted a 4-day training program at Puriyambakkam village, Chengalpattu district on natural farming methods for rural youth where 21 youngsters, including 3 women attended the training. As an impetus to our ongoing work on organic farming, Thondaimandalam Foundation was selected as a facilitation council (FC) under PGSOC (Participatory Guarantee System Organic Council) for organic certification. Recently, we were also selected as a facilitation agency under the Union Government's PGS-India.

Going forward, into the year 2021-2022, Thondaimandalam Foundation strives to improve the current projects to reach more beneficiaries, as well as begin more projects towards our vision to enhance and sustain rural and peri-urban livelihoods. We thank you for being a part of this journey, and wish to continue together.

Projects and Activities:

1. Conservation of Native Paddy varieties – August 2019 - Ongoing:

Published: 10 Jan 2021 5 AM Updated: 10 Jan 2021 5 AM

156 நெல் ரகங்கள்... விதைத் தூய்மை காக்க ஒரு முயற்சி!

ஜெயகுமார்த சொ.பாலசுப்ரமணியன்



தொண்டைமண்டலம் பலுண்டேஷன் இளைஞர்கள்

- Thondaimandalam Foundation's *insitu* conservation and maintenance of genetic purity of 156 paddy varieties continued in the three districts of Thondaimandalam - Thiruvallur, Villupuram and Kancheepuram.
- Our conservation efforts were covered in the leading Tamil magazine - Pasumai Vikatan's Pongal special issue and in DTNext English newspaper in January, 2021.

- Efforts are also currently underway to develop a specific app for characterization of the paddy varieties to preserve its genetic purity.
- The conservation work also involved volunteers and farmers gaining a first-hand experience of the conservation works, and knowing the importance to conserve the genetic purity of the paddy varieties.
- Seed diversity of our country and bioregions is integral to the food sovereignty and food security.



In Media:

Pasumai vikatan - "156 நெல் ரகங்கள்... விதைத் தூய்மை காக்க ஒரு முயற்சி!" - Thondaimandalam Foundation's ongoing efforts to conserve the genetic purity of 156 native paddy varieties was featured by Pasumai Vikatan's Pongal issue (January 10th, 2021) <https://bit.ly/3ozR98u>

DTNext - "Organisation on a mission to conserve 153 paddy varieties" (January 13th, 2021) <https://www.dtnext.in/News/TamilNadu/2021/01/13060223/1271144/Organisation-on-a-mission-to-serve-153-paddy-varieties.vpf>

Organisation on a mission to conserve 153 paddy varieties

Published: Jan 13, 2021 08:02 AM

Thondaimandalam Foundation, an organisation that works on improving sustainable rural livelihoods, has been conserving 153 native paddy varieties (including 18 Tamil Nadu varieties) across three farms in Thiruvallur, Kanchipuram and Vizhuppuram since 2019.



Chennai: "From a training session at Basudha held by Dr Debal Deb, the seed warrior of India, our team members have learned how to preserve the genetic purity of the native paddy varieties. Paddy is mostly self-pollinating – however, if two different varieties are growing nearby, then there is a high chance of cross-pollination, which we need to prevent. We can preserve the genetic purity in many ways – by erecting shade nets as a physical barrier between the varieties, by planting varieties that flower at different periods next to each other and removing off-types that do not fit into the characters of those particular varieties," Himakiran, one of the founding trustees of Thondaimandalam Foundation, tells DT Next.

The main objective of the foundation is to cultivate and conserve the genetic purity of 150 paddy landraces at multiple agro-climatic zones within Tamil Nadu. "We characterise the

Pasumai Vikatan - Video featuring Thondaimandalam Foundation's efforts to conserve the genetic purity of native paddy varieties (January 11th, 2021)

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=139785434618250>



2. Country Chicken Eggs as Supplementary Income – August 2020 - Ongoing:



- For 12 households in Pandeswaram village, Thiruvallur district, 180 native country chicken chicks were provided directly as a means to generate supplementary income through the production of country chicken eggs.
- The chicks were vaccinated twice by Thondaimandalam Foundation against common poultry diseases. The chicks provided have started producing eggs as of January 2021, and the project is currently monitored with scope for expansion in the future.



3. Tree plantation of 1000 trees at Pandeswaram Village

In July and August, 2020, 1000 native trees were planted at Pandeswaram Village, Thiruvallur district and are continued to be monitored and maintained.



Pandeswaram School, Pandeswaram, Tamil Nadu 602024, India

Pandeswaram
Tamil Nadu
India



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91°F

2020-07-27(Mon) 10:24(AM)

4. Training Workshop for Rural Youth about Natural Farming and Related Livelihoods:

- Workshop for rural youth about natural farming and related livelihoods was conducted from December 26-29th, 2020 at Pooriyambakkam village, Chengalpattu district.
- The workshop trained 21 participants, including 3 women on natural farming, integrated farm management, importance of livestock in natural farming, water conservation, farm mechanization, utilizing government schemes and subsidies in farming, post-harvest value addition, and importance of collectivization in farming through lectures, group activities and practical sessions. We are currently looking for funds to conduct more workshops in 2021 for rural youth to become agripreneurs, farm managers or improve their own farms through natural farming methods.



TRAINEE TESTIMONIAL –

Ms. Padmini, Customer Success Executive, myHarvest Farms Private Ltd.,

“I would like to thank Thondaimandalam Foundation for the opportunity to attend the natural farming training program on December 2020. In those 4 days, I have learned new techniques, which I have applied in making my terrace garden. I also learned new life skills and communication skills. Through Thondaimandalam Foundation’s job referral, I am now working as a Customer Success executive in myHarvest Farms private ltd.”



5. Associate Member – Facilitation Council of PGSOC – Participatory Guarantee System Organic Council:

- Organic certification is one of the important factors of organic farming throughout the world. In Tamil Nadu, while many farmers practice organic farming, they are not adequately certified.
- To facilitate organic certification, Thondaimandalam Foundation has been accepted as an Associate member - facilitation council (FC) of PGSOC (Participatory Guarantee System Organic Council) in January 2021. With PGSOC, Thondaimandalam Foundation will work with farmers currently practicing organic farming, or farmers who wish to convert to organic farming through participatory organic certification and by facilitating market linkages.



Going Forward:

Going forward, into the year 2021-2022, Thondaimandalam Foundation strives to improve the scope of the current projects to reach more beneficiaries, and also begin more projects towards our vision to enhance and sustain rural and peri-urban livelihoods. Along such lines, we are planning to conduct more training programs on natural farming methods for rural youth, as well as expand our work with organic farmers for organic certification through PGSOC and PGS-India certifications. We are also looking forward to expand our staff team to work on availing services relating to rural entrepreneurship, availing Government schemes on agriculture and working towards NBAGR recognition of Thondaimaadu cattle (native cattle of Thondaimandalam region) to name a few. We look forward to work with like-minded individuals and institutions moving towards our vision on sustainable rural livelihoods.

Financial Statement:

Income	2020-2021	Expenses	2020-2021
Donations	4,51,007.40	Expenses - native paddy conservation project	1,86,260.00
		Salary expenses	1,75,000.00
		Travel expenses	31,612.00
		Expenses - Indigo documentation project	20,000.00
		Other project related expenses	18,559.00
		Expenses - native country chicken project	18,000.00
Total	4,51,007.40	Total	4,49,431.00

Staff



Srinivasan Deenadayalan

Field Coordinator

Srinivasan is an organic farmer, bridging between consumers and producers, and coordinating activities on field. He also works on inclusion initiatives for kids with autism spectrum disorders.



Ganapathi Thamizhselvan

Coordinator

Ganapathi Thamizhselvan is an organic farmer in Thiruppukuzhi, Kancheepuram district. He is a seed conservator, actively managing the native paddy varieties seed conservation project.



Rathnavel Pandian

Coordinator

Capacity Building and Research

Rathnavel is a researcher focused on rural livelihoods, biodiversity conservation and ecology, with a Master's degree in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology from University at Buffalo, USA.

A Sincere thanks!

Thondaimandalam Foundation has stepped into the 4th year of its existence from 2021, thanks to generous donors who are the pillars of the foundation. We sincerely thank the donors whose continued support had ensured that Thondaimandalam Foundation has been able to operate and continue its efforts to improve the livelihoods of rural and peri-urban areas, especially during the ongoing covid-19 pandemic. We sincerely thank Mahesh and Sujatha, organic farmers and seed conservers at Chinnababusamuthiram, Viluppuram district, actively conserving the native paddy varieties. We also sincerely thank Ms. Rekha Ramu, Panchayat President of Pandeswaram Village, Thiruvallur district and her team for her unending on-ground support and enthusiasm.





Call for Support

As directed by its core mission, Thondaimandalam Foundation has been undertaking various projects to improve sustainable rural livelihoods in the districts of northern Tamil Nadu. For donations towards any of the projects, you can choose one of the following two options -

1. A one-time donation
2. A recurring monthly donation

You can make your donations via net banking or through cheque to:

Thondaimandalam Foundation

Account No: 6812690838

Account type: Current Account

Bank - Indian Bank, Branch - Egmore Branch

IFSC - IDIB000E004, MICR - 600019016

For other modes of payment such as UPI and cards, please visit <https://thondaimandalam.org/donateus>

Please note that only Indian cards and payment modes are accepted.

For more information, please contact Rathnavel Pandian, Coordinator, Thondaimandalam Foundation at +91 7348820864 or email at rathnavel@thondaimandalam.org. We sincerely thank you for your consideration.

Mission Statement:

Thondaimandalam Foundation was founded in 2018 with the mission to enhance and sustain rural and peri-urban livelihoods, focusing on natural farming, water conservation, conservation of native biodiversity, improving access and quality of education, promoting traditional art and culture in the Thondaimandalam region. Our values are grounded in grassroots collective action, innovation, local self-governance, and self-sustaining rural and peri-urban livelihoods. Registered as a Public Charitable Trust, Thondaimandalam Foundation is being funded by a small group of motivated patrons who share our core values and vision, moving towards inclusive and sustainable rural development, and nutritional and food security.



THONDAIMANDALAM FOUNDATION

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