

# ACTIVITY REPORT



**REPORT OF KEY ACTIVITIES  
CONDUCTED BY BRING BACK  
GREEN FOUNDATION FOR  
NOVEMBER 2019- MAY 2021**

## Our Mission

The mission of Bring Back Green Foundation is to drive action toward a sustainable future through on-the-ground work, research, storytelling, policy recommendations and climate education among others. We work with a diverse group of individuals, including young people, veterans, experts, policy makers and decision makers, to create real change for our planet. Our goal is to reverse the effects of past unsustainable practices, raise awareness and inspire individuals to take action towards a greener and more equitable world for all.

## **Our Core Team:**

- 1. Akhilesh Anil Kumar:** Co-founder and Director of Bring Back Green is a social entrepreneur and educator hailing from Pathanamthitta. He was also the co-founder of the SwapTheStraw movement and many other campaigns. He was selected by the UN India as a Climate Leader in 2021 for his contributions towards SDG's. He was a former ambassador of GYCN-World Bank and Break Free From Plastic.
- 2. Fahad Razzi:** Co-founder and Director of Bring Back Green is a Change-maker, Social entrepreneur, Educator-Learner, Facilitator, Environmentalist and Minimalist hailing from Wayanad, Kerala. He was also the co-founder of SwapTheStraw movement across Kerala and many other campaigns. He is bachelors graduate in International Relations from Central University of Kerala.
- 3. Anagh:** He is a passionate volunteer and researcher who has worked on a multitude of projects with many prestigious organisations across India. He is currently the Vice-President of Dhisha and is pursuing his PhD. in Political Science from MG University.
- 4. Asif Vahab:** He is an avid volunteer who has been working with many organisations for campaigns and activities. He is currently pursuing his management graduation from Trivandrum.

## **Our Advisory Board Members:**

1. Prof Dr Biju Kumar: He is the Professor and Dean, Aquatic Biology and Fisheries, Kerala University. He also functions as the Board Member at Centre for Innovation in Science and Social Action (CISSA).
2. Usha Soolapani: She is the founding campaigner of Save Our Rice Campaign.
3. Adv Harish Vasudevan: He is an Advocate in High Court of Kerala & National Green Tribunal.
4. Mr Sridhar Radhakrishnan: He is the Deputy National Coordinator of the Save our Rice Campaign. He is the Director Board Member at Thirunelly Agri Producers and Member, Steering Committee at Alliance for Sustainable and Holistic Agriculture (ASHA). He was the former director at Thanal Trust and Co-Convenor at Kerala Paristhithi Aikya Vedhi.
5. Shibu K N: Organics Campaigner; GAIA Asia Pacific
6. Ms Veena Maruthoor: She is an Environmentalist, Environmental Educator and Founding Campaigner, Celebrating Water Bodies.
7. Babitha PS: She is the Co-Campaigner, Sustainable Menstruation Kerala Collective and Founding Member, Green Army International, a project under Trivandrum Municipal Corporation.

Legal Advisor: Ms Dhanuja, Practising Lawyer, High Court of Kerala

# Key Activities from November 2019 to April 2020

## 1. Waste Management Activities

We have worked at multiple venues such as 'Karate Times International Cup-2019', 'Kerala Karate-Do Association's 38th State Championship', 'Trivandrum Youth Conclave', and others on various aspects of waste management, experimenting with waste reduction methodologies and waste auditing. One of our achievements was at the 'Karate Times International Cup-2019' held at Kannur National Games Indoor stadium where our team could bring down the total waste generated from the 2-day event to under 12.5kg.



### Back to a green future

Express News Service

Thiruvananthapuram-based initiative 'Bring Back Green' loves a challenge. Especially when it involves sustainable methods. At the Kerala Karate-Do Association's 38th state championship 2019 held at the Rajiv

Gandhi Indoor Stadium recently, the founders Akhilesh Anil Kumar and Fahad Razvi were insistent to achieve zero-waste end results. "We were close. It is difficult to not have waste when the event caters about 2,000 people. However, we replaced plastic plates with steel ones and water dispensers were placed to avoid the use of plastic bottles. These went a long way," said Akhilesh, a student at the University of Wollongong, who is currently in Kerala for his vacations. The initiative, which is on its

way to becoming a fully-fledged NGO plans to submit a proposal to the Kochi Corporation to help in large-scale community-led awareness and segregation programmes. This isn't 'Bring Back Green's first in the state. Last year, they started with 'Swap the Straw', a campaign initiated to eschew plastic straws in the capital city.



"We have suitable alternatives such as bamboo and steel straws. Often large-scale shops won't be able to implement such sustainable alternatives but we've to try and get there," he said. As part of 'Swap the Straw', a major juice outlet has initiated the use of substitutes, in Thiruvananthapuram. Bring Back Green comprises of youngsters and Akhilesh feels they should lead change. "We plan to mobilise more youth. They've to involve themselves in segregation, which is fundamental. As a youngster involved in the initiative, I can see the results," he added. Bring Back Green has their hands full. While a national climate change conference is scheduled for January 2020 with the active involvement of climate activists, a new educational curriculum comprising sustainable menstruation awareness campaign is under way. "The campaign won't be limited to girls. Classes will be provided to all. Difference between genders should not exist," he added.

INDIAN EXPRESS Thu, 28 November 2019 11:41 AM  
epaper: newindianexpress.com/c/46276455

## 2. Awareness Activities at Schools & Colleges

Awareness classes and workshops were conducted at many schools and colleges across Kerala regarding topics related to sustainability, effective waste management and sustainable menstruation. Including Kendriya Vidyalaya, Thrissur; Government College, Karyavattom, Government Engineering College Barton Hill, Kozhikode Medical College, UKF College Kollam, CUSAT Kochi, Vaidyaretnam Ayurvedic College Thrissur, LP School Haripad, Govt Girls Higher Secondary School, Irinjalakuda and many others.



**3. Climate Education Curriculum Development**  
Our first draft of Climate Education Curriculum was submitted to Hon'ble Education Minister, Prof. C. Raveendranath on December 2019.



## 4. Bring Back Green National Climate Change Conference 2020 - CUSAT

National climate change conference was held on 17th and 18th January of 2020 at Seminar Complex, Cochin University of Science and Technology, Kochi. Inaugural Guests of Honour were Dr George Mathew - Principal, School of Engineering, CUSAT, Suresh Babu - Joint Excise Commissioner (Ernakulam), Saalu Mohammed - Zonal President, Junior Chamber International (Kerala), Akhilesh AnilKumar and Fahad T, Co-Founders, Bring Back Green Foundation. Isabel Wijsen, Rajendra Singh, Padma Shri Dr G Shankar, Akshay Jain, Dr Oomen V Oomen, Sameer Nair, D Rajeev IOFS, Smt. Saleena V G Nair, Dr C N Manoj, Aparna Gopan, Shardha Shreejaya, Daya Gayathri, Nisha Jose, Bharath Govind and Ragesh were the key speakers. Adam Harry and Anannyeah Alex anchored the programme which was sponsored and partnered by Junior Chamber International Cochin, Indian Green Building Council, CUSAT (SOE) Chapter, Vimukthi, Kerala State Excise Department (Government of Kerala) and Kerala Institution of Local Administration (Government of Kerala).

These teenage sisters dream of a plastic-free world

Meet the teens from Bali who are the co-founders of 'Bye Bye Plastic Bags' a movement that says 'no' to plastic bags

Deena Theresa

Sixteen-year-old Isabel Wijsen would describe herself as an "outgoing girl who's into dancing, reading and cooking for her family at night." To the outside world, however, Isabel is an activist and the co-founder of 'Bye Bye Plastic Bags' (BBPB), a movement that says 'no' to plastic bags, spread over 20 countries.

Hailing from Bali, Isabel and her sister Mithila founded the same when they were 10 and 12 years old, respectively. Almost seven years into the campaign, their battle against plastic pollution turned victorious when plastic-based materials were banned in Bali last June. For their efforts, they were honored on Instagram as part of its "30 people to watch out in 2020".

With Kerala's ban on single-use plastic effective from January 1, Isabel's visit couldn't be more timely. She is in the state for the two-day National Climate Change Conference 2020 at CUSAT, Kochi, organized by Thiruvananthapuram-based initiative 'Bring Back Green' on January 17, in which speakers include ecologist Madhav Gadgil and environmentalist Rajendra Singh.

The sisters had their "aha" moment after a class on recycling leaders.

"Having been born and raised in Bali, a 100 metres away from the beach, nature was a huge part of our upbringing. Plastic, largely banned our environment. It was on the beachside and the rice paddy fields. Seeing it build up, we asked ourselves a question: Who is going to do something about that? Often we forget that we can be that somebody and after that lesson in class, we thought 'why must we wait

until we're older?," says Isabel. They acted right into it. Two years into their campaign, they had an INK Talk in Mumbai. Upon a visit to Maharashtra, Gadgil's house they were motivated by his non-violence practices. The sisters decided to go on a hunger strike from dawn to dusk so that they could reach out to the government. The success

ful strike saw them meet the governor on the second day.

"We created a solid relationship with the government where we now have clear communication and willingness to work together. Because after years of campaigning, you realize that to create real change you have to work together with stakeholders, organisations, activists, schools and private sectors. As we were young, they could see that our intention was genuine and not profit-driven," she says.

**Alternatives first**

Governments need to prioritise the availability of alternatives before a ban is enforced, as per Isabel.

"Back in time, our countries used newspapers and banana leaves as wrappers. Sometimes it's not just about looking for viable alternatives but it's also about returning to our roots. Viable alternatives are the way, 'cause you need to create a new alternative in such a manner that 20 years down the line, you shouldn't worry about the same being dumped everywhere," she explains.

At a time when the youth are questioning leaders in power about the depleting resources on the planet, they want to harness the power of the youth through their upcoming project 'Youthopia'.

**“To create real change, you have to work together with stakeholders, organisations, activists and schools and private sectors”**  
—Isabel Wijsen, activist




## **Key Activities from April 2020 - Present**

### **1. Month of Digital Climate Action**

One month of digital climate action was celebrated on April 2020 in association with Greenpeace India, Fridays For Future India and Fridays For Future Cochin. The digital climate action included live webinars, online activities, challenges and online courses. On Earth Day, we started a campaign called 'ADD YOUR VOICE CAMPAIGN' which received good response from people. A series of webinars on the topic 'Climate and Diseases' were conducted which were led by Dr. Indu Gopi – Public Health Scientist, Dr Dahy Sulaiman and Mr. Jesudas Nadupuri. An another series of webinars on the topic 'Waste Management and Climate' were conducted which was engaged by K K Krishna Kumar. Aparna Gopan - founder of "Elefant in the Room" discussed about the topic 'Gender and Climate Change' through another five webinars. As part of the next webinar, Prof Archana Prasad shared her views on the topic 'Impacts of Ecological Changes on Adivasi Community'. Clinice P Jose – Junior Research Biologist at Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History, shared his knowledge on 'Wildlife and Climate Change' through three consecutive webinars conducted at the end of April. 'Sustainable Living – Ideas for Simple, Healthy and Affordable Lifestye' was the topic of the webinar conducted on 30th April 2020 which was led by Wioleta Burdzy Seth – co-creator of Young India Challenge, trainer, life coach and TEDx speaker from Poland.

### **2. Online Webinars & Virtual Campaigns**

We have conducted more than 25 online webinars on various topics of importance with key resource persons including Medha Patkar, Dr Archana Prasad, Dr K G Thara, Sridhar Radhakrishnan, Dr Biju Kumar, Adv Harish Vasudevan, Neha Verma IFS, Dr Meera Baidur and many others.



As part of the digital campaign by Bring Back Green, an awareness video was uploaded on 30 April 2020, on the topic 'Meat and Anti-biotic Resistance' which was led by Dr B Sunil – Professor of Department of Veterinary Public Health at the College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Thrissur (Bring Back Green YouTube Channel). A video was presented on 3rd May 2020 on the topic 'Over-Fishing and Impacts' in association with SURE Labs, Sustainable Resource Laboratory, Department of Environmental Science, Central University of Kerala. A webinar on the topic 'climate change: effects on mental health' was conducted on 13th May, 2020 which was led by Dr Meera Baindur – Associate Professor and Coordinator of the Philosophy department at Bengaluru Central University. A series of virtual talks were conducted in which well-known Malayalam author Ambikasuthan Mangad talked about Pollution and Ecology. A webinar was held on 17th May, 2020 which was taken by Manu K – a well-known environmental educator associated with Hasiru Hejje initiative, who talked on the topic 'Climate Change: Mitigation and Adaptation'. On 19th May 2020, an instagram live video was aired in which Theresa Rose Sebastian – a climate activist talked about the involvement of youth communities in mitigation. On 13th June 2020, a webinar was organised in which Dr K G Thara – Former Head of Disaster Management Division shared her knowledge on the topic 'Climate Change Challenges and Disaster Management'. On the same day, another webinar was hosted by BBG on the topic 'Analysis of Ocean Pollution in Pre and Post Covid Era' which was led by Dr Anu Gopinath – assistant professor in Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies. Architect George J Chittoor talked about the morality of green sustainability in architecture in the webinar held on 14th June 2020.

A short video was created in which we tried to scratch the surface of the weird relationship we humans have with single-use plastic products which premiered on YouTube on 21 June 2020. Neha Varma IFS talked about the topic 'Development vs Conservation in Forests' in the webinar conducted on 30th June 2020. Post-Covid Webinar on the topic 'Sustainability in Agricultural Sector' was held on September 15, 2020 in which Dr P S Sreekantan Thampi – Rtd. Deputy Director, Spices Board Kerala and Shivadas B Menon – MD, Sterling Farm Research and Services Pvt. Ltd. were the speakers. Second post covid webinar was on September 20, 2020 on the topic 'Sustainability in Service Sector' in which Regive Manuel – Urban planner and chairman and director of C-EARTH and Dr Vinoj Abraham-professor, Centre for Development studies, Trivandrum were the speakers. Third post covid webinar was held on September 25, 2020 on the topic 'Sustainability in Manufacturing Sector'. Biju B – District Environmental Engineer, KSPCB, Alappuzha and Dr Joseph T J – Assistant Professor, Central University of Kerala were the panalists. The Hon'ble Speaker of the Kerala Legislative Assembly, P Sreeramakrishnan joined as the chief guest for our report presentation on 'Post-COVID Sustainability in Industries of Kerala'. The function was inaugurated by E. Chandrashekar - Hon'ble Minister for Revenue and Housing of Kerala. An online discussion was conducted on 25 October, 2020 about the coastal erosion seen in the south west coast of India. It commenced at 8.00 pm and was largely about the way forward in this type of situation. An open discussion on climate education based capacity building for teachers was conducted on 15th November at 7.00pm. Experts in their respective fields discussed about the importance of climate education. Completion of the program, offered the opportunity to be selected as one of our climate educators.

### **3. Awareness on Sustainable Menstruation**

As part of the earth day, an open discussion was held, inviting people using sustainable menstruation products. The idea to hold a taboo breaking session regarding the age old superstitions regarding menstruation was met with immense success. The platform was extremely helpful in getting participants to open up about their doubts regarding sustainable menstruation. Many young women shared their experience using sustainable menstruation products in Malayalam and English and according to them both cloth pads and menstrual cups are sustainable, comfortable and economic. Videos were created in both Malayalam and English on how to use menstrual cups and a question and answer session was done on the topic.

As part of the Menstrual Hygiene Day, a group discussion was held on 28th May 2020 on the topic 'Practising sustainable menstruation'. On 29th May, 2020, an instagram live video was aired in which Shradha Shreejaya , one of the founding campaigner of SMKC talked on the topic 'Sustainable Menstruation; Only for Privileged?'.  
*Bring Back Green*

### **4. Ocean Day Digital Quiz**

A digital quiz was conducted to commemorate the international world ocean day which is celebrated on 8th June, 2020. A total of 70 participants took part in this endeavour for raising awareness about our oceans.

### **5. Action Against EIA Draft Notification 2020**

We had submitted our objections and suggestions report to MoEFCC regarding the EIA Draft Notification 2020 with the assistance of experts such as Dr K G Thara, Sridhar Radhakrishnan, Dr Biju Kumar, Adv Harish Vasudevan and PZ Thomas along with our 11 interns who studied and worked on

10 different regions of India that potentially could get affected by the draft.

In the webinar with Medha Patkar, she stressed on the importance of communities and how EIA Draft Notification 2020 will affect them. In the discussion. with our mentor on this project; Dr Biju Kumar, Adv Harish Vasudevan, PZ Thomas and Sridhar Radhakrishnan, they stressed on the importance of need of a new policy. They also discussed the problems with the draft and how it would impact different regions of India.

EIA Draft Notification Suggestions and Objections report prepared by BBG, was submitted to MOEFCC. Also the suggestions and objections was translated to Malayalam and shared to everyone to raise awareness.

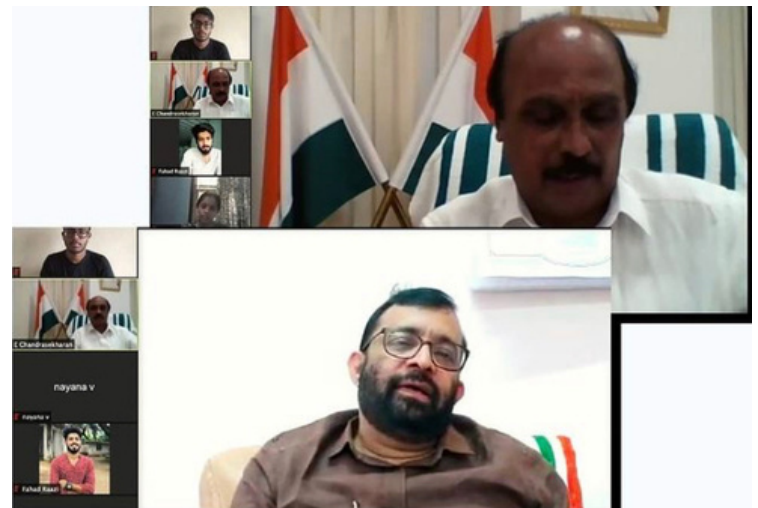
## **6. Virtual Conference and Webinar on Coastal Erosion (Trivandrum Coast: Causes and Challenges)**

Virtual Conference on Coastal Erosion was a one day conference organised by Bring Back Green on 24th August, 2020 in which we talked with a panel of experts and local representatives on the costal erosion issues faced at Trivandrum. Dr K V Thomas – expert oceanographer and former director, NCESS, Dr Biju Kumar – professor and Dean , Kerala University Aquatic Biology Fisheries Department, Dr Johnson Jamet, Advisor and Mentor CSCF and Dr. Tito D’cruz- freelance consultant were the panelists. The panel also consisted of 10 community representatives and CSCF members from the coastal regions of Trivandrum. A webinar on the topic ‘Impact of coastal erosion on women of coastal regions’ was held on 10th September, 2020 . Maglin Philomena Yohanan – President, Theeradeshavanitha Federation, Sindhu Maria Napoleon – Journalist and CSCF member and Lidiya – Social worker and CSCF member were the panelists.

## 7. Research Study on 'Post-COVID Sustainability of Agriculture, Manufacturing and Service Sectors of Kerala'

A futuristic and revolutionary study undertaken by Bring Back Green on how Kerala's sustainability could improve in a Post-COVID era. As part of this study, we conducted 3 webinars with experts such as Dr PS Sreekantan Thampi, Sivadas B Menon, Regive Manuel, Dr Vinoj Abraham, Biju B and Dr Joseph TJ. We presented the report virtually on September 30th, 2020 in the presence of Hon'ble Revenue Minister of Kerala, E Chandrashekar and Hon'ble Speaker P Sreeramakrishnan. This report was later submitted to the Hon'ble Agricultural Minister and Office of the Hon'ble Finance Minister.

**Abstract of the study:** The purpose of this article is to stimulate and create awareness regarding the shift of industries and sectors in a Post-COVID Economy with a specific focus on the Indian State of Kerala. The project tries to broaden the government's attempts to bring Sustainability into the grass-root level operations and present the current case scenario of the Various Sectors due to the pandemic.



## 8. International Conference on Climate Education 2020

A two-day International Conference on Climate Education was held on October 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> of 2020 to discuss the need for climate education in curbing challenges of climate change. Through the Google Meet platform it brought together the best minds and experts around the world. The conference acted as a consultation and foundation for the Bring Back Green's curriculum implementation project in South India and it explored green recovery opportunities in the education sector. The conference consisted of interesting panel discourses, workshops and video screenings which were made available to more than 300 participants with free registration. The inauguration was done by **Kumi Naidoo - the former Secretary General for Amnesty International, Executive Director of Greenpeace International and Global Ambassador for Africans Rising.**

A panel discussion on the topic "Vision Setting for Future Schools" was engaged by Xiye Bastida - Climate and indigenous rights activist, Eugenia Chow - Climate activist, sustainability blogger and podcaster, Ayisha Siddiqi - Co-founder of Polluters Out and Climate and social justice activist, Veronica Mulenga - Climate and environmental activist and founder of Earth Warrior and Elizabeth Wathuti - Environment and climate activist, founder of the Green Generation Initiative and Head of Campaigns-Wangari Maathai Foundation. An expert session on the topic "Analysing flaws in existing climate education framework" was led by Rekha lalla - teacher, curriculum designing expert, CII certified expert-climate change and project manager-climate reality project.

Panelists of second panel discussion on the topic “What Needs to be Included in Climate Education Curriculum” were consisted of three young members namely Bindu Bhandari – Climate change science and policy consultant (“One of the top 25 female climate leaders” – The Ecologist) , Maya Gryesten Fields - Graduate, Environmental Management and Policy Program at Lund University and Heeta Lakhani –YOUNGO Focal Point, Director for Umeus United PVT LTD and Director for World Wilderness Congress. In the third panel discussion, which commenced on the second day of the conference, scientists and coordinators from Climate Science discussed their work. The panel members included Eric Steinberger - Co-founder and Chief Executive Officer of Climate Science, Michael Backlund - Director of Global Community at Climate Science and Mahender Singh Rawat - National Coordinator of the Climate Science Indian Community. “Opportunities for Green Recovery in Education Sector” was the topic of the fourth panel discussion. Saraf Nawar - Co-founder, Shongjog Chair, Greentu, Tu Delft and green office coordinator of Netherlands, SVM, Rosaria Alvarenga – Consultant, Sustainability and social innovation student, HEC Paris, Sachin Satyarajan - Former programme coordinator, UNURCE and Pat Mehigan – Energy and utilities manager, University College Cork, Ireland were the panel members.





## 9. National Conference on Climate Education 2020

National Conference on Climate Education was the first ever virtual discussion on national level about the importance of climate education in our curriculum which was on 10 October, 2020 inaugurated by Lizzie Jacob IAS (rtd.) – Former Chief Secretary, Govt of Kerala. Vandana Shiva - Indian scholar, environmental activist, food sovereignty advocate, ecofeminist and anti-globalization author was the chief guest of the national conference. First panel discussion was on the topic ‘Climate Change, Resilience and Need for Climate Education’. Prof.(Dr) Gurdeep Singh – Vice Chancellor – Vinoba Bhave University, Hazaribag and professor IIT ISM, Dr Gopakumar Cholayil – Scientific Officer, Academy of Climate Change Education and Research, Kerala Agricultural University and R Harikumar – Director, Energy Management Centre , Govt of Kerala were the panalists. Prof.(Dr) N C Narayanan – Professor, IDP in Climate Studies, IIT Bombay, Shibu K N – India Coordinator, Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives, AR George J Chittoor - Chief Architect, GJC Designs and Mathew Samuel – Co-Founder , Sunday Grids were the panelists of the second discussion which was on the topic ‘Opportunities for Sustainable Growth in Educational Institutions’. Third panel discussion was engaged by Vijayarajamallika – Gender activist and social worker and Dr Latha Nair R – Associate Professor, St. Teresa’s College and



Director of the Gunn Centre in India. The panel discussion was on the topic 'Addressing Gender Issues Through Climate Education'. 'Importance of Indigenous Knowledge in Climate Education' was the topic discussed by Ashish Birulee, activist and photojournalist Adivasi Lives Matter. The national conference came to an end with exclusive workshops which helped to engage in discussions under the guidance of expert moderators to identify environmental issues and understanding how climate education can be a part of the solution.



## **10. State Level Conference on Climate Education 2020**

A State Level Conference on Climate Education 2020 was the first ever state level virtual discussion about the importance of climate education in our educational curriculum which commenced on October 18. Annual Lecture was delivered by Adv. V K Prasanth – Environmentalist, Member of Legislative Assembly, Kerala, Patron, Green Army International. A thought provoking session on 'Importance of Agricultural Knowledge in Students and Opportunities within Schools' was conducted which was led by Ushakumari S – Director, Thanal Trust, National Coordinator, Save Rice Campaign and Rajesh Krishnan – Organic Farmer, CEO, Thirunneli Agri Producer Company.

Prof (Dr) Sabu Joseph – Professor, Department of Environmental Science University of Kerala spoke about the role of climate education within schools and colleges of Kerala. Dr K G Thara – Former Head, Disaster Management Authority, Kerala talked about the need for disaster management capacity building in educational institutions. Babitha P S, Anagh and Thomas Varghese shared their experience of being climate educators.

## **11. Study on Coastal Erosion: Causes and Impact on Indigenous Communities**

A study on Coastal Erosion: Causes and Impact on Indigenous Communities (Study from Anchuthengu to Poonthura) was conducted by Anagh - Core team member, Bring Back Green, Vice-President of Dhisha, Akhilesh AnilKumar - Co-founder and Director of Bring Back Green, Fahad Razzi - Co-founder and Director of Bring Back Green and Asif Vahab. Coastal morphologic features and artificial structures in the study region were delineated from a survey with a detailed questionnaire. The key regions affected in Thiruvananthapuram coast was visited, and detailed photographs had been prepared to understand the role of natural morphologies and artificial structures in causing or accelerating coastal erosion. Observations and results had been obtained on the issue and a detailed study report was prepared which was submitted to Hon'ble Minister of Fisheries and Harbour Engineering, Kerala.



## **12. 15- Day Capacity Building Program on Preventive Methods of Beach Erosion**

15 - Day Capacity Building Program on Preventive Methods of Beach Erosion was inaugurated by Mercikuttyamma - Hon'ble Minister for Fisheries and Harbour Engineering, Kerala. The capacity building program commenced on 01 December, 2020 which was led by Kunjimammu Paravath - SE HE Kozhikode, VT Balakrishnan - EE HE Kannur, Dr. Sajin Kumar K.S - Assistant Professor, University of Kerala, Prof. Dr. Balaji Ramakrishnan - Department of Civil Engineering, IIT Bombay , Prof. Dr. Saumitra Mukherjee - Dean, School of Environmental Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Dr Arun Kumar - Assistant Professor, MES Ponani, Dr. A.N. Manoharan - Head, Department of Geology, Government College, Kasargod, Prof. V. Gopinathan - Former Deputy Director, Higher Education Council and Dr KG Thara - Former Head, Disaster Management Authority. Knowing South-West Coast, Monitoring beach erosion through remote sensing, Airborne Photogrammetry, Bathymetric Surveys, Field Observations and Sedimentary Analysis, Erosion Control Mats, Breakwater Tubes, Geotextiles, Groins, Breakwaters, Coconut Fiber Logs, Earth Barrier Walls and Soft Measures to Coastal Protection were the topics discussed on the capacity building program. On the last day, the participants submitted a rough plan of action to the organisers, on the basis of the training they had received.

## **13. National Conference on Coastal Erosion and Indigenous Communities of South-West Coast of India 2021**

National Conference on Coastal Erosion and Indigenous Community of South-West Coast of India 2021 was jointly organised by Bring Back Green and School of Gandhian Thought and Development Studies, Mahatma Gandhi University, Kerala which was held from 05/02/2021 to

07/02/2021. The conference had paper presentations and technical sessions by experts, activists, academicians and scientists. The conference was inaugurated by prof. Dr. Sabu Thomas, honourable vice chancellor, Mahathma Gandhi University. The keynote address was delivered by Alex Vargheese - Chief Engineer, Kerala Irrigation Department, Government of Kerala. First technical session was by Kumar Sahayaraju , who is an indigenous marine researcher and ocean sustainability promoter, coastal students cultural forum. Kumar Sahayaraju talked on the topic ' Culture, livelihood and disaster- impact of coastal erosion and fisher folk community'. The second technical session was by two experts, A.J Vijayan, ocean science expert and former secretary , Kerala independent fish workers federation who spoke on the topic – 'Erosion hotspots along south- West coast of India' and Dr.L.Sheela Nair, scientist , National center for Earth science studies, Thiruvananthapuram whose topic was seasonal erosion and permanent erosion in shore lines in Thiruvananthapuram and Alappuzha. The third speaker was prof.Dr. K.G Pathmakumar, who is a special officer and director international research center and training center for below sea level farming in Kuttanadu. The topic of the speaker was 'Reinforced concrete problems and solutions in the south - west coast of India'. Next technical session was by Dr.K.G.Thara former head, Kerala disaster management team government of Kerala and Dr.K.K Ramachandran. The conference also included 5 multidisciplinary paper presentations B which were solution oriented. The proceedings of the conference was submitted to Dr K Ravi Raman, Former Member of the Kerala State Planning Board. The proceedings was also submitted to the **Hon'ble Chief Minister, Shri Pinarayi Vijayan** on the same day.



#### **14. Basic Climate Education Program for Students**

As part of our climate education activities and interventions with school students, which used to be taken place physically currently inaccessible due to COVID, we conducted an online 5 day 'Basic Climate Education Program' for school students from the age of 5-13 years with the help of experts and our team (in association with Fridays For Future Kerala). Nearly 30+ students participated along with their parents. The results were positive from the students and they starting making necessary changes in their daily lives as part of the program.



## **15. Capacity Building Program on Climate Education and Curriculum Development**

Capacity Building Program on Climate Education and Curriculum Development was conducted by Bring Back Green in association with St Thomas College of Teacher Education, Palai and IQAC from 16th to 26th February, 2021. Environmentalist Ashish Kothari inaugurated the program. Anagh - Project Head, Bring Back Green, Research Scholar, MG University, Nikhilesh V P - Green Army, Babitha P S - Climate Educator, Akhilesh AnilKumar - Co-Founder and Director, Bring Back Green, Raju S - Project Management Team, Thanal, Kavya, Eco-feminist , Co-founder, SMKC, Dr Karunakaran Akhil Dev - Kerala Disaster Management Team, Fahad T, Co-Founder and Director, Bring Back Green and Tessie Sebastian and Shriya Dayal - Climate Education Project Team, Bring Back Green were the key speakers. Basics of Plastic and Importance of Education, Educating the students on Basics of Climate and Challenges to Climate, Alternate Education as Climate Education, Sustainable living from Childhood, Waste Management in Educational Institutions, Gender Education in Climate Curriculum, Disaster Management and Introduction to Alternative Products and Educating Students were the topics discussed in the capacity building program. The valedictory guest speaker for the capacity building programme on climate education and curriculum development was Dr. T N Seema - Executive Vice-Chairperson of Haritha Keralam Mission. The climate curriculum formulated by participants was handed over to Dr T.N Seema. The latest draft curriculum which was edited by Bring Back Green team was submitted to the Hon'ble Higher Education Minister of Kerala, R Bindu on June 5th, World Environment Day 2021.



## **16. Special Discussion with Abhishek Thakore**

World environmental day special online discussion was held on June 5, 2021 at 7.00 PM on the topic 'Civic Rights Movement for Environment'. The guest speaker was Abhishek Thakore – Founder, Blue Ribbon Movement, social entrepreneur, integral facilitator and TedX speaker.

## **17. Online Discussion with PP Chitharanjan MLA**

An online discussion on the topic “What can the newly elected government do to protect our coastal community from coastal erosion?” was held on 28 May, 2021 at 6.00 PM through Google Meet. P P Chitharanjan – Member of Legislative Assembly, Alappuzha and former Matsyafed Chairman, Government of Kerala was the chief guest of the programme.

## **18. Other Interventions**

We have written letters to the Chief Minister, Minister and MLA's addressing attention on certain issues such as rehabilitation of cyclone affected community members at 'Pozhiyoor' (Letter to Chief Minister), need for a special

package for the coastal community affected by the cyclone (Letter to Fisheries Minister and MLA's). unscientific sea wall construction at Chellanam (Letter to Fisheries Minister).



From  
Bring Back Green Foundation

Date: 24/05/2021

To  
Saji Cheriyan,  
Hon'ble Minister of Fisheries, Harbour Engineering,  
Fisheries University  
Government of Kerala

Sub: Attention required on the need for a special package for the coastal community affected by the cyclone.

Dear Sir,

The new government has made necessary arrangements to address the issues of the farmers who lost plantations and necessary parts of their livelihood due to the last cyclone and the subsequent rains that Kerala battered. At the same time, the members of the coastal community has taken a very bad hit and faced extreme losses during the same period. They have seen a huge destruction to their livelihood by loss of boats and houses. This causes a serious concern to their day to day activities and life in general. We request your attention on this issue and help provide required relief to these affected communities.

Also, it has been noted that in the coastal regions, post cyclone, the stones have been yet again started to be used to build up the sea wall (especially in Trivandrum coastal region). We would like to kindly bring to your attention that this is not seen as a long term solution and comes with its own repercussions. As part of our study on 'Coastal Erosion and Impact on Indigenous Communities' which was submitted to former minister of fisheries and harbour engineering, Smt. J Mercykutty Amma, and as discussed with the former minister, it was informed to us that geotubes are being planned to be implemented soon within the area. However, the works regarding



From  
Bring Back Green Foundation

Date: 26/05/2021

To  
Saji Cheriyan,  
Hon'ble Minister of Fisheries, Harbour Engineering,  
Fisheries University  
Government of Kerala

Sub: Attention required on unscientific sea wall construction at Chellanam

Dear Sir,

It has come to our notice regarding the construction of sea wall at chellanam, post cyclone tauktai destruction. We wish to bring to your attention that this construction is unscientific and unsustainable. In 2018, the previous government had inaugurated and constructed the sea wall along the same coast and currently it lies destructed. This might happen again leading to more problems for the community members at chellanam.

We, at Bring Back Green have conducted discussions in the last year with community members and representatives from the scientific community about the coast of Chellanam and the possible solutions. We believe geotubes are a better alternative and was in plan to be constructed around chellanam before. Kindly take action in implementation of such or similar sustainable, scientific and long term solutions instead of sea walls. A similar issue (in Trivandrum coast) was raised to you via one of our previous letter. We wish for your urgent intervention and attention on this issue.

Akhilesh Anilkumar    Fahad T    Anagh  
Co-Founder    Co-Founder    Project Head  
Director    Director

