

THANGESWARY ANNAMALLAI & KAVITHA ARUMUGHAM & PUSPA WILRY

SJK Tamil Kajang, Malaysia



A dynamic trio of primary school teachers whose aim is to encourage adults and children alike to reduce food waste and, in the process, create a safer environment.

Interview by Esther Veerappan

At the Global Women Inventors & Innovators Showcase, London, United Kingdom 2019

Tell me about your invention

Interviewee: THANGESWARY ANNAMALLAI

“Our product is about changing food waste into organic soil. We get a lot of food waste from every part of the world and sometimes what we waste is actually good enough to be eaten by another person; simply put - it's edible. So, what we want to do is for people to realise that, what is thrown out of the house, when it goes to the landfills, it creates numerous problems like environmental pollution, water pollution, and unwanted growth of pests and easy spread of diseases. Especially in my country where we have a tropical temperature that easily promotes diseases which can spread very fast because our country is small and highly populated. So, what we thought is, what if we can give everyone, every household, a small machine to digest their own food waste, get your own soil so you do not have to go to the nurseries to buy soil – recycle in a very natural way.”

How did you arrive at that thought?

“We started off by encouraging our students not to waste food, telling them to ‘eat only what you take and take only what you eat’. From then on, we thought, *‘this is happening in our school, what about the rest of the world?’* There is a lot of food that is being wasted so first we must try to reduce food waste. We couldn't do that yet completely, so what we thought was, start clearing the waste that is already piling up in the landfills. To start clearing, the idea then is to get [the children] to do their own soil so that in the future, in 10 years to come, our children will have a better place to live.”

What stage are you at currently?

“We are already into the drawing part of it. After this we are going to patent the product. Once we have the patent, we have to get funding from other places to create the machine but we know the machine is going to be costly so we don't expect [people] to buy it. We are going to rent it to them at a minimal payment.

What has been the biggest challenge so far?

“To get the person to draw for us. Getting this is a lot of work for [us]. The machine itself has too many parts. It is the design rather than [the] actual idea that has been presenting the problems for us.”

How about the highlights?

“The highlights... Everything. [We] went through tough moments in getting this done. Lots of sacrifices. We are fulltime teachers and I am a fulltime mother. We have to do something for everybody. I'm always concerned about my own children and [our] school children as well. [We] want a safer environment and to be role models to our kids that we teach and our own children as well.

What has attending this GWIIN event meant for you?

“[We] never expected to come this way. [We] never expected that we would even qualify for the awards. We never expected to be here today. It is still a dream to all three of us.”



What message would you send forward to the lady or the young girl out there with an idea?

“You might think your invention is too small but for somebody that small is everything. I have a very supportive background in terms of my husband and my children and my parents in whatever I do because they know from small age, I was not a normal girl. So, that is why I always feel like... do not give up.”



THANGESWARY A/P ANNAMALLAI & KAVITHA A/P ARUMUGHAM & PUSPA A/P WILRY was from Malaysia was awarded the **GLOBALWIIN SPECIAL RECOGNITION 2019 AWARD** for their invention - Biosoil which is capable of converting food leftovers and organic by products to soil. It is a simple design according to the need and wants of the customers to make recycling easy.



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