These words of Jesus reiterate that as human beings we all should have a meaningful and fulfilling life. Life in all its fullness signifies not just material wealth and prosperity, it goes beyond and means to enjoy life in all its spirits by living a dignified and respectable life. In other words, we all should have a life which is sustainable in all aspects.

The term sustainability denotes the ability to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. It has three main dimensions: environment, social (equity) and economic. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, a plan of action for people, planet and prosperity, with its 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 targets, wants to achieve these three dimensions of sustainable development.

The recent imbalance in the economy has led to increased economic burden on the poor and marginalised of the country. Socially, the Indian society is a highly inequal society divided in terms of different caste, religion, region and gender which threaten to hurt India’s growth. So far as the environment dimension is concerned, the whole world today is facing a huge challenge and climate activists around the world have now started using a term “climate emergency” instead of “climate change” to add a sense of urgency to the way we have been responding to climate change.

In this context, Caritas India since its inception in 1962, through its multidimensional presence in the most backward areas of the country is working towards building sustainable livelihood and improving lives for several individuals. Under the thematic focus of Caritas India Livelihood and Skill Development stressing upon the Sustainable Development Goal 1: “End poverty in all its forms everywhere” and SDG 2: “End hunger achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture”. Through a nationwide presence Caritas India in the year 2018-19 has reached out to 1078280 individuals comprising of small land holder farmers, landless farmers and women farmers etc. Using a multidimensional approach in improving livelihoods Caritas India has successfully established different Community Based Organisations (CBOs) encompassing farmers clubs, farmers fora and farmers’ producer organisations to empower community’s foster climate adaptive agriculture and livelihoods and secure adequate wholesome food supply, the strengthening of CBOs will result in sustaining the change processes.
Creating market facilities for both producers and buyers

Upgrading the existing skills to enhance livelihood opportunities

Support organisations to support grassroot interventions

Let us pledge during this Lenten Season to contribute (financially/non-financially) towards enabling a sustained life. This doesn’t only mean poverty eradication, but also building the capacity and capabilities of others to withstand the trends and the shocks. It also means that all of us start living our lives with a sustainable approach – by sustainable use of natural resource, reducing carbon emissions by using eco-friendly methods of traveling, reducing/recycling the waste products, enabling community-led initiatives.

After all, in an ideal society, everyone works for the well-being of others. So, let us come together and do our bit. Let us contribute!

Regular interventions have established convergences and linkages with government has resulted in accessing government schemes and entitlements by local communities. Caritas India’s innovative and scientific interventions has also resulted in resilient farming techniques, raised farm production and income among the farmers. It has also aimed at an integrated approach to help the farming communities in ensuring food and nutritional security.

Mat 5:3 says “Blessed are the poor in spirit; for theirs is the kingdom of heaven”. In this season of lent it is time for all of us to reach out to the poor and strengthen them. During this time of the lent, Caritas India wants to emphasise on the fact that the ecosystem and all other systems, such as economic, social and cultural systems, are interrelated and affect each other. Thus, it is the need of the hour that the rich work with the poor, the privileged with the unprivileged, and the educated with the uneducated.

Caritas India, through its annual Lenten Campaign 2020, focussing on the theme – Sustain Life: Sustainable Livelihood invites everyone to join hands and come together to be a catalyst – a change agent - to adopt “Each one Help one” approach in reaching out to attain a sustainable livelihood. You are invited to reach out through the following ways:

- Create platform for dialogue and linkages with the duty bearers especially for landless farmers
- Create linkages with corporates to promote entrepreneurship options.
- Promoting young entrepreneurs at own parishes

We gratefully acknowledge and appreciate the contributions from individuals, communities and our member organisations (DSSS) for the campaign “Nutrition: Our Right”. The total contribution for Lenten Campaign 2019 as on December 2019 amounts to ₹ 92,50,766/-.