

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

—John 10:10

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29

Droughts and floods caused by climate change are wreaking havoc in the lives and livelihoods of farmers in India. In 2014, the National Crime Records Bureau of India reported 5,650 farmer suicides. In the past year, in the western state of Maharashtra, farmers were committing suicide at a rate of eight people per day.

Jesus came into this world to give life – in all its fullness. Jesus revealed himself as the bread of life. Farmers are lifegivers too, producing the food we eat. But farmers in India are unable to sustain farming at current costs. Lent foretells the coming of spring, which signifies new life. As spring begins, the Church should turn its heart toward the plight of farmers. As economic and environmental tensions push farmers to the verge of death, the Church is called to stand with them. Standing like Jesus in favor of the people who share bread for the sustenance of life, the Church can be a source of life and light for the farmers.

Episcopal Relief & Development and the Church's Auxiliary for Social Action are working together to empower farmers, both men and women, to reduce suicides by providing agricultural education in the Yavatmal District of Maharashtra. As we meditate on Jesus the life giver, let us take action to stop loss of life around the globe in any form as Jesus did.

—Joycia Thorat