Message from the 
Executive Director

Last year, on the occasion of celebrating 30 years of the Timbaktu Collective, we initiated an invigorating and collaborative process of reimagining our vision, mission, and philosophy. This process was completed in 2021-22. Another celebration followed in which the results of the reimagining process were presented. Post this, we embarked on a journey of integrating the revised vision, mission, and philosophy across the organisation.

At the same time, we undertook a parallel process to restructure the organisation, after which the leadership team was reformulated. In 2021-22, we also had the opportunity to emerge from the shadows of the COVID-19 pandemic and take confident steps toward our goals.

We also thank the many donors, government authorities, civil society organisations, and friends who support our work.

Mary Vattamattam
Executive Director
LIFE, WE CELEBRATE YOU.

VISION
Rural communities live in dignity and peace while nurturing and celebrating life.

MISSION
Enable marginalised rural people (landless labourers, artisans, small and marginal farmers, particularly women, children, youth, persons with disabilities, Dalits and minorities) to realise their strengths, realise their rights, secure sustainable livelihoods, gain social and gender equity and take charge of their lives while reclaiming their cultural and ecological heritage.

LIFE IS PRECIOUS
We nurture, celebrate and love life. While the margins define the outer boundaries of the whole, they are also integral to the whole. They are diverse, creative, resourcedful and resilient spaces that contribute energies and resources to the whole. These spaces and those who inhabit them, have to be strengthened for the whole to remain vibrant and for all to survive.

TOGETHER WE TRANSFORM
We believe in individual and collective strength of people and that social transformation is possible through collective awareness and action. We realise that individuals and communities through a process of understanding the social conditioning can make different choices in their life and address systemic inequities and all forms of discrimination.

To do this, community building, collaboration, inclusion and trust lay the path.

REGENERATE. REVITALISE. RESTORE
Recognising ecosystem as life itself and the bedrock of existence, the Collective believes that ecological degeneration is caused by human beings and is reversible through collective action for regeneration and restoration.
About Us

Who We Are

The Timbaktu Collective (“the Collective”) is a non-profit organisation that works towards the sustainable development of marginalised people across 285 villages in nine sub-divisions of the drought-prone and ecologically challenged Sri Sathya Sai and Ananthapuramu Districts in Andhra Pradesh, India. The Collective was established in November 1990, and its Head Office is in Chennekothapalli village (160 km north of Bengaluru).

We develop and implement various thematic programmes and initiatives with community participation and ownership as the overarching themes. Our core strategy is the promotion of independent people’s organisations (registered as Mutually Aided Cooperative Societies) – to build solidarity among rural people and address poverty, food security, livelihoods, environmental degradation, and myriad forms of discrimination.

The Collective is closely associated with ‘Timbaktu,’ a 32-acre agro-forest habitat that emphasises natural regeneration, Permaculture, sustainable living, and off-grid solar energy. Timbaktu houses Prakruthi Badi (Nature School), a primary school for children from disadvantaged backgrounds, and our main Training Centre.
Our Programmes

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<td>Mahasakthi Network of Women’s Thrift &amp; Credit Cooperatives</td>
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<td>Prathibha Cooperative of People with Disabilities</td>
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<td>Gramasiri Agricultural Labourers’ Cooperative</td>
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<td>Chiguru Programme</td>
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<td>Kalpavalli Tree Growers’ Cooperative</td>
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<td>Dharani Farming &amp; Marketing Cooperative</td>
<td>1,987</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>37,642</strong></td>
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*Approximately US$ 6.7 million*

1. The total number of members/stakeholders does not consider overlaps in membership, which is estimated to be 1,000 members.
2. Exchange rate: US$ 1 = ₹75.90
PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS

The Collective promotes the Mahasakthi Federation and its four constituent Cooperatives – Adisakthi, Ananthasakthi, Mahilasakthi, and Durgasakthi – to achieve its vision for the socioeconomic empowerment of rural women. The Federation was established in 2012 under the Andhra Pradesh Mutually Aided Cooperative Societies Act (APMACS Act, 1995). The Federation’s main activities are supervising a robust thrift and credit facility, conducting welfare and educational activities for its members, and providing support in institution building, systems, and governance mechanisms.

Mahasakthi Federation expanded its working area from four to eight mandals (sub-divisions). 3,411 women joined the Cooperatives this year, with the Federation’s consolidated membership increasing from 24,223 to 29,146 and its footprint increasing from 183 to 285 villages. The total net worth of the Cooperatives had a significant increase, growing from ₹35.26 crores to ₹41.67 crores. The Cooperatives performed admirably despite being impacted by the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic in the summer of 2021.

The Cooperatives issued 5,830 loans worth ₹28.86 crores to their members in 2021-22. Out of these, 76% were for agriculture, livelihoods, small enterprises, and asset building. Access to affordable and fair credit enabled our stakeholders to exercise their agency and judgment concerning finances and spending. To cater to the high demand and considering its exceptional loan-repayment rate, the Federation increased Adisakthi Cooperative’s maximum loan size from ₹1.2 lakhs to ₹1.5 lakhs.

Mahasakthi Federation provided ₹23,75,800 to members and their families as part of social welfare schemes to cover the death of a Cooperative member or the family’s primary earner, the education of children, and environmental disasters. Besides, the Federation donated ₹88,400 to the Rural Development Trust to procure Oxygen generators for COVID-19 patients.

The Federation updated its ‘Member Education’ training series to include modules on the financial inclusion of women, women’s ownership over family finances, and countering gender-based discrimination. 4,063 members attended the training series.

A common thread from the sessions was the continued prevalence of gender-based disparities at the family level despite women having more agency over financial decision-making. This resulted in several inspiring and energetic conversations among members to address this issue.

The Federation’s Legal Aid Centre received 24 complaints during the year. A few disputes were voluntarily resolved through counselling, while serious cases were referred to law enforcement authorities with ongoing support and guidance provided to victims.

We celebrated International Women’s Day on March 8, 2022, at the Collective’s office in Chennekothapalli. 1,050 members of the women’s Cooperatives and the Collective’s employees took part in the event, which featured a rally through the village, traditional folk-dance performances, games, and team-building activities.

Representatives from the Swasakthi Programme visited the headquarters of the Mann Deshi Mahila Sahakari Bank in Satara District, Maharashtra, in September 2021 to learn about the bank’s operational model. It was an immensely beneficial visit that has planted seeds for some exciting plans. Set up in 1997, Mann Deshi Bank is recognised as India’s first Co-operative Bank for rural women.

Professor M S Sriram, a faculty member at the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Bengaluru, Chairperson of the Centre for Public
Policy, and a thought leader on microcredit and inclusive finance, visited the Mahasakthi Federation at the Collective’s invitation. He met with Directors and staff, assessed the Cooperatives’ financial performance, and provided recommendations on areas of improvement.

Mahasakthi Federation and its constituent entities received widespread coverage in Telugu-language newspapers. Two high points were a feature profile in the Eenadu newspaper’s district-wide edition on October 27, 2021, and a detailed article on Mary Vattamattam (Co-Founder and Executive Director, Timbaktu Collective) and the Swasakthi Programme in Eenadu’s weekly Vasundhara supplement.

Mahasakthi Federation managed operations and human resources for Bhavani Weaving Unit, a handloom-production unit run by nine first-generation women weavers (who have received extensive training and mentoring from the Collective). In 2021-22, the unit produced 2,560 square metres of fabric and had a revenue of ₹12.80 lakhs. After the payment of wages, which amounted to ₹7.8 lakhs, Bhavani closed the financial year with a net worth of ₹15 lakhs.

Hanumakka started a bangles business after receiving a loan from the Ananthasakthi Cooperative
Mahasakthi meeting to decide on expanding the Federation

Mahasakthi’s impact as featured by a Telugu newspaper
The Collective initiated the Militha Programme in 2004 to ensure that people with disabilities were included and integrated as valued members of their families and communities, treated with respect and dignity, and provided with opportunities for financial empowerment. The Militha Programme offers strategic support to the Prathibha Cooperative, which functions as a federation of village-level Cross Disability Groups (CDGs or sanghas) comprised of adults with physical or intellectual disabilities and the parents or family members of children with disabilities. The Prathibha Cooperative operates a thrift and credit programme, facilitates access to entitlements and therapeutic/rehabilitative services, and advocates for the rights of people with disabilities.

The Prathibha Cooperative provided 458 members with loans worth ₹1.43 crores for agriculture and other livelihood activities, healthcare, education, and housing. As of March 2022, Prathibha Cooperative had 1,558 members (582 women and 796 men) and a net worth of ₹2.40 crores.

Mr. Kiran Naik, a disability rights activist, conducted two workshops on ‘Gender and Intersectionality’ for the Collective’s staff and the Directors of our partner Cooperatives. This was an essential follow-up to the gender mainstreaming workshops organised for the same group in Visthar, Bengaluru, in 2020-21. As part of their training mandate, the team held regular ‘Member Education’ education sessions on disability rights, gender, financial literacy, and Cooperative regulations.

Home-based rehabilitative therapy was provided to 118 children with disabilities. Each child was visited thrice a month. After months of capacity building, 32 parents/family members could provide high-quality para-therapy for children. 59 assistive devices were provided to children with significant disabilities. Four modified wheelchairs were distributed to children with cerebral palsy. Besides, home adaptations (minor architectural modifications to enhance accessibility and mobility) were done where required.

Residential camps for children with disabilities were held in the Kalpavalli Community Conservation Area and the Timbaktu agro-forest habitat, which provided them valuable opportunities for socialising with peers, exploring new sites, and taking part in recreational activities. Besides, 30 children and youth with disabilities benefited from the three full-time day-care centres run under Militha.

25 children/youth with disabilities attended a special event organised by the National Institute for the Empowerment of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities, and its affiliate, the Composite Regional Centre (CRC) for Skill Development and Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities, in Nellore in November 2021. They received age-appropriate learning materials at the event such as books, equipment, and science kits. A noteworthy moment for the children was witnessing a speech by Shri. Venkaiah Naidu, the Honourable Vice-President of India.
The World Disability Day was celebrated in Roddam village, on December 13, 2021. The event featured an awareness rally, speeches, cultural performances, distribution of assistive devices such as electronic wheelchairs, hearing aids, and walkers, and the announcement of scholarships for senior high school and college-level students.

The Militha team continued to emphasise lifelong learning and skill enhancement. In this regard, Ms. Shruti Kathane (Programme Manager) has joined a Diploma course on ‘Understanding Learning Disabilities’ at Azim Premji University in Bengaluru, which happens to be her alma mater. Ms. Narayanamma (Physiotherapist) completed a year-long course on ‘Art Practice for Inclusion’ organised by Snehadhara Foundation, Bengaluru, and began integrating new elements into her practice.

Militha Jeevanopadhula Sangam (MJS or the Militha Livelihood Unit), Prathibha Cooperative’s production unit comprised of 15 persons with disabilities, produced a range of products, including artisanal soaps, hair oil, dish wash liquid, screen-printed cloth bags, candles, masks, stationery (made with Appropriate Paper Technology), and chicken pickle. These products were sold at the Timbaktu Shop. By March 2022, MJS’ net worth was ₹38.18 lakhs.

Ms. Poonam Natarajan, one of India’s foremost experts on intellectual and developmental disabilities and the founder of Vidya Sagar (a disability rights organisation in Chennai), conducted a mid-term project evaluation covering the Militha Programme. The evaluation report found that the Militha Programme met most of its benchmarks and was poised for further growth. As per Ms. Natarajan, “the Prathibha Cooperative is the only collective [of persons with disabilities] in the county with its own funds and resources. People with disabilities can get a loan at a low-interest and pursue a business. The project is certainly empowering for the stakeholders and an important example for people with disabilities to live independent lives with dignity as equal citizens.”
Residential camp in Timbaktu for children with disabilities

Prathibha Cooperative’s Annual Mahasabha
The Chiguru Programme addresses the academic and extracurricular needs of children and youth while emphasising happy childhoods, nurturing environments, life skills development, play, creative engagement, cultural expression, and choices to shape their futures.

The Chiguru Programme has two components:

- **Mogga ("bud") Project**, which promotes experiential learning, collaboration, and leadership among children and youth through Balala Sanghas (Children’s Clubs), the Navayuvatha ("new youth") forum and three Children and Youth Resource Centres (CYRCs), which are free community centres with books, games, and a host of other facilities.

- **Prakruthi Badi** (Nature School), an accredited, residential primary school nestled in the verdant setting of the Timbaktu agro-forest habitat that specifically caters to children from disadvantaged and challenging backgrounds. Admission to the school is determined through a holistic assessment of the child’s socioeconomic status and inability to access or benefit from public schools.

The Mogga Project reached out to 2,950 children from 66 village-level Balala Sanghas in 2021-22. The Chiguru team organised camps and workshops on diverse topics such as child rights, ecology, the food web, etc., which 947 children attended. Besides, gender trainings were conducted for 392 students (183 girls, 209 boys) in local public schools, discussing gender-based discrimination, reproductive health, and role division. 1,176 books and publications by Kamla Bhasin on adolescence, gender and life skills, and child sexual abuse were distributed to the participants.

The Mogga Federation, which comprises two representative leaders from each of the four mandals (sub-divisions) covered by the Mogga Project, met once every two months to plan and review activities and develop content for Chinnari Nestham ("children’s friend"). Chinnari Nestham is a bi-monthly Telugu newsletter that fosters reading, writing, creativity, artwork, and an exploration of one’s potential. An intensive residential camp for 40 children was conducted with sessions held at the Timbaktu agro-forest habitat, Kailasam, and the Kalpavalli Community Conservation Area. The camp featured cultural activities, sports, life skills training sessions, nature walks, and an overview of organic compost preparation.

The children celebrated National Science Day (officially on February 28) through February, with 206 children setting up stalls and exhibits (in each of the three CYRCs), which 865 audience members viewed. The projects presented included wind turbines, electrical circuits, drip irrigation, and diet and nutrition.

35 youth were trained on macramé (a form of textile produced using knotting techniques) and bamboo craft. The youth tested their new skills by creating pot hangers, lamp shades, flower vases, and wall hangers.
After an extended closure due to the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, Prakruthi Badi re-opened on August 27, 2021. The teaching staff relied on a comprehensive curriculum and group exercises to address the learning gap. Outside the classroom, the students enthusiastically celebrated events such as Deepawali, Christmas, and Republic Day and went on excursions to Horsley Hills and Belum Caves.
Learning to paint and draw at the Children & Youth Resource Centre (CYRC) in Ramagiri

Annual Day celebrations in Nature School

Science Day in CYRC Ramagiri
The Kalpavalli Programme carries out community-based natural resource management and biodiversity conservation in a 4,000-acre region of village common lands called the Kalpavalli Community Conservation Area (KCCA). The Programme collaborates with the Kalpavalli Tree Growers’ Cooperative, a federation of 10 informal Forest Protection Committees that manage the common lands associated with their village. Initiated in 1992, the Kalpavalli Programme seeks to reverse the damage caused to a once productive ecosystem due to deforestation, overgrazing, forest fires, and climate change, and establish sustainable livelihoods for the local community based on the collection of Non-Timber Forest Produce (NTFPs) and Ecotourism. Due to the Collective’s efforts, the once barren, arid landscape has been transformed into a thriving Savannah grassland ecosystem. The KCCA is now one of India’s largest community-managed environmental restoration sites and home to endangered species such as the Indian Grey Wolf, Black Buck, Sloth Bear, and Hyena.

The Kalpavalli Cooperative’s team of full-time forest watchers managed grazing, guarded against poaching and hunting, recorded animal and bird sightings, monitored tree health, supervised the creation of firelines, and collected seeds for seed dibbling. They collected 232 kg of seed from 42 indigenous and pioneering trees and plants which were then used for seed dibbling camps by children, youth, and the concerned sangha/committee members.

After a brief training period, the team used the ‘Timbaktu Kalpavalli’ mobile app to tag and geo-code 54 species of mammals, birds, reptiles, and amphibians. The app was developed by Kainoos (www.kainoos.com), a New Delhi-based web design and development company.

The KCCA is prone to extensive forest fires in summer. In 2021-22, 54 km of fire lines were made, which helped create a buffer to prevent the spread of forest fires and protect the KCCA’s rich flora and fauna. This was a collaborative effort by forest watchers, Forest Protection Committee members and youth.

The Programme’s conservation education outreach initiative reached 2,752 children (1,401 girls and 1,351 boys) through classroom and village-level sessions on human-animal conflict, snakebite prevention and treatment, biodiversity, climate change, the food chain etc.

The KCCA was a source of supplementary income and fodder due to the increased availability of NTFPs and grass, after a better than average monsoon rain. 985 families generated additional income by collecting and selling date palm fruits, blackberry, gooseberry, custard apple, and various types of grasses. Besides, villagers from an 80-kilometre radius brought more than 100,000 cattle, goats, and sheep to graze inside the KCCA.

The Kalpavalli cooperative launched an Ecotourism project in partnership with Linger (www.linger.in), a responsible tourism venture headquartered in Bengaluru. The ‘Bush Camp’
field site is chosen as the primary destination, with activities and interactions in different parts of the KCCA. During the pilot phase, we hosted 15 visits from ecologists, birdwatchers, trekkers, and others.

The AP Biodiversity Board appointed the Collective as the Biodiversity Coordinator for Chennekothapalli, Roddam, and Ramagiri subdivisions. This meant that the Collective was authorised to form and review the performance of Biodiversity Management Committees—legally recognised, village-level bodies responsible for biodiversity conservation.

Dr. D.Nalini Mohan, IFS¹, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests for the Government of Andhra Pradesh and the Member Secretary of the Andhra Pradesh State Biodiversity Board (AP Biodiversity Board), visited the KCCA in September 2021 to observe the Collective’s work and participate in a joint meeting of Biodiversity Management Committees. This was a significant milestone for us as the AP Biodiversity Board is the state agency vested with the authority to implement the national-level Biodiversity Act of 2002.

¹. Indian Forest Service
The Gramasiri Programme aims to generate supplementary incomes for agricultural labourers by promoting the rearing of small ruminants, i.e., goats and sheep. The key strategies are the provision of short-term, low-interest loans (specifically to purchase small ruminants) by the Gramasiri Agricultural Labourers’ Livelihood and Marketing Cooperative (Gramasiri Cooperative), maintenance of a revolving fund, promotion of plant-based, organic livestock management services, and operating a microinsurance facility for small ruminants. The Collective established the Gramasiri Cooperative in 2010.

Gramasiri Cooperative issued loans worth Rs. 73.6 lakhs to 233 members to purchase small ruminants. Subsequently, they were accompanied by the Cooperative’s Purchasing Committee to procure the animals in village markets. The Purchasing Committee’s mandate was to promote accountability and ensure that the loan was used appropriately.

By March 2022, the Gramasiri Cooperative had 950 members from 61 villages who owned 12,071 small ruminants. The Cooperative’s net worth grew from Rs. 1.98 crores to Rs. 2.2 crores. Based on its surplus capital reserves, the Gramasiri Cooperative continued to support the credit needs of the other Cooperatives promoted by the Collective through short-term working capital loans. During the year, Gramasiri Cooperative issued loans of Rs 93 lakhs to other Cooperatives.

This year Gramsiri’s ethnovet resource team comprising of programme staff and Cooperative Directors attended additional trainings on preparing ethnoveterinary medicines (a low-cost alternative to allopathic drugs). Further they conducted 32 village-level workshops on ethnoveterinary medicine covering 310 members. The Cooperative’s Directors visited the KCCA to learn about grazing patterns and medicinal plants.

Ethnoveterinary medicine prepared by Gramasiri Cooperative members
31 sessions were conducted on sangha (group) management, members’ roles and responsibilities, gender equality, livestock rearing, and Cooperative regulations. 721 members participated in the sessions. Efforts were made to diversify the Cooperative’s activities and improve programme efficacy. The Cooperative resumed production of mutton pickles and piloted the marketing of the ethnovet medicines.
The Dharani Programme promotes sustainable, local, and climate-resilient farming among smallholder farmers. It also supports the institutional development, processing, and value addition requirements of Dharani Farming and Marketing Cooperative Ltd. (Dharani FaM Coop), a business enterprise owned by the same group of farmers. Dharani FaM Coop sells organic food products using the Timbaktu Organic brand name. Since its establishment in March 2008, Dharani FaM Coop has enabled its members to improve their returns and gain increased control over the agricultural value chain.

The Programme provides extension services to farmers who cultivate diverse food crops such as millets, groundnut, lentils, etc. It implements a crop-specific Package of Practices (PoP) and provides support in organic certification, peer-to-peer learning events, and training.

Dharani FaM Coop had 1,987 members (356 women and 1,631 men) from 155 sanghas (farmers’ groups) in 66 villages spread across eight mandals of Sri Sathya Sai District and Ananthapuramu Districts. During the year, 492 members sold 562 tonnes of millets, peanuts, pulses and honey worth ₹3 crores to the Cooperative.

Ahead of the Kharif crop (sown in early May, ahead of the first monsoon rains), the Dharani team met with farmers in each brundha (sub-group level of five farmers) to do crop planning. While 1,846 members participated in this exercise, 1,617 went ahead with farming activities in 4,888 acres. Subsequently, 515 members with access to sufficient irrigation facilities cultivated a Rabi crop (sown in mid-November, after the monsoon) in 1,381 acres. However, several members’ crops were damaged by unseasonal and sustained rains, that continued through November and December 2021.

The Collective continued to be part of the Participatory Guarantee Organic Council and tracked 151 farmer groups using the PGS system. As on March 2022, there were 118 farmer groups in fully organic status, 33 farmers groups in various stages of conversion.

The Collective established a digital soil testing facility to assess soil nutrient levels and provide recommendations on the required usage of organic manures. 1,193 soil samples were tested and soil health cards were distributed.

Food processing activities were in full swing throughout the year, with 137 tonnes of millets (Foxtail, Browntop, Kodo, Proso, Finger, Barnyard, etc.) and 240 tonnes of groundnut being processed into whole grain and value-added products. Dharani paid ₹50.64 lakhs in wages to women, who were involved in hand processing, especially millets. Dharani improved its machine processing facilities as well. Besides, millets, pulses, groundnuts etc.; 10.5 tonnes of raw honey supplied by members from honey collectors’ groups was processed. The Collective also worked on adequate and sustainable honey collection protocols with these members.
The Collective initiated a pilot project with 50 Dharani members to promote organic vegetable farming and develop a related package of practices (PoP). Support for this initiative was provided by Tides Foundation. Parallely, the team conducted experiments in intensive cultivation with 33 vegetable varieties using organic and Biodynamic practices.

Dharani’s working capital requirements were supported in part by 53 social investors, who together had invested ₹32.3 lakhs in the Cooperative by the close of the financial year.

Dharani FaM Coop received visitors throughout the year. Among them were Ms. Nagalakshmi S., IAS¹, the District Collector; officials from the Andhra Pradesh State Seed Certification Authority, the Andhra Pradesh Agriculture Department, and the Agriculture Research Station in Rekulakunta; and members of Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) promoted by NABARD², CSA³, and APMAS⁴.

Mr. Gondi Mahesh, CEO of Dharani FaM Coop and Dharani’s Programme Manager, participated in an online meeting of IFOAM – Organics International’s⁵ General Assembly (2021). Dharani FaM Coop’s Directors and staff attended the state level Kisan Mela (Farmers’ Festival) organised by the Agricultural Research Station in Rekulakunta. They shared experiences and perspectives on the effects of climate change and different dryland farming practices.

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1. Indian Administrative Service
2. National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development is the federal regulatory body that oversees rural banks and cooperatives.
3. Centre for Sustainable Agriculture is a research organisation recognised as a pioneer in Non-Pesticide Management.
4. Andhra Pradesh Mahila Abhivruddhi Society is a state-level technical and managerial support institution catering to community-based organisations.
5. IFOAM Organics International (International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements) is the global umbrella organisation for the organic agriculture movement that represents 800 affiliates from 117 countries.
Preparation of Biodynamic compost

PGS inspection in Seshampalli village
Dharani Cooperative’s 13th Annual Mahasabha

Dharani team after the inauguration of new food processing machines
The Enterprise Development programme anchors the marketing and business development activities of the following brands and associated entities:

- Timbaktu Organic (Dharani FaM Coop)
- Timbaktu Weaves (Bhavani Weaving Unit)
- Timbaktu Handcrafted Soap (Militha Livelihood Unit)
- Timbaktu Pickles (Timbaktu Pickle Unit)
- Kailasam Pickles (Kailasam Pickle Unit)
- Gramasiri Mutton Pickle (Gramasiri Cooperative)

The working group also manages the operations of the ‘Timbaktu Shop,’ a retail unit affiliated to Dharani FaM Coop that sells a range of organic food products and hand-made artisanal products. The Timbaktu Shop is located at the intersection of Chennekothapalli village and National Highway 44 and caters to walk-in customers.

The Enterprise Development team accomplished sales of ₹5.08 crores for Timbaktu Organic (cumulative), by servicing orders from 427 retailers, 21 wholesalers, and 44 buyers of organic by-products in 108 cities and towns across 11 states. The Value Added Product section tested 13 recipes for millet-based snacks and introduced six new products, which increased Timbaktu Organic’s product inventory to 113.

The team anchored the production schedule of the Bhavani Weaving Unit and its nine master weavers and achieved ₹4.09 lakhs in sales through direct sales and participation in selected stalls and exhibitions. At the close of the year, Bhavani Weaving Unit had a stock value of ₹8.42 lakhs. Besides, the team achieved sales of ₹7.26 lakhs for the Militha Livelihood Unit, which comprises persons with disabilities and their caregivers.

Five food demos were organised in Anantapur, Dharmavaram, Puttaparthi, Tirupati, and Bellary reaching out to more than 4,500 attendees. Dharani’s Board of Directors participated in these events and helped address questions regarding cultivation methods, harvesting, and organic certification.

The Timbaktu Shop introduced a mobile-phone-based payment option, which significantly enhanced customer experience. The Shop recorded sales of ₹78.5 lakhs during the year.
Millet Food Demo in Bellary, Karnataka

Cleaning and grading of millets in Dharani’s processing unit

Natural dyed handwoven sarees from Bhavani
The School of Regenerative Agriculture (SRA) was a pilot initiative started by the Collective in October 2019, to train young rural farmers in organic agriculture, Biodynamic farming, Permaculture, and Agro-ecology. The SRA is located in the Kailasam Farm, which is owned by and managed by the Timbaktu Kutumbam Foundation. Two pilot initiatives in Miyawaki and value addition to vegetables/fruit crops were also taken up this year.

After starting their second year of school in February 2021, the Advanced Course students completed their study programme in January 2022. The Advanced Course focused on building individual skills and deepening knowledge and was built on the 1st Year Foundation Course, which covered the basics of sustainable agriculture practices.

The teaching faculty adopted the following learning modes for the Advanced Course: individual projects, classroom sessions, exposure visits, and internships. The individual projects were particularly effective as they allowed students to showcase their learnings and implement workable farm models in their assigned plots. The projects covered topics such as vegetable cultivation, horticulture, rearing country chicken, cattle rearing, Biodynamic composts/manures, indigenous trees, a seed bank, and organic pesticides/manures.

The students completed a 16-day business development course facilitated by TREE Society1 and attended two Leadership Development and Personal Growth Workshops conducted by TrueNature².

The School’s external faculty, Ms. Madhu Reddy, Mr. Jayakaran, and Mr. Venugopal, conducted classes on Permaculture design, Biodynamic farming, and vegetable farming, respectively. The resident faculty covered Telugu, Mathematics, Accounts, and basic computer skills.

10 students graduated from the Advanced Course and received their certificates during a graduation ceremony on January 26, 2022. After an intensive placement process, all students secured employment with non-profit organisations and for-profit farms in Andhra Pradesh.

The School of Agriculture was initiated with the intention of starting a full-fledged, ongoing agriculture training programme. Based on the challenges of running a long-term residential course, the Collective decided to wind down the school. The space will continue to host short-term courses and trainings for small groups.

2. TrueNature is a business consulting firm specializing in leadership development and experiential education www.truenature.in.
The Collective implemented a pilot project on the ‘Miyawaki Intensive Forest Model’. The objectives of the project were to develop expertise in designing and implementing a Miyawaki Intensive Forest Method, promote it as a concept among smallholder farmers, and create learning and experimentation space for value addition and marketing of wet farm produce. By March 2022, the Miyawaki Intensive Forest Model pilot had 275 plant and tree species. The construction of the value-addition space was completed and experiments in value addition were conducted with 20 vegetable and fruit products.

3. A technique invented by Japanese botanist Akira Miyawaki to create quick and expansive forest cover.
RESPONSE TO COVID-19

The second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic was quite overwhelming, with the collapse of health infrastructure and lack of oxygen supply. By October 2021, the District Administration began providing the second dose of the COVID vaccine. The Collective, with support from Azim Premji Foundation, worked with four Public Health Centres (PHCs) to promote COVID-19 vaccinations among the approximately 1.2 lakh adults who live in its working area. A highlight of the initiative was recruiting 49 Mahasakti sangha members for the campaign. After a detailed survey of vaccination status, the Collective held focused vaccination drives and camps along with the Health Department, Ananthapuramu.

The Collective had taken up COVID-19 relief activities from the start of the national lockdown in 2020. It partnered with Mahasakti Federation to identify vulnerable people and families and distribute cooked food, groceries, toiletries, medical supplies, and other essential items. Grains and vegetables were sourced from local farmers who were unable to sell their produce due to the lockdown. In 2021-22, food, provisions, and other essential items were distributed to 3,911 people from 1,575 families, including those who were living in relief camps set up by the District Administration.
ORGANISATIONAL INFORMATION

The Sruthi Working Group oversaw the Collective’s administrative and support functions. It managed fundraising, financial management, PME\(^1\), communications, legal compliances, facilities, and hospitality. The Working Group ensured the timely completion of the Collective’s regulatory requirements.

The Core Group, comprised of the Programme Managers, Programme Coordinators, Cooperative CEOs, and Programme Associates, met monthly to plan and review program activities and expenditure.

The Timbaktu Panchayati, an informal umbrella organisation comprised of Collective and Cooperative staff, met once every two months. The Timbaktu Panchayati had 137 members in March 2022.

Timbaktu Kalayika [Cooperative], our employee welfare organisation, provided affordable credit to Timbaktu Panchayati members. Timbaktu Kalayika also did justice to its social welfare mandate by donating ₹2.63 lakhs to 78 families. The Net worth of Kalayika is ₹62.02 lakhs.

Management

The Steering Committee, essentially the Collective’s senior leadership or management team, meets monthly to review and implement internal policies, discuss operational matters, and address Human Resource issues. The Steering Committee met several times to revise the Collective’s Vision and Mission.

The Timbaktu Collective, Steering Committee (SC), 2021-22

**Sukanya Sakamuri, SC Convenor**

As Swasakthi’s Programme Manager, Sukanya manages the Collective’s most extensive programme in terms of outreach, staffing, and community assets produced.

**Ramesh Kumar**

Ramesh oversees the Collective’s Enterprise Development Programme and serves as Convenor of the Core Group. Ramesh has worked with the Collective for more than 17 years, in various roles.

---

1. Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation.
Mahesh Gondi
Mahesh is the Programme Manager of the Dharani Programme, the CEO of Dharani FaM Coop, and the Convenor of the Collective’s Child Protection Committee.

Srikanth Peruri
Srikanth Peruri is the Programme Manager of the Kalpavalli and Gramasiri Programmes and is the CEO of the Timbaktu Kalayika Cooperative.

Shruti Kathane
Shruti Kathane is the Programme Manager of the Militha Programme and a member of the Child Protection Committee. Shruti is currently pursuing a Diploma in ‘Understanding Learning Disability’.

Zabeera Khanam
Zabeera is the Collective’s Finance and Compliance Manager and also serves as the Convenor of the Internal Complaints Committee. During her 25 years stint with the Collective, Zabeera has held various positions.

Ashwini K
Ashwini K is the CEO of the Mahasakthi Federation. She has spent the past 12 years with the Collective and has climbed the ladder from being a cadre with the women’s Cooperatives.

Mary Vattamattam
Mary is the Collective’s Co-Founder and Executive Director. Mary has been involved in rural development and grassroots activism for 44 years.

C.K. Ganguly (Bablu)
Bablu is the Collective’s Co-Founder and Chairperson and leads the organisation’s networking efforts. He is also the Vice-President of (World Board) of IFOAM Organics International.
## Governance

### Managing Committee (Board of Directors), 2021-22

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C.K. Ganguly (Bablu)</td>
<td>Chairperson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary Vattamattam</td>
<td>Secretary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pradeep Esteves</td>
<td>Treasurer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Annapurna Mamidipudi</td>
<td>Member</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garima Bhatia</td>
<td>Member</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mercy Kappen</td>
<td>Member</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haritha Sarma</td>
<td>Member</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### General Body, 2021-22

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C.K. Ganguly (Bablu)</td>
<td>Chairperson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary Vattamattam</td>
<td>Secretary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pradeep Esteves</td>
<td>Treasurer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John D’Souza</td>
<td>Member</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. Venkatesh</td>
<td>Member</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mercy Kappen</td>
<td>Member</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Y.V. Malla Reddy</td>
<td>Member</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garima Bhatia</td>
<td>Member</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R.V. Jayapadma</td>
<td>Member</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Annapurna Mamidipudi</td>
<td>Member</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathew John</td>
<td>Member</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haritha Sarma</td>
<td>Member</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*The Timbaktu Collective’s Managing Committee, from left: Mercy Kappen, Pradeep Esteves, Mary Vattamattam, C.K. Ganguly (Bablu), Haritha Sarma, Garima Bhatia, Dr. Annapurna Mamidipudi*
The Timbaktu Collective was registered as a Society under the Societies Registration Act (1860) on November 14, 1990. Society Registration Number: 546/90-91.


The Collective is registered with the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) to receive foreign funding per the provisions of the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (2010). FCRA Registration Number is 094420621; renewed on October 13, 2016.

The Collective is registered with the NGO Darpan platform of NITI Aayog. Registration Number: AP/2017/0116292.
OUR SUPPORTERS

Our thanks to the institutions & individuals who supported our work in 2021-22.

Institutions

Bread for the World (BfW)
BfW is a global development agency based in Germany. BfW supported our work with smallholder farmers, agricultural labourers, enterprise development, women, and ecology.

Kadoorie Charitable Foundation (KCF)
KCF is a philanthropic trust set up by the Kadoorie family in Hong Kong. KCF supported our work with persons with disabilities, children, and youth.

GLS Future Foundation for Development
GLS Future Foundation for Development is part of GLS Treuhand, the German trusteeship organisation that manages 300 entities, including GLS Bank. The Foundation supported the School of Regenerative Agriculture.

Azim Premji Philanthropic Initiatives (APPI)
Azim Premji Philanthropic aspires to create a just, equitable, and sustainable society through grant-making to non-profit organisations working on gender justice, child care, disability, environmental issues, governance, etc. APPI partnered with the Collective for a COVID-19 vaccination campaign.

Buckminster Fuller Institute
Buckminster Fuller Institute is a non-profit organisation based in Stanford, California, dedicated to R. Buckminster Fuller’s vision of a world that works for all of humanity using design science. The Buckminster Fuller Institute supported a pilot project on the ‘Miyawaki Intensive Model,’ and the value-addition of wet farm produce.

Asha for Education
Asha for Education is a volunteer-driven non-profit organisation based in the USA. Its New York, London, and Bengaluru Chapters have supported our work with children for several years.

Tides Foundation
Tides Foundation is an American philanthropic organisation and non-profit accelerator that builds a world of shared prosperity and social justice. Tides Foundation supported our work on vegetable farming.
Others
The Collective also received support from SPA Education Foundation, ION Foundation, UK Online Giving Foundation, and other local organisations.

Individuals
» Mr. Anand Nair
» Mr. George Verghese
» Ms. G Sugunamma
» Mr. Christoph Simpfendörfer
» Mr. K.R. Sairam
» Mr. Guduru Ramesh

NETWORKING

Mr. Bablu Ganguly (Chairperson) was elected to the World Board of IFOAM Organics International for a second, three-year term and elevated to the post of Vice-President. He was elected to the position during IFOAM’s 2021 General Assembly in New Delhi on September 13-14, 2021.

Mr. Ganguly represented the Collective in forums such as IFOAM Asia, BIOFACH, the Natural Farming Coalition, the Ashoka Roundtable on Youth Leadership, Vikalp Sangam, and the Asian Productivity Organisation. Also, he served as a panellist on multiple webinars.

Ms. Mary Vattamattam (Executive Director) represented the Collective in the Participatory Guarantee System Organic Council (PGSOC).
**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**Receipts & Payments for 2021-22**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sources of Funds</th>
<th>2021-22</th>
<th>Expenditure</th>
<th>2021-22</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Particulars</strong></td>
<td><strong>Amount in lakhs</strong></td>
<td><strong>Particulars</strong></td>
<td><strong>Amount in lakhs</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opening Balance</td>
<td>128.87</td>
<td>Sustainable Agriculture &amp; Marketing</td>
<td>190.14</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Child Rights and Alternative Education</td>
<td>107.40</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interest on investments</td>
<td>8.16</td>
<td>Rights and Rehabilitation of PWDs</td>
<td>76.33</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Gains</td>
<td>0.33</td>
<td>COVID Relief</td>
<td>74.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Foreign Contributions</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>Women’s Empowerment</td>
<td>58.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brot Für Die Welt (Germany)</td>
<td>484.80</td>
<td>Ecological Conservation</td>
<td>40.81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kadoorie Charitable Foundation (Hong Kong)</td>
<td>234.43</td>
<td>Livelihoods of Landless Labourers</td>
<td>40.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GLS Future Foundation for Development (Germany)</td>
<td>69.90</td>
<td>Training of Team Members</td>
<td>2.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buckminster Fuller Institute (USA)</td>
<td>30.17</td>
<td>Community Support</td>
<td>2.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asha for Education</td>
<td>19.01</td>
<td>Maintenance Expenses</td>
<td>1.77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tides Foundation (USA)</td>
<td>18.99</td>
<td>Promotion of Rural Enterprises</td>
<td>0.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UK Online Giving Foundation</td>
<td>5.44</td>
<td>Administration</td>
<td>136.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Income</td>
<td>6.34</td>
<td>Capital Expenditure</td>
<td>72.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Domestic Contributions</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Closing Balances</strong></td>
<td><strong>278.22</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Azim Premji Philanthropic Initiatives, Bengaluru</td>
<td>47.12</td>
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<tr>
<td>SPA Education Foundation, Mumbai</td>
<td>9.83</td>
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<tr>
<td>ION Foundation, Mumbai</td>
<td>6.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individuals &amp; local organisations</td>
<td>5.93</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other income</td>
<td>5.96</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,081.28</strong></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,081.28</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Balance Sheet on March 31, 2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Liabilities</th>
<th>Amount in lakhs</th>
<th>Assets</th>
<th>Amount in lakhs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Capital Fund</td>
<td>269.68</td>
<td>Fixed Assets At WDV</td>
<td>269.68</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Funds</td>
<td>278.22</td>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>113.05</td>
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<tr>
<td>Current Liabilities</td>
<td>1.95</td>
<td>Current Assets</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff Gratuity Account</td>
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<td>Cash and Bank</td>
<td>129.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programme Advance</td>
<td></td>
<td>Programme Advance</td>
<td>37.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>549.85</strong></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>549.85</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Income & Expenditure for FY 2021-22

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenditure</th>
<th>Amount in lakhs</th>
<th>Income</th>
<th>Amount in lakhs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Programmes</td>
<td>594.40</td>
<td>Grants &amp; Contributions</td>
<td>932.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration</td>
<td>136.46</td>
<td>Interest on S.B. A/cs and Deposits</td>
<td>8.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital cost</td>
<td>72.20</td>
<td>Other Income</td>
<td>6.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excess of Income Over Expenditure</td>
<td>143.54</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>946.60</strong></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>946.60</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Salaries of Timbaktu Panchayati members

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Salaries in ₹</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Above 60,000</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51,000 to 60,000</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41,000 to 50,000</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31,000 to 40,000</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21,000 to 30,000</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16,000 to 20,000</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>66</strong></td>
<td><strong>71</strong></td>
<td><strong>137</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Awards & Recognition

- Covid Warrior (2020) from the Sri Sathya Sai District Administration
- The Global Alliance for the Future of Food, in August 2020, nominated the Collective as one of 21 worldwide ‘Beacons of Hope’ that were achieving sustainable, equitable, and secure food systems.
- Lush Spring Prize (2017) from Lush Cosmetics, United Kingdom.
- One World Award (2014) from Rapunzel Naturkost GmbH, Germany, and IFOAM Organics International.
- Real Heroes 2013 (Environment) organised by the CNN-IBN television channel in partnership with Reliance Foundation.
- Mary Vattamattam received the Vanitha Woman of the Year Award (2010) from the Malayala Manorama Group.
- Mary Vattamattam and Bablu Ganguly were selected as The Week magazine’s Couple of the Year (2005) and were featured as the cover story in its year-end special edition.
- Bablu Ganguly was elected to the prestigious Ashoka Fellowship for social entrepreneurs in 1993.
The Timbaktu Collective
Chennekothapalli village
Sri Sathya Sai District
Andhra Pradesh – 515101
India

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facebook.com/timbaktu.collective