



**ANNUAL
REPORT**

2022-23

Message from the Executive Director

One more year has passed by. The Timbaktu Collective has now completed 32 years of existence. It is said that a tree is a seed that stood its ground. It gives us immense satisfaction in having stood our ground in this challenging yet magnificent landscape sparing no attempt in doing what we could.

Last year, we completed a process of reviewing our Vision, Mission, and Philosophy. This process helped us to pause, look back, unravel our journey so far, reap learnings and design a more purposeful and intentional journey ahead. In the process, we also had the opportunity of working on some important and universally relevant concepts such as gender equity in a systematic manner. This was anchored by our 'Gender Core Group', that ensured regular workshops and trainings. The next concept that we are looking to work on, in a similar manner, is the concept of ecology. Synergy and collaboration among the Cooperatives promoted by the Collective is an area that gives us immense satisfaction. We are intrigued by the financial collaboration among the Cooperatives enhancing livelihoods and reviving the local and circular economy. We look forward to working on developing and stabilizing the network of Cooperatives and partnering with them to fulfil our mutual objective of empowering the marginalized.

All what we did could not have been possible without the hard work put in by the employees of the Collective, the directors and leaders of the Cooperatives and the relentless support, acceptance and understanding from all of you - our well-wishers, co-travellers, supporters, members of General Body and Managing Committee, consultants, friends, government authorities, civil society organisations and above all our donors. Our eternal gratitude to all of you.

Mary Vattamattam

Executive Director

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Front and back cover: A millet crop farm and water flowing at Gattimadugu in Kalpavalli Community Conservation Area

About Us

Introduction

Founded in November 1990, the Timbaktu Collective (the “Collective”) is a grassroots non-profit organisation dedicated to promoting sustainable development among marginalised communities residing in the drought prone and ecologically vulnerable Sri Sathya Sai and Ananthapuramu Districts of Andhra Pradesh, India.

The Collective develops and implements diverse thematic programmes and initiatives, with a central focus on community participation and ownership. Our core strategy is the advancement of autonomous people’s organisations, formally registered as Mutually Aided Cooperative Societies. This approach fosters solidarity within rural communities and enables the Collective to address issues such as poverty, food security, livelihoods, environmental degradation, and various manifestations of discrimination.

The Collective maintains a close association with ‘Timbaktu,’ a 32-acre agro-forest habitat that prioritizes natural regeneration, Permaculture, sustainable living, and off-grid solar energy solutions.

During the fiscal year 2022-’23, the Collective expanded its working area by including 36 villages across four more mandals (sub-divisions). As of March 31st, 2023, the Collective had operations in 321 villages spanning thirteen mandals. Notably, the net worth of the Cooperatives promoted by the Collective surged to ₹57.64 crore, marking a significant increase of ₹6.85 crore from the previous year.

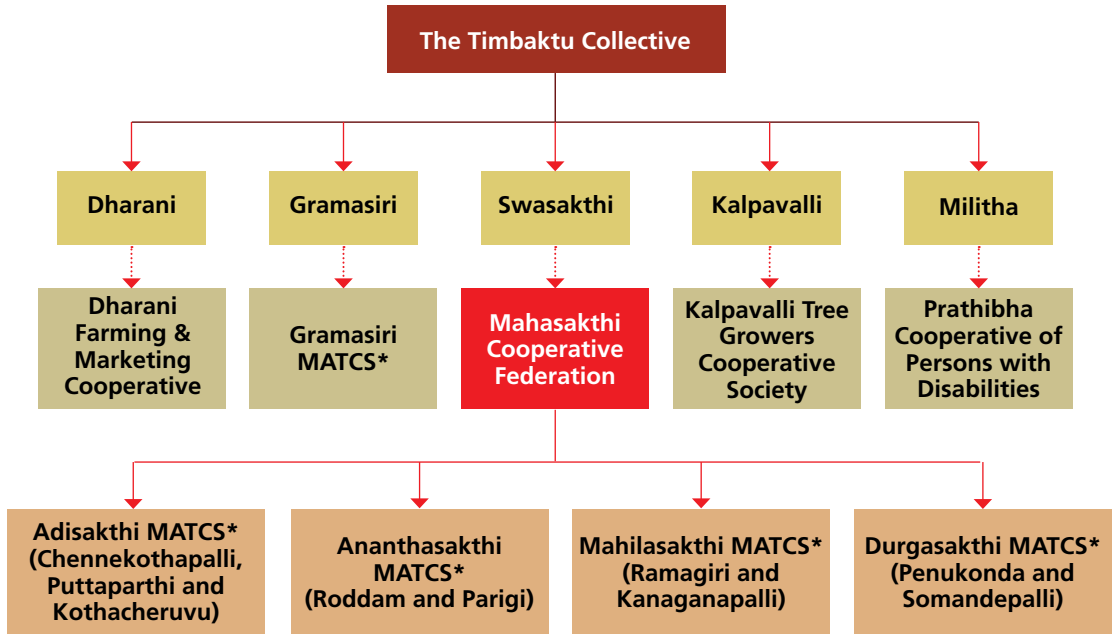
A key focus area during this period was livelihood support, with 7,653 Cooperative members, including women, agricultural labourers, and persons with disabilities, availing credit totalling ₹36.17 crore, primarily for enhancing their livelihoods. Additionally, the Cooperatives donated ₹27.71 lakhs to 621 impoverished households. The year also witnessed numerous collaborative efforts among the Cooperatives, financial and otherwise.



Our Programmes

	<p>Swasakthi ("power of self") Empowerment of women</p>
	<p>Militha ("inclusion") Rights and livelihoods of persons with disabilities</p>
	<p>Chiguru ("tender leaf") Child rights, alternative education, and engagement with youth</p>
	<p>Kalpavalli ("eternal source of abundance") Community-based natural regeneration and biodiversity conservation in village common land</p>
	<p>Gramasiri ("wealth of a village") Rearing of small ruminants by agricultural labourers</p>
	<p>Dharani ("earth") Organic farming, food processing, and marketing by smallholder farmers</p>
	<p>Enterprise Development Business development and marketing support to community-owned enterprises</p>





*Mutually Aided Thrift Cooperative Society

Cooperative/Programme	Members/ stakeholders ¹	Net worth (crores, INR)
Mahasakthi Network of Women's Thrift & Credit Cooperatives	30,655	48.08
Prathibha Cooperative of People with Disabilities	1,572	2.77
Gramasiri Agricultural Labourers' Cooperative	1,052	2.45
Chiguru Programme	3,155	n/a
Kalpavalli Tree Growers' Cooperative	1,436	0.08
Dharani Farming & Marketing Cooperative	2,047	4.26
Total	39,917	57.64*

*Approximately US\$ 6.7 million²

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 = ₹82.95

PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS



Swasakthi

As part of the Swasakthi programme, the Collective has established the Mahasakthi Cooperative Federation (Mahasakthi), comprising four constituent Cooperatives – Adisakthi, Ananthasakthi, Mahilasakthi, and Durgasakthi. The programme aligns with the Collective’s overarching goal of promoting the socioeconomic empowerment of rural women. Mahasakthi and its constituent Cooperatives are registered under the Andhra Pradesh Mutually Aided Cooperative Societies Act (APMACS Act, 1995).

In 2022-'23, Mahasakthi extended its reach into the Puttaparthi mandal within Sri Sathya Sai district. Its membership grew to 30,652 women, and it showcased outstanding financial performance, with a net worth of ₹48.01 crore, an increase of ₹7 crore compared to the previous year’s ₹40.80 crore. The constituent Cooperatives disbursed 7,096 loans amounting to ₹34.01 crore to its members, with 78% of these loans directed towards supporting livelihood activities such as agriculture, small businesses, small ruminant rearing, and asset development. This infusion of capital contributed to strengthening the local economy. Mahasakthi also made donations of ₹21.81 lakhs to members facing challenging circumstances. In addition, Mahasakthi team visited members’ homes during times of hardship, reinforcing the strong bond between members and the Federation.

The Collective played a central role in bolstering the capabilities of Mahasakthi. This year, the Collective gained deeper insights into financial inclusion, decision-making processes, and the awareness of women’s rights among

rural women in the region. The Collective organized targeted capacity-building sessions, workshops, and events designed for 3,332 sangha leaders focused on areas such as management, leadership, and women’s rights. In addition, the Collective arranged awareness camps that used role-playing techniques to address societal issues, drawing a participation of 1,882 women. Mahasakthi’s leadership played a crucial role in the Cooperative Network, a collaborative platform featuring representatives from all the Cooperatives promoted by the Collective.

Highlights:

- » 3,270 Mahasakthi members participated in gender equity workshops, which sparked engaging discussions on personal and societal constructs of gender. After these workshops, the participants formulated action plans outlining the changes they intended to make at a personal level. Additionally, specialized training sessions on menstrual health management were conducted for selected members, featuring facilitators from Eco-Femme, Auroville.

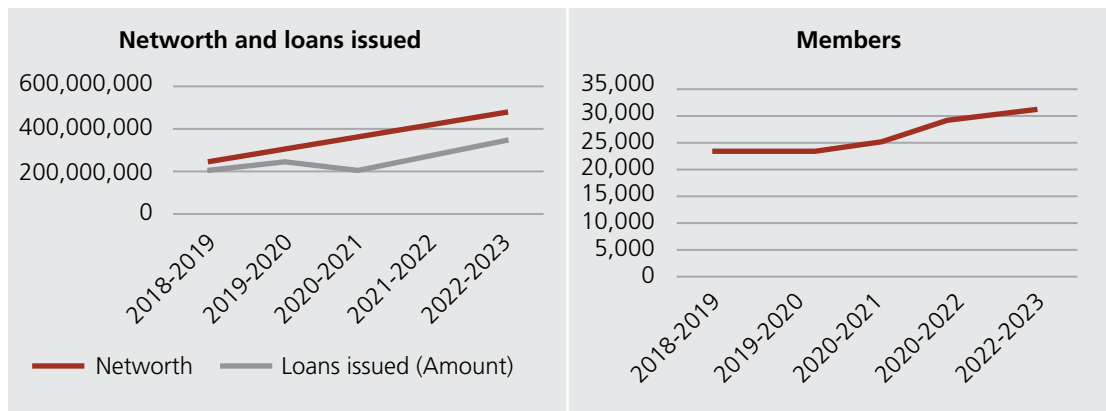
- » The Federation's Legal Aid Cell helped register 11 legal cases related to domestic violence, child marriage, gender discrimination, etc.
- » Mahasakthi's Directors visited Jagruthi Mahila Sanghane in Raichur, Karnataka, to gain insights into their initiatives concerning the rights of Dalit women.
- » International Women's Day was joyously celebrated by Mahasakthi, with the women members from the other Cooperatives promoted by the Collective, namely, Dharani, Kalpavalli, Gramasiri and Prathibha, also participating. This year's event centred around the theme of healthy food, emphasising the cultivation and consumption of millets in alignment with the International Year of Millets.
- » A four-member team from the Collective visited Swashrayee Mahila Sakh Sahakari Sanstha Maryadit in Indore, Madhya Pradesh, to understand their accounting software. As a follow-up, the Cooperatives transitioned from the existing Tally accounting software to a new core banking software.
- » The Collective extended ongoing support to the Bhavani Chenetha Sangam (Bhavani Weaving Unit or Bhavani), a handloom production unit operated by first-generation women weavers specializing in natural dye-based textiles. In 2022-23, Bhavani produced 2,279 meters of fabric, generating a revenue of ₹13.72 lakh. Bhavani received recognition and praise due to its participation in exhibitions, stalls, and Visitors' Day events. The unit distributed salaries of ₹9.19 lakh to members, concluding the financial year with a net worth of ₹13.93 lakh.



Eeswaramma, a member of Adisakthi cooperative set up bamboo basket business with a loan from the cooperative

5-Year Growth of Mahasakthi (2018-19 to 2022-23)

Particulars	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-21	2021-2022	2022-2023
Members	22,887	23,405	24,223	29,146	30,652
Villages	180	182	184	285	319
Loans issued	21,12,81,500	24,89,24,000	22,13,12,500	28,86,36,000	34,01,86,000
Net worth - ₹	25,41,94,956	30,80,53,193	35,26,93,651	40,80,28,853	48,01,82,606



Looking to the future, there are promising collaborative prospects on the horizon for the Collective and Mahasakthi. A shared vision can be envisaged for the establishment of

livelihood opportunities and the advocacy of gender equity through various initiatives, with a steadfast commitment to advancing the empowerment of rural women.



International Women's Day celebrations



Foundation laid for the new building of Durgasakthi cooperative



Falicitating ex-board members during Adisakthi's 25th Annual General Body Meeting



Militha

In 2004, the Collective launched the Militha programme to ensure that persons with disabilities were included and integrated as valued members of their families and treated with respect and dignity in their villages, while being provided with opportunities for financial empowerment. The Militha programme extends strategic support to the Prathibha Cooperative, a federation of village-level Cross Disability Groups (CDGs or sanghas). These sanghas consist of adults with physical or intellectual disabilities and parents or care givers of children with disabilities. The Prathibha Cooperative operates a thrift and credit program, facilitates access to entitlements and therapeutic/rehabilitative services, and advocates for the rights of persons with disabilities.

At the close of 2022-'23, Prathibha Cooperative had 1,574 members, comprising of 596 women and 973 men. The Cooperative closed the financial year with a net worth of 2.72 crore, an increase of 1.43 crore from the preceding year. This growth has empowered the Cooperative to create a tangible impact in the lives of its members. By implementing initiatives aligned with its core values, the Cooperative provided loans totalling 1.29 crore to 322 members. These loans supported a wide array of activities, including agriculture, livelihoods, healthcare, education, and housing.

Highlights:

- » Militha's rehabilitation team provided home-based rehabilitative therapy thrice a month to 132 children with disabilities. Through capacity-building training sessions, 40 parents and caretakers were equipped to deliver high-quality therapy for their children. This collaborative effort yielded remarkable results, with many children achieving greater independence in daily activities. Furthermore, they actively contributed to household tasks like cooking and to agriculture tasks, while their parents
- » assisted them with their studies. Militha also operated three dedicated day-care centres, benefiting 30 children and youth with disabilities.
- » Frequently, children who undergo home-based therapy tend to stay within the confines of their homes. To expand their horizons, the Collective organized residential camps for children with disabilities at the Timbaktu agro-forest habitat. These camps allowed the children to interact with peers, explore new surroundings, partake in recreational activities, and enhance their mental well-being.
- » To support the higher education of children with disabilities, Militha distributed educational fellowships totalling 1.66 lakh to 17 youth.
- » The Collective facilitated the acquisition of 46 assistive devices for persons with disabilities who face substantial challenges to improve their quality of life and aid them in their daily activities. Notably, the Collective was a pioneer in acquiring and distributing Moti-Go and Moti-

Start wheelchairs in Andhra Pradesh and distribute them to five children.

- » Militha provided electronic wheelchairs to five adults, empowering them to navigate their surroundings freely and, in some cases, utilize the devices for their daily activities and livelihood endeavours.
- » As part of the home adaptation initiative, architectural modifications were made to washrooms to enhance accessibility and mobility. These modifications have greatly improved the quality of life for a child with Cerebral Palsy and ten adults with physical disabilities, allowing them to lead happier lives while upholding their self-esteem.
- » Militha Jeevanopadhula Sangam (Militha Livelihood Unit or MJS), a unit of Prathibha Cooperative, received support to produce a diverse range of products, including artisanal soaps, hair oil, dishwashing liquid, screen-printed cloth bags, candles, and chicken pickle.
- » World Disability Day was commemorated with speeches, cultural performances, competitive games, and discussions on the day's importance. Speakers touched upon the day's significance, accessing

government entitlements in conjunction with Militha, societal and family perspectives on disability, and personal stories.

- » Jayna Kothari, a senior advocate at the Supreme Court of India and the Co-founder of the Centre for Law and Policy Research, conducted a training session for the Prathibha Directors on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act of 2016. Following the training, the Directors and programme team members organized 'Member Education' sessions to disseminate and mainstream the knowledge gained.
- » Through its thrift and credit program, Prathibha members overcame the common challenge faced by people with disabilities in obtaining business loans for their livelihoods and secured low-interest loans without collateral. An internal survey by the Collective revealed that 80% of these loans were invested in livelihood activities, leading to profitable outcomes. This financial success benefits the individual members and positively shifts the perception of people with disabilities within their families and society. It has fostered increased self-esteem and garnered greater respect for these members as they achieve financial independence.



Electric Wheelchair distribution for adults with locomotor disability



Residential camp for children with disabilities



Wheelchair distribution for children with Cerebral Palsy



Chiguru

The Chiguru programme focuses on fulfilling the academic and extracurricular requirements of children and youth, with a strong emphasis on promoting joyful childhoods, nurturing environments, life skills development, play, creative engagement, cultural expression, and the opportunity to make choices that shape their futures.

The Chiguru programme has two components:

- » The Mogga (“bud”) Project promotes experiential learning, collaboration, and leadership among children and youth through Balala Sanghas (children’s clubs), the Navayuvatha (“new youth”) forum, and three free community centres known as Children and Youth Resource Centres (CYRCs), equipped with books, games, and various other facilities.
- » Prakruthi Badi (Nature School) is an accredited residential primary school housed in the lush Timbaktu agro-forest habitat. It is a dedicated educational institution for children from underprivileged and challenging backgrounds. Admission to the school is determined through a comprehensive assessment of the child’s socioeconomic status and her/his inability to access or benefit from public schools.

In 2022-’23, the Mogga Project effectively engaged with 3,155 children across 82 sanghas in four mandals, offering immersive learning experiences. The CYRCs were actively utilized, and the Nature School provided education to 57 children.

Highlights:

- » 1,392 children who were members of the Balala Sanghas enthusiastically took part in 45 one-day camps held at diverse locations, including CYRCs, Kalpavalli, Kailasam farm, and the Timbaktu agro-forest habitat. These camps provided them with orientation on various subjects such as ecology, organic farming, child rights, and gender, in addition to opportunities for artistic and athletic activities.
- » 131 participants (64 girls and 67 boys) joined 5-day residential camps at the Timbaktu agro-forest habitat. These camps immersed them in themes like ecology, creativity (drawing, painting, story writing, and theatre), and nature walks. Each camp concluded with art exhibitions displaying the children’s learning and engaging theatre performances.
- » The Collective organised four gender workshops for 1,524 children (762 girls and 762 boys), covering gender stereotypes, gender discrimination, reproductive health, and menstruation. These sessions were thoughtfully crafted with input and guidance from the Mahasakthi Directors, resulting in significant personal transformations among the children.
- » Chinnari Nestham: Four new pages – dedicated to science, logical reasoning, general knowledge, and learning English

(section titled “English-Vinglish”) were added to the magazine. Chinnari Nestham has garnered significant interest among children, inspiring them to produce their own stories, poems, and songs. Additionally, stories from sangha members are now included in English and Telugu. Moreover, the central page of the magazine features various cultural art forms, including Kalighat art, Gond paintings, and Chekkabhajana. Six issues of the Chinnari Nestham magazine were published and distributed to Mogga members through the year.

- » Eight Mogga federation leaders (two from each of the four mandals) served as the editorial team for the Chinnari Nestham magazine and collected contributions from various sanghas. The editorial team also received a two-day training on creative writing, poetry, riddles and songs.
- » Science Day was observed across all three CYRCs, involving 456 children who showcased diverse projects spanning chemical reactions, water dispensers, drip irrigation, balanced diets, types of pollution and density, etc. The event drew more than 800 visitors.
- » The junior and senior sports days were resounding successes, drawing 190 and 278 participants, respectively. The events featured various exciting games such as Kho-Kho, Kabaddi, Lemon and Spoon race, and Shotgun.
- » The Muggula poti (Rangoli competition) on the occasion of Sankranti drew 212

participants, including 171 girls and 41 boys.

- » During a celebration of World Forestry Day, 143 children showcased projects on topics such as biodiversity, climate change, seed varieties, food webs, watershed management, forest types and ecosystems, and Savannah grasslands. The children enjoyed participating in local art forms and group activities.
- » 52 youth completed basic computer skills training focused on word processing, spreadsheets, and presentations. This training significantly boosted their higher education and employment opportunities, with several trainees securing roles as accountants and typists.
- » The new academic year in Nature School began with a pressure-free 20-day study camp. The teachers implemented varied pedagogical approaches and held tutorials to cater to students who needed more assistance.
- » The learning outcomes of the 57 students (35 girls and 22 boys) showed a significant improvement due to the introduction of intensive care for students during the academic year, developed with the assistance of Ms. Sayonika Sengupta. The curriculum emphasized diverse teaching methods, classroom management, and individualized goal setting for each child’s progress every three months. The curriculum was enriched through in-class assessments along with formative and summative evaluations encompassing academics, sports, culture, gardening and art.



Children with copies of Chinnari Nestham magazine



Crafts session at Prakruthi Badi



Kalpavalli

The Kalpavalli programme, operational since 1992, implements community-based natural resource management and biodiversity conservation within the 4,000-acre expanse known as the Kalpavalli Community Conservation Area (KCCA). In collaboration with the Kalpavalli Tree Growers' Cooperative, a federation comprising 10 informal Forest Protection Committees overseeing village common lands, the programme aims to rejuvenate an ecosystem previously impacted by deforestation, overgrazing, forest fires, and climate change. In addition, the programme seeks to establish sustainable livelihoods for the local community through Non-Timber Forest Produce (FTFP) collection and ecotourism initiatives. Thanks to the efforts of the Collective and the Kalpavalli Tree Growers' Cooperative, the once-barren and arid landscape has transformed into a thriving Savannah grassland ecosystem. The KCCA is now one of India's largest community-managed environmental restoration sites, serving as a sanctuary for endangered species, including the Indian Grey Wolf, Black Buck, Sloth Bear, and Hyena.

As in the previous years, the Collective supported the Kalpavalli program to carry out governance and management strategies, soil and water conservation works, fire breaks and seed dibbling activities.

Highlights:

- » Members of Kalpavalli Tree Growers' Cooperative, forest watchers, and local youth responded to wildfires by creating 57.5 km of firelines through controlled grass burning, safeguarding the diverse flora, fauna, and grazing lands in Kalpavalli. These efforts also rejuvenated perennial water streams, benefiting shepherds' livelihoods and providing grazing for more than 60,000 livestock, boosting the economic well-being of people from the surrounding villages.
- » The local people actively regenerated the land by dibbling 365.9 kgs of seeds, comprising 36 native plant varieties, across roughly 50 acres of the KCCA. The flourishing seedlings are a testament to the success of these regeneration initiatives.
- » The Collective conducted 97 workshops, reaching 3,337 children, providing vital environmental education on topics like human-wildlife conflict, snake bite prevention and treatment, biodiversity, illegal wildlife trade, and climate change. These workshops improved the children's environmental understanding and sparked their passion for exploration in this field.
- » To foster sustainable economic opportunities, the Collective supported the Kalpavalli Tree Growers' Cooperative set up an ecotourism campsite, known as the 'Bush Camp', in partnership with Linger, an ecotourism venture. Since its inception in 2021, the Bush Camp has hosted 11 immersive camps catering to ecologists, nature enthusiasts, bird watchers, and

trekkers, providing captivating experiences to its guests.

- » The Collective supported Kalpavalli Tree Growers' Cooperative in launching a thatch grass sales venture, generating 603 labour days for socio-economically vulnerable individuals.
- » The local residents derived income from various sources, including collecting roof thatch, providing fodder for cattle and small ruminants, selling tenders for Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) such as date

palm fruits, date palm fronds, grasses, and wild berries/fruits, as well as sustainably harvesting medicinal plants, ethno-vet preparations, and seasonally foraging wild fruits and greens.

- » Extensive research was ongoing to explore the diversity in the KCCA. The initial focus was on plant species. Thus far, 84 distinct species from 68 genera and 36 families have been identified, including endemic and endangered plants and 39 medicinal plant varieties unique to the region.



Birdwatching by visitors at KCCA



Landscape of Savannah Grassland at KCCA



Collection of Thatch grass for livelihood



Euphorbia antiquorum
 ལྷོ་ལྷོ་ལྷོ་

Ficus benghalensis
 རྩོལ་ལྷོ་

Ficus racemosa
 རྩོལ་ལྷོ་



Striped Tiger



Common Castor



Ficus virens
 ལྷོ་ལྷོ་



Gliricidia sepium
 རྩོལ་ལྷོ་



Hardwickia binata
 ལྷོ་ལྷོ་



Pale Wanderer



Yellow pansy



Morinda angolensis (New to India)
 ལྷོ་ལྷོ་



Morinda coreia
 ལྷོ་ལྷོ་



Blue pansy



Lemon pansy

Flora and fauna of Kalpavalli



A herd of Black bucks spotted at KCCA



Gramasiri

The Gramasiri programme, initiated by the Collective in 2010, aims to boost the income of agricultural labourers through small ruminant farming, specifically goats and sheep. This is achieved through strategies such as offering low-interest, short-term loans for small ruminant purchases, maintaining a revolving fund, promoting organic livestock management services, providing training and services in Ethnovet medical care and providing microinsurance for small ruminants, all facilitated by the Gramasiri Agricultural Labourers' Livelihood and Marketing Cooperative (Gramasiri Cooperative).

Highlights:

- » Gramasiri disbursed 87 lakh in loans to 235 members for the acquisition and care of small ruminants. To ensure proper utilization of these loans, Gramasiri's Purchasing Committee was entrusted with the responsibility of ensuring that the loans were used appropriately.
 - » The Gramasiri Ethnoveterinary Resource Team, comprising program staff and Cooperative Directors, received additional training in producing cost-effective ethnoveterinary medicines as an alternative to conventional drugs. Following this, they conducted 37 village-level workshops, reaching 310 members to provide education and distribute these medicines. As a pilot initiative, these medicines were distributed to members free of charge.
 - » Education sessions were conducted for members, along with trainings for the Board of Directors, covering various programme protocols and systems, including leadership roles and responsibilities.
 - » A three-day residential training session was arranged for a fresh cohort of 32 resource persons, featuring external experts
- Mr. Apparao and Ms. Ashalatha, each with over 20 years of experience in Ethnoveterinary medicine and related domains. During this training programme, participants were familiarized with disease identification and preparing and applying Ethnoveterinary medicines.
- » The Gramasiri Cooperative's Board, the Ethnoveterinary resource team, and programme team members visited the Nimbalkar Agricultural Research Institute (NARI) in Phaltan, Satara District, Maharashtra. This visit provided valuable insights into the management of sheep and goats, livestock disease identification, record-keeping practices, and an in-depth understanding of various breeds. NARI is renowned for its significant research efforts, particularly on goats and sheep.
 - » The programme team visited the Livestock Research Station in Siddarampuram in Ananthapuramu to learn more about its activities. The research station has made significant contributions to improving the Bellary sheep breed, developing appropriate fodder for arid regions, and advancing related research areas.



Ethnovet medicines and mutton pickle prepared by members of the Gramasiri cooperative



A herd of goats of the Gramasiri cooperative.



Exposure visit to Nimbkar Agricultural Research Institute, Satara, Maharashtra



Dharani

The Dharani programme promotes sustainable, local, and climate-resilient farming among smallholder farmers while supporting the institutional development, processing, and value-addition efforts of Dharani Farming and Marketing Mutually Aided Co-operative Ltd (Dharani FaM Coop). Established in 2008, Dharani FaM Coop sells organic food products under the Timbaktu Organic brand. It has enabled its members to enhance their returns and gain greater control over the agricultural value chain. The programme offers extension services to farmers cultivating a variety of food crops, including millets, groundnuts, lentils, etc. In addition, it implements crop-specific Package of Practices (PoP), assists in organic certification, organizes peer-to-peer learning events, and provides trainings.

At the close of 2022-'23, Dharani FaM Coop had 2,046 members from 157 sanghas across 67 villages in Sri Sathya Sai and Ananthapuramu Districts, with a total area of 11,198 acres committed to organic farming. During the Kharif season, 1,193 farmers cultivated 29 different crops spanning 3,489 acres, while in the Rabi season, 589 farmers cultivated 1,844 acres. During the year, Dharani FaM Coop procured 511 tons of crops, including millets, peanuts, pulses, and honey, from its members valued at ₹3 crore. This enabled Dharani FaM Coop to achieve its sales target of ₹5 crore. The member deposits in Dharani FaM Coop, including share capital, exceeded ₹1 crore. Additionally, a group of 53 social investors provided ₹40.2 lakh to support its working capital requirements. Dharani FaM Coop's net worth at the end of the financial year stood at ₹4.26 crore.

The Timbaktu Collective continued its efforts to assist members of Dharani FaM Coop. These activities ranged from promoting diverse crop cultivation to implementing ethnoveterinary practices. The impact of these initiatives was evident in improved agricultural methods, sustainable livestock care, and the commitment to excellence in organic farming.

Highlights:

- » The Collective launched a pilot project involving 50 farmers to promote diverse organic and biodynamic vegetable farming while developing a corresponding package of practices (PoP). This initiative led to a significant shift in farming practices as farmers embraced diverse intercropping practices, departing from their previous limited variety approach. This change has increased crop diversity and promises more secure and sustainable income opportunities while improving land management efficiency.
- » Farmers were provided support to practice biodynamic farming, resulting in the observed increase of beneficial insects and microbial populations in their fields, reduced flower dropping, and improved crop quality.
- » The Collective undertook innovations to enhance soil fertility and cultivate microbial populations through green manuring, particularly for intensive vegetable production.
- » Demonstration plots were established to showcase the cultivation of diverse

vegetables using organic and biodynamic farming techniques, including Biodynamic composting, nursery management, green manure application/sowing, weeding, watering, pest and disease control, and a PoP.

- » The Collective assisted in initiating a thrift program among the members of Dharani FaM Coop, following the Mahasakthi model. By end of fiscal year 2022-'23, their savings had reached ₹11.47 lakh, contributing significantly to improved cash flow for the Cooperative.
- » Resource persons from Gramasiri Cooperative trained farmers in ethnoveterinary practices to ensure the sustainable health of their livestock, a crucial measure given an outbreak of cattle disease in the area.
- » The Collective organized an educational visit to the Keystone Foundation for honey sangha members to learn about sustainable honey harvesting methods. A study conducted by Joseph Vattakaven, Manisha Kairaly, and Siddharth Rao helped in

understanding bee ecology, particularly the species *Apis Dorsata* as well as developing systems and practices to ensure the long-term sustainability of Timbaktu Honey.

- » While maintaining its Participatory Guarantee Organic Council membership, the Collective applied for Regional Council status under PGS India. The local groups (sanghas) of Dharani FaM Coop were registered under PGS India with the Keystone Foundation as the Regional Council, receiving certification accordingly.
- » In this fiscal year, the women skilled workers involved in manual processing, Packing, and Value Added Product section and other workers in Machine processing cumulatively worked 18,271 days and were paid ₹50,60,311.

Looking back on the progress made in the past year, the Collective envisions tremendous possibilities and opportunities for collaboration with Dharani FaM Coop, nurturing the foundation of sustainable farming for future generations.



Procurement from farm gate



Brundha members preparing Jeevamrutham in Farmer Field School



Inauguration Day of Dharani Thrift Program - Directors and Field Team



Happy farmer after bumper harvest



Dharani cooperative's 14th Annual Mahasabha



Enterprise Development

The Enterprise Development programme anchors the sales, marketing, and business development activities of the following brands and associated entities:

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

Highlights:

- » In the fiscal year 2022-'23, the enterprise development team achieved sales of ₹5.42 crore through effective marketing and sales efforts, including retailer partnerships for Timbaktu Organic and the sale of organic food products in the Timbaktu Shop, a retail unit affiliated with Dharani FaM Coop located on the intersection of Chennekothapalli village and National Highway 44.
- » The team delivered Diwali gift packs to three corporate companies for their employees, introducing Timbaktu Organic products to 6,500 new consumers.
- » Dharani FaM Coop received orders from over 400 retailers in 105 Indian cities and expanded its inventory to 119 products. This growth included introducing six new products, including three value-added items, during the year. Dharani also crossed its ₹5 crore milestone in sales this financial year.
- » The enterprise development team aided the Bhavani weaving unit in achieving sales of ₹13.72 lakh through exhibitions and sales in the Timbaktu Shop. The closing stock value of the weaving unit by the year's end amounted to ₹8.05 lakh. Additionally, the team recorded sales of ₹10.13 lakh for Militha Jeevanopadhula Sangam, a livelihood initiative for members of Prathibha Cooperative.
- » The team prepared a questionnaire and conducted a survey to assess the needs and preferences of residents in nearby villages regarding body-care products. After analysing the data for 11 products, the team identified the top five products with the highest preference. This information will guide the development of a new body care product range in the MJS unit.
- » The team organized 10 millet food demonstrations through the year. Specifically, five in Andhra Pradesh, four in Bengaluru, and one in Chennai. The enterprise team also participated in 5 national/International level exhibitions including Biofach India, Non - violent Economy Conversations in Madurai, of Tamil Nadu etc. Besides, stalls were put up at Mahasabhas (General Body meetings) of all TC-promoted cooperatives for the first time with ₹1.50 lakh sales.



Field training for honey gatherers



BIOFACH India event at Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh



Timbaktu Weaves stall at an Exhibition by Craft council of Tamil Nadu in Coimbatore



Dharani's vegetable vertical - Inauguration of the organic vegetable stall at Timbaktu Collective office premises

CULTURAL TEAM

To revive the region's traditional cultural heritage, the Collective initiated a Cultural programme. The changing lifestyle in villages, coupled with easy access to mainstream entertainment through electronic devices, has led to the loss of livelihoods for local artists. Many of them have transitioned into manual laborers, destitutes, or have migrated elsewhere. In this context, the Cultural programme identified 26 trainers across 6 mandals (district subdivisions) and over an 8-month period, provided training in art forms such as Kolatam, Chekkabhajana, Pandari Bhajana, and Drumming. A total of 1,823 participants, including 780 women and 1,043 men, actively engaged in these activities. Villagers have shown tremendous enthusiasm for the evening performances in their villages. These programs have fostered unity among people, promoted gender equity, enhanced mental and physical well-being, and most importantly, provided fun. The trainers expressed their happiness as this initiative has restored their respect, dignity, and livelihoods.



Kolatam performances in progress

ORGANISATIONAL INFORMATION

The Sruthi Working Group oversaw the Collective's administrative and support functions. It managed fundraising, financial management, planning, monitoring and evaluation, communications, legal compliances, facilities, and hospitality. The Working Group ensured the timely completion of the Collective's regulatory and compliance requirements.

The Core Group, consisting of the Programme Managers, Programme Coordinators, Cooperative CEOs, and Programme Associates, convened monthly to plan and review program activities and expenditures.

The Timbaktu Panchayati, an informal umbrella organisation, comprised of the employees of the Collective and its associated Cooperatives, held meetings every two months. As of March 2023, the Timbaktu Panchayati had 155 members.

Timbaktu Kalayika, a Cooperative of the employees of the Collective and its promoted Cooperatives provided affordable credit to its members. Additionally, Timbaktu Kalayika fulfilled its social welfare mission by donating ₹4.26 lakhs to 108 families in need. As of the end of fiscal year 2022-'23, the Cooperative's net worth stood at ₹77.07 lakhs.



CORE GROUP MEMBERS: From left to right – Y Ramanna, G Ramya, A Chiranjeevi, B Narasimhudu, Sonali Murari, B Lavanya, P Gangadhar, M Ramesh Kumar, Mary Vattamattam, K Nandini, Gondi Mahesh, K Kavitha, Sakamuri, Sukanya, K Sannappaiah, C K Ganguly, P Rameeja Bi, B Kanchana, P Zabeera Khanam, N Ram Karthik, G Jayasree, C Chittekka, P Srikanth, S Thirumala Devi, C Ramudu.

Management

The Steering Committee, the Collective's senior leadership or management team, met monthly to review and implement internal policies, discuss operational matters, and address human resource issues. The Steering Committee also held several meetings to revise the Collective's Vision and Mission statements.



STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS: *From left to right – C K Ganguly, M Ramesh Kumar, Sakamuri Sukanya, N Ram Karthik, Zabeera Khanam, Gondi Mahesh, P Srikanth, Mary Vattamattam*

Governance

Managing Committee (Board of Directors), 2022-23

C.K.Ganguly (Bablu)	Chairperson
Mary Vattamattam	Secretary
Pradeep Esteves	Treasurer
Dr. Annapurna Mamidipudi	Member
Garima Bhatia	Member
Mercy Kappen	Member
Haritha Sarma	Member

General Body, 2022-23

C.K.Ganguly (Bablu)	Chairperson
Mary Vattamattam	Secretary
Pradeep Esteves	Treasurer
John D'Souza	Member
B. Venkatesh	Member
Mercy Kappen	Member
Dr. Y.V. Malla Reddy	Member
Garima Bhatia	Member
R.V. Jayapadma	Member
Dr. Annapurna Mamidipudi	Member
Mathew John	Member
Haritha Sarma	Member

Registration & Compliance

- » 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 exempted from Income Tax under Section 12A of the Income Tax Act. Donations to the Collective by Indian nationals are eligible for tax deduction, under Section 80G of the Income Tax Act.
- » 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 April 1, 2022.
- » The Collective is registered with the NGO Darpan platform of NITI Aayog. Registration Number: AP/2017/0116292.



Visitors from Teach for India

Bankers

State Bank of India

New Delhi Branch
Foreign Exchange Division
No. 11 Parliament Street
New Delhi – 110001

Canara Bank

Trinity Circle Branch
MG Road
Bengaluru – 560001
Karnataka

Canara Bank

Chennekothapalli Branch
Chennekothapalli
Sri Sathya Sai District
Andhra Pradesh - 515101

Auditors

A.R. Rao & Rajan (Chartered Accountants)

186/A, 1st Floor
Venkataranga Iyengar Street
Seshadripuram
Bengaluru – 5600020
Karnataka

OUR SUPPORTERS

Our thanks to the institutions & individuals who supported our work in 2022-23.

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.

ZUKUNFT INDIEN eV

Based in Germany, ZUKUNFT INDIEN eV focuses on enabling education, promoting entrepreneurship, protecting the environment and fighting for children's and women's rights. ZUKUNFT INDIEN eV extended their support to the Collective's Militha programme.

RAPUNZEL One World Organic Foundation

RAPUNZEL One World Organic Foundation, a non-profit organisation based in Germany, supported the Enterprises programme.

Others

The Collective also received support from SPA Education Foundation, ION Foundation, UK Online Giving Foundation and Give Foundation.

Individuals

- » Mr. Anand Nair
- » Mr. N Kadhar Valli
- » Mr. Vijay Sankaran

NETWORKING

Mr. Bablu Ganguly (Chairperson) represented the Collective at various forums, which included IFOAM Asia, BIOFACH Nuremberg, Vikalp Sangam, the Kirloskar Vasundhara International Film Festival, and as the keynote speaker for the fifth edition of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, in Kolkata. Additionally, he held the position of Vice-President on the World Board of IFOAM International and participated as a panelist in multiple webinars.

Mary Vattamattam (Executive Director) represented the Collective in several key events. These included the BIOFACH India Exhibition, a millet food fair hosted by the Government of Karnataka, and a roundtable discussion centred on “Collaborative Action on Regenerative Agriculture.” Bablu and Mary also participated in the IFOAM Asia Organic Expo in Korea and were Guests of Honour at a convocation event held at Access Livelihoods, Hyderabad.

The Collective hosted Vikalp Sangam’s Core Group and Worldviews confluence, teams from the Indo-German Global Center for Agro-Ecology Research, teams from Teach for India, and a representative from the Kadoorie Charitable Foundation, among others.



Bablu Ganguly at BIOFACH Nuremberg, Germany

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Receipts & Payments for 2022-23

Sources of Funds		2022-23	Expenditure		2022-23
Particulars	Amount in lakhs		Particulars	Amount in lakhs	
Opening Balance	278.22		Sustainable Agriculture & Marketing		222.00
			Child Rights and Alternative Education		132.83
Interest on investments	5.62		Rights and Rehabilitation of PWDs		90.14
Other Gains	3.90		Ecological Conservation		82.68
Foreign Contributions			Women's Empowerment		68.59
Brot Für Die Welt (Germany)	524.96		Livelihoods of Landless Labourers		46.77
Kadoorie Charitable Foundation (Hong Kong)	179.36		Promotion of Rural enterprises		20.62
GLS Future Foundation for Development (Germany)	11.47		Training of Team Members		14.84
Buckminster Fuller Institute (USA)	11.80		Network meetings		11.61
Asha for Education	12.66		Maintenance Expenses		9.37
Zukunft Indien e.V, Germany	3.97		COVID Relief		7.13
Rapunzel, Germany	8.65		Evaluation		3.56
UK Online Giving Foundation	1.78		Studies and Documentation		2.23
Meridian Institute	0.79		Community Support		0.15
Domestic Contributions			Administration		121.51
SPA Education Foundation, Mumbai	9.00		Capital Expenditure		48.61
ION Foundation, Mumbai	6.30		APF- Grant Returned		2.34
Individuals & local organisations	1.52				
Other income	12.93		Closing Balances		187.96
Total	1,072.94		Total		1,072.94

Balance Sheet on March 31, 2023

Liabilities	Amount in lakhs	Assets	Amount in lakhs
Capital Fund	275.27	Fixed Assets At WDV	275.27
Other Funds	187.96	Investments	85.29
Current Liabilities	3.97	Current Assets	-
Staff Gratuity Account	-	Cash and Bank	99.41
Programme Advance	-	Programme Advance	7.23
Total	467.20	Total	467.20

Income & Expenditure for FY 2022-23

Expenditure	Amount in lakhs	Income	Amount in lakhs
Programmes	712.52	Grants & Contributions	772.27
Administration	121.51	Interest on S.B. A/cs and Deposits	5.61
Capital cost	48.61	Other Income	16.84
Excess of Income Over Expenditure	2.34		90.26
Total	884.98		884.98

Salaries of Timbaktu Panchayati members

Salaries in ₹	Male	Female	Total
Above 60,000	1	1	2
51,000 to 60,000	3	2	5
41,000 to 50,000	2	1	3
31,000 to 40,000	4	10	14
21,000 to 30,000	25	21	46
16,000 to 20,000	38	47	85
Total	73	82	155

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

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.
- » Outstanding Practices in Agroecology 2019 from the World Future Council and TAGS².
- » 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.



Mary Vattamattam receiving the Prof. T S N Pillai leadership award organised by Loyola College of Social Sciences (Trivandrum, Kerala)



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