



## Message from the Executive Director

The year 2024–25 has been both meaningful and memorable. We, along with the Cooperatives nurtured by the Collective, came together to celebrate the beginning of 35 years of our organization's impactful journey. The shared process of reimagining our vision, mission, and philosophy alongside a smooth and thoughtful leadership transition, has brought with it a renewed sense of confidence and hope.

For the last two years, supported by a team of dedicated consultants, we undertook a focused and heartfelt effort towards a leadership transition. While the journey began with some uncertainty, it was eventually embraced across the organization, the Cooperatives, and among our stakeholders. The process was deeply inspiring, filling us with courage, hope, and a quiet faith that the journey would unfold just as it was meant to. This transition was completed with Ms. Sukanya Sakamuri stepping into the role of Executive Director from April 2025.

As we close this chapter and look ahead to the next, our hearts are filled with gratitude. It's deeply fulfilling to witness how, even without blueprints, our efforts have unfolded organically, driven by trust, collaboration, and a strong foundation of transparency and shared purpose.

Over the past few years, the Collective has worked with intention and focus to bring Gender Equity to the forefront. Going forward, we are committed to working on key themes of Agroecology, Local Economy, Inclusion, and Youth. We also believe that cross learning and knowledge sharing with aligned stakeholders is not just valuable - it is essential in these times.

We are filled with joy as we witness the continued growth, synergy, and mutual support among the Cooperatives promoted by the Collective. The spirit of trust and financial collaboration has not only strengthened livelihoods but has also played a vital role in reviving the local circular economy. We view this growing economic cooperation as a beautiful outcome of the deep social capital built over the years. With this in mind, we are committed to continuing our work with the Cooperatives—supporting their sustainability, strengthening their viability, and nurturing a vibrant network of mutual support.

All of this has been made possible by the hard work of thousands of individuals who have taken on various roles. The commitment, dedication, and deep sense of ownership shown by the Collective's Team are truly commendable and humbling. There are many others who have stood by us with unwavering support - members of General Body and Managing Committee, institutional and individual donors, government authorities, fellow nonprofit organizations both local and international, consultants, countless friends and well-wishers. Your belief in our journey and continued support have been our strength, and we know that with you by our side, the dreams of thousands will continue to come true.



**Mary Vattamattam**  
*Executive Director*

## About Us Introduction

Founded in November 1990, the Timbaktu Collective is a grassroots non-profit organization working with marginalized communities in the drought-prone and ecologically fragile districts of Sri Sathya Sai and Ananthapuramu in Andhra Pradesh, India. As of 31st March 2025, the Collective's work extended across 347 villages in 14 mandals.

The Collective focuses on facilitating local leadership and has promoted member-owned organizations of marginalized people, which operate democratically and are formally registered under the Mutually Aided Cooperative Societies Act, 1995 (AP MACS Act). To date, nine Cooperatives have been established. As of 31st March 2025, the combined net worth of these Cooperatives stood at INR 77 crores - an increase of INR 10.25 crores over the previous year. Notably, the cumulative net worth has doubled over the past five years, rising from INR 38.8 crores in 2019-20. This year, 9,097 members including women, agricultural labourers, and persons with disabilities accessed credit worth INR 53.8 crores from the Cooperatives, primarily to support their livelihoods.

In 2024-25, several new initiatives began to take shape, while existing ones continued to strengthen and grow. Our organic vegetable cultivation programme, involving 450 women, progressed with renewed energy and commitment. Meanwhile, efforts initiated in the previous year culminated in a new project focused on water conservation. This project includes the renovation of traditional water bodies, community led water management, natural farming practices and the cultivation of climate-resilient crops such as millets. These initiatives have been warmly welcomed by the community and holds significant potential for future expansion.

### The Steering Committee



*From top left to right - Vibha S. (Chiguru Programme Lead), C.K. Ganguly (Director of Networking), P. Srikanth (Prakruthi Programme Lead), Duhita G. (Admin Lead), Mary V. (Executive Director), Gowri S Kumar (Swasakthi Programme Lead), S. Sakamuri (Assistant Director), G. Mahesh (Organic Programme Lead), Dr. G. Jayasree (Militha Programme Lead), M. Ramesh Kumar, (Enterprise Lead), Ram Karthik N (Grants Lead), and P. Zabeera Khanam (Finance Lead).*



## Our Programmes

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



## Programme Highlights



### Chiguru

The Chiguru Programme focuses on rights 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 components of Chiguru are:

- Mogga (“bud”) a federation of Children’s and Youth sanghas
- Children and Youth Resource Centres (CYRCs) and Chinnari Nestham Children’s Magazine
- Prakruthi Badi (Nature School), an accredited residential primary school housed in the lush Timbaktu agro-forest habitat.

This year, the Chiguru Programme was led by Ms. Vibha Satish. Mogga continued to flourish, reaching 5,689 children and youth across four mandals, with 48% girls and 52% boys. The children and youth are organized into sanghas, which are federated under the “Mogga Samakhya” that amplifies their voices.

The focus on sensitizing and building awareness on themes such as child rights, gender equity, ecology, and constitutional values continued. These themes were brought to life through engaging spaces, including one-day camps, residential camps, sangha meetings, and Mogga federation and leaders’ meetings.

These learning spaces, where children engaged with critical modules and discussions, created opportunities to question, share, and explore - while also having fun. Increasingly, children are able to identify violations of their rights and are making use of the safe spaces available to them to talk about issues.

CYRCs continued to serve as vibrant hubs for children and youth, hosting key events such as *Aatala Panduga* (Sports Day), Science Day, and various children and youth camps. This year, 900 children and youth participated in camps on child rights, gender, ecology and youth rights. In addition,

CYRCs hosted children’s *sangha* leaders’ meetings, Mogga federation meetings, craft classes for the Nature School students, editorial meetings for *Chinnari Nestham*, and welcomed children visiting the centres. These diverse gatherings fostered a strong sense of community spirit among children and youth.

Another milestone was the continued success of *Chinnari Nestham* magazine, a platform for children’s voices. The magazine has become an excellent medium for children to build confidence and nurture their aspirations to write, offering them a valuable learning opportunity. Six editions of the magazine were published this year, with the 25th edition marking a historic moment in its journey. Children expressed themselves through stories, poems and drawings. Leaders from the Mogga Samakhya also participated in meetings of the Jana Chaithanya Samakhya, a network of Cooperatives promoted by the Collective.

This year, critical academic support was provided through an initiative called Back-to-Basics, in which after-school tutoring was provided to children in remote villages to those who have limited access to quality education. 254 children have been supported this year with the help of local volunteers. Academic support for youth was another key focus.

With the help of subject experts, 168 youth were tutored, strengthening their understanding of core subjects, helping them prepare for exams and learn about future opportunities.

A big step forward was formalizing working with youth by organizing youth into village-level sanghas to create meaningful spaces and experiences for youth. Chiguru team attended intensive training on working with Youth, held by 'Samvada', an NGO from Bengaluru. Subsequently a memorable event, the 'Celebration of Youth', brought together 354 youth from four mandals across the sanghas for a day of games, reflections and fun. This amplified the importance of bringing 'Youth Rights' into the heart of the Collective's work. The Team also visited the KRIYA Children's festival at Kakkinada, Andhra Pradesh and a Children's Festival in Zaheerabad, Telangana.

This academic year, Nature School's official Government recognition is renewed securing its accreditation for the next eight years. Nature school continued with 54 students - 32 girls and 22 boys. The school continues to be a space where children are free to explore learning in their own ways, where teaching goes beyond just subjects, with equal importance given to art, craft and play. With support from consultant Ms. Sayonika Sengupta, this year began with a comprehensive KYC (Know Your Child) baseline assessment, to help understand each child's strengths and setting individual goals across academics, sports, art, socio-emotional intelligence, health and hygiene. A total of 18 students graduated from 5th class this academic year and all secured admissions in government residential schools.

Gardening activities flourished this year at the school, with children growing vegetables and millets in the kitchen garden. They also experimented with making organic concoctions as part of their learning. Each child planted a tree, taking responsibility to nurture it and ensure its growth.

In this period, the school came alive with celebrations at every opportunity. From Diwali to Sankranti, Christmas and School Day, each festival was celebrated with great enthusiasm. The grand finale was the School Day celebration, which was

made even more special with the graduation of 5th class students, and a showcase of the learning, creativity and growth the children experienced throughout the year.

Regular health monitoring was done, with monthly BMI checks and focused attention on underweight children. Regular parent/caretaker meetings were held which became important spaces to interact with parents/caretakers on child rights, emotional well-being and positive parenting/caring of children.

On reflection, we feel proud of the spaces we have created for children and youth and the journeys these have sparked. As we move forward, we are hopeful and excited to keep learning, growing, and deepening the work we care so deeply about, together.

*Kavitha\* was a student of the Nature School from 2023 to 2025, in class 3 and 4. She overcame a difficult childhood after her parent's separation, with her grandmother raising her and her sisters. Bright, energetic and creative, she excels in academics, leadership, and cultural activities like drama, music and sports. A natural performer and compassionate leader, she dreams of becoming a teacher. After excelling in multiple entrance exams, she is now pursuing Class 5 at Mahatma Jyotibha Phule School.*

\* Name changed to protect the privacy of the child.



*Children's residential camp in Kalpavalli.*



*Nature School children in their kitchen vegetable garden.*



*Mali moga drama on child marriage in Hariyancheruvu.*



*Understanding child rights during a children's camp.*



*Youth Club members visiting an exhibition at Azim Premji University.*



*Back to Basics session at Mustikovela.*



*Nature School students at the end of the Academic year.*



Militha

Militha meaning *inclusion*—is an initiative launched by the Collective in 2001 to promote equal status and dignity for persons with disabilities within their families and society at large. The overarching vision of the programme is to ensure that persons with disabilities are fully integrated into every aspect of community, empowered to lead independent, meaningful lives.

Militha focuses on four major pillars of intervention:

- Awareness and inclusion
- Rights and entitlements
- Rehabilitation
- Financial stability and livelihood support.

This year, the Militha programme was led by Ms. Dr. Jayasree P. T. Militha continued to operate the three Rehabilitation Centres that provide therapy and care to 40 children and youth with disabilities. Additionally, 196 children and youth received home-based therapy delivered by a team of five professionals, that include physiotherapists, special educators and a speech therapist. Periodic assessments have shown that 75% of these children met their developmental goals.

To ensure engagement and stimulation, 33 monthly therapy camps were held for 275 children receiving home-based services. Two residential children's camps were also conducted, one at Timbaktu Agro-Forest Habitat and another at Kailasam Farm. These camps fostered creativity, emotional well-being and growth through nature-based learning.

A total of 31 children were integrated into mainstream schools while therapy support continued. 46 youth with disabilities, pursuing higher education, received fellowships totaling INR 1,50,000. As a part of the vocational activities, weaving was introduced, and five youth now weave independently.

To address the mobility challenges, 138 assistive devices were distributed to persons with disabilities. Health support was extended to 59 individuals, and referrals to specialized healthcare institutions like NIMHANS, St. John's, LV Prasad Eye Institute, and BIRDS Hospital were facilitated for 38 members.

Home adaptation support was also provided for low-income families who required infrastructure for improved mobility and sanitation. This year, seven washrooms, three ramps and one parallel bar were constructed.

During the year, legal awareness camps were conducted across the villages where Militha is working to create awareness about the rights of persons with disabilities and relevant laws through talks, skits, and discussions. Topics such as discrimination against women with disabilities, consanguineous marriages, and legal rights were covered. During these camps, in the same period, Militha also conducted 26 awareness camps in Anganwadi centres, reaching out to 324 pregnant women and mothers. These camps emphasized early identification and timely intervention, enabling better outcomes 18 children with disabilities were identified and provided with rehabilitation services.

Milestones and special events were celebrated to strengthen the spirit of inclusion. World Disability Day and Louis Braille Day were marked with speeches, cultural programs, games, and discussions on their significance. For the first time, a Sports Day was organized for children and youth with disabilities. Activities included boccia, wheelchair races, tricycle and electronic wheelchair races, crutch walk races, volleyball, kabaddi, and shooting fostered joy, participation, and community pride.

The Collective also organized a visit to *Amar Seva Sangham* located in Ayikudi, Tamil Nadu, a reputed NGO working in the field of disability for over 40 years. This exposure deepened the Militha team's understanding of rehabilitation and livelihood strategies, strengthening the foundation for future innovation and impact.

Militha has played a key role in helping persons with disabilities (PWDs) access relevant entitlements. This year, qualified professionals joined the team to provide specialized services and facilities, giving PWDs access to better health care. With ongoing efforts to build awareness and skills, parents and caregivers have gained confidence, and timely identification of children with disabilities is now possible.

Overall, there is greater mobility, inclusion, exposure, and visibility for PWDs. Going forward, the Collective

will focus on articulating the concept of inclusion and developing a framework to mainstream it within the organization. The Collective will also work on identifying and developing more suitable livelihood opportunities for PWDs.

*Latha\* was born with a rare condition known as Rocker bottom foot. Raised by a single mother, she faced many difficulties with mobility. With support from the Collective through Militha Programme, she underwent a surgery and can now walk, run and play! Now she regularly visits the rehabilitation centre, and from the next academic year she will be going to the Government School for further studies.*

*\* Name changed to protect the privacy of the child.*



*Exposure visit to Amar Seva Sangam, Ayikudy, Tamil Nadu.*



*Products prepared at the MJS enterprise unit.*



*World Disability Day celebrations in C.K Palli village.*



*Hand weaving at the Militha Rehabilitation Centre.*



*Accessing Government entitlements.*



*Pravalika going to school.*



*Camp for Children with Disabilities at Kailasam Farm.*



*Children from Rehabilitation Centre visiting Kalpavalli.*



Swasakthi

Swasakthi (Power of Self), the flagship programme of the Collective, aims at socio-economic empowerment of rural women through alternative financial institutions and sustainable livelihoods. As part of this initiative, in 2012, the Collective facilitated the formation of the Mahasakthi Federation, a network of four Mutually Aided Thrift and Credit Cooperatives (MACTS) – Adisakthi, Ananthasakthi, Mahilasakthi and Durgasakthi. These Cooperatives are registered under the Andhra Pradesh Mutually Aided Cooperative Societies Act, 1995 (AP MACS Act).

This year, a total of 5,208 women attended workshops on gender equity. These workshops focused on issues such as patriarchy-induced family roles, persistent menstruation stereotypes, and the disproportionate physical labour shouldered by women. They also explored the economic value of women's unpaid care work which is often undervalued by society, to build a deeper understanding of their contribution to the family and society.

To facilitate these workshops, Training of Trainers (ToT) sessions were conducted for the Directors of the Cooperatives and team members, delving deeper into topics such as gender fluidity, the representation of other marginalized communities, and the intersectionality of gender-based discrimination that they experience within society. This approach helped ensure that the concepts are regionally relevant and relatable for the members.

Provision of legal aid was another area of focus. Adv. Ms. Ashwini and team from Dhvani Legal Trust, Bengaluru, conducted workshops for all Directors and team members, to build awareness on laws related to domestic violence, child marriage, SC/ST Atrocities and filing of cases. A total of 48 legal literacy awareness camps were held using skits that incorporated local contexts, essential laws and legal remedies affecting personal and professional spaces of women. A total of 2,467 women participated in these camps and actively shared their views on human rights, violence, equity, etc.

There has been a visible impact of these camps, with women approaching the legal aid centers regularly. A total of 20 legal cases were reported of which nine were domestic violence cases. Of these, eight cases were resolved through interdisciplinary collaborations with Ananthapuramu Child Welfare Committee and local police stations. The Child Welfare Committee in Anantapuramu was extremely supportive in handling a child marriage case by providing shelter. The rest of the cases are being followed up through collaboration with the Mandal Legal Service Committees and local police stations.

The Swasakthi Team and Cooperative CEOs also visited ADECOM, Puducherry to learn about the various legal aid services provided by them. An exposure visit for the Directors of Mahasakthi Federation was held to Buzz Women, a Bangalore based organization. The visit provided a valuable opportunity for mutual learning, observe innovative practices and exchange ideas with a like-minded organisation working towards women's empowerment. The exposure broadened their perspectives and fostered a sense of solidarity and shared purpose in the journey towards gender equity and economic empowerment of women.

This year, International Women's Day was celebrated with 550 members. All the Cooperatives promoted by the Collective joined the celebrations. The event began with a rally to raise awareness and call for an end to violence against women, followed by a gathering to celebrate women's strength and solidarity. A memorandum outlining

the needs and concerns of women and girl children in the region was formally submitted to Ms. V. Ratna, Superintendent of Police, Ananthapuramu.

Under Swasakthi a study was conducted by Ms. Vidya Sastry, Ms. Hema Raghunathan and Mr. Gopi Sankar G., on loan utilization pattern among members who avail loan from the Cooperatives. Members use the loan for livelihood opportunities or enterprises like petty businesses, agriculture, livestock rearing, trading, etc. 540 members participated in the study, which involved both quantitative and qualitative analysis. The study provided valuable insights into the needs of the members specifically in the areas of digital payment processes, financial record-keeping and business skill development.

The Collective has extended its ongoing support to Bhavani Chenetha Sangham, a weaving unit operated by first-generation women weavers. An intensive hands-on training in upgrading their skills of natural dyeing was organized for the nine weavers. They have now mastered the preparation and use of 19 new shades of natural dyes. 10 women who were part of the tailoring training supported by KIA motors in the previous year came together for continued learning and to start a collective enterprise in tailoring. They were trained in garment finishing, modern tailoring techniques and embroidery.

It is apparent that there is high level of satisfaction, confidence and happiness among women who are part of his unique model that is run, managed and governed by women. These Cooperatives are now fully viable with foolproof systems and processes with reasonable interest and flexible loan repayment schedule. Efficient and easy to access credit has significantly reduced requirement for taking high interest loans. Increased awareness on issues faced by women and a mechanism in place to address some of these issues has added to the self-respect of women and reduced their vulnerability. There is also a significant enhancement of leadership opportunities for women.

Going forward the Collective intends to support the Cooperatives in developing relevant policies and to fully take charge of their required compliances.

Another area of involvement is facilitating business trainings to support members who have taken up various livelihoods. In continuation to the loan utilization study, next year the focus will be on digital inclusion training for women who have taken up various enterprises, covering digital payments, finance management and business capacity building. Besides, there is a long way to go in dealing with gender inequity and the Collective looks forward to partnering with the Cooperatives in this regard as well.

*Ramalakshamma, 55, from Locharla village in Sri Sathya Sai district, began her transformative journey in 1998 as a member of Ananthasakthi Cooperative under Mahasakthi Federation. Her passion for women's empowerment led her to become a sangha leader, where she motivated women to save money and access credit opportunities. Through her dedication and effective leadership in strengthening memberships and resolving issues for women, she was elected as the Cooperative's President by fellow Directors. Today, she proudly serves as President of Jana Chaitanya Samakhya (Network of Cooperatives promoted by the Collective).*



*Ramalakshamma Ex-director,  
Mahasakthi Federation.*



*Exposure visit to Buzz Women.*



*Capacity Building for the Directors of Cooperatives and Field Cadres.*



*Gender and wellbeing training for the trainers.*



*Legal awareness camp at Basampalli Village.*



*Leadership strengthening for Sangha leaders.*



*Advanced training for Bhavani Weavers.*



## Kalpavalli

The Collective initiated a community-led eco-restoration of village commons, a Tropical Savannah Grassland ecosystem in 1992/93. These 3,500 contiguous acres of village commons is known as the Kalpavalli Community Conservation Area (KCCA). The Kalpavalli programme which is committed to providing ecological and livelihood security to the people of the region works closely with the Kalpavalli Tree Growers Cooperative promoted by the Collective by federating 11 informal Vana Samrakshana Committee (Forest Protection Committees or VSCs) comprising 1,547 members that oversee and protect the KCCA.

This year the Kalpavalli programme was led by Mr. Peruri Srikanth. The Kalpavalli programme, while being committed to providing ecological and livelihood security to the people, seeks to reverse the damage done to an ecosystem due to deforestation, overgrazing, forest fires and climate change. It does this through informed collective action and provides a resource base for improved and sustainable livelihoods based on the increased availability and collection of Non-Timber Forest Produce (NTFPs).

Persistent protection and conservation efforts along with adopted landscape management efforts such as reforestation, regulated livestock grazing, fire management and soil and water conservation in the uplands of the KCCA area, has transformed it into a rich ecosystem serving as a habitat for a diverse range of flora and fauna.

The KCCA is now one of the largest community-led eco-restoration sites in India. It is home to over 400 species of flora, including native and introduced species along with 24 species of wildlife falling under Schedule 1 of the Wildlife Protection Act (1972). It is one of the last remaining natural habitats for the Indian Grey wolf. Other species that have started denning here are the leopard, black buck, sloth bear and hyena.

53 training sessions on subjects such as environmental issues, the Forest Rights Act, Prohibitory Order Book (POB), strengthening of the Cooperative, the need for Kalpavalli associations

in villages, etc., were conducted for 1,519 persons during the year.

After good rains, 717 members of the Forest Protection Committees, especially youth, participated actively in the 24 seed dibbling camps that were organised this year. They dibbled 470 kgs of seeds. Similarly, 1,35,858 seed balls of various seed varieties were made and broadcasted in the various parts of the landscape. The making of seed balls generated 205 working days for the members.

The annual fire protection activities were conducted this year as well. 69 kilometers of fire lines were made which provided 1,804 workdays of work for the local community. As a result about 70% of KCCA was saved from forest fires with abundant fodder for animals and livestock.

This year, the collection of thatch grass was tried as a livelihood source for the community during the summer months when employment is low. 13,740 bundles of thatch grass were collected, which generated 458 workdays of employment.

Under conservation education outreach, the Kalpavalli team conducted 104 interactive workshops on human-wildlife conflict, snakebite prevention and treatment, local biodiversity, illegal wildlife trade and climate change for 3,211 children and youth. There is a growing interest among children and youth to engage and gain knowledge in environmental concepts.

The leaders of Kalpavalli Cooperative and VSCs visited the Grassland Trust, Pune, to learn about developing a nursery for grasses as a part of grasslands conservation.

The Kalpavalli Team and Cooperative leaders also visited FES located in Madanapalli, Andhra Pradesh, to learn about Prohibitory Order Book (a revenue record which helps in securing legal recognition for common lands).

This year as part of our endeavor to understand and document the diversity of the conservation area, 186 species of flora and 43 species of fauna were identified. Interestingly it was found that the Fabaceae family has the highest number of species here. This year, NCBS from Bangalore has also started conducting research on the grasses of Kalpavalli. It has been observed that there has been increased wildlife in the area with improved population of black buck.

Small ruminants rearing is an important livelihood for the people of the villages around Kalpavalli. This year, 94,875 ruminants came to graze in the Kalpavalli Forest. The poorest and the most marginalised residents of the surrounding villages also collected broom grass and date palm fruits to sell in the nearest town.

The efforts of the Collective in partnership with the Kalpavalli Tree Growers Cooperative has transformed the once barren, arid landscape into a thriving Savannah grassland ecosystem. In the process, community leadership has increased tremendously. The area supports livelihoods of small holder farmers agricultural/landless labor and shepherds. However, going forward the Collective aims to work more on obtaining legal recognition for the conservation area.

*Chitrabuddanna, from Polepalli village in Ramagiri mandal, comes from a poor family and learned sheep rearing from his father at the age of 17. For the past 33 years, he has been engaged in sheep rearing, which has enabled him to educate his children, marry off his daughters and support his family.*

*At present, he owns 300 sheep, and the family's livelihood depends on the Kalpavalli Conservation Area, where grazing and access to medicinal plants are available even in summer. Without this protected area, sheep rearing would not be possible. Many families in the village benefit from Kalpavalli, and he expresses deep gratitude to all those who made Kalpavalli possible.*



*Sheep grazing in Kalpavalli.*



Seed dibbling camp by VSC members.



Bengal fox spotted in Kalpavalli.



Lush greenery of KCCA.



Wild grass -  
*Cymbopogon coloratus*.



Creation of fire lines.



*Thatch grass collection from KCCA.*



*Landscape of KCCA.*

కల్పవర్షి సందర్శిత ప్రాంతంలో గల వృక్షసంపద



*Jatropa heynei*- అడవి ఆముదం

*Cissus arnotiana*- అడవి గుమ్మడి

*Withania somnifera*- అశ్వగంధ



*Achyranthes aspera*- అశ్వరథి



*Soymida febrifuga*- ఎర్రగడ్డి



*Gymnosporia senegalensis* - కిరీటాకం



*Holoptelea integrifolia*- ఆపసి



*Datura innoxia*- తెల్ల అమ్మకాయ



*Cocculus hirsutus*- దువ్వల తీగ

Flora (Medicinal plants) of KCCA,



Chelimi

The Chelimi Programme aims to improve water conservation by aiding construction of efficient water holding infrastructure, renovation of existing traditional water bodies and borewells, encouraging community management of these water resources. It supports farmers to adopt natural farming methods and shift to mixed cropping and growing climate resilient crops like millets. Under this Chelimi Programme, the Collective works in 16 villages where most of the small holder farmers are dependent on rainfed agriculture.

The Chelimi programme, which was initiated this year, was led by Mr. Peruri Srikanth. This project comes under the Rayalaseema Water Initiative (RWI) which is a network project with eight partners (APMAS, CSA, FES, WASSAN, JANAJAGRUTHI, RIDS, REDS and TC) that aims to enhance crop security and resilience of small and marginal farmers, through adoption of sustainable water management and natural farming practices.

Under baseline data, Chelimi team collected household data, inventory of wells and data on livestock. Community mapping using e-PRA (e-Participatory Rural Appraisal) was done which helped capture a comprehensive picture of the villages. e-PRA helped create detailed resource maps, covering land use, soil types, water sources, cropping patterns and more. These surveys provided valuable insights into groundwater management and livestock distribution, supporting better planning for sustainable resource use.

This project opened avenues for capacity building for the Chelimi team. They underwent an orientation led by the leadership of the Collective, focusing on community-building, sustainable water management and project implementation. This was followed by 9 internal and 19 external training sessions covering topics like natural farming, village mapping, participatory groundwater management and digital tools. These trainings greatly strengthened the team's skills in sustainable practices, data-driven planning, and community engagement, preparing them to effectively lead water conservation and livelihood initiatives in the project villages.

Several critical water conservation and farming support activities were undertaken with community participation. Tanks (Traditional rainwater harvesting structures) in Cherukuru, Sheshampalli and Kogira villages were rejuvenated. Invasive shrubs were cleared and bunds strengthened to increase water retention in the tanks.

Similarly, feeder and supply channels to the tanks in Mustikovela, Ramagiri and Cherukuru, were restored, reviving irrigation for over 700 acres of agricultural lands. Eleven old check dams were also repaired, enhancing water storage and groundwater recharge for another 796 acres and 176 borewells.

To improve irrigation efficiency the Chelimi team encouraged water sharing through borewell pooling in seven villages. This benefited multiple farmers and brought 47.8 acres under cultivation through shared resources. Micro-irrigation units, initially planned for 10 farmers, were enhanced to 28 through a Government scheme convergence.

To support sustainable farming, 69 training sessions on Natural Farming and water awareness were conducted for 1,808 farmers. These sessions introduced eco-friendly practices, organic input preparation, and the benefits of multi-cropping. As a result, 180 farmers joined the Dharani FaM Cooperative Ltd., adopting chemical-free organic farming methods for better soil, water and crop health.

The project acknowledges support from network partners, the micro irrigation and irrigation Departments, the honorable Collector of Sri Satya

Sai District and looks forward to continuing this work in the coming years.

*The restoration of 31 feeder channels spanning 17,500 meters across Mustikovela, G.G. Palli and S.B.R. Palli villages has transformed irrigation access for nearly 600 acres of farmland. By clearing blockages, repairing damage and improving water flow, the project ensured reliable supply even for tail-end farmers, particularly supporting paddy cultivation.*

*With the active involvement of Jana Chaitanya Samakhya, farmers and village elders, this initiative has enhanced crop yields, improved incomes and promoted equitable water distribution. Beyond economic gains, it strengthened community participation in sustainable agriculture, securing livelihoods and reinforcing the importance of rural water infrastructure.*



*Foxtail Millet crop in Mustikovela village.*



*APF representatives visit to Kambalapalli village - foxtail millet crop.*



*Millet cultivation in Mustikovela village.*



*Formation of Jana Chaitanya Samakya (JCS) in Kogira village.*



*JCS Mandal Leaders' meeting.*



*Training on usage of rain guage.*



*ePRA mapping in Guvvalagondi Palli village.*



*Repair of supply channels under Mustikovela tank.*



## Gramasiri

The Gramasiri Programme was designed to create supplementary livelihood opportunities for agricultural labourers by encouraging the rearing of small ruminants such as goats and sheep. Recognizing the potential of livestock rearing in supporting rural incomes, the Timbaktu Collective promoted the Gramasiri Agricultural Labourers Livelihood and Marketing Cooperative (Gramasiri Cooperative) in 2010. Under the Gramasiri programme, the Collective conducts trainings and capacity building in rearing small ruminants and in making and use of ethnovet medicines.

This year the Gramasiri programme was led by Mr. Peruri Srikanth. During this period, 67 village-level trainings in sustainable livestock management were held with 1,049 members. The participants enhanced their knowledge in application of plant-based medicines for livestock. Besides, 18 training sessions were held for 419 participants on themes such as sangha management, member responsibilities, gender equality and general livestock care practices.

To build a cadre of local trainers, two-day residential Training of Trainers (ToTs) in preparing ethnovet medicines were conducted for a new batch of 22 members. Ms. Asha Latha from Hyderabad facilitated these trainings, which included field visits with practical hands-on experiential learning, equipping the future trainers with skills to identify livestock diseases and prepare appropriate ethnoveterinary medicines. Ethnoveterinary booklets developed in the previous year were also distributed to members to encourage continued practice.

The Gramasiri Team and Cooperative leaders visited Livestock Research Station, Bukkarayasamudram to learn about indigenous breeds of sheep and types of fodder. They also visited Happy Hens Poultry Farms, Tiruchirapalli, to learn about free range poultry for the production of eggs. As a pilot initiative, four Gramsiri Cooperative members set up free-range poultry farms for the production of eggs.

The Gramasiri programme has contributed to the livelihoods of Landless labourers of the area. Members have gained a good level of knowledge about ethnovet medicines leading to better health of the animals.

*D. Govindamma, a resident of Kalipi village, is from a family that depended on daily wage labor. When there was no farm work available, her family was forced to migrate in search of livelihood. Her journey took a positive turn after she joined a sangha through the Gramasiri Cooperative. Starting with just a few goats, she gradually expanded her herd to 23. Later, she purchased a cow that now produces 8 liters of milk daily, earning her approximately INR 12,000 per month. With a stable income and the support of ethnoveterinary knowledge, her life has become significantly more secure. She expresses deep gratitude to the Gramasiri Cooperative and the Timbaktu Collective.*



*Session on the use of ethnovet medicines.*



*Gramasiri Poultry farm in Basampalli.*



*Gramasiri Cooperative thrift meeting.*



*Release of Ethnovet Guide book.*



*Small ruminants of Gramasiri members.*



*Training of Trainers (ToT) in ethnovet medicines.*



## Dharani

Dharani is the Programme of the Timbaktu Collective that promotes sustainable and climate-resilient farming among smallholder farmers. This initiative has promoted the Dharani Farming and Marketing Mutually Aided Co-operative Society Ltd (Dharani FaM Coop) which does procurement, processing, value addition, marketing, and extension services for members. The Collective has been supporting the institutional development of Dharani Cooperative.

Dharani programme provides technical support for cultivating millets, groundnuts, lentils, vegetables, and other food crops. It also offers crop-specific Packages of Practices (PoP), facilitates organic certification, hosts peer-to-peer learning events and delivers regular training sessions.

This year the Dharani programme was led by Mr. Gondi Mahesh. In 2024–2025 Dharani programme made remarkable strides in extending to 600 more farmers, reaching a total of 2,716 farmers. The women's participation saw a significant rise, with 450 new women farmers who started vegetable cultivation as part of the Agri-based sustainable rural livelihood project (ASRLP). The programme expanded its footprint from 70 to 80 villages, bringing the total area under organic cultivation to 14,343 acres.

Organic vegetable cultivation was a major focus during the year. The 450 women farmers were trained and supported in various aspects of vegetable cultivation, including land preparation, composting, seed treatment, pest and disease management, intercropping, harvesting techniques, and staggered production models. A comprehensive Package of Practices (PoP) was developed for 15 vegetable varieties, incorporating learning from demo-plots and field-level experience. More than 45 varieties of vegetables were cultivated improving crop diversity, and household and local consumption.

Another initiative piloted by the Collective in this year is a Seed Bank with 35 traditional vegetable seed varieties. Trainings and inputs were provided for this by Mr. Krishna Prasad from Sahaja Organics and Deepika Kundaji from Pebble Garden, Auroville.

The Collective further supported the farmers with construction of two new post-harvest platforms. These platforms reduced the post-harvest losses and provided clean and efficient spaces for drying and cleaning farmer's crops. It is estimated that more than INR 1.5 crore worth agricultural produce were dried using these platforms, and previously constructed four platforms.

The programme team delivered trainings on Organic and Biodynamic farming practices. These covered the use of indigenous seeds across millets, pulses, and vegetables, and preparation of essential composts and manures including Farm Yard Manure (FYM), Panchagavya, Jeevamrutham, Neemastra, Panchapatra Kashayam, BDC, BD 500, and Cow Pat Pit (CPP) manure. Learning was field-based and experiential, facilitated through regular Farmer training sessions and Farmer Field Schools (FFS) that fostered hands-on learning and peer exchange.

During the Kharif season, 1,253 members cultivated organic crops over 4,311.3 acres, while in the Rabi season, 930 members cultivated 2,233.65 acres.

To address the nutrient needs and pest vulnerability of vegetable crops, a Bio Resource Centre was established to locally produce and supply quality Bio-inputs. These products served as a critical support system for organic farmers to deal with

poor soil health, organic pest control, and promoting sustainable, cost-effective farming practices.

PGS certification efforts continued with rigour. As part of the Regional Council (RC) of PGS India programme the Collective conducted a total of 118 Local Group inspections during the year. Based on these assessments, 108 crop production PGS scope certificates for the Kharif season and 110 for season were issued.

Reports were submitted regularly to PGS India, and an annual surveillance visit by Dr. Ajay Singh Rajput (Regional Director, RCONF, Nagpur) & Mr. Vinay MR, JSO was conducted in May 2024 from PGS India. The Collectives' staff participated in national-level workshops focused on certification processes, and the evolving role of Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) in marketing and value addition. Also, the team participated in the workshop focused on strengthening the Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS) for smallholder farmers in India organized by IFOAM Organics International at Bangalore.

The farmer representatives actively participated in several national exhibitions and trade fairs. These included BIOFACH India 2024 in Greater Noida, World Food India 2024 in Delhi, the Millets & Organic Trade Fair 2025 in Bangalore, the Millet Kisan Mela 2025 by IIMR, Hyderabad, and the Millet Mela in Anantapur hosted by ASVS, NABARD, KVK, and ARS. These platforms allowed the farmers to understand organic markets and advocate for smallholder-led organic farming.

The Dharani programme remains committed to supporting smallholder dry land farmers in sustainable, organic, diverse, agriculture. Over the years a standard PoP for organic agriculture is in place for growing millets, pulses, etc. with additional PoPs being developed for vegetables. The sanction of a Primary Processing Centre for the Dharani Cooperative by the AP Food Processing Society is a timely development, which is of immense support for the farmers.

Dharani programme faced a few constraints too with repetitive issues faced by the farmers in year-round cultivation with erratic and untimely rains and crop failure. Besides, there is still lack of adequate post-harvest facilities and infrastructure. The Collective looks forward to working on some of these issues while supporting as many smallholder farmers as possible to adopt organic agriculture.

*B. Nagamma, a resident of Dubbarlapalli village in Ramagiri Mandal, is a member of the Sendraya Kuragayala (organic vegetable) Sangham. Initially, she cultivated only 3 to 4 types of vegetables on her farm. However, after dedicating one acre exclusively to vegetable farming, she expanded her cultivation to over 15 different crops.*

*With the help of training in companion planting, intercropping, and the use of green manures, Nagamma was able to enhance soil fertility, boost productivity, and build resilience on her farm. Today, she earns approximately INR 16,000 to 18,000 per month, which supports her household expenses and her daughter's education.*

*In addition to farming, she actively conserves indigenous seeds and shares them with other members, contributing to seed sovereignty in the villages. Her journey stands as an inspiring example of how sustainable farming practices can lead to better incomes, self-reliance and stronger communities.*



*Manure preparation as a part of Biodynamic training.*



*Farmer Field School (FFS) session.*



*Foxtail crop in Radamma and Srinivas reddy's farm.*



*Weeding in a multicrop farm land.*



*Nursery Management Training in Kailasam farm.*



*Inauguration of post harvest platform in Sivapuram village.*



*Millet crop in Narasimhulu and Sivamma's farm.*



*Seed display racks in the Seed Bank room.*



*Tomato Seedlings in the nursery of Dalamma from Kandukurlapalli village.*



*Alivelamma cultivating orgaic vegetables in Dodagatta Village.*



*Sujathamma cultivating gourds in Seshapuram village.*



## Enterprise Development

This initiative supports the collective business enterprises taken up by the Cooperatives promoted by the Collective especially in brand building and marketing. The objective of the initiative is “to provide sustainable income opportunities and dignified livelihoods to marginalised communities”. This initiative supports enterprises / production units like Dharani FaM Coop Ltd. (Organic & Natural agricultural food products, and Bio inputs), Bhavani Chenetha Sangam (Natural dyes cotton handloom products). Militha Jeevanopadula Sangam (Natural Body-care products & Country chicken pickle), Gramasiri Cooperative (Ethno-vet medicines & Mutton pickle) Jeevani (Tailored garments), the Timbaktu Bush Camp (an ecotourism campsite taken up by Kalpavalli Cooperative), etc.

This year the Enterprise team was led by Mr. M. Ramesh Kumar. The ‘Timbaktu Organic’ product range includes millets, grains, pulses, groundnut and groundnut oil, various semolinas and flours, spices, honey, and vegetables. The “Timbaktu Natural” product range includes biscuits, ready-to-mix powders, ready-to-cook, ready-to-eat items and pickles. In response to market demand and supply trends, 16 new products were introduced during the year, bringing the total number of products to 181. The Dharani Cooperative anchors sale of products from all units. In the financial year 2024/’25, the cumulative net sales across all enterprise units were INR 6.95 crores.

A key highlight of the year was selling 23 tones of high-quality groundnut seeds during both Rabi and Kharif seasons, with low moisture content and good germination rates to farmers. This led to significantly higher crop yields, improved agricultural productivity, and helped eliminate the use of poor-quality seeds that are available in the market.

Additionally, the enterprise team helped Dharani to strategize in procuring and selling organic vegetables under the brand ‘Timbaktu Organic Vegetables’. A total of 39 tones of vegetables and fruits were procured from member farmers, generating INR 15 lakh sales. This initiative while promoting better nutrition for consumers also

ensured fair prices and a stable income for farmers. To address surplus production of vegetables, the team also helped make new products with vegetables.

The Enterprise team also helped the Dharani Cooperative to set up a ‘Bio Resource Centre’ under the brand ‘Timbaktu Bio-inputs’, generating sales worth INR 78,000. These products served as a critical support system for organic farmers to deal with poor soil health, natural pest control and promoting sustainable, cost-effective farming practices.

The ‘Bhavani Chenetha Sangam’, an all women weaving enterprise, promoted by Adisakthi Cooperative, offers exquisite naturally dyed handwoven cotton products using frame and pit looms under its brand name “Timbaktu Weaves”. The Enterprise Development team has been supporting Bhavani to create new designs, and market and sell their products. Sales during the year amounted to INR 8.9 lakh. Products of “Timbaktu Weaves” were showcased at national exhibitions, including Handlooms & Handmade at Chitrakala Parishat, where fashion models and first-generation women weavers presented them on the runway.

This year, the Enterprise team also supported the Mahasakthi federation to initiate another all women enterprise ‘Jeevani’, for tailored garments, including

tops, bottoms, kaftans, kids wear and pouches with embroidery designs.

'Timbaktu Herbals' the brand name of products produced by Militha Jeevanopadula Sangam (MJS), focuses on the production and sale of chemical-free body care products, handcrafted by persons with disabilities. The product range includes natural soaps and hair oils. The sales during the year amounted to INR 6.5 lakhs. The team also helped MJS to acquire the Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) certificate.

Besides, the Enterprise team helped the various enterprises to participate in 42 exhibitions across the country including international trade events such as BIOFACH India, World Food India, Millets and Organic International Trade Fair, Handlooms & Handmade Fair and the exhibition at Indian Institute of Millet Research.

The team also helped the enterprises to conduct 38 food demos and stalls across Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. These engagements at exhibitions allowed for direct interaction with customers, retailers and potential collaborators, helping to build awareness about the products and increase sales. The Enterprise development initiative is crucial in working towards revival of the local

circular economy by ethical businesses along with local consumption. As in the previous years, Ms. Manisha Kairaly extended her valuable consultancy services to the enterprise development initiative.

Like in the case of the other initiatives, the enterprise development also faced certain challenges in the absence of a single channel for sales and marketing for the various enterprises. There were also challenges in streamlining the products, protocols and manuals, along with the interface between the Cooperatives and the enterprises. Going forward, the team is committed to work for the sustainability and viability of all the enterprises owned by the various Cooperatives.



*Manual processing at Dharani centre ensuring clean products for customers.*



*Vegetable procurement from the farmers farm gate.*



Dharani Cooperative Farmers & Directors meeting  
Mr. Gagnesh Sharma, NCONF Director, BIOFATCH.



'Inauguration of the groundnut storage  
room unit at the Dharani processing centre.



Exposure visit to Akshayakalpa Organic, Tiptur.



Organic vegetables sale at the  
Chintavanam TC office.



New vegetable based products.



*A happy customer.*



*Millet food awareness showcased in the International Trade Fair, Bengaluru.*



*The Collective team's visit to IIMR for Millet Mela.*



*Retailer-partner visit.*



*Distributing samples of new vegetable based products.*

## Cultural Programme

Along with all its initiatives, the Collective also works on reviving the rich cultural heritage of the region including revival of the traditional village art forms. With changing lifestyles and the widespread availability of mainstream entertainment through electronic media, many local artists have lost their traditional livelihoods. The local communities also miss out on opportunities of getting together and celebrating their cultural heritage. This year the Collective identified 26 trainers for traditional art forms like ‘kolattam’ and ‘chekkalabhajana’, across six mandals. 355 members including women and children participated these trainings normally held in the evenings. Post trainings, they enthusiastically performed in their villages.

Beyond entertainment, these cultural activities played a vital role in fostering social unity, promoting gender equality, and enhancing mental and physical well being, while bringing joy to the villages. Importantly, the initiative restored a sense of dignity, livelihood and respect for the trainers within the community. The program not only revived fading traditions but also reaffirmed the value of cultural identity in rural life.

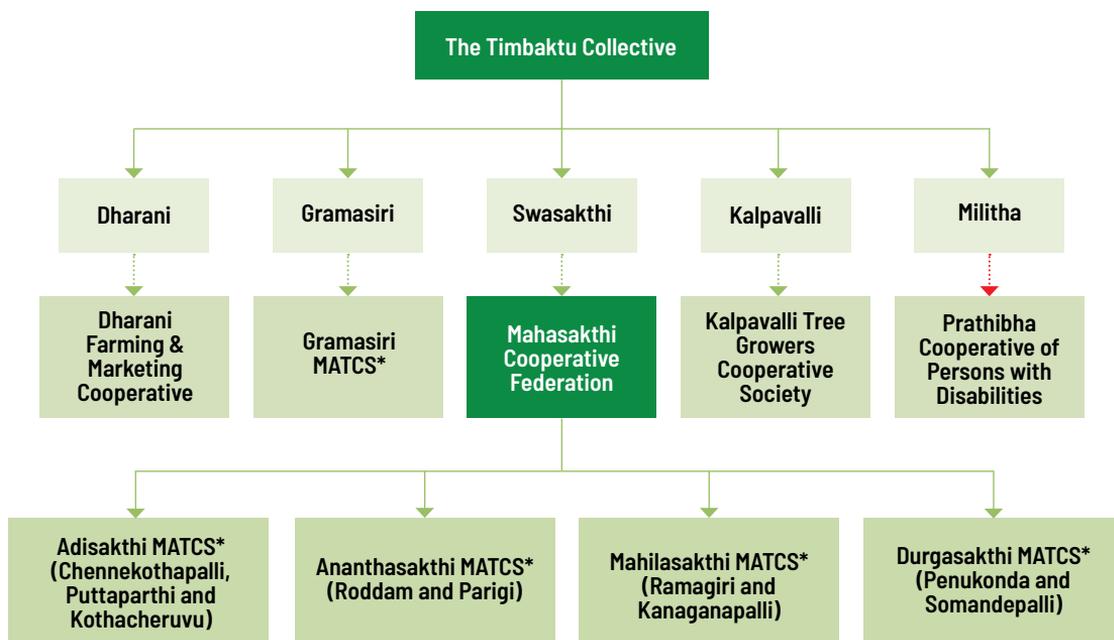


*‘Chekkalabhajana’ performance by Sanipalli Mogga sangha children for Environment Day celebrations.*

## Jana Chaitanya Samakhya

The nine Cooperatives, youth sanghas and the children sanghas promoted by the Timbaktu Collective were federated under a platform called Jana Chaitanya Samakhya (JCS) in 2021. The aim of this Federation is to coordinate joint initiatives, collectively address local issues and take shared responsibility on natural and community resources in the villages. During 2024–25, the Samakhya met five times. These meetings served as platforms to discuss local networking, mutual financial support between member Cooperatives, legal matters, and progress updates across various community programs. Through the JCS, member groups are building stronger collaboration and solidarity, working together towards sustainable and community-driven development.

## About Cooperatives



\*Mutually Aided Thrift Cooperative Society

The core strategy of the Collective has been to promote and empower people's organisations, especially Cooperatives, formally registered under the Mutually Aided Cooperative Societies Act, 1995, (AP MACS Act). So far, nine Cooperatives have been promoted. As on 31st March 2025, the network of these Cooperatives stood at INR 77 crores, an increase of INR 10.02 crores from the previous year. There are 145 directors along with 4,624 leaders at the sangha level for all nine Cooperatives.

Cooperative/Federation	Members	Male	Female	Net worth (crores, INR)
Mahasakthi Network of Women's Thrift & Credit Cooperatives	34,146	-	34,146	65.8
Prathibha Cooperative of People with Disabilities	1,731	1065	666	3.6
Gramasiri Agricultural Labourers Cooperative	1,512	595	917	2.8
Mogga federation	5,689	2984	2705	-
Kalpavalli Tree Growers' Cooperative	1,547	680	867	0.1
Dharani Farming & Marketing Cooperative	2716	1886	830	4.7
Chelimi Programme	480	275	205	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>47,821</b>	<b>7,485</b>	<b>40,336</b>	<b>77</b>

\*Approximately US\$ 8 million<sup>2</sup>

The total number of members/stakeholders does not consider overlaps in membership, which is estimated to be about 2,000 members.

Exchange rate: US\$ 1 = INR 86.73.

## 1. Mahasakthi Network of Women's Thrift & Credit Cooperatives

Mahasakthi, the Federation of four women's Cooperatives now operates across nine mandals of Sri Sathya Sai District and has a total membership of 34,146 women. This year, 2,831 members joined the four Cooperatives, reflecting the growing interest among women in becoming part of the movement and highlighting the continued relevance and significance of the Cooperatives. A new branch office of Adisakthi Cooperative was established in Kothacheruvu, and the long-awaited office of Durgasakthi Cooperative was inaugurated, fulfilling a 13-year-old dream.

This year, the Mahasakthi reached a net worth of INR 65.53 crores and disbursed loans worth INR 48.01 crores to 8,268 members, with the largest share for business ventures. Besides, the Cooperatives provided INR 22.99 lakhs of welfare assistance to 522 members in times of dire need including INR 59,435 for girl-child education. This kind of support provides financial security in times of hardship and strengthens care, solidarity and mutual support within the communities.

Adisakthi Cooperative anchored the Bhavani Chenetha Sangam, all women weaving enterprise offering exquisite naturally dyed handwoven cotton products using frame and pit-looms under its brand name "Timbaktu Weaves". Sales during the year amounted to INR 8.9 lakh. This year Mahasakthi also started anchoring another all women enterprise, 'Jeevani', for tailored garments, including tops, bottoms, kaftans, kidswear and pouches with embroidery designs.



*Directors during the inauguration of Durgasakthi Cooperative office.*

## 2. Prathibha Cooperative of People with Disabilities

This financial year, Prathibha Cooperative's networth increased by 61 lakhs reaching a total of INR 3.55 crores. Prathibha disbursed loans worth INR 1.71 crore to 440 members to support agriculture, livelihoods, healthcare, education and housing. Prathibha also continued to work on accessing related entitlements and schemes for People with Disabilities. The Militha Jeevanopadula Sangam (MJS), the production unit of the Prathibha Cooperative, supported 12 persons with disability who made artisanal soaps, hair oils, dishwashing liquids, candles and country chicken pickle, generating a revenue of INR 7.8 lakhs.

## 3. Gramasiri Agricultural Labourers Cooperative

At the end of the financial year, the Gramasiri Cooperative had 1,511 members across 69 villages reaching a networth of INR 3.23 crores. The members owned around 16,000 small ruminants. This year the Gramsiri Cooperative built its own office space.

Gramasiri Cooperative provides short-term low-interest loans to its members for purchasing life stock especially small ruminants. This year, Gramasiri issued loans worth INR 1.8 crore to 399 members to buy livestock. To ensure responsible use of these funds, members were accompanied by the Cooperative's Purchasing Committee, which played a



*Gramasiri Cooperative office, CK Palli.*

critical role in promoting transparency and accountability in livestock purchases. The members rear the animals and sell them for a profit. The Cooperative also operates a microinsurance facility to safeguard the livestock of its members against unexpected losses.

This year too Gramasiri worked on making Ethnovet medicines and mutton pickle as part of their attempt at developing collective enterprises. Obtaining the required licensing for the ethnovet medicines is a constraint faced by the Cooperative. Besides, this year Gramsiri Cooperative piloted small-scale poultry farms in collaboration with the company 'Happy Hens'. Gramsiri extended loans to four members in Basampalli village to establish the poultry farms. This initiative marked the Cooperative's first step in diversifying livelihood options beyond small ruminant rearing, contributing further to rural income generation and enterprise development.

#### 4. Kalpavalli Tree Growers' Cooperative

Kalpavalli Tree Growers Cooperative is a federation of 11 Vana Samrakshana Committee (Forest Protection Committees - VSCs) comprising 1,547 members that oversee and protect the KCCA. The Cooperative continued to do commendable work on continuing to protect the conservation area which is now one of the largest community-led eco-restoration sites in India. The area supports the livelihoods of small holder farmers agricultural/landless labourers and shepherds. This year the Cooperative continued to involve in obtaining further legal recognition for the area.

The Kalpavalli Cooperative continued running the 'Timbaktu bush camp' in the Kalpavalli Community Conservation Area under its ecotourism enterprise. The Cooperative hosted a diverse group of visitors including researchers, ecologists, environmentalists, bird watchers, trekkers and others. The camp offered activities such as bird watching, wildlife sightings, trekking, nature walks, and sessions on ecology and related themes. This year, a total of 110 members have participated in 16 camps.

#### 5. Dharani Farming & Marketing Cooperative

Dharani Farming and Marketing Mutually Aided Cooperative Society Ltd (Dharani FaM Coop) does procurement, processing, value addition, marketing and extension services for members. This year, Dharani also piloted a Bio Resource Centre to locally produce and supply quality Bio-inputs for members. The construction of the Primary Processing Centre sanctioned to Dharani by the AP Food Processing Society was also undertaken in this financial year.

In 2024-2025 Dharani had 2,716 members across 80 villages, with 14,343 acres dedicated for organic cultivation. This year the member deposits in Dharani reached INR 2.1 crores. In 2024-25, Dharani procured 762 metric tons of produce from 600 farmer members and paid premium prices amounting to INR 4.17 crores. The Dharani processing unit also paid INR 72 lakhs to 76 daily wage laborers for 18,042 labor days.

This year, the networth of the Dharani Cooperative is INR 4.58 cores. Dharani anchored sales of all enterprise units owned by the Cooperatives, reaching net sales of INR 6.95 crores. Sales were done through committed retailers and two retail units in Chennekothapalli - the Timbaktu Shop and the Timbaktu Junction Shop located on the Bangalore-Hyderabad highway. Dharani is a proud member of IFOAM International and this year too Dharani continued to seek networking initiatives. Dharani along with the Collective took an active role in the Millet Mela hosted by Anantha Susthira Vyavasaya Vedika.

## Organisational Information

The Timbaktu Panchayati, a forum of full-time employees of the Collective and Cooperatives met on a bi-monthly basis to share the impact of various initiatives, planning common events, collective learning, team building, etc. This year, the 'women's panchayati' with all women members and the 'men's panchayati' with all men members also met separately to explore the impact of patriarchy and gender stereotypes in society.

The Timbaktu Kalayika Cooperative (Kalayika), is a welfare organization of employees of TC and its promoted Cooperatives. This year Kalayika provided INR 77.3 lakhs as credit to 49 members. All members donated 2% of their salaries to Kalayika towards "Social Welfare Fund (SWF)" meant to support people in extremely vulnerable situation in the working area of the Collective, and this year INR 1.5 lakhs were spent under SWF. In the last 14 years Kalayika has expended INR 28.68 lakhs as SWF for 612 families. The net worth of Kalayika stands at INR 1.27 crores.



*Bi-monthly Panchayati meeting.*

**The SRUTHI** Working Group oversaw the Collective's administrative and support functions. It managed fundraising, financial management, human resource management, PME1, communications, legal compliances and hospitality. During this year, Mr. N. Ram Karthik held the position of Grants Manager, Ms. P. Zabeera Khanam held the position of Finance Manager, and Ms. Duhita Ganguly held the position of Admin Manager, while anchoring the Sruthi Working Group.

**The Steering Committee (SC)**, comprising the senior leadership of the Collective, met at least once a month to review and implement internal policies, discuss governance, and address human resource and operational issues. The SC also met several times specifically to support the leadership transition process of the organization.

**The Core Group**, composed of the Programme Managers, Programme Coordinators, Cooperative CEOs and Programme Associates, met monthly to plan and review program activities and expenditure. In this financial year the Core Group was convened by Mr. C. Ramu. The members were Ravi K, Kanchana B, Sannappaiah K, Ramesh Kumar M, Srikanth P, Jayasree G, Ganesh D, Duhita G, Mayur AV, Poojitha K, Kanchana B, Sukanya S, CK Ganguly, Mary V, Vibha S, Sree Kavitha E, Thirumaladevi S, P Rameeja bi, Mohan Naik M, Poornima M, Mahesh G, Gowri SK, Blessy M, Kavitha V, Vaishnavi C, Dr Gangadhar P, Zabeera Khanam P, Anand M, Chandra Mohan D, Ramanjineyulu K, Venkataramana G, Ravali G, Manogna P, Chiranjeevi A, Ramanna Y, Sivareddy I, Pavani L, Praveen Kumar S, and Sharon R.



Core Group members.

Various **Committees** within the Organization such as Internal Complaints Committee Against Sexual Harassment, Ethics Committee, Child Protection Committee, Procurement Committee Timbaktu Panchayati Advisory Committee, Women's Panchayati Committee, Men's Panchayati Committee, 35 Years Celebrations Committee, and Gardening and Farm Break Committee played an important role in the functioning of the Organization.

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.

## Management and Governance

The Managing Committee (Board of Directors) met four times this year (99th to 102nd meeting) and deliberated on matters like review of decisions made by the Steering Committee, compliance of policies, legal compliances, leadership transition, critical consultancies, etc. The 100th meeting of the Managing Committee was held in August 2024.

### Managing Committee Members 2024-25

C.K.Ganguly (Bablu)	Chairperson
Mary Vattamattam	Secretary
Pradeep Esteves	Treasurer
R.V.Jayapadma	Member
Garima Bhatia	Member
Mercy Kappen	Member
Haritha Sarma	Member



Managing Committee members.

### General Body Members 2024-25

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

## Our Supporters

Our thanks to the institutions & individuals who supported our work in 2024-25.

### Institutions

**Bread for the World (BftW)** is a global development agency based in Germany. BftW supported the Collective's work with smallholder farmers, agricultural labourers, women, people with disabilities, enterprise development and ecology.

**Kadoorie Charitable Foundation (KCF)**, a philanthropic trust founded by the Kadoorie family in Hong Kong, and the Sir Horace Kadoorie International Foundation supported the Collective's work. While KCF supported work with children and youth, the latter supported the Organic Vegetables Project under the Dharani initiative.

**GLS Future Foundation for Developments** is part of GLS Treuhand, the German Trusteeship organisation that manages 300 entities, including GLS Bank. The Foundation supported the Militha and Chiguru programmes.

**ZUKUNFT INDIEN eV**, based in Germany, focuses on enabling education, promoting entrepreneurship, protecting the environment and fight for children's and women's rights. They extended their support to the Collective's Militha programme and the Nature School.

**Vastenactie (Netherlands)** is the mission and development organization of the Catholic Church in the Netherlands. Vastenactie has supported the Collective's Militha initiative with a focus on Rehabilitation.

**RAPUNZEL One World Organic Foundation** based in Germany provides grants to ecological and social projects worldwide. It has supported the Enterprises Development work of the Collective.

**Bharat Agroecology Fund (BAF)** is the Agroecology Fund (AEF)'s regional fund in India. On the occasion of AEF's tenth anniversary, it recommended the Global Greengrants Fund (GGF), USA, which has supported the work with the Dharani initiative for vegetable cultivation.

**Azim Premji Foundation (APF)** is a not-for-profit in India working for a just, equitable, humane and sustainable society by addressing basic needs and upholding values of justice and empathy. It works through grassroots action, institution-building, and strong partnerships with civil society organizations, especially in remote and disadvantaged areas, to strengthen public systems and enable meaningful change. The Azim Premji Foundation supported the Chelimi programme.

**KIA India Private Limited** is a global automobile manufacturer with a production facility in the district. Through its CSR policy, it supported the Swasakthi initiative by providing skill training.

The Collective also received support from, **SPA Education Foundation, ION Foundation, Asha for Education, Sudha Mahesh Grants, and Benevity. The Canara Bank, Chennekothapalli**, supported the Nature School to install a CCTV camera system.

Individual supporters include **Mr. Anand Nair, Mr. Nandavarapu Kiran, Mr. Ravindran Sundar, M. Srinivasa Rao and Anubhav Anil Kumar.**

## Networking & Visits



*Mr. C.K. Ganguly re-elected as co-Vice-President of IFOAM International.*



*Mr. C.K. Ganguly presenting the work of TC at the Organic World Congress held in Taiwan.*

This year, Mr. C.K. Ganguly continued to anchor the networking of the Timbaktu Collective. He represented the Collective in IFOAM Organics International, IFOAM Asia and Vikalp Sangam. Along with being a panelist in several webinars, he also participated and spoke at the Organic Asia Congress in China, International Permaculture Congress in Taiwan, Organic World Congress in Taiwan, Consortium of Agroecological Transformations in Bangalore, Kappen centenary seminar in Bangalore and the Azim Premji University in Bangalore. He also represented IFOAM Organics International in BIOFACH India and Nuremberg. He was elected to the World Board of IFOAM Organic International for the third consecutive term and is presently serving as co-Vice-President of the World Board.

Ms. Mary Vattamattam, was invited by Monlar (Movement for Land and Agricultural reform in Srilanka) to speak about the Collective's work in promoting Women's Cooperatives under AP MACS Act 1995, under a convention called 'Alternative Solutions to Agrarian Crisis-Peasant Women's Convention'. Ms. Mary Vattamattam introduced the APMACS Act, spoke about the member owned and managed thrift and credit societies promoted by the Timbaktu Collective, and how these Cooperatives were also instrumental in promoting a farmer Cooperative. The talk was followed by vibrant discussions and possible action plans as suitable to the context.

Mr. C. K. Ganguly, Mr. Gondi Mahesh, and Mr. M. Ramesh Kumar participated in the 7th Organic Asia Congress and the 6th IFOAM Asia General Assembly organized by IFOAM-Organics Asia, held in Handan City, Hebei Province in China. Ms. Sakamuri Sukanya, Mr. M. Ramesh Kumar, and Mr. Gondi Mahesh visited Sahaja Organics in Bengaluru, and interacted with Mr. Somesh B., CEO of Sahaja Samrudha Organic Producer Co. Ltd. (Sahaja Organics). They also visited the Indian Institute of Millets Research (IIMR) and interacted with Dr. C Tara Satyavathi, Director, IIMR; Dr. Sangappa, Scientist, IIMR; and Mr. Bhagirath Choudhary, Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare.

Mr. Gondi Mahesh and the Organic team members visited Annadana Soil and Seed Savers in Bengaluru. Mr. Gondi Mahesh attended the National Seminar on Organic Farming organized by the National Centre for Organic and Natural Farming (NCONF) in Ghaziabad. Mr. Peruri Srikanth, Mr. Gondi Mahesh, and Mr. M. Ramesh Kumar participated in the Millet Mela hosted by Anantha Susthira Vyavasaya Vedika (ASVS), of which the Collective is also a part, along with the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) in Anantapur;

Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) in Anantapur; and the Agricultural Research Station (ARS) in Rekulakunta. As in the previous years, the Collective was part of the Bhoomi Habba celebrations Organized by Visthar in Bangalore.

Ms. Mary Vattamattam, Dr. G. Jayasree and Mr. Peruri Srikanth visited Deepshikha Foundation, Bangladesh for cross learning and to help explore the possibility of Deepshikha Foundation setting up Cooperatives, especially for people with disabilities.

### Special mentions – Government Officials

This year the Collective received tremendous support from the state government officials particularly:

- Shri T.S. Chetan, IAS, Sri Satya Sai District Magistrate & Collector
- Smt V. Ratna, IPS - Superintendent of Police, Sri Satya Sai District
- Shri Chakrapani, District Forest Officer, Sri Satya Sai District
- Shri Subbarao, District Agriculture Officer, Sri Satya Sai District
- Shri Krishnappa, District Educational Officer, Sri Satya Sai District
- Vinod Kumar, Assistant Director for PWD's and Senior Citizens of Sri Sathya Sai District
- Shri Narsayya, DRDA Project Director, Sri Satya Sai District
- Shri A. Mahesh, Revenue Divisional Officer, Dharmavaram
- Other officials including Superintendent Engineer – Irrigation Department, District Cooperative Officer, Horticulture Project Director, Mandal Revenue Officers, and Mandal Parishad officers.

### Special Mentions – Consultants

- Mr. Haritha Sarma, Ms. Joy Srinivasan and Ms. P. Varalakshmi anchored the leadership transition process within the Organization, with a gentle but firm process driven approach, leading to a smooth and effective transition.
- Ms. Manisha Kairaly contributed immensely to the efforts towards sustainability and viability of the enterprises run by the Cooperatives.
- Mr. V. Manikandan provided critical support to the administration, finance and compliance of the Organization.
- Ms. Vidya Sastry, Mr. Vinod K Bhatt and Ms. A. Kalamani conducted the evaluation of the RSRLP Project.
- Institutions such as ISABS, Visthar and APU were instrumental in contributing to the learning requirements of the Collective.

## VISITORS

As in the last year, we had many visitors to our Organization:

- Dr. Ajay Singh Rajput (Regional Director, RCONF, Nagpur) and Mr. Vinay M. R., JSO
- Donor representatives from Kadoorie Charitable Foundation, Mr Balaji from ASHA Bangalore, Mr. Anand Nair and group from Zukunft Indien, and Mr. Anwar from APF & Mr. Chandrasekhar from WASSAN.
- Mr. G. Krishna Prasad, Founder & Director of Sahaja Samrudha
- Mr. Shashi Kumar, Founder & CEO of Akshayakalpa Organic and team
- Mr. C. S. Reddy, CEO & MD of Mahila Abhivruddhi Society (APMAS), and Mr. W. R. Reddy, former Director General of the National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR)
- Dr. Sekhar Babu Geddani, IFS, CEO of the Andhra Pradesh Food Processing Society (APFPS),
- Members from FES, Madanapalle
- Students from RDT School, Ananthapuramu, from University of Gastronomic science, Italy, from the Rishi Valley School, Madanapalli and from Azim Premji University, Bangalore.
- Teach for India, Chennai, Bangalore and Hyderabad.



*Students from RDT School, Ananthapuramu.*



*Students from Azim Premji University, Bangalore.*

## Financial Statements

### Receipts & Payments for 2024-25

Sources of Funds	2024-25	Expenditure	2024-25
Particulars	Amount in lakhs	Particulars	Amount in lakhs
<b>Opening Balance</b>	149.17	Sustainable Agriculture & Marketing	312.55
		Ecological Conservation	202.80
Interest on investments	12.07	Child Rights and Alternative Education	145.08
Other Gains	0.09	Rights and Rehabilitation of PWDs	94.00
<b>Foreign Contributions</b>			
Brot Für Die Welt (Germany)	508.099	Women's Empowerment	45.63
Kadoorie Charitable Foundation (Hong Kong)	355.02	Promotion of Rural enterprises	64.44
Kadoorie International Foundation (Bermuda)	34.021	Livelihoods of Landless Labourers	13.18
GLS Future Foundation for Development (Germany)	43.557	Training of Team Members	20.61
Asha for Education, USA	2.82	Network meetings	4.87
Rapunzel, Germany	19.763	Studies and Documentation	15.13
Zukunft Indien e.v, Germany	3.66		
Vastenactie, Netherlands	27.63	Administration	173.62
UK Online Giving Foundation	0.69		
KISACO Research Ltd	0.36	Capital Expenditure	104.14
<b>Service Income</b>			
KIA India Pvt Ltd, AP	18.57		
<b>Domestic Contributions</b>			
ION Foundation, Mumbai	10.46		
SPA Education Foundation	9.00		
Socratus Foudation for Collective Wisdom	1.50		
Azim Premji Philanthropic Initiatives	165.78		
Individuals & local Organisations	2.511		
Other income	0.37	<b>Closing Balances</b>	<b>169.05</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,365.10</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>1365.10</b>

## Balance Sheet on March 31, 2025

Liabilities	Amount in lakhs	Assets	Amount in lakhs
Capital Fund	344.32	Fixed Assets At WDV	344.32
Other Funds	169.05	Investments	24.17
Current Liabilities	4.50	Current Assets	
		Cash and Bank	144.01
		TDS Receivables	1.51
		Accrued Interest	2.37
		Advance	1.66
<b>Total</b>	<b>517.87</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>517.87</b>

## Income & Expenditure for FY 204-25

Expenditure	Amount in lakhs	Income	Amount in lakhs
Programmes	918.29	Specific Grants & Contributions	1184.82
Administration	173.62	Interest on S.B. A/cs and Deposits	12.16
Capital cost	104.14	Service Income	18.57
Excess of Expenditure Over Income	20.21	Other Income	0.70
<b>Total</b>	<b>1216.26</b>		<b>1216.26</b>

## Salaries of Timbaktu Collective's Employees

	Salaries in ₹	Male	Female	Total
1	Above 61000	4	5	9
2	51000 to 60000	1	1	2
3	41000 to 50000	2	1	3
4	31000 to 40000	7	9	16
5	21000 to 30000	13	38	51
6	16000 to 20000	11	27	38
	<b>Total</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>119</b>

## Awards & Recognition

- Kalpavalli programme of the Collective was selected as a finalist for the prestigious “Elinor Ostrom Award on Collective Governance of the Commons - 2023”, under the ‘Practitioners’ category.
- Mary Vattamattam received the “Professor T S N Pillai leadership award” (2022) organised by Loyola College of Social Sciences (Trivandrum, Kerala).
- Mary Vattamattam received the Organic Medal of Honor- Honorable Mention (2021) at the Asia Organic Summit
- The Collective was awarded the Covid Warrior Award (2020) from the Sri Sathya Sai District Administration
- The Global Alliance for the Future of Food, in August, 2020, recognised the Collective as one of 21 worldwide ‘Beacons of Hope’ that were achieving sustainable, equitable, and secure food systems.
- The Collective received the Outstanding Practices in Agroecology (2019) award from the World Future Council and TAGS2.
- The Collective received the Lush Spring Prize (2017) from Lush Cosmetics, United Kingdom.
- The Collective shared the One World Award - Gold (2014) with Hansalim, South Korea. The award was sponsored by Rapunzel Naturkost GmbH, Germany and IFOAM Organics International.
- Mary Vattamattam and C.K. Ganguly were elected to the Real Heroes (2013) (Environment) award 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 C.K. 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.
- Mary Vattamattam was elected to the prestigious Oxfam Fellowship award (1994).
- C.K. Ganguly was elected to the prestigious Ashoka Fellowship for social entrepreneurs (1993).
- Mary and Bablu was elected to the Smile Fellowship from IGSSS, Delhi (1991)

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**Front and back cover:** Diwali celebrations at the Nature School and soil block seedling at E. Nagalakshimamma’s Nursery - Rachuru.



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