

**ANNUAL REPORT 2008-2009**

**Working together to create a just  
and participatory society in India....**

## FROM THE DESK OF THE CHIEF FUNCTIONARY

Anantapur District, constituted in 1882 from the erstwhile district of Bellary (now falling in Karnataka), has histories that can be traced along an ever-evolving civilisation over millennia. However, the geographical position of the Indian Peninsula renders it the second-driest district in the country.

Initiated in 1990, the Collective entered the 19<sup>th</sup> year of its existence on 14<sup>th</sup> November '08. It has been attempting, in its limited capacity, to respond to the needs of the disadvantaged people of 140 villages in this region.

The themes of its work have been natural regeneration of wastelands, organic farming and marketing, child rights, empowerment of women, youth and the disabled. The Collective is the legal holder of the watershed programme supported by NABARD and implemented by PACCHARI, a fraternal NGO, anchored by Mr. Akkulappa.

The projects that concluded this year are the "Cluster-Level Livelihood Resource Centre" supported by the GoAP; "Village Information Systems" supported by Deci Graph Solutions, Hyderabad; and "Capacity Building of Panchayati Raj functionaries" supported by the Centre for World Solidarity, Secunderabd.

During the year, the strategy of promoting and working through Community-Based Organisations (CBOs) and their networks continued with renewed vigour. For the third year running, the three women's thrift cooperatives promoted by the Collective continued to function autonomously. The farmer's cooperative "Dharani FaM Co-op Ltd." was strengthened and the disabled people's cooperative "Prathibha MATCS" decided to move strongly into advocacy work. The Kalpavalli Tree Growers' cooperative benefited from NREGA [National Rural Employment Guarantee Act] under the state government's new initiative on common property resources. The Environment Day celebration on June 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> has evolved into a forum where all the Cooperatives as well as the youth, dalit and children's organisations come together on a common platform along with the village elders and opinion leaders.

The various programmes of the Collective were spear headed by the following working groups - Swasakthi, Timbaktu Organic, RSRLP, Yuvatha, Panchayati Raj, Militha, Chiguru, Mogga, Sruthi and Panchavati, each led by a coordinator. The Coordinators' Forum (Core Group) met once a month to monitor the project activities, while the Steering Committee (SC), a forum of nine senior team members, met once a month to carry out key management functions.

The Annual General Body meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> August '08, witnessed a lecture on Special Economic Zones by the late Mr. Smithu Kothari, which was brilliantly complimented by the Telugu translation of Ms. Devi, from Hyderabad. Many friends of the Collective attended this event and gave valuable feedback on the presentations made by the different working groups. The Managing Committee met on a quarterly basis to review and decide on major policies and initiatives. The Timbaktu Panchayati, all full time workers of the Collective met at the end of every month to review & report the month activities.

Mr. B. Venkatesh, a member of the Managing Committee directing the Militha programme, took on the additional responsibility of directing the Chiguru and Militha programmes as well as the Back-to-Basics project [which seeks to achieve age-appropriate competencies for children in 100 primary schools].



### Friends say...

"Simplicity is reflected in the place, mindsets and working structure as much in the idea of combining technology with different activities. Felt so alive when I saw the children perform last night. Making a difference counts...."

- Parul Thapa, New Delhi

"It was one of the most enjoyable visits. The people here are so warm and friendly that we felt we knew them for ages. Timbaktu is a brilliant place. Cheers!"

- Abhinav Mouli, Bangalore

"The one who seeks love finds Timbaktu. The one who seeks Timbaktu finds love."

- Petra Kantmann, Benan

'Going to Timbaktu' now means faces, sounds, music, food, fun and lots of ideas. Whether we will work together in the future or know each other as friends, I am excited and happy about Timbaktu being a part of my life."

- Lillian Strand, Norway

## CHIGURU - ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION

CHIGURU, initiated in 1992, aims to provide children from disadvantaged families an opportunity to grow and learn in a joyful environment without losing their childhood. The programme continued this year with the two alternative schools and the Children's Resource Centre (CRC). Among the two alternative schools, *Timbaktu Badi* [or school] functions as a residential centre catering to 65 children studying from 1st to 7th std., while *Prakruti Badi* [Nature School] is a day-centre which is attended by 83 children up to the 10th std. The CRC is daily frequented by approximately 100 children. In addition, 10 senior students are pursuing various courses in the Arts and Crafts Centre housed in the CRC. The learning environment of these centres imparts skills in arts, crafts and cultural activities besides regular academics and games. The centres also ensure that the children's health, nutrition and hygiene needs are given a high priority.

As part of their education in arts and crafts, the children were trained in clay modeling, embroidery, jewelry, preparation of geometrical models etc. They also had a lot of opportunities for training in two local dance forms, *kollatam* and *chakkabhajana* along with theatre and *dappu* [percussion]. These trainings led to various cultural performances in different areas.

In the area of sport and games, the children received coaching in cricket, football, volleyball and basketball. The younger children were given an opportunity to play traditional games like *Kunte Aata*, *Pinnu Pette Aata*, *Pakshula Aata*, *Ramudu-Ravanudu Aata* and *Duster Aata*.

The participation of the children in the running of these schools is exceptional - as part of the different



Children at work

children's committees, they regularly express their concerns and opinions. The children also enthusiastically take up gardening activities around the centres, with fun and joy.

An important aspect of *Chiguru* is the celebration of festivals and events. The objective of these activities

is to facilitate the appreciation of local culture, develop creativity and build leadership skills on the basis of co-operation. The special events celebrated included children's day, independence day, sports festivals, puppet shows, various cultural programmes and the *Chiguru* annual day. A *Paryavarana* [environment] camp was held for children from the 6th to 10th standards in June '08 to increase their awareness of the environment.



Independence day celebrations

In early 2008, an e-magazine in Telugu called '*Kottapalli*' [New Village] was launched. The same publication was brought out in print form in November '08 with the aid of a low-cost ink-jet printer. *Chiguru* functionaries continued to attend various workshops, trainings and meetings to enhance their knowledge and understanding. In May '08, a two-week pedagogical training programme was held for the teachers.

We continue to receive numerous visitors who come to experience the learning atmosphere of our centres and volunteers who make valuable contributions to different new activities. The initiative received financial support from *Terre des Hommes*, Germany, *Asha for Education*, New Jersey and London, as well as a number of other friends and well-wishers. Dr. U. Subba Raju continued to coordinate the programme, supported by the teachers and various volunteers.



Theatre performance

## MOGGA - CHILD RIGHTS

Mogga, an extension of *Chiguru*, aims to ensure the rights of children by creating opportunities for them to enjoy childhood, and to explore solutions for issues that affect them. This is done by facilitating children's platforms or *Balala Sanghas*. As of March '09, there are *Balala Sanghas* in 37 villages with a total membership of 1138. The *Balala Sangha* meetings provide a space for children to discuss issues affecting them as well as to engage in sports, songs, story-telling etc. Some issues that came to light were physical punishment by teachers and harassment by other students. These issues were followed up with utmost seriousness. In addition, the *Balala Sangha* members helped identify the more needy children among them who were forced to drop out of schools due to a multiple reasons. They were subsequently supported to rejoin school.

The *sanghas* have been federated at the mandal level into *Balala Samakhya*s with two leaders from each *sangha* as members. Currently there are three *Balala Samakhya*s – '*Harivellu*' [Rainbow], '*Swecchha*' [Freedom], and '*Prakruthi*' [Nature]. The *Samakhya*s meet once a month to discuss what has been going on and make future plans. They also received specific learning inputs as a result of which the *sanghas* decided to include disabled children in the activities. Between June and September '08, the *Balala Sangha* members participated in seed-dibbling camps conducted as part of the Collective's *Kalpavalli* programme. This gave them an opportunity to learn about environmental degradation and take corrective steps.

A number of other events were also held. Three cluster-level sports festivals for the *Balala Sanghas* were held in August, September and February. Two one-week camps were conducted, one for drop-out children and the other for school-going children, having 33 and 58 participants respectively. The camps were organized in May

and October '08. In the camps, the children were given training on folk art forms - *Chakkabhajana*, *Kollatam*, and other activities such as street theatre, embroidery, origami etc. One of the positives that emerged from the camp for drop-out children was that 8 children rejoined school upon its conclusion. In addition, children in 7 villages were trained in *Chakka bhajana* and *Kollatam* over 3 months. To increase the exposure of the children, one-day tours were undertaken to local tourist spots such as the Belum caves, Lepakshi and Puttapparthi.



Children's camp

The National Children's Day [November 14] and Child Rights Day were celebrated in Chennethapalli and Kogira respectively. Ayesha from the Kogira *Balala Sangha* made a big impression with her speech at the environment day celebrations on June 5<sup>th</sup>. As a follow-up to this event, different competitions focusing on environmental issues were held for *sangha* leaders at the *samakhya*-level. These included elocution, essay writing and drawing. Training programme were conducted on child rights in each of the three mandals. Representatives of the *sanghas* also took part in the activities of the Anantapur Child Rights Forum. The cultural performances by the *sangha* members during Independence Day and Republic Day celebrations received wide attention and appreciation. To show their support for the children, two Village Organisations donated Rs. 10, 000 and Rs. 5,000 to the respective *Balala Sanghas*. In Shyapuram, 3 cents [approximately 1300 square feet] land was donated for a children's space.

The Mogga team attended two Training-of-Trainers workshops organised by the National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences, Bangalore on 'Psycho-Social Care of Children in Difficult Circumstances'. Mogga is coordinated by Mr. Thirupal, assisted by 2 cadres and 3 volunteers and receives financial support from Asha for Education, London and Terre des Hommes, Germany.

## B 2 B - BACK TO BASICS

Initiated in February 2009, 'Back to Basics' [B2B] is a campaign aimed at achieving age-appropriate competencies for children in primary schools. This campaign was taken up in 100 primary schools in the working area of the Collective. Under this programme, 52 local volunteers have been selected and trained so far. In the pipeline is the Children's Competency Assessment, which will be conducted for all the children of the 100 schools, to assess their reading, writing and arithmetic skills. The results will then be shared with all stakeholders including parents, teachers and concerned officials. This will be followed-up

by the preparation of a school-based and child-centered quality improvement plan, including capacity building of teachers. The programme will provide a regular assessment and monitoring system besides developing low-cost, innovative and child-centered learning modules. At the end of the programme, which spans 10 months, a post-implementation impact assessment will be carried out to evaluate the efficacy and replicability of the same.

B 2 B is coordinated by Mr. R. Balaji under the guidance of Mr. B. Venkatesh and receives financial supports from Aide et Action (AeA), Hyderabad.

## MILITHA - INCLUSION

Militha, meaning 'inclusion' refers to the Collective's work with people with disabilities. The primary activity of Militha is the formation of Cross Disability Self Advocacy groups [CDSAGs] or *sanghas* and their federations by people with disabilities. The *sanghas* are federated into 3 mandal-level federations (*Samakhyas*) and an area-level apex body. *Sanghas* typically comprise of 90% people with disabilities and 10% guardians of minors. During 2008-09, the number of *sanghas* increased to 46 from 42 and the membership climbed to 576 from 531. In March '08, the apex body was registered as the *Prathiba Mutually Aided Cooperative Society*.

One of the important achievements of this initiative was that 24 children with disabilities became members of the *Balala Sanghas* formed under the Mogga programme of the Collective. Another 39 children with disabilities were assisted to join Govt. schools. People with disabilities were provided training in 'activities of daily living', speech and special education. They had access to regular therapeutic and referral services for medication and surgery, as well as to assistive devices and other aids. Members were assisted in getting important entitlements such as disability certificates, pensions, bus/train passes, ration cards, job cards under the NREGA etc.

Fortythree members got cards for participation in NREGA work, which enabled them to work for 35-40 days and receive Rs. 80 as the average daily wage. 220 of the 529 disability certificates obtained thus far were obtained this year as a result of the active participation of the members and the perseverance of the field workers. The team referred *sangha* members to the Rural Development Trust's [RDT] hospital in Battalapalli for general health issues and to the Tirupati-based Balaji Institute of Research and Rehabilitation for the Disabled, for corrective surgeries. The Department of Disability and Welfare organised a camp in our working area, and the event was presided by the department's Assistant Director. They also provided 19 tricycles to the *sangha* members. Mobility India, Bangalore, organised two camps for the purpose of taking measurements for assistive devices and mobility, after which they were distributed to 54 *sangha* members. In addition, an

Sl. No	Particulars of Services & Entitlements Received under Militha	Number of Members
1	Regular Therapeutic Services	31
2	Regular ADLS Trainings	28
3	Regular Special Education Trainings	12
4	Regular Speech Therapy	25
5	Medication for Fits	28
6	Surgeries	18
7	Mobility Aids	29
8	Assistive Devices	54
9	Hearing Aids	13
10	Disability Certificates	529
11	Disability Pensions	238
12	Bus Pass	257
13	Train Pass	443
14	Ration Cards	535
15	Antyodaya Cards	62
16	Job Cards in NREGA	438
17	House Sites (from Govt.)	73
18	Houses (from Govt.)	239
19	Toilets (from Govt.)	69

auditory assessment camp was conducted in which 13 *sangha* members were provided hearing aids.

The directors of the *Pratibha* MACS went on a exposure visit to "Community-Based Rehabilitation" run by SACRED, an NGO based in Anantapur. After the visit, they are exploring the possibility of bringing together 26 such federations [*samakhyas*] at the district-level assisted by Velugu, RDT and SACRED.

The *sangha* members were trained in institution building and maintenance of records. During 2008-09, they accumulated savings of Rs. 8.67 lakhs. The members availed credit worth Rs. 6.15 lakhs from their co-operative, Rs. 10.25 lakhs from commercial banks and Rs. 3.9 lakhs from Village Organisations promoted by Velugu. Among those who have availed loans for the purpose of education, one is pursuing a doctorate degree, another is doing his undergraduation in law and many others are attending under-graduate courses.

The *sanghas* observed a Disability Week starting from December 3<sup>rd</sup> [International Disability Day] up to December 10<sup>th</sup> [World Human Rights Day]. During this period, the *sangha* members engaged themselves in different activities to improve the environment in their villages, which included cleaning up public spaces. The Disability Week culminated in a common celebration on December 10<sup>th</sup>. The chief guest on the occasion was the Magistrate from the Mandal Legal Service Authority, Dharmavaram who gave a inspiring speech.

Militha received direction from Mr. B. Venkatesh & was coordinated by Mr. A. Chakravarthy, who was assisted by 2 therapists, 1 ortho-technician, 6 field workers and 1 consultant. The programme received financial support from Disability Development Partners and the Jersey Overseas Aid Commission, U.K.



Rally on Disability day

## SWASAKTHI - ALTERNATIVE BANKING AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

The Collective initiated work with women in 1992 with the objective of empowering rural poor women through awareness building on gender issues and promoting sustainable economic institutions. In light of this objective, *sanghas* [groups] were formed at the village level and federated at the mandal level under the Andhra Pradesh government's Mutually Aided Cooperative Societies [MACS] Act, 1995. The cooperatives thus formed are known as *Adishakti* MATCS [Chennekothapalli mandal], *Ananthashakti* MATCS [Roddam mandal], and *Mahilashakti* MATCS [Ramagiri mandal]. In 2004, these cooperatives came together to form a federation called *Mahashakti*. Since December '06, these cooperatives have been running autonomously without funding support from the Collective.

During 2008-09, 47 new *sanghas* were formed and membership increased by 1,330. Education on various aspects of cooperatives was provided to 2,645 members. As of March '09, the total membership of the three MATCS was 11,007 and turnover was 4.76 crores. A total of Rs. 3.7 crores worth of loans were provided by the cooperative to 5,167 member [the details of the loans are provided in the subsequent tables]. All 3 cooperatives conducted their *Mahasabhas* [or Annual General Body Meeting] in July '08.

The cooperatives continued to run counseling and legal-aid centers to take up cases of violation of rights of women. These centres provide a space for women to share their problems and seek solutions. Among the three legal-aid centres, the



Rally on Women's day

Chennekothapalli centre has been recognised as a legal-aid authority under a government initiative. Ms. M. Sireesha continued to be the legal advisor for the centres.



Theatre performance by Marpu Yuva Kala Mandali

The directors of the Cooperatives and a few cadres were trained in para-legal work by HID Forum, Bangalore. Two legal awareness camps were conducted, with 390 women as participants.

The three cooperatives have decided to start building their own offices on land which had already been purchased for that purpose.

On March 8<sup>th</sup>, the *Mahashakti* federation celebrated the International Women's Day in Roddam. The programme featured a rally, sports events, cultural programmes and a public meeting. In addition to speeches by the presidents of the cooperatives, Ms. Devi from Hyderabad delivered a rousing speech on the situation of rural poor women and called for specific areas of action. Young women who were part of the '*Marpu Yuva Kala Mandali*' under the Yuvatha programme performed a theatre production titled '*Amme Aadi*' [Mother is the beginning]

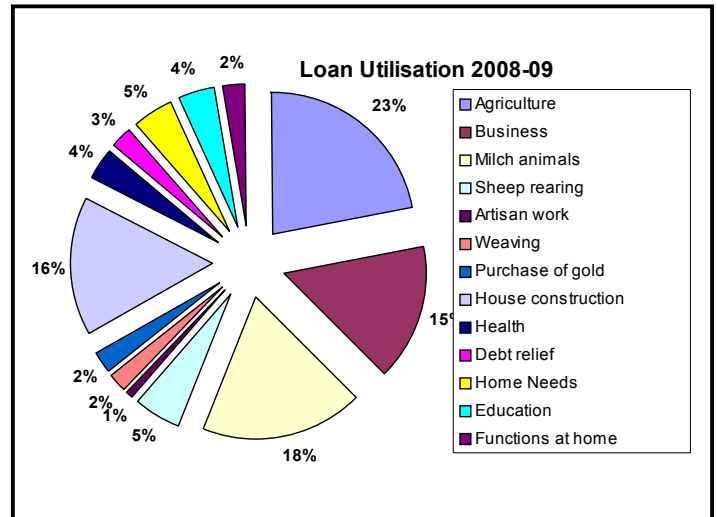
During 2008-09, the cooperatives further consolidated their work. As part of a decision to fine-tune and focus its efforts, the *Adisakthi Dharani* processing and marketing unit promoted by the *Adishakti* MATCS was handed over to the *Dharani* FaM Co-op Ltd. The *Adishakti* MATCS is also looking at alternative arrangements to continue *Bhavani*, a weaving centre based in Chennekothapalli to provide weaving skills to young girls.



Annual General Body Meeting

## LOAN UTILISATION DETAILS - April 2008 to March 2009

S.No	PARTICULARS	TOTALS	
		Amf	Mem
1.	Agriculture	83,61,100	1,196
2.	Milch animals	67,88,400	596
3.	House construction	58,85,800	615
4.	Petty Business	56,99,100	619
5.	Sheep rearing	20,31,100	284
6.	Home Needs	16,92,040	952
7.	Education	16,15,750	188
8.	Health	13,82,000	256
9.	Debt relief	9,72,700	113
10.	Functions at home	9,17,100	114
11.	Weaving	9,08,600	113
12.	Purchase of gold	8,94,000	57
13.	Artisan work	2,65,450	64
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,74,13,140</b>	<b>5,167</b>



## INFORMATION OF THE 3 MACT SOCIETIES AS ON MARCH 2009

Sl. No.	Particulars	Adisakthi MACTS	Ananthasakthi MACTS	Mahilasakthi MACTS	Grand Totals
1.	Membership	4,252	3,107	3,648	11,007
2.	Groups	180	130	148	458
3.	Villages	43	43	36	122
4.	Savings	1,56,88,888	83,93,658	1,06,82,040	3,47,64,587
5.	Loan with mem.	1,82,27,733	1,00,66,339	1,32,82,863	4,15,76,935
6.	Assets Value	10,98,996	5,47,373	3,66,967	20,13,336
7.	Reserve Fund	20,88,488	10,97,586	13,50,601	45,36,675
8.	Total Revolving	1,98,96,203	1,08,01,599	1,38,13,357	4,45,11,159
9.	Expenditure	10,12,060	6,17,201	8,19,900	24,49,161
10.	Total turnover	2,12,29,425	1,13,44,507	1,51,02,419	4,76,76,352

### VISION & MISSION OF THE COLLECTIVE

The Collective envisions that 'rural communities take control of their own lives, govern themselves and live in social and gender harmony while maintaining a sustainable lifestyle'. Its mission is 'to enable marginalised rural people, landless labourers, and small and marginal farmers particularly women, children, youth, dalits and the disabled, to enhance their livelihood resources, get organised and work towards social justice and gender equity and lead life in a meaningful and joyous manner'. The values dear to the Collective are celebration of life, gender equity, faith in people and in their wisdom and excellence.

### SUPPORTERS

Financial and other support for the various project was received from Terre Des Hommes /Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt [Germany], Sir Dorabji Tata Trust [Mumbai], Asha for Education [New Jersey, London], Centre for World Solidarity [Hyderabad], the Jersey Overseas Aid Commission, Disability Development Partners [UK], Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst [Germany]/European Union, the Interchurch Organisation for Development Co-operation [the Netherlands], the Government of Andhra Pradesh, the District Water Management Agency and a number of individual supporters. The 'Support a Child' initiative took on a definite shape with many individuals coming forward to contribute towards the schools run by Chiguru.

The Collective also received valuable consultancy/training support from organisations and individuals like

### DINESH MOVES ON...

Dinesh (M.N. Dinesh Kumar) joined the Collective in 1992 and worked till August 2008, with a 4-year break in between for his 'Hulikadu' initiative. During his work with the Collective, Dinesh made very significant



contributions towards the regeneration of Timbaktu and later, to the development of Kalpavalli wilderness. Under the 'Seeds of Hope' programme supported by Asha, he got involved in many experiments in biodiversity of food crops in dry-land areas, especially millets, which became one of the key factors for the organic farming programme initiated by the Collective in 2005. He also conducted many awareness/ knowledge building programmes for the organic farming sanghas as well as the team members. Dinesh has now decided to work as a freelance consultant and the Collective wishes him all the best for all his future endeavours.

HID Forum, Bangalore - for revisiting the organisations vision; AME Foundation, Bangalore - on organic farming; Ms. Devi and Mr. Shantharam - for theatre trainings; Mr. Mohan Raj - for disability work; and Mr. Ranjeet Ranade - for marketing of organic produce.

As in the previous year, the Collective's activities got extensive print media coverage this year as well, most of the coverage being in Telugu. The coverage included celebrations like World Environment Day, Women's Day, World Disability Day and Children's Day, the Social Audit held on Rural Employment Guarantee Act, different individuals working with the Collective, the Nature School, various trainings and awareness-building programmes including Panchayats, Organic farming, etc. conducted by The Collective.





# విద్యుత్తున్న తున్నదగ్గం

## ప్లాస్టిక్ను నివారించాలి

ఆభివృద్ధికి శ్రీకారం చుట్టారు. ఇందులో సహజ పునరుత్పత్తి ప్రక్రియ ద్వారా పచ్చదనాన్ని తప్పవ బద్ధులో పెంపొందించే వీలున్నట్లు కనుగొన్నారు. ఈ ప్రక్రియ ద్వారా మనిషి, జీవరాసులు అగ్ని చారి నుండి కాపాడగలిగితే పచ్చదనం పెంపొందుతుందని ఈ నేపథ్యంలో 1992 లో ఢిల్లీలో జరిగిన సమీపంలోని ముమ్బైలోని గ్రామాన్ని ఎంచుక చేసింది. ఈ క్రమంలో గ్రామజనలను ఆటవి సంరక్షణ అవకాశాలపై వెదకవలసిగా

లభిసోందన్నా చాకా కమిటీకి యలు, బోద వల్లి కో ఆర్డినే

## పచ్చని అడవి ప్రజలకు కల్పవల్లి...

## జీవనోపాధిని కల్పిస్తున్న 'వనసంరక్షణ' కార్యక్రమం ఆహ్లాదకరం

అంశం - 13/01/09

సామాజిక సమస్యలపై

**యువత దృష్టి సారించాలి**

7-06-2008

సెలెస్టి రీడినారిటీ

కొస్తూన్న ముత్ప



రవీంద్రభారతిలో పల్లె పిల్లల పాటవం

బాప్త బాలల గాతుకీలలో 'కొంబి' విద్యార్థుల ప్రతిభ

సేంద్రీయ ఎరువులు వాడండి

దీనివల్ల కలిగే పంప అధ్యక్షులలో బంగళ అవుల సంపాది

చెన్నైలోపల్లి, సెప్టెంబరు 22 (తి.వి.ఎస్.)

మహిళ అబల కాదు

**మహిళ శక్తి**

వద్దు

వీరూపులతో కలిసి

**బియ్యం చాలి సిగ్గు సిగ్గు...**

బడిలో పేకాట వద్దు.. దొంగతనం సిగ్గు సిగ్గు..

మహిళలు చట్టాలపై అవగాహన కల్పించుకోవాలి

## కొత్త స్తున్న యువతులు



సేంద్రీయ ఎరువులతో అధికవినియోగం

మహిళల శక్తి

## TIMBAKTU ORGANIC - FOOD FOR THE SOUL

There is an agricultural crisis in Anantapur District today. The situation of the smallholder farmer here is pathetic. This is a direct consequence of the practice of groundnut monocropping and use of agro-chemicals, promoted by the Government over a period of over 30 years. The high incidence of suicides among farmers over the past few years due to extreme indebtedness stands as a testimony against these wrong agricultural policies.

The Collective began experimenting and researching the whole aspect of dry-land/rainfed farming in 1998-99 under a small project, 'Seeds of Hope' with support from Asha for Education. The first major project that it took up with support from Sir Dorabji Tata Trust (SDTT) was to promote organic farming among local farmers. This was initiated in 2005-06 and completed in June '09.

A second project, 'Revitalising sustainable rural livelihoods', was launched in January '08 with support from EED/EU and is expected to be completed by December 2012.

The SDTT-supported project focused on the development of land and soil fertility by assisting 350 farming families from 8 villages. The activities included formation of farmers groups, farmer field schools, promotion of organic methods of farming as well as support for marketing the produce.

While the processing and marketing unit established by the Collective in partnership with *Adisakthi* MACTS continued to get support for staff costs from SDTT. The Collective managed to raise 93.63 lakhs from individual investors [via the 'Friends of Timbaktu' initiative and other collaborators] as interest and non-interest bearing loans. The *Adisakthi* MACTS put in the initial capital for the venture. The total capital thus raised was invested in the development of the basic infrastructure necessary to set the base for further work. In April 2008, a producer owned co-operative [the *Dharani FaM Co-op Ltd*] was registered in order to carry out the processing and marketing activities with all the 350 farmers as members and shareholders.

As a producer owned co-operative, *Dharani FaM Co-op Ltd.*, ensures its members a better and fair price for their produce. They are also assured of a market for their produce through its marketing activities. Linking the farmer members to the growing organic market will add to the direct returns of the farmer members. Provision of

cultivation loans through the co-operative will also reduce the debt burden of the farmers, at least to the extent of relieving them from the clutches of the local moneylenders / traders. Farmer members are also entitled to share the profit of the co-operative once it crosses the break-even point.

The EED/EU supported project promotes further land development activities in an additional 18 villages, covering 540 farming families. Importantly, this project has also helped the participating farmers to purchase 450 pairs of "Halikar" cows – one of the essentials in sustainable non-chemical farming. Some bulls were also purchased for further breeding to make this undertaking self-sustainable. In addition, the project also supports 270 agriculture labour families to take up various agriculture related livelihood options. Funds are also available for training the directors of the Cooperative.

The land development activities include soil moisture conservation, biomass development, introduction of horticulture and development of village orchards.

The organic cultivation methods and bio-fertilizer preparations are being demonstrated to the farmers in their own villages through Farmer Field Schools (FFS). FFS are

conducted in the agricultural fields with a cadre and 2 volunteers facilitating the whole exercise. The Collective received technical assistance from AME Foundation, Bangalore, to conduct these sessions effectively.

As a part of the awareness campaign, food demonstrations were conducted in the villages and different millet-based recipes were introduced to sensitise the people about the need to eat healthy foods. Street plays and film shows were also conducted in the villages as a part of this campaign. The Collective has also been working on a 3-acre plot of land to demonstrate sustainable and organic farming practices.

As a result, a total of 890 farming families are now members of the *Dharani FaM Co-op Ltd.*, growing organic food in a sustainable way on 2670 acres of land. Groundnut is the major produce along with various millets such as Korra, Jonna, Ragi and Satta and pulses such as Redgram. This is procured by *Dharani FaM Co-op Ltd.*, processed and marketed as 15 products under the brand name 'TIMBAKTU ORGANIC - Food for the soul'. Mr. Sannappaiah, Mr. Brahmesh & Ms. Pushpa involved in leading the programme.



Weeding in Venkatampalli

## PGS

After careful analysis of the existing organic certification systems in the country, the Collective decided to go in for PGS (Participatory Guarantee System), which is small-holder farmer friendly, less expensive, with comparatively less documentation and more reliable.

Being one of the promoters of the PGS Organic India Council (PGSOIC) - the national body working on promoting and establishing PGS in the country - the Collective was able to take forward PGS as one of the pioneering organisations in India. Regular participation and contribution by the Collective in the PGSOIC provides the opportunity to update the certification process and enables the Collective to efficiently implement the certification process on the ground.

Peer group inspection, the key activity in the PGS certification, is carried out in all the villages every year. Proper documentation procedures, in line with PGS Organic India Council guidelines, have been undertaken by all participating farming families and sanghas. All the documents utilised in the process are in the local language [Telugu], which enables the farmer members to participate effectively.

Training programmes on certification and methodol-



Farmer Field School - Ganthimarri

ogy under PGS system have been organised for the farmers. All the farmer members have pledged to grow crops using organic methods and follow all the systems required for PGS certification.

In the first three years, the produce of the farmer is treated as 'organic-in-conversion' and from the fourth year it is certified organic.

During the year 290 farmers are certified organic while the remaining 600 farmers are under conversion.

## DAIRY INITIATIVE

For a few years now, the Collective has been trying to promote an ethical dairy business enterprise owned and managed by democratic institutions of the milk producers that will give maximum returns to the rural marginalised milch animal owners, while supplying good quality milk/ milk products to the customers. It was also planned to attempt productivity enhancement and veterinary support to the producers. Between October '08 and March '09, the Collective, with financial support from ICCO, Netherlands, took up studies and surveys of the dairy chain with the objective of finding out whether there is hardcore evidence about the viability of the project. The studies & surveys taken up were:

**Demand analysis:** Primary level cross sectional sample survey in 100 villages to assess the current households, cattle mix, production etc. **Market Demand Analysis:** Survey of 5 nearby potential tier-2 towns within 100 kms

## CLRC - CLUSTER LIVELIHOOD RESOURCE CENTRE

Cluster Livelihood Resource Centres had been set up by the GoAP to provide easily accessible and dependable capacity building infrastructure and facilities for all the categories of primary stakeholders: user groups, village organisations, para professionals, book keepers, panchayati members, etc.,

One CLRC was established for every cluster of 80 to 100 watersheds. In Anantapur there are 8 CLRCs and out of them one CLRC, in Chennethapalli, was anchored by the Collective. The 5 mandals included in this CLRC

radius, to understand the demand and interact with customers, institutional buyers, vendors, agents and small dairies.

**Study of other best practices:** Including visiting private and cooperative dairies to understand their models of implementation, and economics. **Study on services:** Including 4 sub-studies to understand reproductive systems, feed processing, fodder and health care. **Economics:** Understanding the cost of production and net income generated through current dairy activities in the area.

Post these studies, the Collective prepared a new development cum business plan for a producer owned ethical dairy business enterprise. Assistance is sought from financial institutions that may be willing to invest in the proposed enterprise. Mr. Guru Prakash coordinated this project.

programme were Penukonda, Ramagiri, Roddam, Chennethapalli and Somandepalli.

During this year, the centre played an important role in developing appropriate quality enhancement systems, strengthening and systematising the functioning of the LRC, identifying resource persons and institutions, promoting best practices, innovation and developing demonstration sites and also documenting best practices and processes for replication. Ms. Jyothi coordinated the CLRC programme during the year.

## KALPAVALLI - NATURAL REGENERATION OF WILDERNESS

The *Kalpavalli* programme evolved as an organic extension of the Timbaktu experiment in eco-restoration through natural regeneration. It has twin aims of helping people to protect and develop the natural resources of the village and also to enhance the livelihoods of the poor therein. The work is routed through the 'Vana Samrakshana Committees' [Forest Protection Committees] that comprise of villagers who volunteer their efforts towards achieving the common goal. There are at present 8 VSCs functioning in 8 villages with 150 members in total. These committees were federated into a common body called 'Kalpavalli Adavi Samakhya', which was again registered under MATCS Act as 'Kalpavalli Mutually Aided Tree Growers Co-operative' in March '08.

The VSCs have met about 120 times during this year to discuss their strategies of work and also to review the work being carried out at field level. The directors of cooperative are mandated to meet once in three months and this year they have met 8 times, including 4 emergency meetings besides the regular ones. The regeneration works of *Kalpavalli* covers about 6500 acres of revenue wasteland in these villages.

This year, as a part of the programme, around 10 kms of fire lines were made to prevent forest fires in the protected area. The whole effort of establishing fire lines has produced 2,087 labour days of work for the locals with Rs. 80 as the average daily wage. Twelve watchers administered by the project were engaged in seed collection as a result of which 510 kgs of about 22 varieties of seeds were collected and stored in the storeroom built inside the protected area. The seeds will be sown in the coming rainy season. The collected seeds include neem, pongamia, gliricidia etc.

There were 24 camps for seed dibbling conducted this year with 916 volunteers from villages participating in it. The whole effort has resulted in 510 kgs of seeds sown in the protected area of 8 villages and as many as 20 varieties of seeds were used for this purpose. The watchers and the

committee members will be responsible for the follow-up and maintenance. Besides these, 52,000 seedlings were planted in the *Kalpavalli* area. The seedlings were partly procured from Government nurseries and the rest from nurseries prepared by the watchers themselves.

Soil and water conservation too form a part of the *Kalpavalli* programme. In this year's work, two water tanks were renovated, three new farm ponds were constructed, and 25 gully checks were made in three of

the target villages. It has created 862 labour days of work for the villagers.

As a part of area demarcation, 15 name boards were installed in the *Kalpa - valli* area with information

displayed regarding the regeneration works. A store room was built in Kogira area for the storage of collected seeds. Two training programmes were organized - one on Natural Resource Management and another on the bye-laws for the cooperative with 50 & 40 participants respectively. Fifty committee members were taken to BAIF, Tiptur, Karnataka for an exposure of NRM-based livelihood activities carried out in that area. In the project area, two of the livelihood activities based on local natural resources proved to be successful for the villagers. One of them was broom-stick making, in which 30 families from these 8 villages were involved. In the month of March 2009, each of them was able to earn an average of Rs. 300 per day. Another 60 families were engaged in selling of date palm fruit, which in turn fetched each family nearly Rs. 16,500 during the season (February-March).

This year the committees have managed to mobilise Rs. 53,490 from their own sources, mainly through the membership fees (Rs.10) paid by 2483 villagers and by selling date palm fronds and seeds. The threat of land encroachment by windmills companies is one of the major challenges that the programme faces at present, for which it has sought help from Mandal Revenue Officer and the District Collector but there are no firm steps taken to prevent the encroachment.

*Kalpavalli* received visitors from Bangalore, Udaipur, Chittoor, Tiptur and from other countries such as the Netherlands and Germany. Mr. N.

Gopal has been coordinating the programme with 5 volunteers assisting him. The *Kalpavalli* programme receives financial support from DBU through Terre des Hommes, Germany.



Watchers meeting - Kalpavalli



Seed dibbling camp - Kalpavalli

## YUVATHA - YOUTH NETWORK PROGRAM

Initiated in 1999 as a network programme, Yuvatha attempts to build leadership among rural youth and creates opportunities for them to get familiar with contemporary issues. The programme gets financial support from KZE (Smile)/Laya, Visakhapatnam. This year 28 Youth *sanghas* were functional. The most important matters taken up for discussion in the *sangha* meetings and the trainings/orientation programmes include the NREGA, SEZ, RTI and Panchayati Raj. Five theatre training programmes were conducted, one specifically for young women as a result of which different theatre productions were made. This year's main theatre production was called 'Amme Aadi' which dealt with issues of women empowerment. The team performed these productions in various local and state level arenas. Ms. Devi and Mr. Shantaram from Hyderabad have played an important role in training the cultural team. In the

context of the present day, with youth getting alienated from their rich tradition of folk art forms and getting addicted to televisions and cinema, which feeds them with illusions and urbanised narratives, Ms. Devi and Mr. Shantaram, did a detailed enquiry in the villages in August '08. Interviews were held with 15 folk artists who expressed their willingness to perform in youth forums and also to train youth in folk arts. On January 12, the birthday of Swami Vivekananda, a Youth Festival was held in Chennethapalli with 300 members. 30 youth participated in a state-level youth festival and 18 members attended a Youth Workshop, both conducted by Yuva Chetana Vedika, Vishakhapatnam. The latter was to develop a youth manifesto to be given to all political parties in view of the 2009 Assembly elections. The programme was anchored by Mr. U. Ravi.

## PANCHAYATI RAJ

The objective of the Panchayat Raj programme, taken up as a network program with 15 NGOs, supported by the Centre for World Solidarity, Hyderabad, was to strengthen Panchayati Raj institutions through awareness and capacity building. An important activity under the program was imparting training for elected representatives and CBO leaders on their roles and responsibilities.

In 2008-09, 8 trainings were conducted in selected model Panchayats on the 73rd Amendment, roles and responsibilities of Gram Panchayats, importance of the Gram Sabha, panchayat meetings, collection of taxes, schemes under government, RTI and the Andhra Pradesh Employment Guarantee Scheme. 376 members attended these trainings, including 5 Sarpanchs and 48 ward members.

On December 26 and 27, 21 elected members from the working area visited a model Panchayat in Warangal

District, facilitated by a partner NGO, MARI. As part of the awareness component, pamphlets containing the Panchayat's responsibilities and people's role in its effective functioning were distributed in 15 hamlets of the selected Gram Panchayats. Besides, 8 puppet shows were conducted in the model Panchayats, with the objective of enhancing people's participation in Panchayats for effective functioning. 3 camps were conducted at village level to create awareness on child rights.

Under this programme, a constituency level network was promoted which met 5 times this year and discussed issues related to functioning of Panchayats. In the model Panchayats, EGS labour *sanghas* were promoted. A woman member from the working area attended the 'Mahila Yuva Prathinithilu' meeting held in Hyderabad, a discussion forum of women facilitated by the Centre for World Solidarity. This programme was also coordinated by Mr. U. Ravi

## VIS - VILLAGE INFORMATION SYSTEM

A project to develop a Village Information System (VIS) in the working area of the Collective, which was initiated in '05 with technical, programmatic and financial support from VISTA and Deci Graph Solutions, Hyderabad, concluded this year. This programme was carried out by a team of local youth selected and trained for the purpose.

Under this, socio-demographic and socio-economic data like population, caste composition, occupational categories, asset holding, available natural resources, infrastructure, land details and the spread and effectiveness of government schemes were collected.

Both primary and secondary data at village and mandal levels were collected through focused group discussions among socio-economic categories such as dalits, women, elders, children, farmers, craftsmen, disabled,

etc. The data collection in Chennethapalli and Ramagiri mandals was completed in 2007-08.

This year, data collection was completed in 61 villages of Roddam mandal besides computerisation of data of Roddam and Ramagiri mandals. VISTA put the data in an accessible format and prepared maps which were presented to the Collective's Core Group and CBO leaders who gave feedback and requested for improvement of the maps and data formats so as to ensure that the outcome could be used in an effective manner.

The collected data was also used by different teams of Timbaktu Collective, such as, the Dairy project, Militha, RSRLP, Panchayati Raj and B2B teams in grounding their fieldwork. Mr. R. Balaji and Mr. K. Ravi from Timbaktu have been coordinating the project with 13 village level volunteers to assist them.

## CELEBRATING SMITU

Smitu Kothari was special to us. His sudden and untimely departure from our midst on March 23, 2009, has left an enormous void. However, his vision, perspectives and people centered politics will live on and continue to inspire our lives and our work.

He touched the lives of many people across the globe. His was one of the most articulate, progressive and consistent voices in the struggle for a just and equitable world. His warmth, wisdom and

compassion moved and inspired all who knew him.

While we, at Timbaktu Collective, deeply mourn the loss of our dear friend and comrade, we also celebrate the remarkable person that Smitu was.



## THE AGREEMENT - A LETTER FROM OUR FRIEND - SAMUEL WIDMER

*Try and imagine this for a moment. To see where we might have possibly been before we came down to earth. To me it seems that we might have been in heaven, sitting around God, feeling one with each other, feeling whole. Feeling a deep sense of beauty. In between, we would look down at the earth and seeing what the people there were up to, we would cry out, "Look at what they're doing! It can't be true! It's a disaster! And it's really hard to bear! Human beings haven't a clue as to how they can live as one; the closest they come to it, is when two of them get together. But as soon as a third person comes along the peace is disturbed. Forget what happens when many people get together. Then, you only have war, destruction and unbearable suffering."*

*So that's when we made a decision. "There's some work for us to do!"*

*Do you remember our resolution to go down there and to show human beings what it means to be one, what it means to be whole, what it means to bring love and joy along with us so that these things can flower on earth?*

*Do you remember how we resolved to show people on earth what friendship really is, to point out how a society can function when it is not based on greed, on envy, or self interest, but rather, when it is founded on love and affection?*

*Do you really not remember what we together decided to do on earth?*

*So well, we came down here as tiny little babies and at first things didn't go too well. We didn't feel particularly welcome. We felt alone. We were not understood, and slowly we forgot what we had undertaken to do. We forgot why we had come to earth at all; we simply forgot who we were. That's how we grew up and like all the others; we lost our way in confusion, on earth.*

*Now and then, one or other of us would perhaps wake up for various reasons, and begin to recollect the truth. For example, I myself remembered because I met a friend from "up there," who helped me to get my memory back. Since that time, as I make my way on earth, I have come across two kinds of people. There are the people whom I remember having seen on earth, from up above and to whom I try as far as possible to communicate all that we had undertaken to show. That's*

*what psychotherapy is about.*

*The others are those who sat with me up above.*

*Whenever I meet one of them, I go up to him and say, "Do you remember what we decided to do while we were up there? Will you help me?" And then the other guy looks at me sort of alarmed and either he says, "What! Are you crazy!" or he just doesn't hear me. He doesn't see me, because he is trapped in his fear, in his pain, his own problems. And then once again a therapy begins. This time it is a therapy of remembrance, until the other person begins to wake up. That means to always live with the yearning that someone really will at some point start to remember again.*

*Some people need to be just tenderly embraced in order to be awakened. Others need to be grabbed and shaken and you have to shout at them in despair. "Don't you really remember me any more?" Yet others have to be approached more carefully, so that they don't become afraid and run away. Some want to be seduced, others to be slapped. The ones I like the most are those whom one can simply go up to, and to say, "How nice, that you have come at last. I've waited so long for you." And there are those whom you look at and in whose eyes you begin to see recognition slowly dawning, of the truth. And then by and by they do in fact show up - the ones who remember - and the yearning comes to an end. It blossoms into joy.*

***And there begins the great process of sharing: One person brings his memory, a second one brings joy, the third one knows how things are done, and the fourth guy knows something about relationships. The fifth person brings money, and so on. And so gradually a new society arises, out of the bricks of the old one, of which everybody has some.***

*This is a story which is almost true but the way it actually was, is not something that you can put into words. And so, what is said about it is not completely true. First of all, there is nothing like "people up there" and "people down here". Not really. To be whole, means to be up there and down here at the same time and so this story cannot really be true - and yet, it is!*

*Don't you remember?!*



## FINANCIAL INFORMATION - 2008 - 2009

### SOURCES OF FUNDS

Donors	Amt. in lakhs
Opening Balance	132.27
LAYA / KZE (Smile)	2.17
DDP	32.77
RDT	4.07
CWS (NOVIB)	4.50
TdH (Terre Des Homes)	13.97
TdH - DBU	14.72
ICCO	15.15
Asha (New Jersey & U.K.)	17.03
EED - EU	117.11
DWMA	5.62
SDTT	35.19
NABARD	3.27
MMS - SERP	1.19
Foreign Contributions Individuals & Local Organisations	1.35
Domestic Contributions - Individuals & Local Organisations	29.05
Capus Fund / Specified	1.26
Interest on Investments	3.30
Sale of Assets	2.24
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>436.23</b>

### EXPENDITURE

Particulars	Amt. in lakhs
Alternative Banking	2.73
Alternative Education	30.39
Child Rights	4.56
Eco-restoration & Natural Resource Mgmt	15.23
Strengthening of Grampanchayats	3.96
Youth Development	2.39
Staff Welfare	1.81
Fellowships	7.73
Community Training & Capacitation	3.97
Health & Disability	19.35
Sustainable Agriculture	108.94
Organic Farming & Marketing	34.12
Village Information System	4.54
Milk Dairy Prog.	13.24
Livelihood Programmes & Resource Centre	6.19
Watershed Programmes	3.27
Vehicle Maintenance	7.27
Capital Expenditure	24.68
Administration	26.20
Closing Balance	115.66
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>436.23</b>

### Salaries : Male & Female breakup

Rs.	M	F	Total
< 5,000	41	24	65
5 to 10,000	15	09	24
10 to 15,000	4	01	05
15 to 20,000	4	01	05
20 to 25,000	1	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>100</b>

Based on staffing and salary levels on 31.03.2009, the Programme Coordinator (Dairy Prog.) income at Rs. 25,000/-monthly was the highest.

**Accounts & Auditing:** Accounts are maintained on a cash basis; complete audited statement of accounts is available on request.

### ABRIDGED FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2008 - 2009

#### BALANCE SHEET AS ON 31.03.2009

Liabilities	Amount	Assets	Amount
<b>CAPITAL FUND</b>		<b>FIXED ASSETS - At cost</b>	153.69
Being fixed assets at cost	153.69		
<b>FUNDS</b>		<b>INVESTMENTS</b>	
Corpus Fund	3.62	Fixed Deposits IVP,NSC	3.61
Childrens Fund	0.85	8% Savings Bonds	
Building Fund	3.23	2003 of Govt., of India	5.50
Education Fund	0.82		9.11
Land Fund	0.05	<b>CURRENT ASSETS, LOANS &amp; ADVANCES</b>	
Other Funds	107.09	Cash & Bank Balances	49.09
	115.66	Programme Advances & Deposits	82.99
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			132.08
Programme Advances	19.69		
Others	5.84		
	25.53	<b>WELFARE FUND ACCOUNT</b>	
<b>WELFARE FUND ACCOUNT</b>		As per Contra	30.60
As per Contra	30.60		
<b>Total</b>	<b>325.48</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>325.48</b>

#### INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31.03.2009

Expenditure	Amount	Income	Amount
Programmes	201.92	Specific grants & Contribution	297.17
Programme facilitation & coordination	60.47	Interest on bank deposits	3.30
Administration	35.19	Other income	2.24
Capital costs (Fixed assets)	22.99	Excess of income over expenditure	17.86
	320.57		
<b>Total</b>	<b>320.57</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>320.57</b>

### Managing Committee Members

Mr. C.K.Ganguly Chairperson  
Ms. Mary Vattamattam Secretary  
Mr. John D' Souza Treasurer  
Mr. B. Venkatesh Member  
Ms. Mahnoor Yar Khan Member

### Steering Committee Members

Mr. C.K. Ganguly Ms. Mary Vattamattam  
Mr. A. Chennakesavulu Mr. K. Sannappaiah  
Mr. D.R. Visweswara Rao Mr. U. Ravi  
Ms. B. Pushpalatha  
Mr. U. Subbaraju

### We bank with

Canara Bank, Trinity Circle branch, MG Road, Bangalore - 560 001, India.

Canara Bank, C.K.Palli branch, C.K.Palli, Anantapur Dt., A.P. 515 101, India

Bank Accounts: Domestic Account No: SB 22808  
: FCR Account No: SB 22807

### Legal provisions

**Registered under Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860** - No.: 546 / 90-91, Bangalore.  
Dated : 14<sup>th</sup> November 1990

**Registered under FCRA**  
No : 0 9 4 4 2 0 6 2 1 - dated 3<sup>rd</sup> January 1994

**Exempted u/s 80 G of IT Act '61**  
No. DIT (E) /80G/480/W-2/05-06, dated 18.11.2005  
Period - 01.07.2005 to 31.03.2009

### Our Auditors

**A.R. Rao & Rajan (Chartered Accountants)**  
186/A, 1st Floor, Opp Central Theatre,  
Venkatranga Iyengar Street, Seshadripuram,  
Bangalore - 560 020, India.

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