



life we celebrate you

ANNUAL REPORT 2010-2011

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

From the Chairperson of Timbaktu Collective



What a year this has been!

We began two decades ago, John, Mary and I, with support from Adrian, Alvito, Mahnoor, Venky and ofcourse the spiritual support of many many friends from all over. Mary and I moved to Timbaktu in 1992, then just a barren piece of land, with our three children, Ashok, Molly and Duhita along with Simhachallam and Ancy. Soon Sashi joined us and then Dinesh and then Subba and then Kalayani and then Akkulappa and the rest is ofcourse history. In between so many friends came, stayed, gave as much as they could. Many stayed on and some left.

I remember we had just about Rs. 500 in the bank at that time and great joy in our hearts. The Collective had great goodwill but no money... Alex Tuscano gave us a moped that carried us part of the way and we pushed it the rest of the way.

Today, the Collective, is partnering people in 140 villages, with over 100 full time team members. Timbaktu has become an agro forest habitat. Many dreams have been actualized and many still remain to be fulfilled.

In the beginning we had decided that we would work in a small geographical area but as intensely as possible. Twenty years have passed and we still feel that we have not even scratched the surface, so much more needs to be done. Yet, times have changed. India is one of the

rising world economies, we have some of the richest people in the world, the carbon foot print of 10% of our population is as high if not higher than many countries in the North. Yet not much has changed in the daily lives of the marginalized peoples we have been working with.

We have been, in our limited way, working to empower the marginalised and vulnerable people in a micro area of this ecologically challenged district, Anantapur, with focus on smallholder farmers and the landless on themes such as eco restoration, child and youth rights, disability rights, women's empowerment, organic farming and producer owned business enterprise development.

As the Timbaktu Collective enters into the 21st year of its existence, we present to you our Annual Report for the financial year 2010/2011. We hope you enjoy reading it and continue supporting our work as you have over all these years.



Chinthavanam - Timbaktu Collective Office

'Chiguru' meaning 'new blossom' is the Child Right's Programme of the Collective. Initiated in 1992, *Chiguru* conducted alternative learning centres for rural disadvantaged and drop out children. In course of time, while attempting to reach out to different sections of deserving children, *Chiguru* took up a variety of initiatives, thus bringing in synergy and responding to the needs of different sections of children. This programme is run by the *Chiguru* working group and coordinated by Satish Kaipa under the direction of Mary Vattamattam.

ALTERNATIVE LEARNING CENTRES

This year both the *Prakruti Badi* and *Timbaktu Badi*, the alternative learning centres run by the Collective, continued with 109 children. *Prakruthi Badi*

is a day centre upto class 10 and *Timbaktu Badi* is a residential centre upto class 7. The latter caters to the children who need protection and residential care. The academics in both centres included projects, worksheets and hands on work in the laboratory, etc. Much learning happened through daily assemblies, library periods, films, visits and visitors as well as activities like drawing, essay writing and elocution. 11 of the 13 children who sat for the class 10 exams successfully completed the exams. Besides academics, there was focus on nutrition, health, sports and games, crafts, cultural activities and gardening. While continuing with gardening activities, the children also restarted a small poultry farm. These centres were supported by *Asha for Education* (US & UK Chapters), TdH-DBU, Germany and individual donors through our 'Support a Child' initiative.



Children & elders participating in Children's Day

CRC

The Children's Resource Centre (CRC), Chennethapalli, continued its activities which include a library, science laboratory and facility for training in computers and arts & crafts. This year CRC added more computers, books, lab materials, games and sports materials. On an average, more than 250 children and youth have utilized the various resources and facilities of the CRC every month. More than 63 children learned basics in computer skills at the centre. 70 children from the *Prakruti Badi* practiced arts and crafts and learned to make 20 different products. 8 young girls who work as trainees at the CRC are now able to produce more than 70 different craft items. Arghya Ghosh, a highly skilled and talented designer from Delhi, volunteered and conducted a 10 day design workshop at the CRC and produced 15 different bags with Timbaktu Collective's logo. The CRC also hosted many events such as Children's Day, Sports Day, Science Day etc. This centre is supported by *Asha*, Bangalore.

BHAVANI

The *Bhavani* weaving centre was able to continue training young girls in various skills of weaving and creating handlooms, though lack of funding is an impediment to its progress. Bhavani focused on producing hand woven sarees with natural dyes and 'Dastkar Andhra' gave the market support.

MOGGA

Considering the felt need of a large number of rural children, a programme called 'Mogga', meaning 'bud' was initiated to create spaces for children in their villages to enjoy their childhood and voice their opinions on issues affecting them. There are currently 40 children's *sanghas* (village level children's associations) with a total membership of 1,200 including 585 girls.

Mogga through the *sanghas* has helped numerous children in villages to come together, sing, dance, learn and play besides talk about their issues. The mandal level federations meet once a month to discuss their progress and problems and plan various children's events. The *sanghas* continued their volunteer work like cleaning school premises, water points



Children participating in 'Sports Day' celebration

and clearing plastic waste in their villages. They put up 'cool drinking water points' called '*Chalivendralu*' in 8 villages during summer months. '*Kolattam*' and '*Chekkabhajana*' dance trainings were conducted with 18 *sanghas*. The children's monthly newsletter called '*Chinnari Nestam*' has been coming out regularly. This year the children themselves put together an editorial committee which sat together to decide the content.

Two children's camps were conducted this year on the themes of environment and child rights. With help from Ms. Devi and Mr. Shantaram, theatre activists and friends of *Timbaktu*, the children created 2 street plays and performed at

various locations. Children attended 'Comics training' and prepared posters. Two Sports days, one for younger and the other for older children were conducted. The Environment Day celebration held at Chennekothapalli village was made colourful and vibrant by the participation of children who performed dances, sang songs, took part in rallies and put up stalls. Festivals and events like *Sankranti*, Republic Day, Christmas, Independence Day, *Diwali*, *Ambedkar Jayanthi*, *Gandhi Jayanthi* were celebrated with gaiety and fervor. Special attention and care went into planning these various events to ensure that they are inclusive and that especially children with disabilities get an opportunity to participate and enjoy. This work received the financial support from TdH-DBU, Germany this year.

BACK TO BASICS

Back to basics is an initiative to support slow learners in the village schools. This quality improvement programme was conducted till December 2010 in 50 villages benefiting 1480 children. Children from classes 2 to 5 were given extra attention through special classes conducted by trained volunteers. Children's Competency Assessment (CCA) in the 3 Rs - reading, writing and arithmetic - was conducted three times through the year. While the first CCA showed an average of 48% performing above the benchmark, the final CCA showed an average of 61% performing above the benchmark. There was an appreciable increase of 13% of children performing better than before. *Aid-et-Action*, Hyderabad provided financial support for the this work during this period.

BALAMILITHA

As the disability programme of the Collective evolved, the work with children with disabilities ('*Bala Militha*') was added to the Child Right's programme. It has reached out to 162 children in 74 villages through its rehabilitation services. This year, two parents' workshops were conducted to equip them to support their children. The team visited 180 schools and interacted with teachers and children to sensitize them about disability and related issues like discrimination, learning abilities and rights. Three assessment camps were held and 160 children attended these camps. 8 children who were identified in these camps had surgeries. Every month at least 10 children were referred to various hospitals for medicines and follow up. This year 35 children were provided with various developmental aids. Children from *Bala Militha* also had the chance to visit and learn at the CRC. *Asha for Education* (USA & UK chapters) and *Liliane Fonds*, Netherlands extended the financial support to this programme.

CHILDREN'S CELEBRATIONS

Children's Day (November 14th) was celebrated with much fun and enthusiasm. November 20th was celebrated as child right's day at all the mandal head quarters with rallies by children creating awareness using placards and banners on the rights of children. In February 2010 children also participated in the 'Red Hand Campaign' to protest against the use of child soldiers.

SCIENCE DAY

'Science Day' was celebrated on 28th February with endless enthusiasm and energy at the 'Children's Resource Centre' in CK Palli. This year children from *Sanghas* and from the local Government schools were invited. All children practiced various science experiments for a month and 40 of them put up their exhibits and did experiments on the Science Day. Preparation of Oxygen, Newton's 3rd law on action and reaction, atmospheric pressure effect in air and water, low cost rain water filtering unit, action of bases, magic lettering, diffusion of light, food pyramid, heat diffusion in gases, planetarium model, working model of turbine are a few examples. Nearly 500 children participated in the day long event. The large scale exhibit on road safety was the highlight of the day.



Militha - Disability Rights Work

'*Militha*' which began as a small project nine years ago is today one of the main programmes of the Collective. The aim of *Militha* is to organise people with disabilities (PWD) to promote and protect their rights. Towards this end, PWDs/care givers were encouraged to form Cross Disability Self Advocacy Groups (CDSAGs) which have been federated at the mandal level and centrally registered as *Prathibha* mutually aided cooperative society (*Prathibha*).

With fiscal and legal support from the Collective, *Prathibha* received a second round of grant in 2010/11 from the Disability Rights Fund (DRF) to promote the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability (UNCRPD). Under this project *Prathibha* has increased its engagement with the local government and has taken up issues of discrimination against children and women. It has been enabling its members to become responsible citizens.

As the result of increased ownership of the programme, members of *Prathibha* took an active part in the survey and also in forming CDSAGs. It also celebrated the 'International day of persons with disability' on its own and raised Rs. 47,700/- towards this. So far 99 CDSAGs have been promoted with 1,062 members. The members have pooled together about Rs. 1.23 million as savings and have accessed over Rs. 3.42 million as loans from banks & Village Organisations (VOs under SERP). So far *Prathibha* has also supported 256 members to enlist under NREGA, helped over 950 members to avail disability certificates and train passes, 520 members to avail bus passes and over 900 members to avail pensions.

Evidences of the trend to become responsible citizens are apparent in members of *Prathibha*. They have volunteered in building ramps and clearing roads and water points. 7 CDSAGs conducted their monthly meetings in the *Panchayath* offices and 70 members participated in World Environmental Day celebrations. Inclusive education has begun in a small way with 15 children with various disabilities attending common schools and 46 teachers being trained.

The *Militha* team has equipped itself with skills for Access Audit and Advocacy. It conducted Access Audit in 3 MPDO offices and in the DRDA



International Disability Day Rally

office. As a result of this Chennethapalli MPDO office built a ramp in their office. A detailed survey of PWD has been carried out in 142 villages identifying 2,406 PWDs. This document can be used as a monitoring tool. The proceedings of 8 training programs have been compiled into a handbook which is currently in a draft form. Case studies of 52 PWD in difficult circumstances have been made and 15 of them are accompanied by comics for illustration. An LFA workshop was conducted with the team and federation members to bring more clarity on the purpose and the objectives of the programme.

Inclusion of PWD has become a common practice in the work of the Collective. The women's cooperatives have 188 members with disabilities and the children's *sanghas* have brought in 43 children with disabilities. The District federation, *Anantha Vigalangula Hakkula Vedika* (AVHV), promoted by *Prathibha* has been registered this year. This programme is coordinated by A. Chakravarthy under the direction of B. Venkatesh.



Swasakthi - Alternative Banking and Women's Empowerment



'Swasakthi' programme initiated in 1992, strives to empower rural women from marginalized families. It emerged from the Collective's understanding that these women have very few opportunities for economic self-reliance, ownership of land, buildings & other assets, skill enhancement, information, education and mobility. Besides, they face complex social issues.

By 1998, *Swasakthi* began promoting Mutually Aided Thrift Cooperative Societies (MATCS). The three cooperatives thus formed have been running autonomously since December 2006.

During the year, a total of 1,246 members joined and 424 withdrew their membership, taking the

total membership from 12,638 to 13,460 at the end of March 2011. The total capital base too has increased from Rs 53.80 million to Rs. 60.35 million by the end of the year.

During the year, loans worth Rs. 50.18 million were disbursed among 6058 members (the utilization details are given in the table). The loans range from Rs. 500 to Rs. 40,000. *Adisakthi*, the oldest of the three MATCS, has increased the upper limit of individual loans to Rs. 50,000. This has created a simple avenue for the women members to avail loans and enhance their livelihood options. Due to its structural efficiency, the repayment is ensured with very few defaulters. Due to the continuous efforts of the directors and their staff, an amount of Rs. 3,17,521 was also recovered from 253 suspended members during this period.

Besides this, the cooperatives continued supporting their members in asserting their legal rights through their legal aid and counseling centres. The centre run by *Adisakthi* MATCS registered 120 cases this year of which only 78 still need follow up. While Ms. M. Sireesha continues to be the legal advisor for cooperatives, all the three CEOs have received intensive training on legal rights of women from *Asmitha*, Hyderabad.

Leaders of the village based group met on a quarterly basis. *Mahasakthi*, the network of the three cooperatives had 8 meetings this year. It also organised the Women's day celebration on March 8th 2011 in the premises of *Adisakthi* MATCS,

CK Palli. Dr. Rama Devi of *Jana Vignana Vedika* was the chief guest at the celebrations. She shared her views on issues related to women, their rights, health, ill effects of sex selection, etc.

As part of the welfare activities of the cooperatives, 89 members received Rs. 3,09,000/- while another 45 received Rs.10,000 each as benefit under the newly started micro-insurance scheme.

Following *Adisakthi* MATCS of CK Palli, *Mahilasakthi* MATCS of Ramagiri also completed the construction of their own office building. The office space was inaugurated by Ms. Anita Ramachandran, Joint Collector, Anantapur district, on 30th December 2010.

Swasakthi programme received financial support from ICCO, Netherlands and EED/EU, Germany. Mary Vattamattam provides overall guidance to the programme while the working group was coordinated by A. Chennakesavulu.

I am *B.Ratnamma*, member of *Vandana Podupu Sangham*, Roddam. My native village is Peddakodi Palli. I got married to *Boya Ramakrishna* of Roddam village ten years ago. I have two sons, studying in 5th and 3rd standards respectively. We own a house and a small holding of land. Our main livelihood is obtained from wage labour.

A few years ago I joined *Ananthasakthi* MACS as a member of *Vandana Podupu Sangham*. I started saving Rs.50 every month out of the hard earned wage. The first loan I availed was Rs.1,500. I used it to do a petty business and repaid the loan with interest. As I properly paid back my first loan, I was able to avail a second loan of Rs.5,000 of which I used Rs.2,000 for agriculture and the rest for fruit business. After repaying it within time, I availed a third loan of Rs.10,000. This I used to expand my fruit business. I procure banana, *sapotta* and pomegranate from Pavagada and sell it in Roddam. In this I am able to earn a profit of Rs.200 per day, on business days. I am repaying the loan properly as the business is successful.

Membership in *Ananthasakthi* makes it possible for me to save money in my own village, avail loans at low interest when needed and also avail other benefits including welfare schemes of the society. I am thankful to the *Ananthasakthi* society for its positive impact in my life.

LOAN UTILISATION DETAILS - Apr. 2010 to Mar. 2011

S.No	PARTICULARS	TOTALS	
		Amt	Mem
1.	Agriculture	1,20,55,400	1,557
2.	Milch animals	90,89,200	657
3.	Business	69,39,400	657
4.	House construction	54,17,900	522
5.	Sheep rearing	30,13,200	386
6.	Home needs	29,89,850	1,077
7.	Education	24,10,400	236
8.	Health	22,79,600	385
9.	Functions at home	16,82,800	186
10.	Debt relief	14,93,500	145
11.	Purchase of gold	13,49,000	80
12.	Weaving	9,55,800	96
13.	Artisan work	5,05,900	74
	TOTAL	5,01,80,250	6,058

INFORMATION OF THE 3 MACT SOCIETIES AS ON MARCH 2011

Sl. No.	Particulars	Adisakthi MACTS	Ananthasakthi MACTS	Mahilasakthi MACTS	Grand Totals
1.	Membership	5,152	4,193	4,115	13,460
2.	Groups	206	173	142	521
3.	Villages	43	55	36	134
4.	Savings	2,32,83,379	1,30,89,654	1,55,99,747	5,19,72,780
5.	Loan with mem.	2,55,79,332	1,45,92,544	1,71,09,208	5,72,81,084
6.	Assets Value	26,13,449	21,75,286	23,58,287	71,47,022
7.	Reserve Fund	24,18,533	14,20,532	16,76,561	55,15,626
8.	Total Capital	2,88,22,784	1,68,26,643	1,95,33,234	6,51,82,662
9.	Expenditure	12,20,105	8,51,488	9,87,986	30,59,579
10.	Total turnover	2,70,90,835	1,66,24,858	1,66,33,822	6,03,49,515

Kalpavalli - Natural Regeneration of Wilderness

'Kalpavalli' programme evolved as an organic extension of the Timbaktu experiment in eco-restoration through natural regeneration. Its twin objectives are to help the people of the 9 member villages to protect and regenerate their natural resources and to help the poor in these villages to enhance their livelihoods through sustainable use of these resources.

Over the years about 7,000 acres of common lands (revenue waste) have been protected and regenerated into a thriving wilderness. *Vana Samrakshana Committees* (Forest Protection Committees - VSCs) were formed in 9 villages. These were federated in 2003 and registered as the *Kalpavalli Mutually Aided Tree Growers Cooperative (Kalpavalli)*, which has 1,969 members.

The elected directors of the Cooperative, while managing the wilderness, also run a business enterprise that produces neem powder used for organic farming. The Cooperative earned a revenue of Rs. 40,350 from membership fees, fines and date palm products this year.

The directors who make all the management decisions met 8 times this year. Major discussions this year included:

- ❖ Fix rates for *neem* seed procurement and commission to be paid
- ❖ Charge sheep owners an annual tax of Rs. 5/sheep/year for grazing their sheep
- ❖ Increase the wages of the watchers by 20%
- ❖ Incentivise collection of seed by watchers
- ❖ Invite the youth to take a more active part in the functioning of the Forest protection committees
- ❖ Maintenance of nurseries
- ❖ Fire breaks
- ❖ Negotiation with windmill companies

The AGM was conducted in Mustikovila village on July 29th with 400 members participating. Mr. Sreerangappa, a CBO leader from *Ananta Paryavarana Parirakshana Samiti*, was the chief guest.

The watchers and the volunteers collected 692 kgs of seeds of 19 varieties. 59 seed dibbling camps covering 1,770 acres of *Kalpavalli* were conducted in this year. 1,513kgs of seeds from 12 varieties were sown by 1,886 volunteers. Besides this, nurseries which grew 30,000 saplings in this year were maintained in 8 villages. 1,07,000 seedlings, like custard apple, *amla* and *pongamia* were also planted in *Kalpavalli* this year.

To prevent forest fire, 81,500 mtrs of firelines were made. This has provided 817 labour days of work to the villagers around. *Kalpavalli* as part of the Common Property Resources (CPR) works under NREGA, created another 49,279 labour days of work for the labourers in 8 villages, worth 49.28 lakhs.



It was widely noticed that the ground water table has improved under the *Kalpavalli* hills. Paddy farmers of the Mustikovila village went confidently for a second crop, though the water in the tank was enough only for 2 months' irrigation. They had a successful crop as the tank continued to get water from the *Kalpavalli* hills as a result of the extensive water conservation works such as trenches.

A few study plots were established in the protected area, with an aim to do a species count as well as to measure the heights of the plants. This process brought in more awareness among the VSC members as they realised the positive side of the protection

and regeneration work. Also a team from Society for Promotion of Wastelands Development (SPWD) has started an indepth study of the *flora* and *fauna* in the *Kalpavalli* forest.

The regeneration work also faced serious threats from the Forest Department and the windmill companies in this year. A series of protests and negotiations brought some temporary solutions to these issues, like agreements to delineate areas of working and compensation for damages etc.

Mr.B.Akkulappa has been appointed as the Legal advisor to the *Kalpavalli* Tree Growers MACS by the directors. Mr.Sharat Singh, Bombay has helped the Programme Coordinator in project

monitoring and report preparation. The Collective is grateful for their support. This year the *Kalpavalli* programme received financial support from TdH / DBU, Germany and Government of Andhra Pradesh / the District Water Management Agency under CPR initiative. This programme was coordinated by N. Gopal with Mary Vattamattam providing direction.



Grazing in Kalpavalli Forest



Yuvatha - Youth Network Programme

Initiated as a network programme in 1999, '*Yuvatha*' aims at organising and promoting knowledge building in young people in order to help them to take active part in the development issues of their village. The programme also attempts to build leadership among youth and creates opportunities for them to get familiar with contemporary issues.

There are 31 Youth Sanghas functioning in 28 villages with 568 youth members. During 2010-11, two training programmes were conducted covering various social issues, development of leadership qualities, skills, etc. Four members participated in the 'Comics training' conducted by Sharad Sharma of World Grassroots Comics in December 2010. Between 4-6th March 2011, 6 members including the co-ordinator attended the '*Youth Mela*' held at Vishakapatnam. They learnt about the youth employment policies, livelihood opportunities and environmental issues caused by the development projects.

Youth Sanghas in 8 villages around '*Kalpavalli*' protected area met regularly to discuss various issues arising due to the windmill and mining projects. Exposure visits were conducted with youth to the *Kalpavalli* protected area to understand the ecological restoration work that has taken place over the last 18 years. The youth were motivated to actively participate in protecting the ecology. They expressed their wish to attend the meetings of Forest Protection Committees regularly.

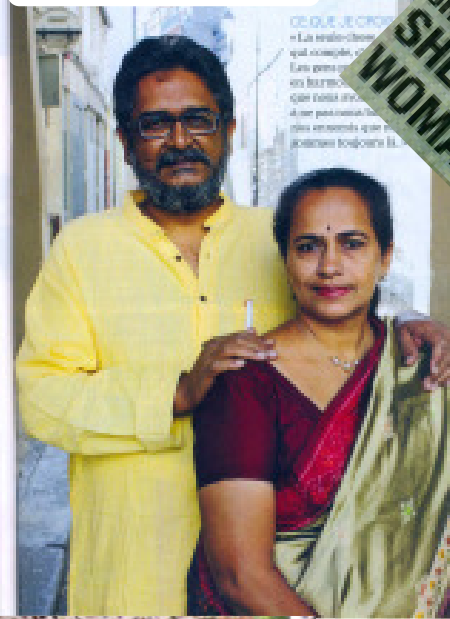
'*Marpu Yuva Kala Mandal*', the Cultural forum of youth, met every month to plan for cultural trainings and performances. Seven youth groups were trained in *Kolattam* and one group was trained in *Chekkabhajana*. The members of the *Bhagath Singh Yuvatha Sangham* of *Cherukuru* took the initiative in *Chekkabhajana* performance and in spreading awareness on organic farming.

This programme receives financial support from KZE (Germany) / LAYA (Visakapatnam).



Youth Exposure Visit to Kalpavalli

SHE CARES. SHE FIGHTS. SHE HEALS. SHE IS VANITHA WOMAN OF THE YEAR



నా క్ష - 12-11

వంత పద్ధత సారథి మే

బాలల హక్కులపై ర్యాళీలు



చట్టాలపై అవగాహన పెంచుకు

మోక్షమయ్య, రాష్ట్ర పరిశాలల హక్కులపై విమర్శించే రిలే ర్యాలీ

వ్యవసంపంపించినదానికి టింబర్ కు తోడ్పాటు

వ్యవసంపంపించినదానికి టింబర్ కు తోడ్పాటు

Gender equality a myth: Minister

Gender equality a myth: Minister





Women working in millet field

In order to address the distressful situation of small holder farmer in this drought ridden region, the Collective has been running an organic farming programme since 2005. This programme has been growing, gaining pace and setting standards for the organic farming movement in this region.

This year the programme continued under the ongoing five year project supported by *Evangelische Zentralstelle für Entwicklungshilfe e.V.* (EED, Germany) and the European Union. It got further momentum with the phase-II project supported by *Sir Dorabji Tata Trust* (SDTT, Mumbai). The latter helped us extending the programme to another 300 small holder farm-

ers. The whole initiative was further complemented by capital raised from individual “investors” (Friends of Timbaktu and other collaborators) through interest bearing and non-interest bearing loans along with grants to setup and run the member owned 'Dharani FaM Coop Ltd.' (*Dharani* - www.timbaktu-organic.org) that emerged from this programme.

By end March 2011, a total of 1,132 families are practicing sustainable and organic food farming on 3,390 acres of land with no external inputs. Most of the farmers (except the 300 farmers who joined this year) have been certified as organic under the PGS system. The others remain “organic-in-conversion”. The farmers are supported to take up measures to increase the soil fertility and biomass content that will augment the organic farming practices. Initiatives are taken to maintain a seed bank at every village to help preserve the local variety seeds and also to have a source of chemical free seeds.

490 pairs of *Halikar* cows, one of the essentials in sustainable non-chemical farming, have been provided to the farmers with part project support over a period of 2009-11. These have now multiplied many fold as each village also has atleast one seed bull to improve the breed purity. The farming teams of both these projects have developed capacities and modules to conduct regular Farmer Field School (FFS) and training sessions for the farmer members. Field days were conducted in each mandal to enable all the farmer members to share their experiences, experiments and knowledge in organic farming with the whole village.

As a visible example of all the recommended organic practices and to act as a learning space for the participating farmers and team members, two demo plots are being maintained under this programme. People have taken organic as the way of life and the practice is spreading to other farmers in the villages as well as to other villages even in Karnataka. This year the horticulture crops such as Mango, Guava, *Sapotta* etc., grown with the same organic principles have also begun yielding wonderful crops.

Dharani's storage and processing facility procures the organic produce from the farmer members on time thereby ensuring proper and safe storage of their produce. These are then processed and sold under the brand name *Timbaktu Organic*. The products range from rice, semolina, flour and malts of various millets to nuts, oil, butter and powder of Peanuts to Horse gram and Red Gram to three varieties of Paddy rice (*Kesari*, *Chennangi* and *Basmathi*).

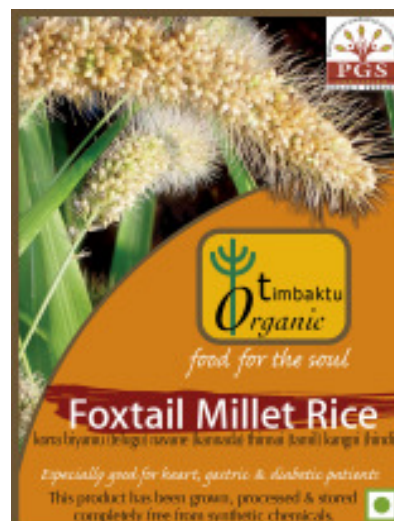
The year 2010-11 was a good year for *Dharani*. It has finally broken even and recorded its first net profit. It also held its first elections to the Board of Directors. The minimum share capital was increased to Rs. 1,050 per member. Apart from this, 480 farmers have invested Rs. 2,000 each in *Dharani* by way of no interest deposits. With this the total contribution of the farmer members (both share capital & deposits) has crossed Rs. 2 million. This is about 25% of the total capital of the Coop. Learning from experience, proper systems have been put in place and *Dharani* is now poised for a quantum leap from here on.

Finance Overview of *Dharani FaM Coop Ltd.*

Year	Revenues	Direct expenses	Gross profits /losses	Indirect expenses	Profits / Losses
2006-07	723,205	605,578	117,628	156,837	(39,210)
2007-08	3,049,010	2,719,378	329,632	489,645	(160,014)
2008-09	1,611,635	1,308,754	302,881	358,369	(55,489)
2009-10	3,305,125	2,832,663	472,462	474,259	(1,797)
2010-11	4,167,461	2,945,844	1,221,617	1,174,905	46,712

Gramasiri

Creating alternative livelihood options for 270 landless labour families is another programme being implemented under the RSRL project (also supported by EED, Germany and the European Union). The 18 labour sanghas formed under this programme were federated and registered as yet another producer owned business enterprise, called *Gramasiri* (mutually aided) cooperative, in March 2010. Members of *Gramasiri* have taken up the business of rearing and selling of small ruminants. This has really flourished during 2010-11. Various members, individually and collectively, have entered into the fresh meat business which has expanded within a period of 6 months to 3 centres. Collectively, the members of *Gramasiri* are now accumulating capital through monthly savings to expand the business in a big way.



Voice of a Labourer...

Ms. B. Akkamma W/o Mr. B. Peddanna - Sree Lakshminarasimha Swami labour sangham - Ragimekalapalli village, Roddam Mandal.

We came to this village 30 years ago. I started working as a daily wage labourer with a wage of Rs. 20/day to feed my family. My husband and 4 children were completely dependent on me.

In the year 2000, *Ananthasakthi* women's cooperative started a *sangham* in our village and I joined it. In the beginning I met the expenses of my family with small loans from the cooperative along with daily wage labour. Later, I got my two daughters married with money from the same source. In 2005, I took a loan of Rs. 5,000 and started vegetable vending in the surrounding villages but also continued to do daily labour when possible.

In 2008, the Timbaktu people held a *gramasabha* in the village to identify the poorest from the village. They formed a labour sangha in the village with 15 members and I joined it. As part of the project we identified 10 acres of common land and started working in it. This provided us employment as we dug pits, planted saplings and watered them.

Meanwhile, in 2009, from the project each of us received a sum of Rs. 10,440 to buy some sheep. I added Rs. 1,160 and bought 6 sheep. After rearing them for 6 months, I sold them for Rs. 15,000. With this money I leased 4 acres of land for Rs. 6,000 where



I took a groundnut crop. After selling the produce, I bought 15 sheep (mainly lambs) again. I now have 35 sheep worth Rs. 2000 each.

One of my sons had migrated to Bangalore in 2005, as there was no work here. Now he has returned and is looking after the sheep. My husband now is also very actively involved in the rearing and the business of the sheep. In the meantime, in 2010, *Gramasiri* Cooperative was formed and all of us from the labour sanghas became members. Because of my active participation, I was elected as one of the directors of the cooperative. Each member is now saving Rs. 250 per month in the cooperative. We are accumulating the savings of the entire membership to start a common business in a big way at a later date. I could not have imagined that such things were possible if we were not part of the project.

C.K. Ganguly, also known as *Bablu*, the chairperson of the Collective, provides overall guidance to these initiatives while the concerned working groups are coordinated by Aji Augustine, U. Ravi, K. Sannapaiah and Brahmeshwar Rao. Ranjeet Ranade and the CREAM team continued to support *Dharani* FaM Coop Ltd.

People's Tribunal

Timbaktu Collective co-hosted a 'People's tribunal on livelihoods and climate change' in Anantapur on 22nd October 2010 along with *Accion Fraterna*. Beside NGOs, CSOs, and CBOs, marginalised people, small holder farmers, rainfed farmers, tribals and others from all the southern states participated in the event to give their testimonies on how their livelihoods are affected by climate change. Over 500 men and women, primarily farmers organizations and CBOs, NGOs from Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamilnadu and Kerala participated in the event.

This event was the first of its kind in Anantapur. The participants presented testimonies on issues related to agriculture, fisheries, livestock, forests etc. Many gave accounts of different innovative adaptive mechanisms and alternatives already being practiced by them which could be scaled up for supporting the livelihoods of the marginalized people in resource poor areas. Post the event, the jury met and looked at the consequences of climate change on livelihoods and submitted their recommendations in a report. Ms. Mary Vattamattam, Secretary of the Collective, was one of the jury members for the event.

Celebration of life.....

World Environment Day was celebrated locally as *Paryavarna Parsa* for the 12th consecutive year. *It is a celebration of life and the living, of what has been and what can be. This is a celebration of what the common people care for, seeds, animals, agricultural and hunting equipment, local medicine, cultural art forms and local foods.*



Over 5,000 people from all over the three mandals came and participated in this two day event at Chennethapalli on the 5th and 6th of June 2010. The event was organized by the *Paryavarna Parsa committee* with members from all the CBOs promoted by the Collective, the *Gram Panchayat* and the Collective.

It had four sections: exhibition cum sales, traditional food stalls, cultural art forms and public meetings. The different exhibits were traditional agricultural and hunting equipments, organic pest repellants and fertilizers, arts and crafts, local varieties of crop and tree seeds, organic foods, handlooms, poultry and traditional healing systems.

CREAM - Certificate course in Rural Entrepreneurship and Management

In June 2009 the Collective initiated a two year project to develop a business management course which is relevant, accessible and affordable for leadership and staff of NGOs, producer owned business enterprises and entrepreneurs who can then plan and operate commercially viable rural businesses.

Its objectives include building a cadre of trained rural business managers, developing a course relevant to rural businesses and ensuring that the target group has access to a training system that is appropriate in terms of costs, language, duration and location. The project has been financially supported by ICCO, Netherlands and developed by a group of business management and development professionals with hands on experience, either as managers or volunteers, with a wide variety of rural development interventions across India.

The first phase of the programme spans over two years and involves development of the CREAM concept, delivery of pilot courses at 5 different locations across the country, and review and consolidation of the CREAM concept based on the learning and feedback from the course delivery.

The CREAM project originally envisaged undertaking three pilots during the two-year period. By February 2011 the project had successfully completed these pilots at Timbaktu, A.P. (for 3 NGOs TC, SEDS & AF), Trivandrum, Kerala (for *Kudumbasree*) and Ranchi, Jharkhand (for *Vikas Bazar.Net*). It was then able to commit to a fourth pilot with *Seva Mandir*, Rajasthan starting in March 2011.

The project period ends in June 2011. However, ICCO has been kind enough to extend the project period to October 2011 on a “no extra cost” basis. With this in mind CREAM has committed to train the directors and staff of the *Mahasakthi* Federation of Women's thrift Cooperatives, Anantapur, starting in May 2011 and the directors and leaders of the *Dharani* FaM Coop Ltd, Anantapur, starting in September 2011, both promoted by the Collective. These pilots will test the CREAM concept by taking it to people with a very low level of academic education. This requires substantial changes in both the pedagogy and materials. The CREAM team has already conducted a two-day introductory course for potential participants and they are convinced that they will be able to deliver CREAM to this group.

CREAM has also made substantial progress in terms of expanding the faculty pool. The team conducted several new faculty orientation programmes during the past three-four months. The first program was held at Timbaktu in October 2010, the next in Delhi during December 2010 and a third one in Mumbai in February 2011. As a result of these exercises 12 persons have signed up to join the CREAM team, taking the total strength of the faculty pool to 22. The team expects that a few more people will join in the coming months. The enlarged faculty pool is also spread geographically with new members coming in from cities such as Delhi and Kolkata.

With the pilot project coming to an end it has become imperative that CREAM becomes an independent organization so that it can grow and go beyond the mandate of the Timbaktu Collective that promoted the idea. As per plan, the CREAM team registered itself as a Society (Training Resources for Enabling Enterprises Society - TREES) in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala in February 2011.

Some of these developments were not foreseen when the original CREAM idea was mooted. It has been a tremendous journey so far and in order to take the programme to a logical conclusion, the CREAM team is also planning to conduct a thorough review of the two-year project with the help of an external consultant.



Supported by NABARD and anchored by Mr. Akkulappa and the *Pacchari* team, watersheds in Beedupalli, Marakuntapalli, Julakunta and Motuvaripalli villages are being developed. These four watersheds together cover an area of 4789 hectares. The table below gives an overview of the 4 watersheds.

Four village Watershed committees (VWCs) have been constituted. The VWCs meet twice a month to plan and carry out different works such as selection of farmers' field, plantation on bunds and construction of earthen bunding, stone bunding, farm ponds and rock filled dams etc. One third of the committee members are women. The committees also maintain a Social Audit Board where the monthly statements of receipts and payments along with the available balance are displayed. Two engineers and an agronomist support this initiative. The works are planned and reviewed on a monthly basis. Besides the physical works, 186 families were selected for livelihood loans under this initiative.

A total of 16 trainings were conducted for the field cadre and the VWCs. The VWC members were also taken on exposure visits to Berangi and Pittavandlapalli watersheds in Chittoor district. Most of the works under the Feasibility Study Report (FSR) phase have been completed in all the watersheds and a net planning report was sent to NABARD. By the end of the year all the four watersheds had received the sanction letter for the Fully Implementation Phase (FIP)

Watershed	Coverage in Ha	Total Budget for FIP
Beedupalli	1300	1,39,72,500
Marakuntapalli	1375	1,10,53,000
Motuvaripalli	1047	1,05,08,747
Julakunta	1067	1,00,22,700
Total	4789	4,55,45,947



Study on Mustikovila chain of water tanks

The traditional system of water tanks has proved for the past 1000 years to be the best technique to guarantee optimum rainwater harvesting. This has been de facto sidelined in spite of its many remarkable environmental advantages: surface water storage, flash flood control, groundwater recharge and ecological niche for many floral and faunal species.

Among several reasons, most importantly no serious technical study of the water/health situation has been done nor are there necessary number of trained leaders either to conduct the required negotiations or to implement the appropriate solutions. This project contributes to the re-establishment of the traditional system of rainwater harvesting through a chain of water tanks which will supply the villages with drinking and irrigation water for the foreseeable future. It includes the planning of proper maintenance and management of the water catchment area, a technical feasibility study to rehabilitate the tanks and canals, and to optimize the water distribution system through local irrigation channel systems.



The project is the natural continuation of the works initiated by the Timbaktu Collective 18 years ago in the watershed of the Mustikovila tank known as the "*Kalpavalli* reforestation project". The whole community was mobilized around the project since it represents a vital contribution to their life: supply of healthy drinking water and of irrigation water to the only fertile land each family owns.

This year the project focused on the short term objective of elaborating a technical study on the precise needs to improve catching systems, storage and use of drinking and irrigation water in Mustikovila tank. Luc and Anne of Vista, Hyderabad provided the technical support for this project while Aurelien, a student intern from France, trained the team in GIS software.

The E&E coalition was established in 2009-10 with the purpose of strengthening disadvantaged and excluded communities at the micro & macro levels to access and manage resources and exercise rights in an inclusive, participatory and just manner. The Collective, while being a member of the Coalition, was also the legal-holder of the first phase of the Coalition.

Besides the partner visits and CBO exchange visits, two facilitation workshops at member organisation level on the overarching theme was organised with the help of resource persons from *Dalit Foundation*. As part of the programme, 3 research studies on Land rights, Alternative Education and Sustainable Agriculture were carried out during the year.

A skill training workshop on advocacy was conducted by *Dalit Foundation* at SEDS, Penukonda campus in June 2010. The Coalition gave a National Call on the Abolition of Untouchability on 15th April 2010 at the Bangalore Press Club. Malla Reddy of AF presided with solid support from Jyothi of REDS, Chandrasekhar of DF and Pradeep Esteves. ADATS, *Janasahayog*, Timbaktu Collective and SEDS were also represented.

Creating a group of lawyers as a resource group for the coalition and supporting Human rights defenders is another important activity under the programme. *Janasahayog* took the responsibility of organizing a meet cum training of human rights lawyers and *Dalit Foundation* took the responsibility for the content support. The programme was organised in Bangalore in December 2010.

Three coalition meetings were conducted during the year. While these periodic meetings were the overall forum for the Coalition, Timbaktu Collective, as the legal-holder, appointed a coordinator with specific responsibilities of communication amongst all members, communication with donors, attending all events of the coalition, book-keeping of accounts and setting up the coordination space.



Comics Workshop



For a long time Timbaktu Collective, in collaboration with World Comics India, had been working on designing a Comics workshop. Considering the kind of potential the medium could have in varied fields the Collective has been working on, an intensive Training of Trainers (ToT) workshop was conducted with selected activists/volunteers/field cadre.

Twenty-three participants attended this workshop. Mr. Sharad Sharma and Ms. Usha Dewani of World Comics India conducted this five day workshop.

The workshop was divided into two parts - a three day training to enhance the participants' skills to present an issue in 'Comics' form and another two days of ToT, facilitated through the process of smaller workshops where the participants acted as resource persons in training children and youth to create 'Comics'.

This workshop has had a tremendous impact. *Chiguru* and *Militha* working groups have started using 'Comics' as an effective tool to communicate their messages to a wider audience.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION - 2010 - 2011

SOURCES OF FUNDS

Donors	Amt. in lakhs
Opening Balance	99.01
EED - EU	58.25
SDTT	41.70
Asha for Education (U.S. & U.K.)	27.68
TdH-DBU	25.46
ICCO	21.07
NABARD	17.79
RDT	16.18
Tides Foundation, USA	9.41
France Liberty	6.15
Aied-et-action	5.87
Interest on Investments	3.24
Asha, Bangalore	2.50
LMA/KZE (Smile)	2.10
Liliane Fonds	1.80
Domestic Contributions - Individuals & Local Organisations	40.84
Foreign Contributions - Individuals	18.35
Other Income	0.01
Corpus Fund/Specified	0.05
TOTAL	397.46

EXPENDITURE

Particulars	Amt. in lakhs
PROGRAMME EXPENSES	
Sustainable Agriculture	96.40
Health & Disability	29.24
Business Enterprise Development	22.56
Eco-restoration & Natural Resource Mgt	22.16
Alternative Education	18.34
Training & Capacity Building	16.69
Child Rights	12.74
Watershed Development	12.40
Transportation & Logistics	9.03
Alternative Banking & Women Empowerment	7.18
Children Resource Centre	6.56
Fellowships	5.77
Youth Development	1.87
Timbaktu Training Centre Maintenance	1.69
Study on Water Tanks	1.58
ADMIN EXPENSES	28.89
CAPITAL EXPENSES	10.85
Closing Balance	93.51
TOTAL	397.46

SALARIES OF TIMBAKTU PANCHAYATI MEMBERS

Rs.	M	F	Total
< 5,000	16	10	26
5 to 10,000	32	21	53
10 to 15,000	11	03	14
15 to 20,000	04	-	04
20 to 25,000	03	01	04
25 to 30,000	03	-	03
Total	69	35	104

We thank all the individual donors for their continued support to effectively carry out our work in the field.

Based on staffing and salary levels on 31.03.2011, the Administrator's income at Rs. 30,000 per month was the highest.

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

ABRIDGED FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2010 - 2011

BALANCE SHEET AS ON 31.03.2011

Liabilities	Amount	Assets	Amount
CAPITAL FUND Being fixed assets at cost	166.12	FIXED ASSETS - At cost	166.12
FUNDS		INVESTMENTS	
Corpus Fund	3.92	Fixed Deposits/WPSC RD	3.02
Childrens Fund	0.85	8% Savings Bonds	5.50
Building Fund	3.28	2003 of Govt., of India	8.52
Education Fund	0.82		
Land Fund	0.05	CURRENT ASSETS, LOANS & ADVANCES	
Other Funds	84.59	Cash & Bank Balances	61.48
CURRENT LIABILITIES		Programme Advances & Deposits	35.74
Programme Advances	5.19		
Others	7.04		
WELFARE FUND ACCOUNT As per Contra	45.17	WELFARE FUND ACCOUNT As per Contra	45.17
Total	317.03	Total	317.03

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31.03.2011

Expenditure	Amount	Income	Amount
Programmes	184.42	Specific grants & Contribution	295.15
Programme facilitation & coordination	79.79	Interest on bank deposits	3.24
Administration	28.88	Other income	0.01
Capital costs (Fixed assets)	10.85	Excess of Expenditure over Income	5.54
Total	303.94	Total	303.94

Vision, Mission & Strategy 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.

The organizational strategy of the Collective is to function through various forums. The day-to-day operations are planned and implemented through thematic working groups each led by a coordinator. The Core Group, comprising of all the coordinators, focuses on programme monitoring, while the Steering Committee, comprising of a few senior members, is involved in management functions. The Timbaktu Panchayati, a forum of 104 full time functionaries of the Collective and of the CBOs, promoted by the Collective, meet on a monthly basis for solidarity building, communication and learning.

The Core group and the Steering Committee met once a month convened by Thirupal, Mary and Visweswara Rao respectively. The *Timbaktu panchayati* convened by Byapareddy and Manjula met once a month. The Annual General Body met on 30th September 2010 and the Managing Committee, the policy making body of the Collective, met once a quarter to ratify and review major initiatives of the Collective and to give policy related guidance to the Collective. *Sruthi* working group looks after administration and management including finance, communication, documentation, office assistance and logistical arrangements for facilitating smooth functioning of all the working groups, coordinated by Manikandan.

Social Welfare Fund & Timbaktu Living Blood Bank

All the Timbaktu Panchayati members contribute 1% of their basic salary towards Social Welfare Fund (SWF). The SWF was constituted in the year 2001 with a main objective to extend financial support for the health needs of the poorest in our working area. The decision to help any needy member is taken collectively by all the team members during the *Panchayati* meetings. In this year, a total amount of Rs.76,111/- was put aside by the members of which Rs.74,299 was given as health care support to 6 needy people.

Timbaktu Living Blood Bank was formed in the year 2003 with 60 Panchayati members stepping in. More than donating blood in camps, the members of this Living Blood Bank are formed into a network and respond to emergency needs. Awareness campaigns on blood donations are also carried out as part of this initiative. At present there are about 150 members in the fold including the cadres, volunteers and youth from all the three mandals.

The Collective was initiated in 1990 with an experiment in regeneration of a piece of degraded land which was named **Timbaktu**. From being a barren land 20 years ago, Timbaktu is now a budding agroforset habitat which also houses a residential alternative school.

Friends Say...

Thank you for opening my eyes to hope. Thank you for healing so many. I can only hope that I can do half the amazing work you have done.
-Ben Mali Macfadyen, UK

Timbaktu – what an island of peace, sharing, reflection, integrity, love and friendship. Thank you for allowing me to be part of this beauty and reminding me of what is really important in life.
- Kerstin Deibert, Germany

One sees and hears the great work that Timbaktu has done but wonders how it was done. The Collective is run very professionally. People work very hard here to achieve their goals. This is a model that I would like to work towards emulating. Thanks for the great stay, good food, thoughtful care and providing a vision.
- Mohit Dua, USA



Managing Committee Members

Mr. C.K.Ganguly, Chairperson

Ms. Mary Vattamattam, Secretary

Mr. John D' Souza, Treasurer

Mr. B. Venkatesh, Member

Ms. Radha Kunte, Member

Steering Committee Members

Mr. D.R. Visweswara Rao (Convenor)

Mr. A. Chakravarthi

Mr. A. Chennakesavulu

Mr. C.K. Ganguly

Mr. V. Manikandan

Ms. Mary Vattamattam

Mr. K. Sannappaiah

Mr. Satish Kaipa

To contact us

Contact persons : Ms. Mary Vattamattam, Mr. C.K. Ganguly & Mr. V. Manikandan

Tel : +91 (0) 8559 240149, 240335 (Office) ; 202337 (Timbaktu)

e-mail:timbaktu.info@gmail.com-website: www.timbaktu.org

Post: Timbaktu Collective, Chennethapalli Village & Mandal Anantapur District, Andhra Pradesh, INDIA - 515 101

Legal provisions

Registered under Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860

No.: 546 / 90-91, Bangalore. Dated: 14.11.1990

Registered under FCRA

No : 0 9 4 2 0 6 2 1 - Dated: 03.01.1994

Exempted w/s 80 G of IT Act '61

DIT(E)BLR/80G(R)/590/AAATT1760G/ITO(E)-2/Vol 2009-2010

We bank with

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

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

Bank Accounts:

Domestic Contr: : SB A/c 0792 1010 22808

Foreign Contr: : SB A/c 0792 1010 22807

Our Auditors

A.R. Rao & Rajan (Chartered Accountants)

186/A, 1st Floor, Opp Central Theatre, Venkatranga Iyengar Street, Seshadripuram, Bangalore - 560 020, INDIA

Tel.: +91 (0)80 23442983, 23443243 (fax)

email : raoandrajan@indiatimes.com

Designed by - KSV Bodo