ANNUAL REPORT
2013-2014
Another year has gone by. I see now clearly what Gar Alperovitz meant when he wrote, "Developing a democratically oriented alternative to capitalism can’t be done overnight. What we’re seeing is the prehistory, possibly, of the next great change, in which a movement is built from the grassroots that becomes the foundation of a new era."

Our attempts at revitalising shattered village economies, in a small little pocket of this massive country, has been and is going to continue being so very difficult, in an atmosphere where the local, especially the rural, economy is of no consequence. Infact it is something to be done away with. When that is done, we will lose the art of living a simple but full life, we will lose the small holder farmer, the artisan, the medicine, the biodiversity, the multiple cultures of food, dance, song and arts along with the diverse domesticated animals and ofcourse the wildlife.

Yet, we continue, hoping and trying to create models, that may be understood, that may be of help to our marginalized people, that may show ways to develop democratically oriented alternatives to capitalism. Fritz Schumacher had said that, ‘We must do what we think is right and not bother ourselves whether we succeed or not. For if we do not do what we think is right we shall be doing the wrong thing and so become part of the problem rather than part of the solution.’ Yet, I am optimistic, as I know that all that we have done, has been done in a sacred manner and in celebration. This, to me, is already an end in itself.

In the following pages is a summary of the work done by the Timbaktu Collective between April 1st 2013 and March 31st 2014. I hope you enjoy reading it.

Viva

C.K. Ganguly (Bablu),
Chairperson
Registered in 1990, the Timbaktu Collective is a not-for-profit development organisation, working with marginalised people in 156 villages, in 7 mandals of drought affected Anantapur district, Andhra Pradesh.

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 held dear by the Collective are ‘Celebration of life’ - ‘Gender equity’ - ‘Faith in people and in their wisdom’ - ‘Excellence’.

The Collective is currently engaged with about 20,000 families. It addresses issues concerning the rights and livelihoods of small holder farmers, women, people with disabilities, children and agricultural labourers. Youth and Dalits are actively represented in all the programmes.

The main operational strategy of the Collective is to promote viable, sustainable and democratic cooperatives and community based people’s organisations, through thematic working groups -

- **Chiguru**: Alternative education & rights of children and youth;
- **Militha**: Empowerment & inclusion of people with disabilities;
- **Swasakthi**: Empowerment of women & alternative banking;
- **Dharani**: Organic farming and marketing & rural enterprise development;
- **Gramasiri**: Livelihood enhancement of agricultural labourers;
- **Kalpavalli**: Natural Resource Management, eco restoration of common lands, watershed management; revitalization of water bodies, management of village orchards; and
- **Sruthi**: Administrative and management support.

A piece of dry degraded land 24 years ago, Timbaktu is today a green wilderness and an agro forest habitat. Timbaktu has been our learning space where strategies for eco-restoration, organic farming, alternative construction, alternative lifestyles and alternative education were developed.
The Chiguru working group continued to run three projects - the Prakruthi badi (Nature School), an alternative school for underprivileged children, the Children's Resource Centre (CRC) and ‘Mogga’ (meaning bud) working on rights of children and youth in 45 villages.

Initiated in 1992, Prakruthi Badi located in Timbaktu caters to drop out and children from difficult backgrounds. Previously up to class 10, Prakruthi badi, as of this academic year, is being run as a primary school. This is primarily because the government has set up a “Kasturba school” (only for girls) and a “Model school” in each mandal for children above class 5. This year Prakruthi badi provided 50 children with a meaningful and enjoyable learning experience in a safe and happy environment. The academic sessions included Maths, Telugu, Hindi, English, Social Studies, and Science. In order to monitor the progress of each child, an assessment was carried out which was followed up by required teacher trainings.

Since the children are from nutrition deficient backgrounds, healthy and balanced food was provided and their health and hygiene monitored.

Children had ample opportunities to try their hands in drawing, painting, clay work, stitching, hemming etc. Classes in folk dances like Chekkabhajana, Kolatam, vocals and tabala were conducted regularly. Besides making good use of the playground with cricket, badminton, kho-kho, swings and see saws, the children played many indoor games. They also tried their hands in growing greens and vegetables in small plots.

The Collective recognises celebrations as important components of learning. At Prakruthi Badi we celebrated Ugadi, Independence Day, Ganesh Chaturthi, Diwali, Christmas, Sankranthi and the Republic day. Children and teachers went for seed dibbling camps to Kalpavalli and also joined the trips to Korakal and Pennahobilam reservoirs organized by Mogga. The teachers kept in touch with the families of the children and held quarterly meetings with them. These meetings also became a forum to discuss Child Rights. Children who were helped to join other schools in classes 6 to 10 at the beginning of the year received handholding support and follow up from the teachers and the Mogga team.

During the year three young volunteers worked at the school. Ms. Mallika Vaznaik, from Singapore, explored story telling & building techniques, developed a ‘puppet show’ accompanied by sound effects and built a ‘wall of language’ to help improve the vocabulary of the children. Ms. Ella Seidel, from Germany, helped the children to paint and brighten up their dormitories with themes selected by them. Mr. Mathias from Switzerland, worked with children of class 3 and made simple percussion instruments with bamboo and coconut shells to help them recognise beat and rhythm.

Initiated in 2002 and located in C.K. Palli village, the Children's Resource Centre (CRC) hosts a library, a science laboratory and a computer learning facility while providing indoor and outdoor play materials for children and youth of C.K. Palli and surrounding villages. This year the CRC innovated ways to optimize the use of its facilities. The 10,500 books in the library were re arranged and made
easily accessible to different age groups. The four computers at CRC were used by the children to learn Word, Paint, Power Point, Telugu Typing etc. CRC also began a mobile unit to take its facilities to children living on the outskirts of C.K. Palli, the three government hostels and to some of the remote villages. Students of the Zilla Parishad school, the Elementary school, the A.P. Model school, and the Sri Sai Junior college also used the facilities at the CRC. Various sessions included reading, drawing, painting, origami etc.

As in the previous years, events like Sports day, Science day, Independence day, Republic day, Environment day etc. were held at the CRC. As part of these celebrations, interesting competitions were held in rangoli, natural painting, drawing, essay writing, quiz, story writing, etc., for children from local schools, hostels and Balala sanghas. A senior sports day was held with 400 children from 7th to 10th class with kho-kho, kabaddi, long jump, short put and badminton. CRC also held workshops this year with the support of friends and visitors. 45 children participated in a workshop conducted by Dasarath from Bangalore on waste segregation and management. 264 children participated in a workshop conducted by Manjunath & Lalitha, also from Bangalore, on games exclusively for girls and a science workshop where 15 experiments were taught. While the united Andhra Pradesh agitation was going on, local leaders were invited to talk about the history of AP and contemporary issues. 25 children participated in a filmmaking workshop conducted from 4th to 8th February 2013.

**Mogga:** The Collective believes that children, along with adults, are major stakeholders of natural resources and need to participate in the conservation of environment and protect their ecological rights. The Collective has formed 45 children’s eco clubs (Balala Sanghas) in as many villages and a Youth Forum with 2000 children/youth members in the age group of 10 to 18, who come together to express and explore a better future.

The sanghas meet weekly and their ‘spaces’ in the villages are used as library cum activity centres where they also play indoor and outdoor games. They maintain these spaces clean and free of plastic waste. They engage in ‘Shramdaan’ (free labour) to clear plastic waste accumulated in the villages. 90 child leaders, 2 per sangha, meet on a monthly basis to talk about their activities and strategies adopted.

On understanding their Right to Education, children from all the 45 sanghas identified issues like inadequate infrastructure and facilities, in their schools and met the local authorities to submit petitions. They enquired into the status of all children in the villages and conducted a survey to gauge the number of drop-outs. On the World Day against Child Labour, the children met the Mandal Education Officers and handed over the list of dropouts in their Mandals for follow up. They participated in tackling issues of child marriage along with the legal aid centre run by the women’s cooperatives. On February 12th, they conducted Red hand campaign against child labour and the use of children in wars and dangerous activities.

This year the Mogga team had intense discussions with the children to help them understand concepts such as biodiversity, sustainable livelihood, etc. Children also had the opportunity to learn and work on the “36 model” of organic vegetable and tree gardening. In doing this they learned about seed preservation, plant health, soil health, pest control and drip irrigation. The Organic Farming team of the Collective gave them the required learning opportunities by conducting Children Field Schools (CFS). Besides, 50 children had the opportunity to
visit and learn from Dr. Narayana Reddy, a renowned organic farmer. 444 children participated in 13 seed dibbling camps held in the Kalpavalli wilderness. During the camps they were also helped to explore flora and fauna of the area and have discussions on alternative forms of energy, particularly wind energy in the context of the windmills that have been installed in Kalpavalli area. News items from the balala sanghas, stories, drawings, proverbs, puzzles, etc., were brought to the monthly sangha leaders’ meetings and the editorial team, comprising of five children, used these to continue publishing the children’s monthly newsletter, Chinnari nestham.

This year, the youth forum promoted under Mogga renamed themselves as ‘Navayuvatha’. Under this 80 youth got the opportunity to come out of the gender biased cultural confinement and got trained as Child Rights trainers as enshrined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) while continuing to work on the concept of ecological rights of children and youth. They held refresher trainings in child rights for the balala sanghas. The youth forum has also started their own newsletter and named it “Navayuvatha”. They brought out interesting articles on organic farming, environment, wildlife, etc. 111 young people attended the three youth camps that were conducted in Kalpavalli. A group of 30 from both childrens’ forum and youth forum went for an educational trip to Sirsi, Karnataka, to understand the Appiko Movement in Uttar Kannada District of Karnataka - a successful peoples’ movement to stop indiscriminate felling of trees by the government and private profit making nexus. They met and interacted with the leaders of the movement, Mr. Panduranga Hegde and Mr. M.N. Hegde. The group also visited Vanastree, an organization working on environment conservation, indigenous seed protection and sustainable lifestyles headed by Ms. Sunita Rao.

In June 2013, childrens’ forum along with Navayuvatha organised their first Paryavarana Parasa (Environment day - Celebrating Ecology and Biodiversity), where they shared their experiences and learning. They put up stalls on organic manures, pesticides, forest seeds from Kalpavalli and agricultural seeds including millets. They also prepared and put up models on Appiko movement, alternative energy and food chain. 1,025 children and youth from 45 villages participated in this event.
In 2001, the Collective took up the cause of people with disability in its working area through the programme called ‘Militha’, meaning inclusion. After establishing Cross Disability Groups (Sanghas) in the villages including the parents/care givers of children with disabilities, mandal level federations of sanghas were formed in the three mandals to access schemes and entitlement for their members. In time, an apex body, called Pratibha Disabled Peoples Mutually Aided Cooperative, was registered with the mandal level federations as its branches. The sanghas were encouraged to do small monthly savings. Slowly other activities such as home based therapy for children with disabilities and other services were added to the work.

The programme continued its momentum through the year with excellent ownership and commitment taken by the directors of Pratibha and the team. The branch offices continued their struggle to access the rights and entitlements for their members through a set of activities diligently carried out. Pratibha now has 1303 members in 126 sanghas across 98 villages. With the sanghas meeting regularly and the federation leaders taking an active role in revamping the systems, the thrift & credit programme saw increased discipline in savings and repayment of loans taken to for small ruminants, milch animals, weaving, petty shops etc. The total turnover of Pratibha at the end of the year is Rs. 21,03,064.

The Pratibha directors took active part in organizing the AGM of the cooperative, the World Disability Day and Louis Braille’s day. These turned out to be great opportunities for both exercising leadership and building awareness on themes such as disability rights and access of relevant entitlements, etc. An exposure visit to the Network of Persons with Disability Organisations (NPDO) in Hyderabad, was another great success.

Following a training of trainers session, the team and directors of Pratibha conducted 33 member education sessions for the sangha members to build awareness on UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, UN Child Rights Convention, entitlements and schemes for people with disabilities, savings and credit programme, the MACS Act etc. The procedures to access government programmes and schemes were compiled in simple language and made available to members as part of member education. The members were helped to put together and keep in safe custody, all their identity and other documents, which were needed to access some of the entitlements. During the year, Militha team also facilitated 4 Sadarem camps in which 236 members participated and as a result, 79 members received disability certificates. 178 additional members were formed into Sramasakthi sanghas and received job cards under NREGA to get full wages for 70% work.
Our special educators provided regular home based therapeutic services to 230 children with disabilities. Regular meetings were held with parents/caregivers of the children to help them follow up the rehabilitation services of the therapists.

After holding two assessment and surgery camps, 41 children were supported to get treatment through medication, referrals and corrective surgeries with support of BIRDS Institute and RDT hospital. The programme continued providing medication to 28 children who suffered from fits /convulsions and emergency health support. Surveys were conducted so that proper toilets could be organized for deserving members. Militha continued to get ample support from institutions like BIRDS Institute, Tirupati, RDT hospital, Bathalapalli, NIMH, Secunderabad, and NIMHANS, Bangalore. RDT also extended financial support in construction of houses for four members who did not have houses. Two medical camps were conducted by Dr. Nagireddy and team where 15 members with hearing impairment and 23 members with physical disabilities were identified and scheduled for follow-up.

Two camps, held in Timbaktu, gave children with disabilities the opportunity to explore, play and learn drawing, painting, games, toy making, other crafts, chess, carom, folk dances and musical instruments like Dappu and Tabala. Ms. Astrid Hochbach, an art therapist from Germany, was the main resource person at the camps.

Mr. Pavan Munda from Swadikar, conducted a two day training on UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities for the Pratibha directors and Militha team. The CEO and chief accountant of Mahasakthi cooperative federation trained the Pratibha and Militha team in management of Cooperatives. As part of exploration on livelihood enhancement of people with disabilities, Ranjeet Ranade, a well known trainer in rural enterprise development, conducted two trainings for Pratibha directors. While exploring various options, the directors showed particular interest in taking up collective activities, which have the potential to create livelihoods for large number of people with disabilities. Back yard poultry and soap making came up as an option. Following this, a soap making training was conducted by Ms. Anke Schwarzer from Switzerland.
The *Swasakthi* programme of the Collective focuses only on women and their empowerment. Over the years it has promoted and anchored four mandal level mutually aided thrift cooperatives of rural women, *Adisakthi* in C.K. Palli, *Ananthasakthi* in Roddam, *Mahilasakthi* in Ramagiri and *Durgasakthi* in Penukonda, and their federation *Mahasakthi*.

The Alternative Banking part of the programme is the result of the thrift and credit activity that was initiated twenty years ago. Starting with a monthly saving of Rs. 10/- twenty years ago, members now save around Rs. 50/- to Rs. 100/- per month. Members can avail of loans up to Rs. 80,000, which are repaid in easy installments. At the beginning of the year, the total membership of the cooperatives stood at 16,315 and the capital available with them was Rs. 95.32 million. During the current year the membership increased to 17,140 and the capital availability is Rs. 113.37 million. Of this, 7,334 members took loans worth Rs. 76.30 million. The number of defaulters came down from 24 in the previous year to 12 this year.

Functioning autonomously, the cooperatives carried out all the related activities diligently. The basic units of the cooperatives are the women’s sanghas at the village level, which met twice a month, one for savings and credit activities and the second for all other matters. The leaders of the sanghas meet quarterly, the sangha records were verified, elections to the position of the cooperative directors were held and relevant information for the running of the cooperatives and benefit of members were shared. Besides discussions and decisions on matters relating to approval of loans, approval of members joining / leaving, welfare activities, conducting events like celebration of International women’s day and the annual general body meeting, the directors of the four cooperatives planned and
monitored the activities of their respective cooperatives. Select members from among the directors conducted loan counseling sessions with their members prior to disbursement of loans. All the cooperatives held their respective annual general body meetings within the stipulated period.

The directors of Mahasakthi federation also met every month to discuss and decide on policy matters for the member cooperatives, new programmes and guidance to member cooperatives. A capacity building training was organized for the directors of Mahasakthi and staff of the Cooperatives by Asmitha women’s resource centre, Hyderabad, on gender equity and rights of women with specific focus on building awareness on legislations regarding Marriage Laws. Mahasakthi took the responsibility for running the women’s legal aid & counseling centers. This year 59 cases including domestic violence, child marriage, desertion, property issues, etc., were taken up by Mahasakthi with the help of local judicial officers, Judges, Bar association and the police authorities. Mahasakthi also organized legal camps in 17 villages attended by 2,083 members. From among the sangha leaders, 21 women were identified and appointed as paralegal volunteers by the legal authorities to follow up on the cases related to women’s rights.

With the support of the Collective and the Fair Climate Network, Mahasakthi applied for a CDM project to help set up atleast 6,000 biogas units for the members of the cooperatives. It played an active role in the effort taken up by all cooperatives promoted by the Collective to generate a public debate and build awareness on issues related to the division of the state of Andhra Pradesh. In an exercise conducted by Mahasakthi to look at the impact of its work, it was found that the cooperatives had opened up tremendous leadership and livelihood opportunities for their members. It was also found that this work has helped them to access many opportunities in different initiatives and schemes of the government. Many members are now Anganwadi functionaries and leaders of village organisations and mandal federations promoted by the government besides entering the local governance structures.

Select directors of Mahasakthi federation conducted member education sessions for 365 members of Durgasakthi. Being the newest cooperative, Durgasakthi conducted internal exposure visits to 12 sanghas of Adisakthi to understand its systems and norms. The cooperatives also continued to run welfare activities for their members. As part of this, a total of Rs. 0.525 million was distributed among 115 members under the micro-insurance, emergency health care, education of girl children and natural calamities schemes.

This year all four cooperatives celebrated International Women’s day at mandal level with rallies and public meetings. Like the year before, the theme of the celebrations focused on violence on women and the demand for protection of human rights of women.
### INFORMATION ON THE 4 MATC SOCIETIES AS ON MARCH 2014

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<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Particulars</th>
<th>Adisakthi MATCS</th>
<th>Ananthasakthi MATCS</th>
<th>Mahilasakthi MATCS</th>
<th>Durgasakthi MATCS</th>
<th>Grand Total</th>
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<td>1</td>
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<td>4,870</td>
<td>4,700</td>
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<td>55</td>
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<td>Share Capital</td>
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<td>32,39,308</td>
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<td>6,04,118</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Land &amp; Building</td>
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<td>21,75,716</td>
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**TOTAL** 7,85,43,300 5,724

### LOAN UTILISATION DETAILS - APR. 13 TO MAR. 14

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<th>S.No</th>
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<td>10</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Weaving</td>
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**TOTAL** 7,85,43,300 5,724

**ANNUAL REPORT 2013-14**
Raw horse gram good for diabetics

Y. MALLIKARJUN

With dietary practices increasingly linked to lifestyle diseases, here is some news to cheer about for diabetics. Scientists from the Indian Institute of Chemical Technology have found that unprocessed raw horse gram seeds not only possess anti-hyperglycemic properties but also have qualities which reduce insulin resistance.

The scientists made a comparative analysis between horse gram seeds and their sprouts and found that the seeds would have greater beneficial effects on the health of hyperglycemic individuals. Dr. Ashok Kumar Tiwari, Principal Scientist and lead author of the study said increased consumption of highly processed foods was contributing to spiked levels of Blood glucose levels. He said South Asians consume more carbohydrates and the introduction of pol
The Timbaktu Organic programme has come a long way since it was initiated in 1999. Currently it works with 1,800 smallholder farming families covering over 9,000 acres from 45 villages and is being supported Brot für die Welt (BfdW, Germany).

Much of 2013/14 was spent in building awareness and capabilities of the 750 smallholder farming families who were inducted into the programme in 2012/13 while focusing on increasing millet production. Farmer field schools were conducted during the Kharif season in all the 45 programme villages and agricultural extension support was provided to all the participating families.

Considerable energies were spent in convincing the participating families to shift from the highly capital intensive groundnut mono-cropping to the traditional mixed cropping and millet cultivation which will ensure food sovereignty and food security for smallholder farming families. Participating farmers were provided good quality millet seeds at subsidized rates. In effect the production of millets improved considerably, with foxtail millet production increasing tenfold from 2 tonnes last year to 20 tonnes this year. Some enterprising farmers also took up cultivation of other minor millets, such as Kodo millet (Arika) and Proso millet (Barigalu) in the last season and reaped benefits. Visits between villages and farmers were organized so that they could see and verify success stories on their own. It is hoped that the success in foxtail millet production will be replicated in other minor millets in the coming season.

To increase biomass, the Collective provided 60,000 saplings to the farmers for planting on the field bunds along with 80 tonnes neem cake to improve soil health. Support to receive organic certification through the PGS system (www.pgsorganic.in) also continued with peer inspection and record maintenance.

To ensure better support to the farmers and effective implementation of the project, the team strength was increased from 9 to 17. The newly recruited team members underwent a two-day training to understand and learn the concept and techniques of organic farming, manure management and preparation of organic concoctions under the well known organic farmer, Dr. Narayan Reddy, at his farm in Dodabalapur.

The organic farming team also supported the Collective’s work with the children (Mogga program). The team supported the children’s groups in managing organic farming plots maintained by them. In addition to providing technical support in the form of preparation of organic concoctions, the trainers in the organic team conducted special farmer field schools for the children’s groups.
Dharani Farms Coop Ltd.
A producer owned business enterprise

Promoted by the Collective and registered in 2008, under the MACS Act of Andhra Pradesh, Dharani is a federation of farmer sanghas and a producer owned business enterprise. It procures, stores, processes, value adds, packages and markets the organic produce of its members under the brand name Timbaktu Organic. As on March 31st 2014, Dharani had 1,800 share holding members, all small holder farmers doing family farming, who have invested Rs. 2.13 million as share capital and deposits in the enterprise.

Overall, Dharani has done quite well this year. The team worked hard to achieve some brilliant results. Going beyond the business plan, total annual procurement increased by 22% from Rs 8.82 million to Rs 10.78 million, total sales by 34% from Rs. 9.80 million to Rs. 13.15 million and net profit by 75% from Rs. 0.45 million to Rs. 0.80 million. As of 31st March 2014, there was stock worth Rs. 5.50 million available with Dharani.

While the main crops procured were Groundnut, Finger millet (Ragi), Foxtail millet (Korra) and various types of Paddy, Dharani members have, for the first time, cultivated and supplied Kodo millet (Arika), Podo millet (Sama), Proso millet (Bariga), and Hyderabadi Basmathi in 2013/14.

Meanwhile, Dharani has introduced 13 “ready to cook” and “ready to eat” products such as dosa mix, pongal mix, muruku into the market. The value added products contributed to 12% of total sales.

Working capital requirements of Rs. 2.80 million during the year was raised from the various Cooperatives promoted by the Collective as short term low interest loans. By end of March 2014, Dharani had repaid Rs. 1.10 million and is scheduled to repay the remaining Rs 1.70 million by June 2014. Dharani has acquired another stainless steel tank to stock the increased production of groundnut oil and a vacuum sealing machine to stock good quality peanuts in vacuum sealed packets.

As per the decision of the board of directors, Rs. 0.39 million will be distributed as incentive to members based on patronage (quantity of produce supplied) from the profits earned. Another Rs. 0.16 million will be distributed to the staff and daily labour as incentive bonus for the extra work put in and the higher profits achieved. It is worth noting that Dharani generated 5,900 work days for local labour during the year and 68% of the sales value was returned to the members.

For product information please visit www.timbaktu-organic.org
The Collective initiated an alternative livelihoods programme in 2008 for agricultural labourers. With project support from EED, Germany, and the European Union, the Collective helped 270 members of 18 sanghas from as many villages, to purchase sheep in 2009 and 2010. These labour sanghas were federated to form the Gramasiri mutually aided Cooperative, which was legally registered in March 2010. As of 31st March 2014, Gramasiri has 652 share-holding members who have contributed Rs. 0.34 million as share capital and deposits over the past few years.

After numerous meetings among the members and the leaders and much discussion and debate, the directors of Gramasiri locked on to the idea of initiating a collective business in trading of sheep and goats, on an experimental basis this year. In March ’14, with 50% loan from Gramasiri and 50% grant from the Collective, the Cooperative helped 28 members of two labour sanghas purchase 150 sheep and goats. The agreement is that the members will fatten the animals over 4-6 months after which the Cooperative will purchase them back and sell them in local and distant markets. Based on the benefits that accrue to both the members and the Cooperative from this experiment, a detailed business plan will be developed and launched in the coming year.

The programme also generated 952 days of labour for the members of Gramasiri when they undertook planting of saplings, mulching, fencing, watering and other maintenance works in 187 acres of common lands maintained by the labour sanghas in 13 villages. The programme team also conducted member education sessions on bye-laws of the Cooperative for 100 members during the year and the process is on-going. The programme is presently receiving financial support from BfdW, Germany.

As part of the Fair Climate Network (FCN), the Collective had initiated two small projects [Low Carbon Farming (LCF) and Biogas] with support of BfdW, Germany, over the last couple of years, as a humble effort to address the issue of climate change. These projects were taken up with an objective to incentivize the families who are adopting ways of life leading to lower carbon footprint.

Last year, under the LCF project, a demographic survey of 1,037 families was conducted and along with this all their lands were mapped with GPS. This year the farming practices were recorded for the 2013 Kharif season in the farmer diaries and uploaded. During the year, a lab was set up with GHG Chromatograph for measuring emission reduction in organic farming vis-à-vis mainstream farming. The initial scientific measurements leading to the final calculations of emission reductions have started this year.

Under the Biogas project, basic demographic data of 14,158 families were collected last year to establish the “baseline”. During this year the demographic data collected was analyzed to confirm that all data was in place and how many families could be made part of the Project Design Document (PDD). A stakeholder consultation was conducted in December 2013 where views, opinions, issues and suggestions from various stakeholders like leaders of local community, government officials, elected officials and regional NGOs, were recorded and a report was prepared for the PDD. Once the PDD is ready it will be verified and registered with the UNFCCC in 2014-15.
Kalpavalli programme of the Collective encompasses all the work done on natural resource management. It anchors, village level associations (sanghas) of tree growers, all training programmes in protection and regeneration of wastelands, development and management of around 8,000 acres of watersheds, ecological restoration and conservation of 7,500 acres of contiguous common (wasted) lands into a bio-reserve and a wild life corridor, 240 acres of community owned tamarind orchards, revival of traditional water harvesting structures and water bodies, Kalpavalli tree growers cooperative, Research studies on ecology, water, biodiversity and wildlife, and work with youth on issues of local governance.

Initiated in 1993 with 150 acres of the revenue wasteland, Kalpavalli today is a wilderness and bio reserve. This work is based on the understanding that survival and future of the common people here depends on how well they are able to protect, conserve and judiciously use the natural resources such as water, plants, forests, animals, land and air. The work in Kalpavalli is carried forward by a Cooperative namely Kalpavalli Mutually Aided Tree Growers Cooperative Society with members from 9 villages in C.K. Palli, Roddam and Ramagiri mandals. It is a federation of Vana Samrakshana Committees (Forest Protection Committees - VSCs) and Biodiversity Management Committees (BMC) that were established in the 9 villages. Despite many obstacles, Kalpavali Cooperative has remained strong and vibrant, protecting and conserving the common lands. The Representative General Body meeting of Kalpavali Cooperative was held on 25th September, 2013.

During the year, number of activities were carried out to protect and conserve Kalpavalli bio-reserve. Mr. Siddharth Rao along with Mr. Naren, ecologists from Mysore, conducted a preliminary study on status of wild life in Kalpavali bio-reserve while Mr.
Sachin from Delhi made a video document of the area. 13 watchers continued to be involved in watch and ward of the area. By making fire breaks, around 70% of protected area was saved from fire this year. Through seed dibbing camps, 2,284 kg of 49 varieties of forest tree seeds collected by the watchers through the year, were dibbled in 265 acres. Around 700 members of the women’s cooperatives and children’s sanghas participated in these camps. Another 31,000 saplings of nine varieties of forest species were planted in 500 acres. During the peak season, 48 shepherd counselling sessions were held in 10 shifts to bring awareness amongst the shepherds on conservation matters to be taken seriously while grazing sheep in the area. A bore well was dug along with the erection of a fence and name board for the Chandamuru tamarind orchard. As part of the programme, 572 members of Kalpavali Cooperative participated in training and awareness sessions that were conducted through the year to strengthen the committees. They focused on the role of women, livelihood from forest produce, alternative lifestyles, fire protection and biodiversity. Another 12 members of the cooperative participated in the Biodiversity convention held at Hyderabad, which also added to the learning gained.

The program, like last year, generated livelihood and employment to the community. Using NREGA funds 14,400 cubic meters of soil and water conservation works were carried out in Kalpavalli to develop the ‘Common Property Resources’. This generated around 28,589 work days. At the same time, 85 families registered themselves and were able to earn livelihood from forest produce such as palm fruits & fronds, Broom grass and Jamoon fruits. Over 250 herds of sheep (around 40,000) were brought to the reserve for grazing through the year. The fight against the wind power companies that have been setting up windmills in the area continued. This year 14 members were interviewed regarding the windmills case and affidavits against the windmills were sought from 10 members as evidence for the case that is being heard in the National Green Tribunal, Delhi.

The Watershed development project supported by NABARD in 4 villages, Beedupalli in Puttaparthi mandal, Marakuntapalli in Kottacheruvu mandal, Julakunta in Somendapalli mandal and Motuvaripalli in Penukonda mandal, is meant to support the livelihood of small holder farmers and agricultural labour. Since 2011, around Rs. 3.20 crores has been invested in this project till March 2014. As the project is to conclude in 2014, all efforts were made to take forward the planned activities and build capacities of the CBOs concerned to sustain the programme after the project is completed.

During the year, farm bunds were constructed 1,263 hectares of land, to conserve soil and moisture. 28,600 square meters of stone & pebble bunds were constructed and farm ponds dug besides the 28 rock filled dams, 20 loose bolder structures and 20 Gulley plugs. To afforest 63 acres of common land, 31,500 saplings of pongamia, neem, seethapal and glyricidia were planted. Another, 1,050 kg of seeds were dibbled on earthen bunds and hillocks. 43 acres of land were revived and made cultivable where orchards were planted along with 58 acres of dry lands belonging to 35 farmers where 3,560 fruit trees were planted. To see that the people of the villages continue to benefit from the project and proper systems are set up, all the four watershed committees were registered as cooperatives under the MACS act in March 2013 with 563 members. Rs. 44,39,114 was deposited in the cooperatives to be used for livelihood loans for members.
Stories

As told by M. Anjinamma and M. Anjineyulu of Peddamma Swami Kooli Sangham, Kuntimaddi village, Ramagiri mandal

Kuntimaddi, in Ramagiri Mandal, is my native village. We were daily wage labourers. In 1999, due to lack of daily earning opportunities in the village, we migrated to Bangalore and worked as construction labourers for six years. But as my husband’s health began to deteriorate we had to shift back to the village where we found make a living very difficult as there were very few opportunities.

In 2008, we joined Peddamma Swami Kooli sangham and the Gramasiri Cooperative Society and began to earn some wages from the common land works taken up by the sangham. In 2009, Gramasiri Cooperative Society provided us loan of Rs. 10,440 with which we purchased 9 goat kids. We took care of the goats and through the profit generated from the sales of the animals, we gradually expanded the size of the herd. We now have a herd of fifty goats. In time we were also able to set up a kirana shop and a small kebab business with the profits accrued from the rearing of goats. In addition to this, we also have a deposit of Rs. 10,860 with the Gramasiri Cooperative. Today our children are getting good education, we have a good social standing among our relatives and society and lead a happy life thanks to Gramasiri and Timbaktu!

Story of M. Muthyalappa from Chinnapalli village and member of Dharani Farmers Cooperative

Muthyalappa joined the organic farming sangha in 2006, due to repeated crop failure and the associated high costs. He underwent training on organic farming and brought the 4.5 acres of land that he cultivated under organic farming. Even after taking up organic farming, he continued to cultivate groundnut, but due to erratic rainfall the yields were very low.

In 2012, he decided to cultivate foxtail millet on an experimental basis in his 2.5 acres of land after efforts made by the Collective to promote millets. He got a very good yield of around 8 quintals which fetched him revenue of Rs.16000. In addition to this he also got Rs. 4335 as patronage bonus from Dharani Cooperative. Overall, deducting the cost of cultivation he got a net profit of around Rs. 15000 from the 2.5 acres of land that he had brought under foxtail millet cultivation.

He has become a role model for other farmers, inspiring them to take up millet cultivation. The area under millet cultivation by farmers affiliated with Dharani Cooperative increased from 30 acres in 2012 to 300 acres in 2013. In Kharif season of 2013, Muthyalappa took an additional 3 acres of land on lease and cultivated foxtail millet in a total of 7.5 acres of land. This time he got a yield of only 11.5 quintals owing to bad rainfall. After adjusting for the costs involved, he got a net profit of Rs. 14920. In addition to this he would be getting the patronage bonus from Dharani Cooperative in the current year also, which would amount to around Rs. 5000. He is happy that he could earn positive returns in a year in which a majority of farmers who cultivated groundnut ended up suffering negative returns, owing to bad rainfall.
Interview with T. Vasudha of Yerrampalli village, C.K.Palli mandal

In conversation with Vasudha one evening it was interesting to hear her narrate the paths she traversed from being the member of Srimallela Balala Sangha to the post of the President of Mogga Samakhya for two years.

Vasudha narrated her story much like the rise of phoenix from the ashes. She mentioned that when she joined the Balala sangha in the year 2010, without understanding the possible impact it would have on her life. The first few meetings she was inattentive and would also be absent on a few occasions. It was with time that she started interacting with the other children in the Sangha and felt a sense of attachment growing. Mogga engaged the children on issues, mostly concentrating on Child Rights. Vasudha began feeling more and more attached to the cause. There were also consecutive sessions on Child Marriage which brought out the ill effects on a person’s life.

It was interesting to see that how she became her Sangha leader at first and then became active with the group and her community. She was a great contributor in the two street plays, one based on the soil issues and second based on Child Marriage. She has also been the Mogga Samakhya leader consecutively for the years 2012 and 2013. She was instrumental in stopping a child marriage in the village of Subbarayanpalli. She was also a part of the editorial team of Chinnari Nestam (monthly newsletter for Mogga). She said this journey not only helped her evolve as a person but also helped her social well being.

Story of Mokshaswaroop Bramha

When Mokshaswaroop joined Prakurthi Badi, he was very shy and hardly used to talk with anyone. His interactions with peers and teachers were limited, but once he started settling down, there was a great amount of change in him. Gradually he became friendly and interactive with his peers and teachers.

Academically he has been a great student and in the past year he has been able to do well in Maths. Today he is able to read English well and can also write names in Hindi. He is interested in learning new things. Mokshaswaroop has been inquisitive about life and things in general, he tries to apply all his learnings when he goes back home. Mokshaswaroop is a very intelligent child, he is a quiet observer but at the same time he is a great enthusiast. He is not only a well-behaved boy but also commands the same from others who interact with him.

He likes singing, dancing and especially likes to perform Chekkabhajana. His interest in Chekkabhajana has enabled him to master it in the past one year. Mokshaswaroop also enjoys drawing and painting and his imagination is reflected clearly in his drawings, which brings many colors of his inner world on the paper. He also likes to narrate stories to others and is very interactive with the people visiting Prakurthi Badi.
Charan Kumar is the only son of Jayamma and Gangadri. Charan was born with a partial Club foot. When he was 16 days old, his parents took him to a doctor who put Charan’s leg in a cement bandage. This was repeated till he became 1 year old. In due course, his foot turned totally club. In 2012, after being identified by a cadre of the Timbaktu Collective, his parents were counseled twice and then taken to BIRD Hospital at Tirupathi. But due to the ill health, he had to be brought back on two occasions. Finally, Charan was assessed by doctors from RDT Hospital, Anantapuramu in a Surgery Assessment Camp organized by the Timbaktu Collective.

Charan underwent surgery for both of his legs after which he has been able to walk on his legs. Presently, with AFO device, he regularly attends his school and is happy to spend time with his friends.

**Story of Pathapalam Lalithamma who harvests Bodha grass in Kalpavalli**

Lalithamma lives in Mustikovila village of Chennekothapalli Mandal. She is married to P. Akkulappa and has two small children. The family does not own any agricultural land and major part of their livelihood comes by working as agricultural laborers. This year Lalithamma harvested Bodha grass (used for roofing or brooms) from Urajalakonda in Kalpavali area and made brooms with that. This year in the month of February (2014), she went to Kalpavali for 17 days and collected Bodha grass. Her daily routine would begin early in the morning till noon. After cutting the grass she would clean it and make small brooms. As a result of this entrepreneurial initiative she sold 2,350 brooms at Penukonda and Dharmavaram market at the rate of Rs. 2 per broom and earned Rs 4,700. Part of this income was used to payback a loan of Rs. 3,000, she had taken earlier for consumption needs.

Given the nature of her association and dependence she thinks that Kalpavalli is a great opportunity for her and other people like her to earn a supplementary income for their sustenance.
Basampalli village of C.K.Palli mandal

Basampalli is quite an unique village. There are 348 families of all castes residing here. Their main source of livelihood is from agriculture, rearing of small ruminants, agricultural labor and selling of flowers. Due to the drought situation in the consecutive years, the situation of agriculture in the area has deteriorated. Hitherto famous for silk weaving there has been large scale migration of silk weavers due to shrinking market for silk products.

It was at this critical stage, that Adisakthi, a Mutually Aided thrift Cooperative Society, promoted by the Timbaktu Collective, initiated the Eshwari sangham. Over the past few years it has been able to provide livelihood support to the people and nine such sanghas have been formed with women of 252 families as members.

There are 120 members from the 45 families who are now involved in flower business. The members of these groups have taken loans up to Rs 50,000 to invest in leasing flower gardens and in expanding their flower business to Dharmavaram. Members of another 45 families are getting daily wage work to knit flowers.

With the income from this business they have been able to construct houses, educate children, purchase gold and cattle. They say that that earlier nobody was willing to give them loans. Now, after associating with the Cooperative, their life has taken a new turn.

This village also has a large population of Scheduled Caste families. 24 of them are members of one sangha or the other of Adisakthi Cooperative and have been agricultural labourers by profession and dependent on the bigger land owners for their livelihood. After becoming members of the sanghas, they have accessed loans from the Cooperative and become flower knitters or shepherds and goat herders or milk sellers. With the increased awareness on their rights and entitlement, many of them have availed Indiramma houses under the government scheme. Some of them together sell up to 50 litres of milk every day. As a result of these initiatives wealth and prosperity has increased in village.

Total savings of the members in the village amounts to Rs.12,73,929 while the total loans taken amounts to Rs.11,55,587

The Cooperative runs a legal aid and counseling centre through which legal camps are held regularly. In the process, the women have collectively mobilized and succeeded in shutting down all the liquor shops in the village. This was a big victory for women’s sanghas and they were applauded by the press and government officials.
FINANCIAL INFORMATION - 2013 - 2014

SOURCES OF FUNDS

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<th>Donors</th>
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<td>Mulbery, Assam</td>
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Domestic Contributions

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<td>Asha, Bangalore</td>
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<td>Kudumbasree, Kerala</td>
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<td>NABARD, Ongole</td>
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TOTAL | 515.91 |

EXPENDITURE

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Closing Balance | 129.49 |

TOTAL | 515.91 |

ABRIDGED FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2013 - 2014

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31.03.2014

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INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31.03.2014

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<td>Administration</td>
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SALARIES OF TIMBAKTU PANCHA YATI MEMBERS

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

Accounts & Auditing: Accounts are maintained on a cash basis; complete audited statement of accounts is available on request.
Mr. C.K. Ganguly Chairperson
Ms. Mary Vattamattam Secretary
Mr. John D’Souza Treasurer
Mr. B. Venkatesh Member
Ms. Radha Kunke Member

MANAGING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mr. V. Manikandan (Convenor)
Mr. D.R. Visweswara Rao
Mr. A. Chennakesavulu
Ms. Mary Vattamattam
Mr. K. Sannappaiah
Mr. K. Murugeshan
Mr. B. Akkulappa
Mr. C.K. Ganguly
Ms. Sayonika

STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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 0101 22808
Foreign Contr.: SB A/c 0792 0101 22807

OUR AUDITORS

A.R. Rao & Rajan (Chartered Accountants)
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Bangalore - 560 020, INDIA

Tel: +91 (0)80 23442983, 23443243
email: raoandrajan@indiatimes.com

LEGAL STATUS

Registered under Societies Registration
Act XXI of 1860
No.: 54690-91, Bangalore. Dtd: 14.11.1990

Registered under FCRA
No.: 0 9 4 4 2 0 6 2 1 - Dated: 03.01.1994

Exempted u/s 80 G of IT Act ’61
DIT(E)BLR/80G(R)/590/AAATT1760G/ITO(E)-2/Vol 2009-2010

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