



ADIVASIMITRA

2023-2024

ANNUAL REPORT

Adivasimitra Welfare Society



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Paderu, Andhrapradesh

Message from the CEO

Dear Friends and Supporters,

As we reflect on another year of dedicated service to our Adivasi communities, I am filled with gratitude for the unwavering commitment and resilience demonstrated by each member of the Adivasimitra family. Together, we have navigated challenges, celebrated milestones, and forged pathways towards sustainable development and social justice in the Eastern Ghats.

At Adivasimitra Welfare Society, our mission remains clear: to empower Adivasi communities by advocating for their rights, enhancing their livelihoods, and preserving their rich cultural heritage. This past year has been marked by significant achievements—from securing land titles and implementing infrastructure projects to promoting natural farming practices and empowering youth through education and skill development.

Our success is a testament to the power of collective action and collaboration. I extend my heartfelt appreciation to our dedicated staff, committed partners, and the resilient communities we serve. Your unwavering support fuels our determination to create positive change and ensure that every Adivasi individual can thrive with dignity and opportunity.

As we look ahead, let us continue to innovate, advocate, and uplift. Together, we can build a future where equity, inclusivity, and sustainability are the cornerstones of Adivasi empowerment.

With gratitude and optimism,

K Manmadha Rao CEO

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Executive Summary

1 Socio-Political Impact - Adivasimahasabha, nurtured by Adivasimitra across 150 villages in Andhra Pradesh, has catalyzed a profound socio-political transformation. Through dedicated village-level leaders known as Gramamitras, community members have asserted their rights, breaking the culture of silence and enhancing participation in governance through PESA Gramasabhas. All 178 villages have facilitated advocacy efforts with significant impact. Coordinated efforts have resulted in 1,318 petitions submitted, benefiting 6,239 community members and sanctioning benefits for 1,614 households across various government schemes.

2 Promoting Natural Farming - In Paderu Mandal, 1,527 farmers engaged in natural farming practices across 28 villages, covering 215 acres. Training sessions emphasized sustainable methods, resulting in significant adoption rates and community resilience through kitchen gardens and livestock-based bio inputs.

3 Empowering Vulnerable Members through Agriculture-Allied Entrepreneurship - Adivasimitra supported 592 vulnerable individuals across 150 villages, fostering entrepreneurship in mushroom cultivation and integrated farming. These efforts have generated substantial income and economic empowerment among youth, women, and the landless poor.

4 Collective Marketing through MACS - Manyam Mutual-Aided Cooperative Society (MACS), supported by Adivasimitra, has promoted collective marketing among 89 groups across 83 villages, yielding a total turnover of INR 1,53,01,965. This initiative enhances economic resilience and equitable growth through cooperative agricultural practices.

5 Promotion of Tribal Culture - Adivasimitra has revitalized indigenous crop varieties and cultural rituals across 20 villages in Kodu, promoting biodiversity conservation and community cohesion. Festivals and traditional practices celebrate cultural diversity while ensuring sustainable agricultural practices.

6 Financial Overview - Financial support of Rs. 1,23,93,711, comprising funds from both Indian sources (Rs. 33,11,543) and FCRA (Foreign Contribution Regulation Act) funds (Rs. 90,82,168). During this period, the organization spent a total of Rs. 8,323,992 across its initiatives, reflecting a focused utilization of resources to support community development, cultural preservation, and sustainable agriculture among Adivasi communities in Andhra Pradesh.

1. Introduction & Overview

Founded in 1996 amidst the verdant landscapes of Paderu in Andhra Pradesh, Adivasimitra Welfare Society has steadfastly championed the rights and aspirations of Adivasi communities across the Eastern Ghats. For nearly three decades, our organization has been a beacon of hope and empowerment, dedicated to addressing the socio-economic challenges faced by tribal populations.

Adivasimitra's journey began with a vision to foster justice, self-sufficiency, and cultural resilience among Adivasi youth. Today, we stand as a testament to the transformative power of community-driven initiatives, advocating for constitutional rights, promoting sustainable livelihoods, and preserving cultural heritage.

In this annual report, we reflect on our achievements and milestones of the past year, illustrating our ongoing commitment to community development, governance enhancement, and environmental sustainability. Through collaborative efforts with local stakeholders, government agencies, and international partners, we continue to pave the way towards a brighter future for Adivasi communities, where dignity, equality, and opportunity prevail.

Join us as we celebrate our progress, acknowledge our challenges, and reaffirm our dedication to the values that define Adivasimitra Welfare Society.

Vision

Our vision is to ensure the accessibility of basic amenities such as education, health, nutrition, safe drinking water, and income generation for all tribal communities living in isolation. We aim to enable the full benefits of acts and programs, such as the Forest Rights Act (2006), Panchayat Raj Act (PESA), and NREGAS Program.

Mission

Strive for the social, economic, legal, cultural, educational, and health empowerment and improvements through the facilitation of active participation and involvement of Tribal Community Members and Tribal Community Institutions

Values

Our core values of Transparency, Accountability, Mutual Respect, Teamwork, Passion, Commitment, Equity, and Justice guide our actions and decisions...

History

Founded in 1996 by K. Manmadha Rao, Adivasimitra emerged from a commitment to champion the identity, rights, and well-being of Adivasi communities...

Programs and Services

Adivasimitra offers a range of programs including advocacy for tribal rights, community development, sustainable livelihoods, education improvement, and cultural preservation.

2. Impact and Achievements

Adivasimitra has significantly impacted Adivasi communities across Andhra Pradesh's Eastern Ghats region through comprehensive socio-political initiatives, community empowerment, sustainable agriculture promotion, entrepreneurship, and cultural revitalization efforts. By nurturing local leadership and fostering active community participation, particularly through Gramamitras and the Adivasimahasabha, the society has empowered communities to assert their rights and address grievances effectively. This has led to the formulation of Village Development Plans and secured government sanction for crucial developmental projects. Concurrently, initiatives in natural farming, entrepreneurship, and collective marketing have enhanced economic resilience and livelihoods, benefiting vulnerable groups and promoting gender equality. The revival of traditional agricultural practices and cultural rituals further strengthens community cohesion and environmental stewardship, ensuring sustainable development and cultural preservation across 178 villages in the region.

2.1 Socio Political Impact

Adivasimahasabha, a community based organization nurtured by Adivasimitra, serves as a crucial platform for Adivasi communities across 178 villages in Andhra Pradesh. Through a network of dedicated village-level leaders known as Gramamitras, the Mahasabha has catalyzed a profound socio-political transformation. This initiative has emboldened community members to assert their rights and seek redressal for grievances, effectively breaking the culture of silence that once prevailed.

Community Empowerment and Participation

Gramamitras play a pivotal role in identifying and addressing individual and community development gaps, advocating for rights, entitlements, and the effective implementation of welfare schemes. This proactive approach has empowered community members to actively engage with Gramamitras, submitting petitions at Panchayat and Mandal levels, thereby enhancing participation in PESA Gramasabhas.

Achievements in Village Development

All 178 villages have successfully formulated their Village Development Plans (VDPs). These plans are instrumental in identifying and approving petitions for government intervention. Through coordinated efforts with Village Development Committees, comprising Gramamitras, PESA representatives, Rights of Forest Dwellers (RofR) committee members, SHG members, Ward members, village elders, and Farmer Producer Group (FPG) members, the Mahasabha has facilitated the submission of 1,318 petitions out of 3,612 identified grievances. This advocacy has directly benefited 6,239 community members and sanctioned benefits to 1,614 households, marking 20% coverage among 8,076 households in the project area.

Government Sanctioned programs and schemes

Significant progress has been made in securing government sanction for various development projects:

S.No	Related Type	Submitted			Sanctioned			
		Vil l	HH's	Populati on	Vil l	HH's	Populati on	Cost INR
1	Housing	49	263	1315	29	126	632	22050000
2	RofR	70	546	2184	20	70	353	129 Acres
3	NREGS	30	61	275	19	28	152	NA
4	PDS	42	89	342	21	30	134	NA
5	Pension	41	115	435	27	56	265	NA
6	Electrification	1	40	166	1	40	166	0
7	Rythu Bharosa	32	106	421	19	70	343	910000
8	Cheyutha	18	39	194	9	23	115	414000
9	Education & School Infra	8	395	1597	2	68	251	1500000
10	Anganwadi & ICDS	18	815	3143	1	54	182	2000000
11	Drinking Water	28	1118	4184	10	421	1459	5000000
12	Roads, Building & Other Infra	59	2454	9686	15	628	2187	1298000
13	Drainage & Sanitization	54	2035	8248	0	0	0	0
Grand Total			8076	32190		1614	6239	3,31,72,000

2.2. Promoting Natural Farming: A Sustainable Agriculture Initiative

In Paderu Mandal, spanning 28 villages across 5 Panchayats, the initiative to promote Natural Farming (NF) has gained significant momentum. A total of 1,527 farmers were identified, with 1,045 actively participating in village-level trainings and meetings focused on natural farming practices. Among these, 352 farmers have embraced NF methods across 215 acres of land in various agricultural pursuits.



Adoption of Natural Farming Practices



In the project area, 174 farmers have implemented NF techniques such as line sowing, weeding, Drava Jivamrutam, and Kashayas in 78 acres of rice fields. Another 125 farmers have adopted NF practices for coffee, pepper (129 acres), and turmeric (14 acres), incorporating methods like weeding, mulching, and application of bio inputs. Additionally, 2 farmers have

practiced NF for Ragi in half an acre. This collective effort marks 23% participation in NF protocols, with 128 fully adopting NF practices (8%) and 224 partially adopting (15%) among the total 1,527 farmers by November 2023.

Village-Level Training and Gender Inclusivity

Village-level trainings were pivotal in disseminating knowledge and skills on NF practices across all 28 villages. These sessions engaged 573 male and 472 female farmers, totaling 1,045 participants trained in seed treatment, line sowing, weeding, mulching, and the application of Jivamrutams and Kashayas. This balanced participation underscores the project's commitment to gender equality and ensures that sustainable farming practices benefit all members of the community.



Lead Farmers and Their Contributions

During this reporting period, 56 lead farmers (2 per village) were selected and trained to mentor those newly adopting NF practices in their respective villages. These lead farmers have played a crucial role in guiding 72 farmers across 58.55 acres of land in paddy, coffee, pepper, turmeric, and vegetable cultivation using NF methods. Their efforts have focused on practices like line sowing, weeding, mulching, and the application of organic formulations to ensure soil health and crop productivity.

Supporting Infrastructure and Community Engagement

To facilitate NF activities, 15 out of 28 villages were equipped with cattle shed linings, benefiting 1,005 farmers. This initiative supports the preparation of bio inputs by collecting

cattle urine and dung, essential for enhancing soil fertility and plant nutrition. In total, 104 NF farmers have collected 1,070 liters of cow urine and 3,130 kgs of dung, contributing to the production of Jeevamritham used in various crops across the project area. To further bolster NF practices, drums for bio input preparation were distributed across all 28 villages. Additionally, 10 villages received Cono weeders and cycle weeders, benefiting 352 NF farmers engaged in paddy, turmeric, ginger, and millet cultivation. These tools enhance efficiency and promote sustainable agricultural practices in the region.



Kitchen Gardens and Community Resilience

Aiding food security and nutritional diversity, 360 families were supported in establishing kitchen gardens across 28 villages, totaling approximately 4.89 acres. These gardens, nurtured with Ghanajivamrutam and other bio inputs, cultivate 18 varieties of vegetables, ensuring fresh produce for family consumption and reinforcing community self-sufficiency.



2.3. Empowering Vulnerable Members through Agriculture-Allied Entrepreneurship



The entrepreneurship initiative targeting vulnerable members has made significant strides by the conclusion of this reporting period. A comprehensive approach identified and supported vulnerable individuals across 150 villages, resulting in the enrolment of 592 members, including 462 males and 124 females.

To empower these individuals, counselling sessions were conducted to explore local agricultural skills and entrepreneurship opportunities.

Specialized training emphasized income generation through activities such as mushroom cultivation, plant nursery management, and integrated farming.

Youth and women within the community have embraced income generation opportunities in local agri-allied sectors, particularly through mushroom cultivation. Recognizing the entrepreneurial potential and income-generating capabilities of mushroom cultivation, trained community members have established mushroom units as independent and profitable local sources of



income. These fungiculture units not only serve as entrepreneurial centers but also contribute to the nutritional well-being of the community.

A total of 110 selected members (85 males and 25 females) underwent skill development programs. Their practical application is evident in the establishment of 21 units operating in 17 villages, generating a cumulative income of Rs. 76,350, demonstrating the economic viability of these entrepreneurship endeavors.



The completion of the Adivasi Resource Center marks a milestone, serving as a pivotal hub for training and community development. This center plays a crucial role in enhancing skills and capabilities, ensuring sustained success in entrepreneurship and contributing to the economic advancement of the targeted population.

Progress in Entrepreneurship for Vulnerable Groups:

S.No	Category	Identified			Trained			Entrepreneur units			Income INR
		M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	
1	Unskilled Youth	454	111	565	77	22	99	11	6	17	55350
2	Single Women	0	6	6	0	1	1	0	0	0	9900
3	Landless poor	8	7	15	5	2	7	3	0	3	10200
4	Disabled	0	7	7	3	0	3	1	0	1	900
	Total	462	124	592	85	25	110	15	6	21	76350

2.4. Collective marketing through MACS

"Manyam Mutual-Aided Cooperative Society, championed by Adivasimitra Welfare Society, is dedicated to enhancing the agro-economic conditions of the region through mutual assistance and community collaboration. Emphasizing self-help, savings, and formal institutionalization of financial support, Manyam aims to overcome informal money lending and direct sale of farm produce. By promoting cooperative efforts in agriculture and marketing, Manyam strives to foster economic resilience, sustainable practices, and equitable growth among its members, thereby building a robust foundation for community development and prosperity. The recognition of



the benefits associated with membership in Mutual-Aided Cooperative Societies (MACS) has grown significantly within the community. This has led to increased participation in collective marketing, particularly through Farmer Producer Groups (FPGs). These groups have leveraged MACS mini-outlets as pivotal trading channels for a variety of products including coffee, turmeric, pepper, and other agricultural and forest produce at the village level. Additionally, a culture of monthly savings has been fostered among FPGs, enhancing financial resilience within the community.

Out-Reach and Participation

As of the reporting period, the project has made substantial progress, engaging actively across 96 farmer producer groups spanning 85 villages in 31 panchayats across three mandals. The total membership has reached 1,065 individuals, showcasing a diverse and inclusive participation of both men and women. The gender distribution reflects balanced involvement, with 601 male members and 464 female members, highlighting the project's commitment to promoting gender equality and empowerment.

Impact of Collective Marketing

The impact of collective marketing initiatives has been significant, with 728 members actively participating from 89 groups across 83 villages. These dynamic groups have successfully marketed a range of products including coffee, black pepper, turmeric, tamarind, ground nuts, ginger, beans, and hill brooms. The cumulative efforts of these groups have resulted in a substantial total turnover of INR 1,53,01,965, underscoring the economic strength and potential of cooperative endeavors in the region.

Here is a detailed breakdown of the collective marketing achievements by 89 FPGs across 83 villages and mandals:

Details of Collecting Marketing by 89 FPGs in 83 villages Mandals

S.No.	Particulars	Units (KGs)	Amount
1	Beans	2,590	481,300
2	Coffee	5,664	1,999,006
3	Ginger	11,350	2,209,850
8	Ground Nuts	14,247	429,157
9	Hill Brooms	7,030	526,500
10	Pepper	17,971	7,928,470
11	Tamarind	6,287	552,600
12	Turmeric	20,739	920,082
13	Turmeric Powder	6,018	255,000
TOTAL		84,865	1,53,01,965

2.5. Promotion of tribal culture

Adivasimitra Welfare Society has been actively engaged in promoting tribal culture and traditional agricultural practices across 20 villages in Kodu. This initiative aims to revive and sustainably manage indigenous crop varieties and associated cultural rituals, contributing to biodiversity conservation and community empowerment.



Revitalizing Traditional Agriculture

Throughout the year, Adivasi farmers in 20 villages have diligently cultivated four varieties of traditional crops: Korra (Fox tail millet), Sama (Small millet), Ragi (finger millet), and Valiselu (Niger), covering a total land area of 260.8 acres. This concerted effort not only preserves agricultural diversity but also supports the conservation of traditional crop varieties. Additionally, 19 varieties of tubers and medicinal plants have been planted across 18.7 acres, further enhancing biodiversity and promoting indigenous plant species with medicinal benefits.



Cultural Revival and Community Festivals

The revitalization of cultural practices associated with agriculture has been a cornerstone of Adivasimitra's efforts. Across the 20 villages, five types of festivals and rituals have been successfully organized and documented, providing insight into the rich cultural heritage of the communities:

1. **Bicha Parbu (Seed Festival):** Celebrated in all villages during February 2023, this festival marks the selection and purification of seeds, preparing for the upcoming cultivation season.
2. **Gurumaya (Pre Seeding Ritual):** Held in 15 villages from May to June 2023, Gurumaya symbolizes the commencement of the agricultural cycle with a ground-warming ritual.
3. **Korra Kotha (Weeding Festival):** Celebrated in all villages in August 2023, Korra Kotha signifies the initiation of consuming newly harvested farm produce, reinforcing the cultural importance of agricultural rituals.
4. **Chitta Puja (Pest Control Ritual):** Organized in 15 villages during August 2023, Chitta Puja focuses on pest control measures, underscoring the traditional knowledge embedded in sustainable farming practices.
5. **Buride – Pre Harvest (Gratitude Ceremony):** Conducted in 15 villages in October 2022, Buride is a ceremony expressing gratitude and readiness before the harvest of millets, reflecting the community's reverence for agricultural yields.

Impact and Sustainability

Efforts to revive endangered traditional crops, including Foxtail millet, Little Millet, Small millet, and Niger, have been successfully implemented in 20 selected villages. This initiative also encompasses the revival of cultural practices such as rituals related to seed treatment, pest management, and harvesting festivals. Additionally, the planting of endangered herbal plant species and tubers in 20 Kodu villages underscores a holistic approach to sustainable agricultural practices. These festivals not only celebrate cultural diversity but also promote sustainable agricultural practices, enhancing food security and fostering community cohesion. By documenting these practices, Adivasimitra ensures their preservation for future generations, enriching the cultural heritage and promoting environmental stewardship among Adivasi communities.

3. Financial Overview

Adivasimitra managed Indian Funds totaling Rs. 3,311,543, with expenditures amounting to Rs. 1,236,966. Additionally, FCRA Funds received amounted to Rs. 9,082,168, with expenditures totaling Rs. 7,087,026. This financial management reflects Adivasimitra's strategic allocation of resources towards initiatives aimed at enhancing education, healthcare, infrastructure, and socio-economic conditions in tribal communities across Andhra Pradesh. The meticulous handling of funds underscores the organization's commitment to transparent and effective community development.

Funding Source	Income (INR)	Expenditure (INR)
Indian Funds	33,11,543	12,36,966
FCRA Funds	90,82,168	70,87,026

4. Governance and Leadership

- **Board of Directors**

Position	Name	Occupation
President	Sri. Buridi Devid	Social Worker
Secretary	Sri. Kaverla Manmadharao	Social Worker
Treasurer	Sri. Chittapuli Satyanarayana	Social Worker
Members	Sri. Cheekati Bonjubabu	Cultivation
	Sri. Killo Padma	Cultivation
	Smt. Lake Eswaramma	Cultivation
	Sri. Pottangi Parvathamma	Cultivation

Leadership Team

S.No	Name	Role
1	K Manmadha Rao	Chief Executive Officer
2	P Venkata Suresh Kumar	Program Director
3	P Jaggarao	Finance Manager

5. Donors and Partners

Donor: Bread for the World (BftW)

Project 1: Sustainable Empowerment and employment development of Adivasi Communities in three mandals

Start Date: October 1, 2021

End Date: September 30, 2024

Donor: Azim Premji Foundation/APPI

Project 2: Promotion of Natural farming and protection of rights and entitlements of Adivasis.

Start Date: December 1, 2022

End Date: November 30, 2025

6. Future Plans and Goals

PVTGs: Around 45 Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) villages in Paderu and Pedabayalu mandals lack basic facilities, including safe drinking water. Adivasimitra aims to align with sustainable development goals by extending support to these communities, ensuring access to essential rights, education, and livelihood opportunities.

Empowering Women's Leadership: Adivasi women shoulder 80% of economic and household responsibilities in Paderu, Hukumpeta, and Pedabayalu mandals. Despite their significant leadership potential, heavy workloads and limited educational opportunities hinder their participation in governance, decision-making, and developmental initiatives. Adivasimitra envisions fostering women's leadership in local governance to enhance their social and economic roles, thereby uplifting the entire community.

Education Reform: Half of the villages in the operational area lack schools, and the education provided often disregards local culture and occupations. Adivasimitra has identified numerous dropouts and unemployed tribal youth, highlighting the stark divide in access to quality education and development opportunities. The organization is actively engaging donors to support enhanced, culturally relevant education alternatives in tribal villages.

Access to Safe Drinking Water: More than 50% of tribal villages and over 70% of PVTG villages lack adequate safe drinking water facilities. Adivasimitra emphasizes the urgent need to address this issue by creating safe and sustainable drinking water facilities across tribal areas.

Climate Change Awareness and Mitigation: Adivasimitra recognizes the growing impact of climate change on tribal communities. The organization is committed to raising awareness and implementing mitigation strategies to safeguard these vulnerable areas from environmental challenges.

7. Acknowledgements

Volunteers and Staff - We thank all the staff and village level volunteers and leaders – Gramamitras across the operational area of the organisation

Community - We thank all the community members and supporters in Paderu, Hukumpeta, Pedabayalu Mandals

8. Contact Information

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