

Tamwed

Annual Report 2012/13



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“Freedom is not doing what one pleases for the sake of it, but the ability to make good, moral choices to fulfil our social duties to our fellow human beings.” Mahatma Gandhi

FROM TAMWED’S CHAIR, JANE WEATHERBY

Sowing seeds this year has reaped benefits for the small scale organic vegetable farmer in the UK. After many years of poor weather and grumbling about Climate Change we have had a good summer so, we can afford to be generous but at the same time store our crops wisely as we know not what the future holds. We wish everyone involved in our projects in South India a good harvest too in spite of your extremes of weather.

We would like to thank those of you who have been involved in our various fund-raising activities and for your generous donations in this time of economic difficulties. The Indian meal and pig racing at the end of last year raised enough for 12 new bicycles for our Health Workers while donations ensured that the projects with our three NGO partners were funded for another year. Many thanks too for all the hard working staff and volunteers in our project areas - without you, none of this would be possible.



Tamwed aims to be more than a funding organisation – so we share expertise with our partners when we can. Diana Lee, (left with a traditional healer), is a herbalist, teacher and organic grower from West Devon who helped set up a programme with local experts to reintroduce traditional plants and medicines.

One of our partners had organisational and management problems that was affecting their ability to deliver projects. An experienced Tamwed committee member helped them undertake a complete review of their activities, interviewing many of those involved with the organisation (right). The result was the introduction of a more open and efficient management system that is being monitored for its effectiveness.



We are grateful to Osborne Samuel Ltd which supports work by the ISLAND Trust on climate change in the Nilgiri Hills and Nomads Clothing which helps to finance the Improving Diets project with CRUSADE and GAWDESY. Roger Croxson kindly maintains our website at www.tamwed.org and Nicholas Biggs checks our annual accounts which are available on request.

Tamwed will continue to fund-raise and work together to support our partners in the knowledge that together we are leading towards a more sustainable global future.

ABOUT TAMWED

Tamwed (Tamil Nadu/West Devon) was set up in 2005 soon after the tsunami which affected communities which the founders had come to know over many years. The aim was to link with, as much as support, communities that members were able to identify with and learn about. Initially Tamwed helped irrigation, housing and health projects managed by some of the smaller, poorly-resourced NGOs working in remote areas that had been devastated by the disaster. In time, having assisted these communities towards self-reliance, Tamwed directed its support towards three NGOs and their communities in very different areas of Tamil Nadu where the need was greatest: **CRUSADE** north of Chennai near the border with Andhra Pradesh; **GAWDESY** in the dry lowland plains to the south of the State; and the **ISLAND Trust** which works mostly with tribal people in the Nilgiri Hills.

These communities, from Scheduled, Tribal or other castes, largely rely on agriculture for their livelihoods and are described as 'marginal' or 'excluded', living a hand-to-mouth existence in remote areas with a low income and poor quality of life. **Projects** (see later) are negotiated with our partner NGOs ensuring that a relatively small amount of finance goes a long way when converted into much-needed, practical schemes planned with the beneficiaries. We have minimal overheads and donate any time or expertise that our committee and supporters are able to give.

Our **committee members** are: Jane Weatherby (Chair), Oz Osborne (Secretary), Ian Richards (Treasurer) Diana Lee, Claire Heatley, Vicky Jackson, Duncan Harvey, Andrew Dawson, Jacky Brennan, Sonia Chapple, Angela Evans, John Evans, Rosie Brennan, Maria Terry, Roger Croxson.

Visitors. Many people from the UK and Europe have spent time with our partners providing skills and expertise when they can. It has always been our aim to arrange more exchange visits but these are costly and difficult to arrange for Indians – particularly women. To the right is Phil Taylor from Birdlife International planting trees with a college environmental group in the Nilgiris with the ISLAND Trust. Other visitors to projects have included students and researchers from the UK and Germany.

Funding for our projects is gratefully received from supporters, grant-givers, businesses and sales of goods from India. A big success was the Indian meal with pig racing in November (right) when almost £500 was raised. Projects attract local donations and support such as trees from the Thanjavur Lions Club and technical advice and grants from the Tamil Nadu Forestry Department.



We support Women Community Health Workers who play a major role in their communities, running campaigns, raising awareness, setting up clinics and managing savings schemes. Some of them are also elected representatives of their village councils.



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE IN INDIA

India's economy is now the third-largest in Asia but up to two-thirds of the population live in poverty. Unicef reports that about half of all children in India suffer from malnutrition which the country's prime minister, Manmohan Singh, has said is a national shame. Agriculture is the dominant sector of the Indian economy with about 65% of the population relying on agriculture for employment and livelihood. 70% of farmers produce food from marginal holdings i.e. less than two hectares. Although currently eligible for employment schemes in return for a small wage together with free or subsidised food, many of the poor farming communities that provide most of India's food struggle to survive. A new Indian government scheme will provide heavily subsidised wheat, rice and cereals to the very poor.



Women moving rocks under a government scheme that provides 100 days of employment every year for men and women who can earn around Rs4,000 (£40) a month .

OUR PROJECTS

Tamwed works with its three NGO partners on projects that have been developed according to need and on a scale that is appropriate to the financial contribution that can be made. Current projects were developed after evaluating previous programmes and direct resources to the needs of the poorest and most marginalised of the communities our partners work with. The following is a report on projects during Tamwed's annual cycle which ended on 31st May 2013.

IMPROVING DIETS

An initial, year-long programme with our partners CRUSADE and GAWDESY is titled 'Improving Diets'. Feed-back and research established that poor diet had become a major cause of concern due to factors that include loss of crops because of climate change; lack of knowledge about diet in relation to health; little variation in food consumed; and increasing dependence on poor quality, subsidised or free food from the government's scheme. This was leading to poor health across age-groups, with loss of work or education and increased expenditure on treatment. Trained Community Health Workers that had worked on our previous programmes are raising awareness about the importance of diets while trained gardeners supported by a nursery assists in setting up home and community organic gardens for medicinal herbs, fruit and vegetables. The project is also helping to tackle the impact of climate change such as improving soil and irrigation while tackling environmental issues such as pollution.

CRUSADE began by setting up a trainers' training event on nutrition and balanced diets for their workers and volunteers (right) who then delivered training modules to 1,500 members of village self help groups. Self help groups of women are formed by CRUSADE and many other NGOs across India who then help to set up savings schemes and run health, education, democracy and other programmes.



CRUSADE also organises training in organic agriculture and raises awareness about environmental issues such as climate change and pollution. During a combined event with other NGOs and local government leaders an entire village was cleaned up over two days followed by a procession (left), a meeting and the distribution of cotton bags as a substitute for plastic.

GAWDESY is our other partner on the Improving Diets project. The number of people benefiting from their activities is impressive: 644 meetings involving 14,200 people; 963 attending 13 medical camps; and over 7,000 saplings planted. Again, community health workers (right, at a planning meeting) working with self help groups is the means through which programmes are delivered.



The 12-month programme began in August 2012 with a budget of £7,000 with £5,000 being donated by Nomads Clothing and £2,000 from Tamwed’s supporters.

CLIMATE FUTURES

This two-year programme is an extension to previous work with our partners the ISLAND Trust and their tribal communities in the Nilgiri Hills. Climate change is a major issue in the Nilgiris Biosphere Reserve resulting in long periods of drought and severe, short storms which are having a devastating impact on the indigenous population and their environment. Surveys in 25 tribal villages demonstrated a great deal of ignorance about the cause of climate change and about methods that could be used to deal with its impact. Project staff are working directly with 500 members of tribal groups who are taking part in practical actions such as growing and marketing climate resistant crops, tree planting, improving irrigation and setting up alternative energy systems.

Local artists, musicians and performers (right) are helping to spread the word about climate change around villages, towns and schools in the Nilgiris. The ISLAND Trust’s Director, Alphonse Raj, reports: “They attribute everything to God whether it is good or bad. Failure of agriculture or monsoon is attributed to God’s will. Only a few men and youths are aware of methods to deal with climate change impacts which they say is due to the destruction of forests or the cutting of trees.”



Staff won an award for their climate change awareness stall at the annual Coonor Vegetable Show (left). The Nilgiris attracts tourists from India and many other countries who can learn first-hand about climate change and other issues.

Regular surveys are undertaken (right with tea pickers) to establish the level of knowledge about climate change and how it is changing people’s lives. This informs project staff if their methods are working and what issues are important to the people they work with.



The two-year programme was launched in January 2013 with a budget of £8,381. Artists Project Earth contribute £3,000, Osborne Samuel Ltd £2,000 with the remainder donated by Tamwed supporters.

FUND-RAISING AND EVENTS

Tamwed's Committee and supporters arrange events such as guided walks and Indian meals (right) throughout the year. Wholesome South Indian vegetarian meals are popular, accompanied by a quiz, a slide show and even toy pig racing. By holding events in different villages, new people can hear about our projects and about the culture of those we work with. We sell cards made by women from our project areas using the traditional kalamkari method of painting patterns using vegetable dyes on to cloth.



We attend festivals and give talks as well as using information, films and photographs for training sessions like those delivered in Africa and Europe that use our partner's projects on health and climate change as a reference. Women from Malawi (left) learned about how women's self help groups in India were tackling health and climate change.

Tamar Travellers is a regular event that brings people together to tell interesting stories and show photographs from their travels overseas and in the UK. A meal is shared based on the cuisine of the country concerned and those attending are invited to contribute to Tamwed's projects.

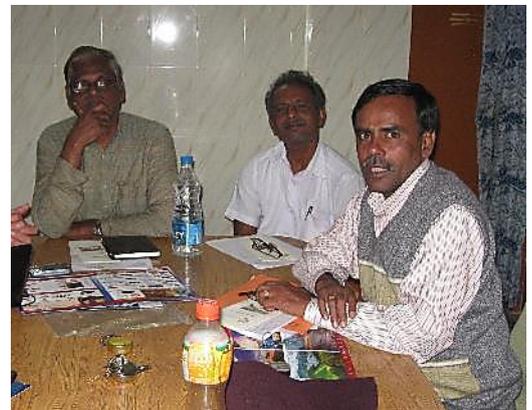
THANKS

Once again we are grateful to Jothi Ramalingam (left) who monitors and oversees our programme in India ensuring high standards of delivery. A.Mavadiyan (centre) from GAWDESY and Alphonse Raj (right) from the ISLAND Trust manage our projects with a great deal of commitment and integrity. We thank all those who help at events, offer donations or buy products. Welcome support from the business world includes Roger Croxson of The One Image

(www.theoneimage.co.uk) who continues to manage our website; Nicholas Biggs of Biggs Business Services who helps with our annual accounts; the directors of Osborne Samuel

(www.osbornesamuel.com) who fund our Climate Change Project; and Vicky and Duncan Harvey-Jackson from Nomads Clothing

(www.nomadsclothing.com) who fund our health and diets programme. Without the generosity of all these people and organisations, the much-needed projects we describe in this report would not take place.



SUMMARY ACCOUNT

Income: £14,410, Expenditure: £14,698 nearly all of which is spent on projects. This amount is raised through donations, standing orders, sales, membership and grants. Most personal donations are subject to tax relief. Our accounts are independently examined by a suitably qualified Associate Member of the Association of Charity Independent Examiners.