



# CTRD

Centre for Tribals and Rural Development Trust

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## About CTRD

The CTRD Trust, established in 1988 and registered under the Indian Trust Act in Tamil Nadu in 1995, has been dedicated to uplifting marginalized tribal and rural communities in Nilgiri District for over three decades. Our work includes livelihood support (e.g., housing, infrastructure, healthcare) and empowering income generation through Self-Help Groups. Our projects are funded by donations and support from Government bodies and civil society organizations worldwide

## Who we help

Our primary focus is on the Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs) residing in the Nilgiri District, where six of India's 75 PTG's are found. CTRD works with five of these tribes, the Paniyans, Kattunayakans, Kurumbas, Irula and Kota, who have lived in these hills since ancient times and mainly inhabit remote forested areas. In the past, they depended on forest resources like fruits, honey, and animals for subsistence, practicing hunter-gathering. Over time, some PTGs became bonded laborers on plantations, receiving meager wages or payments in kind and living in deplorable conditions.

Nowadays they are relying primarily on agriculture and tea cultivation for their livelihoods.

We also extend our assistance to other disadvantaged communities, including disabled people, senior citizen, women, and migrants, who predominantly work on tea estates.

## Our Mission

Our mission is to provide tribal and rural communities with the necessary resources and expertise to enable them to be self-reliant. We prioritize a holistic approach that encompasses healthcare, education, and livelihood training, aiming to foster sustainable economic prosperity, equality, and fundamental human rights for everyone, irrespective of gender, age, or ability.

Working closely with diverse communities, our experienced team combats poverty and marginalization using a Help-to-Self-Help, holistic, and Bottom-Up Approach that respects local resources, needs, cultures, and traditions.

# Food security project in Cooperation with



Being originally food gatherers and hunters, the Adivasi lost their basis of life after westernization and globalization and a change in land use and cultivation. A lack in proper cultivation techniques and subsequently low productivity and the inability to obtain better prices lead to extreme poverty. Since 2016 CTRD works together with SODI to improve the livelihoods of Adivasi in the Nilgiris districts. The project consists of different components that help to build a proper income, enabling a balanced diet and improved health in general.

## Kitchen Garden

Kitchen gardens for the families are established. Training imparts proper cultivation techniques and knowledge on the production of organic fertilizer. Materials to build and maintain the garden are provided, including seeds of 19 different varieties. The beneficiaries are able to grow their own vegetables for their own consumption and selling excess harvest and self-made fertilizer.



## Banana Fibre Extraction

For an additional source of income SODI and CTRD provide machines for the extraction of banana fibre from banana stems for the production of fabric. The communities are trained in the extraction process and can market the product.

## Bee Keeping

Honey is a source of nutrients and complements a balanced diet. CTRD provided beehives and training in beekeeping to ... families. They are able to reproduce the bee colonies, increasing their harvest for the generation of additional income and growing their own business.





### Cultivation and Processing of Organic Green Tea

A change in adoption towards tea cultivation as a cash crop by non tribal communities made tribes to adopt tea cultivation without prior knowledge and lack of access towards credits and other inputs and services. Skill oriented trainings for the tribals enable increased productivity and better product quality.. Additionally the construction of tea factory allow for further value creation and marketing the finished product at a higher price.



### Alcohol Awareness Training

Due to a lack of proper work and future perspectives, especially tribals are vulnerable to alcohol addiction. Mostly men consume alcohol on a regular basis. Awareness trainings on the dangers of alcohol and other addictive substances are regularly held in concerned villages and for prevention.

### Sickle Cell Anemia Screening

Regularly tests for the identification of Sickle cell anemia are carried out in tribal villages. The incurable genetic disease is especially prominent among tribal communities. With the right medication and a diagnosis at the right time, patient's lives can be prolonged and living conditions improved. In particular a balanced diet is key to the reduction of symptoms.



### Evening Coaching Centre (ECC)

Most parents lack time and abilities to support their children with school due to full-time work and no proper education. In the ECC's school children get assistance with their homework and a nutritious meal is provided, which improves their learning performance and prevents early drop-outs.



# Solar Lighting and Infrastructure Program

In Cooperation with



The remoteness of tribal villages results in long school commutes, and the lack of electricity, frequent power cuts, and late return times make homework challenging. Families with schoolchildren receive solar lights, ensuring evening illumination regardless of electricity, enabling children to study effectively. Additionally, GSE and CTRD improve tribal village infrastructure, including housing and sanitation facilities.



## Farmers Producer Company (FPO)

In Cooperation with



With support from the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development India (NABARD), the first tribal farmer's producer company was promoted. The FPO will collect the produces and works on value addition, marketing and providing better prices for the produces of 1,500 tribal farmers, producing tea, coffee, pepper, ginger, areca nut, turmeric, vegetables, honey and many other agricultural products.

## Promoting Renewable Energy through Biogas Units

In Cooperation with



Traditionally, tribal communities use open fires for cooking, causing deforestation, high CO2 emissions, and health issues due to smoke. To encourage renewable energy use, families receive biogas units fueled by cow dung. These units come with two cows, providing milk for consumption and sale. Excess cow dung can be used for organic fertilizer production.



# Palamalai Tribal Development Project

Palamalai tribal area is located in the Kurudi Hills part of the Western Ghats and has been home for several centuries to the “IRULA” tribal community. CTRD is working towards improving the socio-economic status in seven villages in the area. One focus is the growth of coffee on undeveloped agricultural land for income generation. Furthermore, the provision of health care services especially targeting women and children and sanitation facilities are planned to promote good health practices and hygiene. Biogas units will be installed for the generation of sustainable energy. The provision of solar street lights and solar lamps for school children ensure security and efficient studying during nighttime.

# Intercultural Knowledge and Exchange Center

In cooperation with



For numerous years, CTRD has collaborated with international organizations to foster student exchange programs. Volunteers from diverse countries actively engage with CTRD, enhancing both-sided learning and valuable intercultural exchange. In the future, a Centre devoted to Knowledge sharing in the field of Rural development and beyond is to be established on campus of CTRD. Students and professionals from all over the world are welcomed to work together and share expertise and experiences with one another.



## Legal Identity

Registered under the Indian Trust Act

Registered under the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act, 1976

NGO TARBN: TN 2017 0164940

Registered under the Income Tax Act, 1961

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