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Tamwed works with NGO partners in South India to improve the quality of life of poor and marginalised communities. This is done through support and funding for projects that are developed in response to need covering such issues as health and the impact of climate change.

### MESSAGE FROM TAMWED'S CHAIR, JANE WEATHERBY

A true partnership between Tamwed and the many NGOs we work with in Southern India has meant another year when 1000s of people's lives have been touched by the hard work of our organisers, supporters and volunteers - in India and the UK. Fundraising and the generosity of so many people has allowed us to continue to support both the health and herbal projects in Tamil Nadu plus research and continual work on the effects of climate change in our two project areas.

Sadly a loss of RH Southern funding means we will have to scale back our commitments unless we can find the money from elsewhere. Many thanks to our committee for devoting so much time to fund-raising, applying for grants etc. and to everyone else who has donated so generously throughout the year.

### HEALTH AND SANITATION PROJECT

We continue to support work on health with the Centre for Rural Systems and Development (CRUSADE) which supports some of the poorest Scheduled Caste (see later) communities in rural Tamil Nadu. The overall aim for this year was to extend health promotion work to 5,000 families covering a population of 32,000. Among the achievements over the past year, CRUSADE has delivered a comprehensive Health Education programme to around 4,000 Women Self Help Group (SHG) members through 10 trained Health Workers and 10 field staff. A Health Manual in Tamil was provided to 488 SHGs. A Health Survey was completed in 103 villages with a population of

32,000. 3,200 people with major illnesses were identified while other health problems such as diabetes and tuberculosis were prioritised for a response. A Homeopathy clinic opens for 3 days a week providing treatment and referring patients to specialist clinics. 25 diagnostic and 4 eye camps took place in outlying villages. 24 families built sanitary units with funding from Tamwed, Government grants and their own contribution. On-going training and support continues for the 10 Health Workers who also work on our Herb Project - see later.



Women at a health training session.

Tamwed is contributing £7,059 towards CRUSADE's health programme which is also supported by funding from UK-based Action Village India.

### Scheduled Castes

Dalit, also called Outcaste, is the title given to a group of people traditionally regarded as Untouchables. Dalits are a mixed population of numerous caste groups all over South Asia, and speak various languages.

While the caste system has been abolished under the Indian constitution, there is still discrimination and prejudice against Dalits although significant steps have been taken to improve their education, health, employment and democratic rights.

There are many different names used for defining this group of people including 'Ashprush' (Untouchables), 'Harijans' (Children of God), 'Dalits' (Broken People) etc. The constitution of India recognises them as Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

### KITCHEN HERB GARDEN (MOOLIGAI THOTTAM) PROJECT

In March 2010 we launched a project to help communities reconnect with traditional methods of health care through education and the creation of family Kitchen Herb Gardens. Our partners are CRUSADE and the Foundation for Revitalisation of Local Health Traditions. During the 22 month programme which ends next year the aim is to train 20 women as trainers in medicinal plant growing; support the training of 10 further women and families by each of the trained women; set up 2 demonstration gardens; create a nursery to provide herb plants; and support the creation of 220 family herb garden thus reaching around 900 people. The 22 month programme costs £5,500.



One of the sessions led by an expert for trainers to create a medicine from local herbs

### CLIMATE CHANGE PROJECT

15 months of work to raise awareness about the changing climate and examine ways of coping with its impact ended in April 2011. Our two partners were the ISLAND Trust who work with tribal communities in the Nilgiri Hills; and GAWDESY who are based in the lowland plains of Tamil Nadu. People in both areas, reliant on agriculture for income and livelihoods, are suffering the effects of climate change such as loss of crops, lack of water and new health problems. Both organisations set up events and meetings as well as planting trees and exploring different methods of climate-resistant agriculture. Tamwed wants to build on this work for a further 3 years for which funding has been applied for.



GAWDESY Chief Executive Mavadiyan hands out one of thousands of saplings, donated by the local Lions Club, to villagers.

## CLIMATE CHANGE RESEARCH

Volunteer Lisa Murray spent part of last winter with both NGOs researching and interviewing for a study into the effects of climate change. She found that in some areas, farmers had lost up to 50% of their income due to loss of crops. In the Nilgiri Hills she met tea pickers suffering from a disease caused by the red spider mite that is spreading from the tea plant to the skin of pickers. One of her interviewees (right) said: *"There used to be predictable seasons, now the rain is erratic and the seasons unpredictable. We used to sleep with only one blanket and now in the winter we have to sleep with 3 or 4"*.



Lisa reported: *"Everybody had noticed a change in the climate. The general consensus was that over the last 10-15 years and particularly over the past 5 years there had been far less rain, it had been far more unpredictable, the seasons far more extreme and at times when the rain finally would come it would be a heavy downpour, in 2009 in there was a period of heavy rain causing landslides. The last year had been the driest yet with the seasonal rains failing and the only rainfall from the cyclones over the Bay of Bengal."*

## PROJECT COORDINATION



Jothi Ramalingam, our Project Coordinator and the Secretary of CRUSADE; Mavadiyan of GAWDESY and Alphonse Raj of the ISLAND Trust

Our projects are set up after research and baseline reports that describe the factors on which programmes aim to make a difference. Project managers produce quarterly reports and budgets and our Project Coordinator monitors progress and accounts. A member of Tamwed's committee helps to set up each project and works closely with the partners to ensure targets are met and adjustments made to initial plans as necessary. We are very grateful to these respected NGO leaders for the expertise and commitment with which they manage our projects.

## EVENTS AND FUND-RAISING

Throughout the year Tamwed organises events to raise funds and inform more people about our work. We held a Barn Dance with Walter Shortage and the Hosepipe Banned at Lydford as well as an Indian meal with Indian dancing at Albaston. A new regular event this year has been Tamar Travellers when people are invited to hear first-hand about unusual parts of the world or the UK.



Maggi Squire leads the Indian dancing.

## THE FUTURE

We will be consolidating our support for the projects and partners that we worked with during last year. In spite of the increase in wealth of a minority of the population in India, poverty is widespread with the nation estimated to have a third of the world's poor. According to the World Bank, 42% of the population falls below the international poverty line of \$1.25 a day. While financial constraints continue in the UK, it has become increasingly difficult to finance projects such as those that benefit the poor and marginalised people our partners work with in South India.

## THANKS

We are very grateful to all our supporters - including those who help at events, offer donations or buy products. We particularly thank Roger Croxson of [The One Image](http://www.theoneimage.co.uk) (www.theoneimage.co.uk) who manages our website, the directors of [Osborne Samuel](http://www.osbornesamuel.com) (www.osbornesamuel.com) who helped fund our Climate Change Project, the [Organic Herb Trading Company](http://www.organicherbtrading.com) (www.organicherbtrading.com) which supported the Kitchen Garden Project and our friends at the [RH Southern Trust](#) who unfortunately are not able to offer us any more financial support. Without the generosity of all these people and organisations, the much-needed projects we describe in this report would not take place. The time and expertise of our committee is donated which means that Tamwed has very little running and management costs. Our website contains full information on all our projects.

Supporters are welcome to visit our projects and see for themselves the results of the help we give. We thank [Biggs Business Services](#) for help with our accounts.

## SUMMARY ACCOUNT

Income: £12,448. Expenditure: £20,191. We currently hold a reserve of over £8,000, most of which has been ear-marked for continuation projects. Funds are 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. Tamwed spends nearly all funds on practical projects in India which are carefully negotiated with our partners.

## TRUSTEES AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2010/2011

Chair: Jane Weatherby, Secretary: Oz Osborne, Treasurer: Ian Richards. Committee: Geri Laithwaite, Leon Aarons, Gill Aarons, Diana Lee, Andrew Dawson, Sonia Chapple, Jacky Brennan, John Evans, Emma Gorbutt, Angela Evans, Rosie Brennan and Lucie Ponsford. Our committee is elected during the Annual Meeting or appointed according to Tamwed's constitution.