



16 Doddi Trust Annual Report

2023-24



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Managing Trustee's Note

At 16 Doddi Trust, our work grows from a simple belief: that when communities are rooted in their land, their culture, and their livelihoods, they find the resilience to thrive. Agroecology, to us, is not only about farming methods. It is about restoring confidence in land-based ways of living, strengthening local enterprises, and weaving food and craft into the fabric of community life.

In our wider interactions and partnerships, we have come to see that the most viable pathways forward emerge when place-based knowledge meets collective livelihoods. Community-driven solutions are often the most robust, and when they are supported by the right kinds of expert knowledge, they become transformative. This combination is the direction we have chosen and the pathway we continue to walk.

The year 2023–24 was also significant for our work with Land Body Ecologies. After two years of deep research within the Ragihalli community, this was a residency year where our learnings were gathered, shared, and translated into installations and conversations. The stories, insights, and relationships built during this process continue to enrich our understanding and spill into our ongoing work in 2024–25.

As we look back on this year, what stands out most is the importance of relationships and rootedness. Every step forward — whether in building livelihoods, shaping policy, or creating cultural spaces — has come from the strength of these connections. Looking ahead, we remain committed to learning from the community, grounding ourselves in agroecology, and building bridges that connect local action to wider change.



— Vishalakshi Padmanabhan, Managing Trustee

Our Vision, Mission & Values

Our Vision

We envision a future of thriving communities where food and craft connect people with each other and with the earth, and where ecology and livelihoods flourish together.

Our Mission

Our mission is to co-create and scale learning pilots in agroecology and community enterprise, growing through partnerships and collective action, with women and youth at the heart of every step.

Our Values

At 16 Doddi Trust, the way we work matters as much as what we work on.

- Co-create: We believe change is built together. Every step begins with listening, learning, and acting alongside the community.
- Learn by Doing: We try, reflect, and adapt. Each pilot is a chance to deepen our understanding and strengthen our path forward.
- Grow with Care: Scaling for us means nurturing what works without losing our roots — ensuring that livelihoods, ecology, and culture grow hand in hand.
- Stay Connected: We honour relationships — between people, between generations, and between humans and nature — as the foundation for everything we do.



Our Process

Our work follows a cycle that begins with communities and grows outward:

Co-create → Test & Learn → Scale & Sustain

This process ensures that every step is rooted in lived experience, strengthened by reflection, and designed for long-term ownership.

Year in Review 2023–24

The year 2023–24 was one of both deep learning and decisive steps forward. We continued to root ourselves in the Ragihalli community, expanded our engagements with farmers in Malur and Tumkur through the PKVY project, and strengthened connections across India and beyond.

What began with small livelihood initiatives like the Ragihalli Bakery has now grown into more ambitious land-based pilots. By March 2024, the idea of our first Kai Thotas — women-led community nutrition gardens — had taken clear shape.

Program Deep Dives

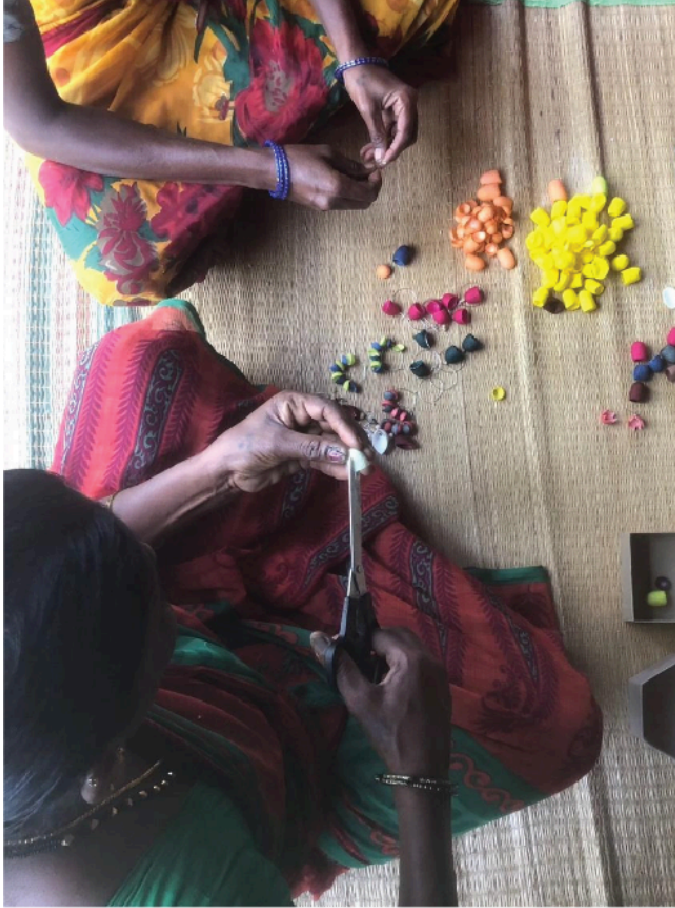
1. Land-Based Livelihoods

Our journey in land-based livelihoods moved meaningfully forward in 2023–24. From the beginnings with the Ragihalli Bakery, we are now exploring more deeply rooted models of income generation tied to soil, seed, and craft.

This year, our women engaged with bamboo as a potential livelihood avenue. A bamboo expert mapped local species with the community and introduced possibilities for bamboo-based enterprises, while also reconnecting food traditions such as bamboo shoots to the women's lived experiences.

We also explored sericulture and silk cocoons. A research team studied the cocoon market alongside farmers, documenting how trade is experienced and relationships are formed. Building on this, artists Vrishika and Yogish trained women in using naturally dyed cocoons to craft eco-friendly jewellery and accessories.

By March 2024, the most significant step was the co-creation of Kai Thotas — community nutrition gardens envisioned and named by the women themselves. These pilots mark the beginning of a deeper shift: women leading regenerative farming initiatives that link livelihoods, food, and ecology.



2. Agroecology & Certification

Agroecology is the heart of our work, and this year reaffirmed our commitment to farmer-friendly systems of cultivation and certification.

In Malur and Tumkur, we engaged with nearly 1,200 farmers through our PKVY clusters. This intensive work revealed the challenges of transitioning from chemical-intensive vegetable and floriculture systems. Through training sessions, field visits, and research, we positioned PGS-certified farmers as messengers of change, showing that ecological farming is possible even in highly commercial, peri-urban landscapes.

At the national level, we advanced farmer-friendly certification through technology. Our team presented the Farmer's Trust traceability tool and QR code system at the PGS Organic Council AGM. Developed with young freelance technologists, the tool was welcomed as a way to strengthen trust, transparency, and advocacy for PGS in India.

Together, these efforts reflect our dual approach: enabling farmers to make ecological transitions while also strengthening the systems that validate and support their work.



3. Community & Culture

Community life and cultural identity remained central to our work.

The Ragihalli Utsava 2023 was a moment of pride. Beyond performances and presentations, the festival celebrated resilience and rootedness. Highlights included the release of the Ragihalli Bakery's first branding look by the governing body members of the women federation, folk songs by Vasu Dixit, and talks by champions like Timrayappa and Nishanth from IISc an expert on human-elephant conflict. The festival reaffirmed our belief that celebration is part of community building.

In October, we hosted a unique cross-cultural exchange with young Buddhist nuns from the Zansar Monastery in Ladakh. Their visit, and interactions with women and children in Ragihalli, opened new conversations on resilience, livelihoods, and education across geographies.

These cultural touchpoints remind us that agroecology is not only about farming systems — it is also about memory, identity, and collective pride.



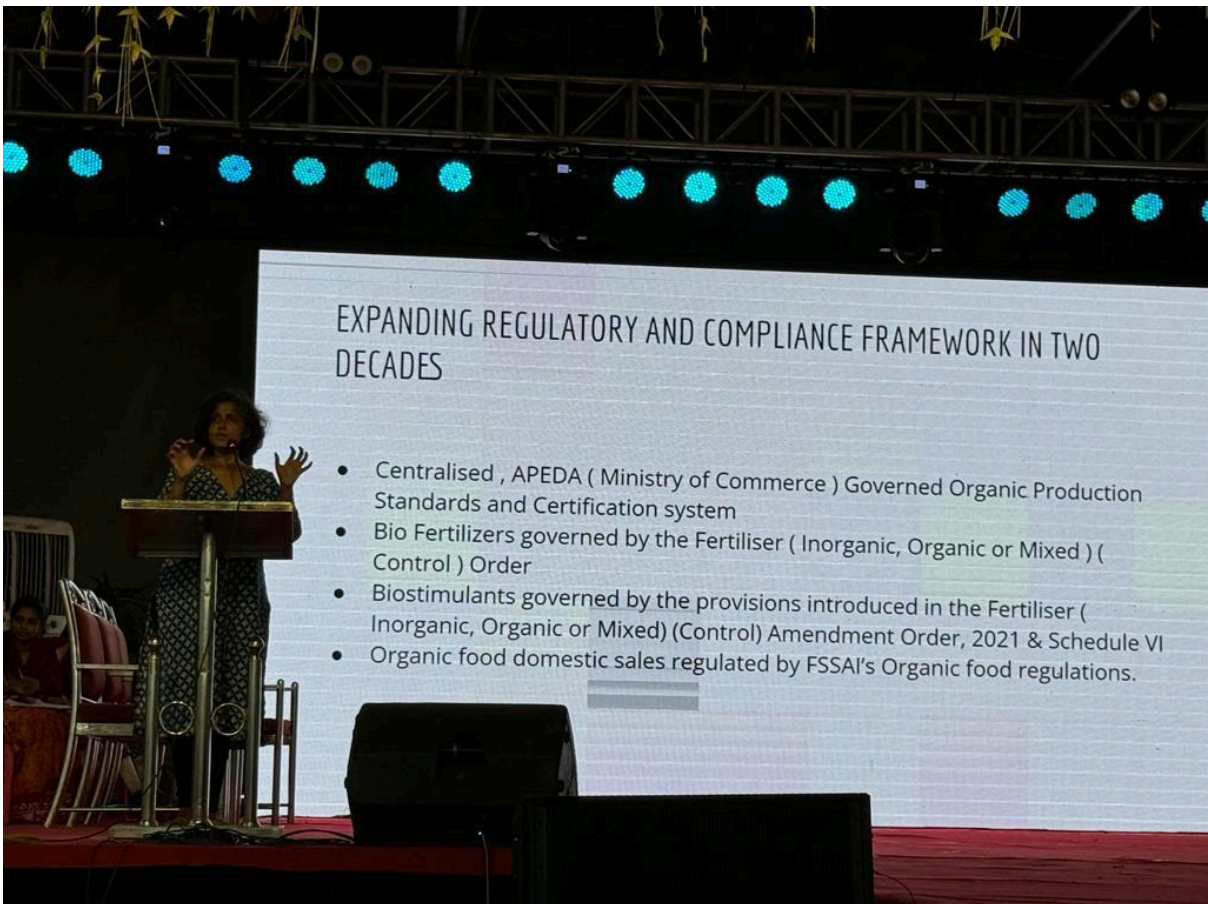


4. Policy & Global Engagements

The year also strengthened our voice in policy and global networks.

Internationally, we represented India at the 6th Organic Asia Congress in the Philippines, sharing our journey with PGES and connecting with youth groups working in similar ecological zones. We also showcased our work at the Land Body Ecologies Residency in London, through installations, a panel on human-elephant conflict, and a Ragi-based cooking demonstration called 'Food as adaptations' that carried the flavour of our millet-growing landscapes to a global audience.

Nationally, we engaged in multiple policy forums: the Food Security Law Decade dialogue at NLSIU, the NOCL inauguration in Delhi, the Meghalaya Farmers' Parliament, the OFI biannual meet, and Regenerate 2024. Through these platforms, 16 Doddi Trust carried the voices of peri-urban women and small farmers into wider conversations, linking local realities with national and international frameworks.



EXPANDING REGULATORY AND COMPLIANCE FRAMEWORK IN TWO DECADES

- Centralised , APEDA (Ministry of Commerce) Governed Organic Production Standards and Certification system
- Bio Fertilizers governed by the Fertiliser (Inorganic, Organic or Mixed) (Control) Order
- Biostimulants governed by the provisions introduced in the Fertiliser (Inorganic, Organic or Mixed) (Control) Amendment Order, 2021 & Schedule VI
- Organic food domestic sales regulated by FSSAI's Organic food regulations.



Faces of Ragihalli

Behind every initiative of 16 Doddi Trust are the women who shape it with their knowledge, resilience, and leadership. *Faces of Ragihalli* shares a few of these personal journeys. These stories remind us that agroecology is not only about farming methods, but also about the lives of people who make choices every day to care for their families, their communities, and the land.



LAKSHMI'S STORY

Lakshmi is a single mother who worked for many years in a garment factory. Her day started at 6:30 in the morning and ended only by 7 in the evening. This left her with little time for her children, and proper nutrition at home often suffered.

She had earlier farmed with her husband when they had land, but after being widowed five years ago, it was not possible for her to manage farming work alone. She took up whatever jobs she could find, but it always meant being away from her children for long hours.

When the **Kai Thota** idea came up, Lakshmi joined with great interest. She brought with her the knowledge she had from her earlier farming days and the enthusiasm to learn again. For her, Kai Thota is not just about growing vegetables — it is about being able to balance work and family, ensure good food for her children, and regain confidence in her ability to farm.



GEETA'S STORY

Geeta is one of Ragihalli's most progressive farmers. She and her family have always practiced farming with openness to learning and adapting. Geeta is also one of the few women in the village who can identify more than 30 edible weeds that grow in the Ecologically Sensitive Zone, knowledge that has been passed down and nurtured through her years of observing and working with the land.

As one of the few formally educated farmers in Ragihalli, Geeta has steadily grown in confidence and leadership. She now plays an important role in the governance of the federation and has taken up many responsibilities in guiding its work.

It is with her experience and conviction about organic and agroecological practices that the **Kai Thota initiative** has been shaped. From someone who once doubted whether her knowledge of edible weeds would matter to anyone, Geeta has

grown into a leader who can manage the federation and speak with clarity in public forums. Watching her take up these roles has been an important marker of how women's leadership in Ragihalli is strengthening.

Looking Forward

As we close 2023–24, our focus for the coming year is on deep learning and consolidation. The Kai Thota initiative has just taken root, and 2024–25 will be about nurturing these pilots carefully, ensuring that each step builds the capacity, confidence, and data needed for a strong model.

The Ragihalli Bakery will continue to grow its brand identity. Slowly scaling its reach, while maintaining quality and community ownership, will be a priority. This process of brand-building is not just about markets — it is about visibility, dignity, and recognition for women's work.

We will also continue our engagement with farmers in Malur and Tumkur. The coming year marks their final phase of transition to agroecology under PKVY. Supporting this journey will provide critical insights into the challenges peri-urban farmers face when shifting away from chemical-intensive practices.

At the same time, we will strengthen our work on financial awareness and resilience. In collaboration with partners like Rang De, women have begun accessing small investments through responsible borrowing. In 2023–24 alone, women borrowed over ₹____ for farming and household needs. Building financial literacy alongside livelihoods will remain an integral part of our approach.

Above all, we will continue to influence policy, deepen relationships, and strengthen partnerships. Our work is still young, but each year brings greater clarity on how local action can connect to systemic change.

16 DODDI TRUST

No 43 Mountain road 1st Block East Jayanagar 3rd Block Bangalore - 560 011

BALANCE SHEET AS ON 31ST MARCH 2024

LIABILITIES	Amount	ASSETS	Amount
Capital Account:		<u>Deposits(Assets)</u>	
Opening balance	103,573	Fixed Deposit-661	26,110
Add:Excess of income over expen	75,093	Fixed Deposit-662	20,433
	178,666		
<u>Provisions</u>		<u>Current assets:</u>	
Audit fees payable	15,000	Cash in hand	-
		Cash at Bank	109,443
		TDS Refund 2022-23	37,680
	193,666		193,666

As per Books of Accounts produced before us

For Deva Sheela & Associates

Chartered accountants



B.Sathyanarayana Deva



Proprietor

Membership No:208682

UDIN:

Place:Bangalore

Date:



Vishalakshmi

Padmanabhan

Trustee

16 DODDI TRUST

No 43 Mountain road 1st Block East Jayanagar 3rd Block Bangalore - 560 011

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31.3.2024

EXPENDITURE	Amount	INCOME	Amount
Audit Fee paid	15,000	Donation received	468,161
Bank Charges	2,285	Research fund	204,432
Electricity Charges	8,557		
General Expenses	19,546	Interest on FD	3,021
Membership fee	2,500		
Salary paid	61,119		
Grants	109,297		
Donation paid	351,011		
Training expenses	18,000		
Telephone and Internet charges	7,200		
Transportation charges	6,006		
Excess of Income over Expend	75,093		
	675,614		675,614

As per Books of Accounts produced before us

For Deva Sheela & Associates

Chartered accountants



B.Sathyanarayana Deva



Membership No:208682

UDIN:

Place:Bangalore

Date:



Vishalakshmi

Padmanabhan

Trustee

16 DODDI TRUST

No 43 Mountain road 1st Block East Jayanagar 3rd Block Bangalore - 560 011

RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31.3.2024

RECEIPTS	Amount	PAYMENTS	Amount
OPENING BALANCE :		INDIRECT EXPENSES :	
Cash In Hand		Grant	109,297
Cash at SBM Bank A/c	37,210	Donation paid	351,011
		Membership fees	2,500
DIRECT INCOME :		Bank Charges	2,285
Research fund	204,432	Electricity Charges	8,557
Donation Received	468,161	Telephone & Internet Charge	7,200
		Transportation Charges	6,006
INDIRECT INCOME :		Salary paid	61,119
Tax refund	340	Training expenses	18,000
		General expenses	19,546
		PROVISIONS :	
		Audit fees payable	10,000
		Income tax payable	5,179
		CLOSING BALANCE :	
		Cash In Hand	-
		Cash at Bank	109,443
	710,143		710,143

As per Books of Accounts produced before us

For Deva Sheela & Associates

Chartered accountants



B.Sathyanarayana Deva

Proprietor

Membership No:208682

UDIN:

Place:Bangalore

Date:



Vishalakshmi

Padmanabhan

Trustee