



**“Our Vision is the realization of empowered self-reliant tribal and rural communities with improved socio economic conditions without damaging their cultural and environmental identity”**



**RS. Ranganathen (Founder and CEO of CTRD TRUST)**



**CENTRE FOR TRIBALS AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (CTRDT) TRUST**  
 Indra Nagar, Nanthatty Post, Gudalur, Nilgiris District – 643 212, Tamil Nadu.  
 Phone: +91 (0) 4262 262972  
 Email: ctrdtrust@gmail.com  
 Website: www.ctrdtrust.org



# About CTRD



The **Centre for Tribal and Rural Development (CTRDT)** Trust is a dedicated voluntary organization that was established in 1988. It is registered under the Indian Trust Act in the state of Tamil Nadu.

For three decades we have been working on projects and programs that aim to promote and strengthen the livelihood, welfare and development of the marginalized and discriminated tribal and rural communities of the Nilgiri District. Hereby, we are both supporting livelihood programs (i.e. house constructions, infrastructure or health care improvements) and empowering their capabilities by introducing new possibilities of income generation and Self-Help Groups. Cooperating directly with the diverse communities, our professional team members use their skills, knowledge and long working experience to overcome the circumstances of poverty and marginalization. Every project is realized with a Help to Self-Help, holistic and Bottom-Up Approach in accordance to the tribal people's resources, needs, cultures and traditions. Generally, our work is financed through donations and funding received from government bodies and civil society organizations from all around the world.

## Mission



Our mission is to provide tribal and rural communities with the appropriate tools and knowledge to help themselves. The focus is on comprehensive and inclusive health, education and livelihood training in order to promote sustainable economic well-being, equality and basic human rights for all, regardless of gender, age and ability.




## Vision



Our vision is the realization of empowered self-reliant tribal and rural communities with improved socio-economic conditions without damaging their cultural and environmental identity.

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## Our History

In 1988 RS. Ranganathan founded CTRD in response to the impoverished socio-economic conditions which prevailed within the indigenous tribal and rural communities living in the remote Nilgiris District of Tamil Nadu, India. A lack of water supply, housing and sanitation facilities, food security, health services, education or regular income does only represent a small amount of the Adivasi's daily struggles.

At this time and even at present, no governmental program has been supporting the livelihood, welfare and development of the Adivasi. CTRD can be regarded as one of the prior NGOs which did not look away and took immediate action to improve the livelihood and bring basic human rights to these marginalized groups.

## Where We Work




We are situated in the Nilgiri District of Tamil Nadu, at the junction between the states Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka which are also called the *Blue Mountains*. It can be regarded as a remote region being covered by hills, mountains, forests, tribal villages and tea estates with a cool climate. Geographically, our works takes place in the following four areas of the Nilgiris District: **Gudalur**, **Ooty**, **Coonoor** and **Kotagiri**. In these blocks, we support 4 municipalities, 11 town panchayat and 35 village panchayat of the Nilgiris district.

## Target Groups

CTRD works with five scheduled rural tribes: the **Kurumba**, **Kattunayaka** and **Paniyan**, **Kotta** and **Erula**, who consider themselves as *Adivasi*.

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### **Who are the Adivasi?**

*Adivasi is a self-designed description referring to the claim that these groups are the descendants of the native inhabitants within the Indian subcontinent. The share of the total Adivasi population in India is approx. 8,6 %. Being originally food gathers and hunters, the Adivasi have been practicing subsistence agriculture along with the careful conservation of natural resources and spirits for centuries. However, the rapid globalization, westernization and forced cultivation of tea and coffee resulted in immense marginalization and discrimination. Being excluded from society and governmental programs, the Adivasi have been driven in tremendous poverty.*

## **How We Work**

CTRD aims to support tribal and/or rural communities become self-sufficient and empowered, with improved living conditions that do not damage their cultural and environmental identity. We are committed to breaking the cycle of poverty, discrimination and ignorance that grips both tribal and rural communities. We believe that the only way to do this is to adopt a holistic and grassroots approach to our projects. Therefore both preparation and implementation of projects are always discussed with the specific target groups and developed in accordance to the tribal people's needs, resources, cultures and traditions. In our opinion, only the development and empowerment of these groups into self-reliant and self-sufficient communities enables long-term sustainable enhancements of their welfare and livelihood, particularly after the project period.

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# Our (Current) Partners



Together We Are One



# Our Projects

## Outline

1. Income Generation through the Cultivation and Processing of Organic Green Tea.....	7
2. Rural Housing and Sanitation Program.....	8
3. Promoting renewable Energy through Biogas Units.....	9
4. Tribal Children Education Sponsorship Program.....	10
5. Solar Lightning Program.....	11
6. The Tribal Children Art Club.....	12
7. Establishing Sanitation in Tribal Villages.....	13
8. Rural Vision Care Project.....	14
9. Accumulation of Old Projects.....	15



## Income Generation through the Cultivation and Processing of Organic Green Tea

### *What is the historical background of the project?*

In the 1980s the Government of India introduced the cultivation of Green Tea as a cash crop to the Nilgiri Hills. Due to the deforestation to set up tea plantations and the implementation of a land conservation law, the Adivasi were no longer able to live their traditional life as hunters and gatherers. With little knowledge on farming techniques they have been cultivating tea since the past 30 years. They face ecological and economic challenges such as soil erosion, decreasing yields and a high dependency on middlemen, which causes low incomes and acute poverty. They only receive around 30 % of the actual revenues.

### *How does the Tribal Green Valley Tea Project work?*

The project seeks to alleviate poverty and to promote sustainable livelihoods by generating income for Adivasi small-scale tea farmers through the cultivation and processing of organic and fair traded Green Tea. Since May 2016 CTRD has been cooperating with SODI to train 500 tribal tea farmers in techniques of organic tea cultivation, soil and water management, and climate adaption. The organic Green Tea is grown on family-owned tea plantations with a size of 0,25-2 acres located in the tribal villages. The tea is cultivated in a mixed culture with silver oak, fruit trees, and pepper to provide shade and an additional income source. Tea plucking is based on the two leaves and one bud principle to ensure high premium quality Green Tea. The project further includes setting up a tea factory, which will be finished in January 2019 to produce the own branded tribal *IPPI MALAI Tea*. In the long-term, the Green Valley Tea Factory will be run by the Adivasi community itself – by the Tribal Tea Farmer Producer Company. The factory's income will be invested in social projects for the Adivasi again. An own factory enables them to add value to their tea produce and to eliminate middlemen. The processed tea has already been certified with the EU-Bio Standard UTZ by INDOCERT. It is further planned to receive the FAIRTRADE certificate.

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**SODI!**

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## Rural Housing and Sanitation Program

### *What is the prevailing house situation?*

Being isolated from infrastructure and surrounded by forest and tea estates, the Adivasi use natural materials like bamboo, straw and mud to build houses. However these constructions implicate diverse issues, for instance lacking stability, reconstruction twice per year due to the monsoon seasons, limited natural resources because of coffee and tea plantations or being exposed to elephant or other dangerous animal attacks.

### *How is the Construction Project in the Narangamoola Village realized?*




In the Narangamoola Village, which is located two kilometres from the town Ambalamoola, adequate and sufficient housing is lacking enormously. Currently 14 huts are available for the 22 families living in the village, who are 95 people in total (57% women; 43% men; 31% <18 years). Moreover, this extremely difficult condition is further deteriorated by a lack of sanitation. The circumstance forces the people to practice dangerous, unhealthy, environmentally damaging and undignified open defecation. During the project period from 2018 to 2019, CTRD is, in collaboration with the Organization GSE, supporting the construction of 21 weather-proof houses and sanitation facilities in the Narangamoola Village. With provided tools, materials and knowledge by CTRD and GSE, the organizations and tribal community will work together to realize its plan. The project has been further supported by ten German students in October 2018.

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## Promoting renewable Energy through Biogas Units

### *How do the Biogas Units work?*

A biogas unit works by turning animal dung into methane, which is used to fuel cooking stoves in tribal homes. These cooking stoves provide each family with four hours of cooking time per day and replaces smoky open fires which pose both a health and safety risk. A biogas unit consists of a digester with a metallic dome lid which acts as a gas holder. In each biogas unit a fermentation process under anaerobic conditions generates biogas of the biomass from the animal dung. The gas is collected and then piped at a constant pressure to the cooking stoves.

### *Environmental-friendly Side Benefit*

*Without Biogas Units (and open fire wood cooking) tribal family have to use 30 kg of firewood per day for cooking and purifying water, which contributes significantly to deforestation. Thanks to the Biogas Project nearly 580 mts of firewood were saved and nearly 1043 mts of CO2 emissions were reduced until 2017.*

### *How is the Biogas Project realized and what are its benefits?*

The project started in 2010 and even though it has actually been limited to seven year duration, it is still running today - due to the long-term and sustainable success it provides so far! At present, 37 biogas units in 8 villages have been installed, cows were given to the communities and trainings were conducted to maintain and handle the biogas units. The cows provide not only the dung needed for each Biogas unit, but also milk and calves which can be sold on local markets and an oversupply of dung can serve as fertilizer for the fields. Nearly 0,25 million liter of milk were sold, resulting in total earnings of 5,9 million rupees. All these efforts enhanced the incomes and living standards of tribal and marginalized communities whilst directly reducing the destroying impact these communities did have on the environment. Due to having biogas, no wood needs to be taken out of the forest and no smoke in the kitchen affects the health of the people in the villages anymore. On top, without the need to buy wood, the biogas partnership also saved 3,4 million rupees, which is now available for the local communities. Moreover, the biogas project has the biggest impact upon tribal women as the tasks of collecting firewood, cooking and cleaning are traditionally conducted by tribal women.

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## Tribal Children Education Sponsorship Program

*“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world”  
(Nelson Mandela)*

### *Why is education so important?*

Investments in the education of children are the most sustainable way of supporting their empowerment, self-sufficiency and self-confidence in the long-run. Continuous learning and graduation certificates increase the probability to receive semi- or high-skilled position with stable and sufficient income exponentially. Moreover education enables children to discover, develop and intensify individual preferences, skills and potential.

### *Why is education difficult to guarantee in the Nilgiri Region?*

The Nilgiri District is a rural, remote and hilly area being covered by dense forest - circumstances which severely complicate the access to education opportunities. Moreover the primary concern of the Adivasi's' life is to cover the families' livelihood expenses. Therefore the children, who are supposed to go school, are forced to work in tea fields or factories. Education is regarded as a luxury good correlating with high prices including school fees, books, school uniforms, etc. The results are increased school drop-outs rates and decreased rates of formal education qualifications and certificates.




### *How does the Sponsorship Program work?*

In the Sponsorship Program CTRD is particularly supporting these unprivileged children. Girls are given prior preference as they have to face enormous gender-related discrimination. The long-term outputs of education are non-material, e.g. well-paid jobs, improved livelihood, increased independence and self-esteem. However, the progress of education requires financial funds in terms of bus tickets, school uniforms or books. Therefore a sponsored child will be able to attend school regularly and be equipped with all essential school-related items. To ensure the sustainability of the project the children must show a performance improvement in order to continue the sponsorship. Donors are able to communicate with the individual students through E-Mail or even directly by visiting the project sites. With an annual contribution of 250€ the total expenditures for one child per school year are covered. However donors are free to decide about their amount of contribution.

***We are constantly looking for new sponsors to support children from indigenous minorities. Sign up for a sponsorship and choose the amount you would like to sponsor. In return you will receive regular updates of the progress of the student(s) you support.***

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## Solar Lightning Project

### *Why is the project needed?*

Even though some of the tribal children go to school, they are facing daily disadvantages due to their omnipresent circumstances. For instance education is often regarded as luxury item by adults (of course not by everyone!) as some never had the chance to enjoy the profitable outputs of it. The (sometimes) missing support by their parents, a lack of infrastructure and of financial funds to buy adequate school material is hampering a successful school career of the tribal children. In addition, the typical geographical remoteness of the tribal villages implicates a long school walk which is highly time-consuming. When returning home (mostly after sunset, approx. 6pm) the high frequency of power cuts or a complete absence of electricity is complicating the successful process of homework enormously.

### *What does the Solar Lightning Project intend?*




Since 2016 CTRD is collaborating with the GSE. This organization collected money to finance solar lights that were bought by CTRD and provided to tribal families, whose children go to school. Until now, around 200 solar lights have been handed over with a co-payment in diverse villages. The solar lights secure light in the evening independent from electricity which enables children to read and write under adequate conditions and fulfill their tasks and responsibilities to sustain a proper education.

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## Tribal Children Art Club

### *How is Art supposed to support the livelihood?*

CTRD focuses on improving the livelihood of tribal villages and their families for almost 30 years now. Even though it is still a long way to go a lot has been done for the tribal villages in the Nilgiri Hills. Increasing the living conditions in terms of material resources and education is one essential aspect, but to improve the individual self-realization other activities need to be involved. Art is one possibility to push this development. Resources to push those activities by the Adivasi themselves are limited, since all money and time is used to cover the daily essential needs.

### *How does the Tribal Children Art Club work?*




To realize this unique project, CTRD and the French organization *Constellation* selected 25 children. Constellation's goal is to encourage the human, economic and cultural development of children and teens through artistic creation. With the donation of the French Organization *Constellation* CTRD could buy painting materials and hire local painting artists, who teach the children basic painting techniques. Firstly, 25 children have been selected who were empowered to draw paintings in accordance to their community, culture, beliefs or daily concerns. By expressing themselves through art, the children are able to learn more about themselves and to face individual fears and beliefs in an alternative and inspiring way. All paintings are going to be illustrated in magazines and sold as postcards in Europe.

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## Establishing Sanitation in Tribal Villages

### *What consequences does a lack of Sanitation imply?*

Many tribal villages face problems caused by insufficient or even no sanitation. Due to this lack people often use the surrounding nature as their natural sanitation rooms. This lack of hygiene does not only cause diseases among the inhabitants of the villages. As many of the tribal villages are located close to remote forest areas, which are home to wild animals for instance snakes, tigers or elephants, the open defecation is especially dangerous at night. Even though the government has built houses in some of the villages with integrated bathrooms, the people refuse to use them. The lack of acceptance is caused due to the missing coordination between government and tribal villages and the government's top-down approach. In terms of the tribal people it is inappropriate to have a bathroom which is integrated in the house where you cook and sleep.

### *How is the Sanitation Project implemented successfully?*

To provide secure and adequate sanitation facilities, CTRD started a cooperation with the Singapore friend's organization called "Together we are one (T.W.O.)" in 2016. Hereby, the village Kokkal which is located approx. 20km from Ooty, has been selected to start with. Surrounded by forests, which are still home for wild tigers, leopards and other dangerous animals, people were forced to practice dangerous, unhealthy, environmentally damaging and undignified open defecation. Until May 2017 CTRD provided 25 individual toilets in compatibility with the people's cultural needs. As a lack of sanitation is still an omnipresent circumstance in the Nilgiri Region, new sanitation facilities will be constructed in tribal villages with the help of T.W.O. in 2019.

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## Rural Vision Care Program

### *Why is the project needed so urgently?*

In the Nilgiri Hills many low-income people live in remote villages and have no access to vision care and screening services and/or cannot afford to buy spectacles. Those people suffering from visual problems are thereby put in a strongly disadvantaged position, either in school or in work, and are adversely affected in their everyday life.

### *How does it work?*

In August 2017, CTRD started to collaborate with Carl Zeiss India – an internationally leading technology enterprise operating in the optics and optoelectronics industries – to provide affordable and accessible vision care in remote areas of the Nilgiri Hills. The program involved awareness raising, screening and dispensing of spectacles in resource poor settings.

### *Unique Project Structure – Social Entrepreneurship*

*The project is based on a social entrepreneurship model, in which five local entrepreneurs are trained by Zeiss. They are responsible for providing screening and sales of spectacles at a low price primarily in rural areas. Two centers are set up, which serve as workplaces and to store the equipment provided by Zeiss. The centers are opened weekly to conduct screenings and to sell the spectacles. In addition, a minimum of two camps monthly take place in very remote areas for people, who are not able to visit the screening centers. CTRD is responsible for the overall coordination of the project and is the intermediary between Zeiss and the local entrepreneurs.*

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## Accumulation of Old Projects

### *(A) The Social Inclusion Project*



In order to promote social inclusion, CTRD and Sightsavers set up a number of Disabled Peoples Organizations (DPOs) for the different disabilities in 2016. These targeted Self Help Groups were made up of a team with the same disabilities and were partially complemented by family members and experts to assist them with particular issues. These Self Help Groups aimed to provide the participants a space for

mutual exchange, to share their experiences and to strengthen each other. Further, the project included self-help activities. Another goal was to eliminate middlemen in the process of providing helping tools through public schemes.

In cooperation with



### *(B) Rural Housing and Livelihood Program*



From 2009 until 2012, CTRD has been cooperating with DESWOS Germany to enable the construction of over 150 houses in nine tribal villages. This project did not only ensure the comfort and safety of the Adivasi - it has been empowering the people to help themselves. Socio-economic conditions have been greatly improving in both villages and the wider area thanks to IGP (Income Generation Programs),




ensuring that rural and tribal families can make a meaningful and sustainable contribution to the development of their own communities. By providing support to 61 tribal communities, healthcare and education have also been enhancing tremendously in these regions.

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### (C) Raleigh International UK Projects



In 2009 CTRD has been collaborating with Raleigh India (Part of Raleigh International) in order to realize housing as well as sanitation projects in the Nilgiri Region. Hereby four tribal villages have been directly supported. Firstly in the *Kappikadu* village fourteen secure and weather-proof houses have been built, in place of the old huts, for the sixty-four residents who belong to the Kattanayakan tribe. Secondly in the

*Muttilmoola* village seven secure and weather-proof houses have been built, in place of the old huts, for the twenty-nine residents who also belong to the Kattanayakan tribe. Thirdly, twenty toilets facilities have been built in the villages Ealamanna as well as Karathad.

In cooperation with



### (D) The Strengthening Networks for Eye Health and advocacy (SNEHA) Project



In order to combat the issues of poor eye health, CTRD and Sightsavers have been implementing the Strengthening Networks for Eye Health and advocacy (SNEHA) project which provides comprehensive eye care for local people. From 2005 until 2012 the project implemented eye check up's, eye health awareness programs, educational services and rehabilitation schemes for the visually impaired. Community screening camps are conducted in a number of villages and

schools by outreach teams from a number of local eye hospitals. Following these camps, individuals are provided with glasses or referred for further treatment, such as corrective eye surgery. Eye Health Awareness schemes have also been implemented across schools and villages of the district, raising the profile of this issue at a community level and encouraging those with visual difficulties to seek for the appropriate support. The uptake of government eye health services has increased dramatically as a direct result of this scheme. Consequently, the scheme has also promoted the use of government hospitals for a range of other health complaints, further improving the health of local communities.

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## CTRD TRUST FACTS

<b>Name of the Organization</b>	<b>Centre for Tribals and Rural Development Trust</b>
<b>Address</b>	Indra Nagar, Nanthatty (PO) Gudalur - 643 212, The Nilgiris, Tamil Nadu
<b>Phone</b>	+91 (0) 4262 – 262972
<b>Email</b>	<a href="mailto:ctrdtrust@gmail.com">ctrdtrust@gmail.com</a>
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.ctrdtrust.org">www.ctrdtrust.org</a>
<b>Chief Functionary</b>	RS. Ranganthen. Managing Trustee Mobile: +91 (0) 94430 20232  +91 (0) 75501 52381
<b>Organization Registration Details</b>	Registered under <i>Indian Trust Act</i> Register Number: 74/95, Date: 12/07/1995 Reconstituted Register No: 25/2002 Supplementary Deed Register No: 97/2004 Reconstitution Register No.33/2016 dated 07/09/2016
<b>FCRA details</b>	Registered under the <i>Foreign Contribution Regulation Act 1976</i> Register Number: 075970079 Date: 27/07/1992
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