



# UTMT Society Annual Report

ANNUAL REPORT 2023 TO 2024



# Foreword

Another year, another harvest of hope.

As we reflect on 2023–24, it is clear that the work of Under The Mango Tree Society has deepened its roots while continuing to branch outward with purpose. Our interventions reached 1,505 farmers across Gujarat, Maharashtra, and Madhya Pradesh, expanding not just the scale, but the soul of our mission.

This year marked a pivotal shift. Beekeeping evolved beyond a supplementary livelihood into a recognised, community-owned enterprise. Our Apiary Initiative helped transform skilled beekeepers into trainers, producers, and micro-entrepreneurs. Across Gujarat, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh, farmers are now running local apiaries, extracting honey sustainably, and mentoring their peers.

At UTMT Society, we believe the strength of our transformation lies in the partnerships we build. With the support of our collaborators, we have been able to develop robust training modules, offer structured support to new beekeepers, strengthen our systems, and restore pollinator ecosystems—enhancing climate adaptation for Adivasi households in remote rural villages.

Each partner played a role in shaping our vision of climate-resilient rural livelihoods. What binds these efforts together is the trust placed by our communities and their capacity to lead. Women emerged as confident beekeepers. Resource Centres became community anchors for knowledge exchange.

Throughout it all, our teams ensured we stayed responsive and grounded. Their timely insights helped course-correct when needed, reinforcing our mission.

This report is a story of possibility. It captures the learnings, impact, and energy that carried us through the year, and prepares us for the challenges and opportunities ahead.

With gratitude to our Board, our Donors and the communities we serve,

Sujana Krishnamoorthy  
Executive Director





# Our Roots and Reach

## 2010–2012 – From Pilot to Proof

Pilot projects launched in Dharampur and Surgana with BAIF Development Research Foundation. We trained initial farmer cohorts, observed local honey-hunting practices, and documented the role of *Apis cerana indica* in Adivasi livelihoods. These years grounded our approach in data, community insight, and ecological observation.

## 2009 – The Seed is Planted

The “Bees for Poverty Reduction” concept note was drafted in 2009, driven by the idea that sustainable beekeeping could increase agricultural productivity and farmer income. Our founder, Vijaya Pastala, envisioned a model rooted in sustainability, ecology, and economic equity.

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## 2013–2017 – Building the Beekeeper Network

Training centres expanded across Gujarat and Maharashtra, and the first generation of Master Trainers emerged. We moved from isolated clusters to district-level interventions, with beekeepers beginning to share knowledge locally. By 2017, our impact had reached thousands of farmers and over 100 villages.

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## 2018–2022 – Livelihoods and Leadership

Beekeeping grew beyond just a source of supplemental income. With long-term partnerships and sustained farmer mentorship, women and youth began taking the lead in beekeeping activities and promoting them within their communities. Some even progressed to become trainers themselves. This laid a strong foundation for positioning bees as an essential agricultural input.





## 2023–24 – Beekeepers as Pollinator Ambassadors

This year was one of quiet, meaningful progress.

Across our project areas, communities deepened their understanding of sustainable beekeeping and worked together to strengthen local livelihoods; harvesting over 24,200 kilograms of honey. It reminded us once again that when communities care for nature, nature gives back in abundance.

To support thriving pollinator landscapes, farmers planted more than 19,000 saplings and over 16,600 kg of beefriendly seeds, enriching the biodiversity around their farms. With more community beekeeping centres (five) now active, there is space for everyone to learn, exchange knowledge, and grow together.

Women remained at the heart of this journey, stepping forward for training, adopting sustainable practices, and weaving beekeeping into their agricultural routines, strengthening both their households and their ecosystems.



# Overall Impact: FY 2023-24

The impact was visible not just in numbers but in outcomes. Across our working regions, beekeeping served as a catalyst for income generation, ecological awareness, food security, and local leadership.

Farmers began taking ownership of their bee-hives, women led harvests with confidence, and communities witnessed first-hand how a single beehive could improve the productivity of entire fields.

This year, UTMT Society reached 1,505 new farmers across three states, combining basic training with continuous mentorship and equipment support.

The focus was not only to onboard new beekeepers, but also to strengthen the capacities of those already trained.



State	Farmers Trained
Gujarat	798
Maharashtra	476
Madhya Pradesh	231
Total	1,505



- Over the year, our programme engaged 4,021 beekeepers in 263 villages and 16 blocks. When each beekeeper placed beehives on his or her land, two plot-neighbours also experienced pollination impact, this way reaching over 12,000 households, impacting an estimated 60,000 lives assuming an average of five people per household.
- Across all states, 868 women (58% of the participants) trained in sustainable beekeeping added new income streams and stepped into leadership roles within their communities.
- Community beekeepers managed 10,188 hives with support from seasonal workshops, one-on-one coaching and forage planting. They harvested 24,293 kg of honey, selling 16,339 kg locally to support their families.
- Reflecting on our roots, 165 former honey hunters adopted sustainable techniques in harvesting honey from *A. dorsata* hives— merging traditional foraging wisdom with mindful stewardship.
- Village-level Resource Centres provided hands-on advice on hive care, quality checks and repairs. They also hosted various trainings in input supply chain development, strengthening beekeeping green value chain.





# Gujarat





In 2023-24, our beekeeping initiatives continued to grow across Gujarat's Adivasi belts, supporting climate-resilient livelihoods while empowering women and promoting sustainable agriculture. Our approach combined hands-on training, technical support and continuous monitoring to ensure that beekeeping practices are adopted and sustained over the long term.

### Where We Worked

- Valsad: Dharampur & Kaprada blocks
- Tapi: Dolvan & Vyara blocks
- Dangs: Ahwa, Subir & Waghai blocks
- Navsari: Vansda block

These locations were chosen for their agro-climatic suitability for beekeeping and due to the strong presence of smallholder Adivasi farming communities, ensuring that our interventions reach those who can benefit the most.



## Key Highlights

- Total Reach: 790+ farmers trained
- Women Beneficiaries: 189
- Market Linkage: Farmer Producer Organization/FPO Strengthened: 1
- Honey harvested sustainably:  
Total 11,202 kg





# Deepening Roots, Growing Resilience

In 2023–24, Under The Mango Tree Society strengthened its presence in Gujarat, advancing beekeeping-based initiatives that support climate-resilient livelihoods. Our work spanned the Adivasi-belts of Valsad (Dharampur & Kaprada blocks), Tapi (Dolvan & Vyara blocks), Dangs (Ahwa, Subir & Waghai), and new interventions in Navsari (Vansda). These biodiverse yet vulnerable regions offered fertile ground for promoting beekeeping as both sustainable income source and a nature-based climate-adaptation strategy.

Through long-term collaboration with partners, we focused on reaching marginalized communities, especially women, equipping them with the knowledge, equipment, and confidence to integrate beekeeping into their farming practices. Over 798 individuals were trained in sustainable beekeeping. One Farmer Producer Organization, **Vandevi Honey & Agriculture Producer Company Limited**, was strengthened to improve market linkage for beekeeping value-chain.

Beekeeping contributes to climate adaptation in multiple ways: by supporting pollination, it strengthens carbon-sequestering plants and resilient ecosystems, enhances biodiversity, and promotes more reliable food systems. In this context, women like Bhartiben from the Dangs district exemplify the impact of our work. Initially hesitant, she now manages six active beehives and mentors other women in her village. Her earnings from beekeeping provide a dependable supplement to seasonal farm income, reducing vulnerability to unpredictable weather patterns.

Through these efforts, UTMT Society continues to nurture both livelihoods and ecosystems, helping communities adapt to climate challenges while fostering sustainable growth.





# Outcomes, Insights, and the Road Ahead

Our work in Gujarat this year centred on a simple idea: when farmers receive the right handholding support at the right time, beekeeping becomes a powerful tool for resilience. Through a blended model of theoretical-training, hands-on demonstrations, and steady field support, beekeepers learned to manage colonies with confidence. Regular visits by Field Supervisors and data-driven insights from the Monitoring and Evaluation team helped us respond quickly to challenges and refine our approach throughout the year.

Aligned with agricultural seasons, activities- community mobilisation, trainings, and distribution of starter kits- fit naturally into farmers' existing rhythms. The results were clear: farmers reported better crop yields, enhanced pollination, and a gradual return of biodiversity around their fields.

One of the most encouraging outcomes was the rise of women leaders. Many not only adopted beekeeping but also stepped into roles guiding others in their social circles, strengthening both livelihoods and local ecosystems.

Unseasonal rains disrupted colony cycles, but continuous follow-up and community-led problem solving helped keep progress on track.

Looking ahead, UTMT Society aims to deepen its presence in Gujarat, extend to new districts, and pilot small enterprises around value-added bee products. Each thriving hive brings us closer to landscapes where both people and pollinators can adapt, regenerate, and thrive together.





**“My life has been profoundly impacted by beekeeping. The extra money that honeybees brought into my house has enhanced my family's well-being and provided me with a reliable source of income. Now my community respects me for what I have been able to achieve. All of this was made possible by honeybees alone.”**

Meet Sarlaben Ganvit, a resilient beekeeper

Sarlaben lives with her husband and sons,  
practices farming on 3 acres of land

Dangs district,  
Gujarat



A woman, Sarlaben Ganvit, is shown from the waist up, smiling and holding a wooden frame with bees on it. She is wearing a purple and blue patterned sari. The background is a lush green field with trees.

# Meet Sarlaben Ganvit - A Dedicated Beekeeper

In 2022, Sarlaben enrolled for UTMT Society's beekeeping training programme. Before this, her family's 3-acre farm produced just enough for subsistence, leaving little room for income or security. But with guidance and technical support, she embarked on a journey that brought transformation and stability.

Soon after the training, Sarlaben filled her first Cerana beehive and received bee-friendly flora such as sunhemp, long beans, pigeon pea, mustard, and drumstick. Her excitement grew with each passing day, and now she manages seven thriving beehives.

She recalls how she once doubted the power of pollination. But after placing beehives in her fields, she observed noticeable improvements in the productivity of crops like corn, flat beans, guava, and mango.

## The Impact

Sarlaben also extracted 10 kg of honey, of which she sold 9 kg and earned ₹4,500. What once felt like a distant possibility—making meaningful income from farming — was now becoming a reality.

This boost allowed her to sell surplus produce in the market — earning over ₹ 20,000 from the sale of harvests that previously never reached such volumes. Before beekeeping, her husband had to migrate out of the village in search of work. But today, he is able to stay at home and support the family's livelihood through farming and beekeeping, thanks to the increased income and opportunity that bees have brought.



# Meet Heenaben Chaudhari - A Master Trainer



Lives with her family and earns through farming and animal husbandry on 1 acre of land

Dolvan block, Tapi district, Gujarat

In December 2023, 42-year-old Heenaben took a step that would change the course of her livelihood—she joined the beekeeping training programme conducted by UTMT Society. Her aim was clear - she wanted to increase farm yields, generate additional income by selling surplus crops, and have access to honey for her family's consumption.

She began with just one Cerana beehive. But her interest and determination quickly led her to expand—adding another Cerana hive and a Trigona hive to her agricultural land. Initially skeptical of pollination's effect on crop yield, Heenaben's perception changed when she witnessed how bees worked on mango and moringa flowers. The resulting rise in crop production spoke for itself. What was once doubt had turned into deep conviction.

**“Before this, I didn’t know bees could bring so much change. Now I want to help others realise that protecting bees means protecting our future.”**

Inspired by her experience, Heenaben has become a vocal advocate for sustainable beekeeping in her village. She encourages others to stop harmful honey-hunting and to adopt sustainable beekeeping practices. She also cautions against pesticide use because it threatens the very pollinators that help their farms thrive.

UTMT Society selected her to be trained as a Master Trainer, and today, Heenaben mentors seven trainee beekeepers in her village. Her journey in beekeeping has included multiple trainings—from basic introductory workshops to advanced modules on colony transfer and seasonal management.



# Meet Asmita Kurkutiya - A Transformative Beekeeper



Lives in a joint family of 10, including her husband and two children

Dharampur Block, Valsad District, Gujarat

Asmita Kurkutiya, a farmer from Bhesdhara village, initially joined the first orientation because women were given preference. But what followed, however was transformative.

Educated up to Grade 12 and actively involved in her family's three acre farm, Asmita had never learned about the critical role of bees in agriculture. She says, *"For the first time, someone acknowledged our work and taught us how essential bees are to our farms and food."*

*"It has been a year since I started beekeeping – I understand and have seen for myself that it has a huge market, which is why I want to be part of it as an apiarist. Beekeeping is an untapped input for smallholders and should be explored further. I am thankful for all the training support received from UTMT Society. It has helped me improve my beekeeping skills and to understand the wonderful bees. I pledge to save bees because beekeeping has given me a new direction and hope for a better future."*

Trained in 2022 by UTMT Society, Asmita now manages three filled beehives on her land. Initially afraid of bees, she now inspects her beehives independently. Thanks to post-training handholding support, she feels confident and skilled. *"I have harvested a better crop of mustard this year—at least a 20% increase,"* she says proudly, *"and that has motivated me to scale up my agriculture."*

Beekeeping, she explains, has changed her life. *"Unlike other work, it's less time- consuming and easy to manage. It supports my farming without exhausting me."* Her improved yields and growing confidence have also inspired other women in her village to adopt beekeeping, leading to a reduced dependence on labour work outside the village



# Maharashtra





In 2023–24, UTMT Society trained 476 farmers in sustainable beekeeping across Maharashtra, supported by our committed donor partners. Our work focused on the Adivasi belts of Palghar–Dahanu, Jawhar, Mokhada, Talasari, and Vikramgad—and expanded into Surgana- Nashik district.

These regions, where families depend heavily on smallholder agriculture, offer ideal conditions for beekeeping and meaningful opportunities for income diversification. With a strong emphasis on women's participation, our approach combined practical training, field-level guidance, and continuous monitoring to ensure that beekeeping becomes a lasting part of rural livelihoods.

By equipping farmers with knowledge and tools, we are helping communities adopt a climate-resilient practice that strengthens both incomes and ecosystems.



## Key Highlights

- Total trained: 476 beekeepers trained
- Women Beneficiaries: 185
- Honey Harvested: 4,265 kg





# Sowing Seeds, Cultivating Change

In the remote Adivasi hamlets of Maharashtra's Palghar and Nashik districts, the familiar buzz of bees has begun to signal something deeper—resilience, revival, and renewed income. Over the past year, UTMT Society strengthened its work across blocks of Talasari, Mokhada, Jawhar, Dahanu, and Surgana, transforming these villages into emerging beekeeping hubs where the climate and native flora allow local bees to thrive.

This progress was made possible through the support of our partners, whose contributions brought knowledge, equipment, and confidence directly to the homes of smallholder families.

Our journey began with floral and climatic assessments to identify villages best suited for beekeeping. Awareness sessions—often led by experienced local beekeepers—helped dispel fears, especially among women who were initially uncertain about working with bees. A turning point came during a field exposure visit to Dhamangaon, where women farmers saw thriving apiaries for the first time and could finally picture themselves as beekeepers.

Most participants were new to the practice, yet eager to learn about pollination, bee biology, and colony management. Many are already witnessing improvements in guava, lemon, and cluster bean yields—early signs of stronger pollination and healthier farms. As understanding grows, so does demand: neighbouring villages increasingly seek to join the programme, recognising how bees support climate adaptation, strengthen crops, and reduce input costs for small farmers.

What began as a set of beekeeping trainings is steadily becoming a movement—one where communities are cultivating resilience, nurturing biodiversity, and sowing the seeds of long-term change.





# A Community Led by Bees and Women

This year, beekeeping in Maharashtra became far more than a livelihood activity — it became a people's movement. What changed the most was not the number of beehives placed, but the strength of the hands and networks that now care for them.

UTMT Society trained a new cadre of Master Trainers — local women and men who mentor beekeepers year-round, right in their own hamlets. Their guidance has boosted confidence, improved colony health, and significantly reduced honey-hunting in nearby forests, helping protect bees and biodiversity. With every visit they make, communities grow more skilled, more secure, and more hopeful.

Strengthening bee forage stayed at the core of our work. Farmers planted lemon, jamun, guava, moringa and native seeds like sunhemp, brinjal, bottle gourd and cluster bean — plants that nourish bees and households alike. What was once subsistence farming is slowly becoming an ecological livelihood system where crops, nutrition, and pollinators thrive together.

Community ownership lit the path forward. On World Bee Day, over 300 farmers, staff, and supporters walked together in Talasari in a spirited rally celebrating pollinators and women's leadership. Dr. Lakshmi Rao, former Asst Director, Central Bee Research and Training Institute, Pune joined us, strengthening our bee flora plans and encouraging the distribution of bee-friendly saplings and seeds.

When partners from First Abu Dhabi Bank visited, beekeepers proudly opened their beehives, demonstrated techniques, and shared their dreams. Their observations are already guiding stronger mentoring and operational support for the coming season.

Women took centre stage throughout the year. Gatherings around International Women's Day and World Bee Day turned into vibrant learning circles where farmers exchanged tips to improve fruit and vegetable yields. Many women have since formed peer groups—spaces where they troubleshoot, cheer each other on, and lead with quiet determination.

For households once dependent on unpredictable wages, beekeeping is becoming a pathway to stability, dignity, and leadership. What began as a project is now a growing grassroots movement—led by women, powered by bees, and rooted in community resilience.





**“Beekeeping is minimum effort and maximum return. I want to continue beekeeping in the years to come. Since I became a Master Trainer, I’ve been able to stay in my village, work locally, and continue learning. I’ve observed more bees on my crops—guava, mango, banana, jamun, bottle gourd—than ever before. This year, I sold 20 units of bottle gourd, almost double of what I managed earlier. I enjoy learning more about bees every day. It’s not just work—it’s become a way of life.”**

Meet Santosh Barhya, Master Trainer and beekeeper

Practices subsistence agriculture on  
Two acres of land

Palghar District,  
Maharashtra





# Meet Santosh Barhya - A Master Trainer

A resident of Varwada village, Santosh Barhya used to work as a labourer in the orchards of Umbergaon, where he saw beehives but never knew their purpose.

Earning an annual income of ₹32,000, Santosh's life revolved around seasonal labour and farming with limited yield. But after receiving training in September 2022, things began to shift. He quickly grasped sustainable beekeeping and soon emerged as a promising learner. Recognising his potential, UTMT Society selected him for the Master Trainer programme — a turning point that gave him both direction and dignity.

Today, Santosh maintains four filled beehives on his own farm and, as a Master Trainer, inspects and monitors 33 beehives belonging to 16 other beekeepers in his village.

## The Impact

*“The technical work as a Master Trainer is more regular and reliable compared to the seasonal labour jobs, which are meagre in pay and extremely taxing,” he says. “Plus, I don’t have to migrate anymore. I can stay in the village, continue farming, and keep learning.”*

Santosh now earns a monthly stipend of ₹1,700 for his work as a Master Trainer. But for him, the value goes beyond money.

Since placing beehives on his land, he has observed a significant increase in the presence of bees on guava, mango, jamun, and bottle gourd plants. This year, his bottle gourd sales were double that of the previous year. He has also extracted 700 grams of honey sustainably from his own beehives.



# Meet Sandesh Bhadange - A Beekeeper



Supports a family of nine; practices subsistence farming and seasonal labour

Talasari Block,  
Palghar District,  
Maharashtra

Before his training in October 2022, Sandesh Bhadange had no understanding of pollination's role in agriculture. But what he lacked in knowledge, he made up for in willingness to learn.

Working on two acres of land and earning around ₹45,000–50,000 a year, Sandesh often took up labour work outside the village for over three months annually. *"Though we manage somehow, there's always financial stress,"* he shares. *"Even minor illnesses or social events stretch our resources thin."*

But change came with his first filled beehive and the consistent farm-gate support he received from the UTMT Society team. The training and assurance of handholding support gave him the confidence to step into beekeeping.

*"The project intervention has helped me scale up agriculture and improve income from sale of surpluses. The assurance from team UTMT Society on continuous support filled me and others with confidence to take up beekeeping. I am happy that I took the decision to take up beekeeping, and now I am contributing to conserving the environment by improving the pollination cover of the village."*

Sandesh particularly benefited from the bee flora intervention — planting crops like sunhemp and vegetables that improved both his yield and his family's nutrition. His harvest of bottle gourd was shared with relatives and sold in the local market, while the sunhemp earned him ₹3,500. The vegetable seeds he received also saved him around ₹200 a week in purchases.

Sandesh is now skilled in filling beehives and actively supports other trainee beekeepers. He has harvested 1 kg of honey so far and aims to scale up his practice by placing more beehives on his land.



# Madhya Pradesh





In Madhya Pradesh, UTMT Society's beekeeping-based livelihood model continued to take root across Chhindwara district, setting the stage for a strong five-year expansion. With active community participation and steady donor support, smallholder farmers learned sustainable beekeeping practices that enhance biodiversity and create new income opportunities—especially for women.

**Where We Worked — Chhindwara**  
**District Blocks:** Junnardeo, Parasiya, Tamiya

These locations were chosen for their rich ecological potential, strong Adivasi farming communities, and their readiness to adopt practices that build long-term livelihood security.



## Key Highlights

- Total Trained: 231 beekeepers trained
- Women Beneficiaries: 94
- Honey Harvested: 982 kgs





# Growing Wings in New Forests

In the heart of Central India, the forests of Chhindwara are humming with a new kind of energy — one powered by bees, biodiversity, and the resilience of Adivasi communities. The year 2023–24 was a defining one for UTMT Society’s work in Madhya Pradesh, as sustainable beekeeping began to take deeper root across the district.

UTMT Society’s approach was intentional and phased. Farmers in long-standing village-clusters across Junnardeo and Parasiya continued to receive close support, while this year laid a strong foundation for a five-year scale-up — growing from 225 to 400 beekeepers and gradually expanding into new villages by 2028–29.

Local meetings became powerful gathering spaces where farmers first encountered the idea of sustainable beekeeping and biodiversity-led agriculture. Experienced beekeepers shared their journeys — how bees improved their crops, restored nearby forests, and reduced the reliance on harmful honey-hunting practices. These stories sparked curiosity, pride, and empathy across communities.

Awareness sessions brought entire villages together, including traditional honey-hunter families. Conversations turned into collective reflections: how bees support every farm, how traditional knowledge paired with sustainable methods can protect forests, and how pollinator care can transform livelihoods. Many community members said, “Bees matter to all of us—our fields, our forests, and our future.”

A quiet but powerful shift has begun. With each new beekeeper and each new village ready to learn, Chhindwara’s forests are growing not just honey—but hope.



# Bees, Biodiversity, and Local Leadership

One of the greatest strengths of the Madhya Pradesh programme has been its investment in local leadership. Master Trainers serving as leaders who now form the backbone of the initiative. They conduct regular handholding visits, manage community apiaries, and guide farmers through seasonal challenges. Their impact is as motivational as it is technical.

As Master Trainer Madhu Pilela shared, “After placing just five beehives, I harvested more mango, guava, sesame, and honey than I ever thought possible. I now teach others what bees taught me.”

Nature, too, is being strengthened through human hands. Madhya Pradesh received a substantial share of saplings and seeds under the **Trees for Bees** campaign – mango, guava, moringa, pigeon pea, mustard, watermelon, brinjal and more. These plantings nourish both people and pollinators, enriching farms while restoring local biodiversity.

Advocacy remained a powerful pillar this year. UTMT Society participated in regional events with the **Adiwasi Vikas Parishad** and the **National Bee Board** at Balaghat. On World Environment Day, UTMT Society representatives joined experts on Hindustan Times and Red FM, spotlighting the connection between pollinator decline and food insecurity.

Practical infrastructure also grew alongside awareness. A Beekeeping Resource Centre was set up at Junnardeo, serving as a training space and equipment hub for farmers.

And on the ground, a remarkable cultural shift is unfolding. Many traditional honey hunters—once dependent on cutting hives from the forest—are now choosing to preserve wild colonies and sell them to local farmers for nurturing in beehives. This transition allows them to earn an income while safeguarding the very pollinators that sustain their forests and fields.

What began as a livelihood programme is becoming a movement—led by local champions, rooted in biodiversity, and guided by the quiet, steady work of bees.





**“Prior to beekeeping, I was engaged in honey hunting, destroying 25 to 35 colonies every year. If I had known earlier that indigenous bees can be reared in beehives, I would have never destroyed bee colonies like I have in the past. After attending UTMT Society’s training and sensitisation sessions, I stopped honey hunting and began building beehives myself. Today, I have 10 filled beehives on my land. My agricultural produce – especially chickpea, green pea, and mustard – has almost doubled. The bee flora support has ensured that my family and I are able to eat a full meal. People from nearby villages now come to visit my farm to understand the benefits of beekeeping in agriculture. Beekeeping has not only given me hope to expand my farming but also a new identity as a beekeeper.”**

Meet Munnilal Raj Baithe, A reformed honey hunter turned beekeeper

Practicing sustainable beekeeping  
replacing traditional honey hunting

Parasia block,  
Chhindwara district,  
Madhya Pradesh





# Meet Munnilal Bhai

Learning about the ecological importance of indigenous bees made him rethink his past.

Determined to change, Munnilal not only gave up honey hunting but also built five beehives himself. He now has ten filled beehives placed across his farmland—a visible symbol of his transformation.

## The Impact

Since adopting beekeeping in October 2023, Munnilal has witnessed a remarkable boost in his farm yields. His produce has nearly doubled. The beeflora support from UTMT Society has added further value, helping him and his family access better nutrition.

He notes that they now “**eat a full meal**” — a simple phrase that captures the profound shift in food security for his household.





# Rounding up

This year, UTMT Society's work took a gentle but meaningful turn — one rooted not in products, but in care, climate resilience, and community wisdom. Across our field locations, beekeepers experienced first-hand how tending to bees can also mean tending to the land, to their crops, and to their own sense of stability.

In Kerala, four team members — Manilalbhai, Mahendra, Mujahid, and Vaishnavi — joined a hands-on workshop to learn how natural bee-based ingredients can support everyday wellness. Together, they learnt crafting soothing 250 lip balms and 25 pain balms using honey, beeswax, and locally available herbs. Those first batches found a home at Krushi Mahotsav in Gujarat, where the team sold balms worth ₹5,100 and saw the spark of a new community-built wellness venture.

This year was also about pausing, observing, and reconnecting with the landscape. Dr. Lakshmi Rao from CBRTI guided UTMT Society in flora assessments, resulting in deepened understanding of the plants that sustain bees — and in turn sustain small farms. Her insights inspired the planting of thousands of beefriendly saplings and distribution of seeds, strengthening pollinator forage and helping communities adapt to shifting climate patterns.

UTMT Society teams were equally humbled by the warmth of our partners and supporters, who spent a day in the villages listening to farmers' stories—their anxieties about erratic rainfall, their hopes for more resilient harvests, and the quiet confidence they gained from keeping bees.

On **International Women's Day** and **World Bee Day**, more than 150 farmers gathered for workshops that felt like family circles—exchanging hive wisdom, celebrating women's leadership, and planting seeds that will nourish both bees and people in the years to come.

UTMT Society's focus remains rooted in what truly matters: strengthening smallholder resilience, improving pollination for healthier crops, restoring biodiversity, and ensuring that communities feel supported and hopeful in the face of a changing climate.

What began with simple beekeeping is now blossoming into a deeper understanding—that when we care for bees, we care for the land, and when the land thrives, so do the people who depend on it.



# Finance Report





# Financial Report - Balance Sheet

**Name of the Public Trust : UNDER THE MANGO TREE SOCIETY**  
**Income & Expenditure Account for the year ending : 31st March, 2024**

**Trust Registration No. F39609**

2022-23	FUNDS & LIABILITIES	2023-24	2022-23	PROPERTY & ASSETS	2023-24
2,04,216	<b>Trusts Funds or Corpus :-</b>	2,05,282		<b>Immovable Properties:- (At Cost)</b>	
1,066	Balance as per last Balance Sheet		8,95,495	<b>Fixed Assets :-</b>	
2,05,282	Add: Corpus donation received during the year	2,05,282	27,57,581	Balance as per last Balance Sheet	29,64,889
	<b>Other Earmarked Funds :-</b>		a	Additions during the year	-
	(Created under the provision of the trust deed or scheme or out of the income)		(6,88,187)	<b>Less: Sales during the year</b>	
	Depreciation Fund		29,64,889	Depreciation up to date	(7,25,866)
45,79,687	Sinking Fund	50,46,558			22,39,023
45,79,687	Reserve Fund	50,46,558		<b>Investments :-</b>	
	Any Other Fund	50,46,558		<b>Loans (Secured &amp; Unsecured) : Good/doubtful</b>	
	<b>Loans (Secured &amp; Unsecured) :-</b>			Loan Scholarships	-
	From Trustees			Other Loans	-
	From Others				
65,61,321	<b>Liabilities :-</b>	72,40,600		<b>Advances :-</b>	
	For Expenses		2,39,856	To Trustees	-
	For Advances			To Employees	-
	For Rent & Other Deposits		8,84,695	To Contractors	-
	For Sundry Credit Balances		11,78,551	To Lawyers	-
65,61,321	Funder Balance	72,40,600		To Others	14,19,310
	<b>Income &amp; Expenditure Account :-</b>				14,19,310
(33,61,982)	Balance as per last Balance Sheet (27,02,403)			<b>Income Outstanding :-</b>	
	Less: Appropriation; if any			Rent	-
6,59,578	Add: Surplus as per Income and 7,14,949	(19,87,454)		Interest	-
(27,02,404)	Less: Deficit Expenditure Account -	(19,87,454)		Other Income	-
			45,00,447	<b>Cash and Bank Balances :-</b>	
				(a) In Current Account with banks	68,46,653
				In Fixed Deposit Accounts with -	-
				(b) With the Trustee	-
				(c) With the Manager cash balance	-
			45,00,447		68,46,653
				<b>Income and Expenditure Account :-</b>	
				Balance as per last Balance Sheet	
				<b>Less: Appropriation; if any</b>	
				<b>Add: Deficit as per Income and</b>	
				<b>Less: Surplus Expenditure Account</b>	
86,43,887	<b>Total (INR)</b>	1,05,04,986	86,43,887	<b>Total (INR)</b>	1,05,04,986
As per our report of even date			For Under The Mango Tree Society		
(Preeti Parasrampur)					
for S. P. Gupta & Associates			Vijaylaxmi Amrit Pastala		
Chartered Accountants			Naheed Carrimjee		
F.R.No.103445W			Mukul Gupte		
			Trustee		
			Date: 25.09.2024		





## UNDER THE MANGO TREE SOCIETY

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