ANNUAL REPORT
FY 2023-2024

IMPACT CATALYST FOUNDATION

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Planting Possibility: Why Trees, Why Now

At Impact Catalyst Foundation (ICF), we approach development not in silos, but as a deeply interconnected system where health, livelihoods, and climate action are inseparable. Our work in **Kanakapura** over 2023–2024 is a living example of this philosophy.

In a time of escalating climate stress, shrinking biodiversity, and rural economic vulnerability, we chose to invest in something simple yet deeply strategic: **trees**. But not just planting them - we committed to **growing them, with care**.

This wasn't a campaign. It was a system intervention. A commitment to **regenerative ecosystems**, **climate-smart communities**, and **long-term wellbeing**. From farmers who see trees as future income, to school children who see them as companions and classrooms, this initiative was rooted in co-ownership and designed to scale without extraction.

By bridging **science and stewardship** and integrating our efforts with schools, farmers, and public systems, we moved beyond environmental symbolism into meaningful, measurable change. The Thattekere model exemplifies how one initiative can advance multiple SDGs while remaining people-centred and planet-positive.

This annual report shares how nearly 10,000 new trees and over 20,000 cumulative saplings are now a shared responsibility across generations. It is a story of **partnership, possibility, and persistence**, anchored in the soil and soaring toward the future.

Team ICF
Impact Catalyst Foundation

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Impact Catalyst Foundation (ICF), registered under Section 8 (1) of the Companies Act 2013 company with 12A, 80G, and CSR registration status, was founded on April 12, 2021 with the purpose of doing charitable activities in the main domain areas of Health, Livelihood, Workforce Wellbeing and Climate

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Impact at a Glance…

INR 30 Lakhs invested over 3 years has unlocked…

Particulars	Estimate	Details
Total Trees Grown	15,113 trees	Native & agroforestry mix
Area Covered	Approx. 30.23 hectares	500 trees/hectare (assumed)
Carbon Sequestration	Approx. 332.5 tons of CO2e/year	15,113 trees × 22 kg CO2e/tree/year
Carbon Credits Value	Approx. 90,000 USD (76 Lakh INR) worth of Carbon Credits over 25 years	Cost of credits assumed at USD 15/credit
Cumulative Carbon Sequestration (Over 20 years)	Approx. 6,650 tons of CO2e	Long-term cumulative potential
Water Saved / Infiltration	Approx. 30-40 million liters/year	Reduced runoff, canopy cover (1-1.5 lakh liters/ha/year)
Soil Health Improvement	0.2 to 0.3% SOC (Soil Organic Carbon) Improvement over 5-7 years	organic carbon in the soil will increase by 0.2% to 0.3% in absolute terms.
Biodiversity Boost	50+ native species revived, micro-habitats created	Ecosystem restoration, pollinators, birds, and fauna
Microclimate Benefits	Temperature moderation by 2-3°C locally reduced heat stress	Better human & animal wellbeing
Farmer Livelihoods Impacted	100 Families	Based on lighter intervention, indirect benefits
Tangible Economic Returns	₹60 lakhs to ₹1 crore over 10 years	Agroforestry produce, fodder, fuelwood, shade crops
Community & Ecosystem Co-benefits	Microclimate, heat stress reduction, biodiversity restoration	

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The Broader Vision: Beyond Plantation

The Thattekere initiative stands at the confluence of ICF's three core domains:

Climate Action

Native trees were selected through rigorous ecological and soil analysis, strengthening biodiversity, improving soil moisture retention, and contributing to long-term carbon sequestration. By working through monsoons and heatwaves alike, we ensured year-round care and survival of each sapling. In a region increasingly vulnerable to climate volatility, these trees now function as living buffers, ecological regenerators, and community assets.

Livelihoods

Over 50 small and marginal farmers were engaged directly, with sapling species aligned to their needs, be it fruit-bearing trees for nutritional and market value, or timber species for long-term income. Additionally, the programme created a cadre of **local youth climate champions** who took responsibility for monitoring, watering, and educating their peers, thereby strengthening accountability and generating new pathways for skill-building and green employment.

Health

Trees are not just carbon sinks; they are **protectors of public health**. By reducing dust, improving air quality, and creating shaded spaces around schools and homes, this initiative contributed to respiratory wellbeing, heat mitigation, and enhanced mental and emotional health, especially for children, the elderly, and women who spend long hours outdoors. Further, many of the bio-resource trees planted have **medicinal and nutritional value**, embedding wellness into the very fabric of the land.

Focus Areas of the Project

- **Planting 14+ varieties of native trees**, selected for biodiversity restoration, drought resistance, and long-term utility
- **Active involvement of local farmers, schools, and community members** to drive local ownership and reduce dependency
- **School integration** with tree care curricula embedded into classroom activities, practical sessions, and climate awareness programmes
- **Post-plantation care** including watering schedules, pest management, and quarterly audits by agri-scientists and local youth

Methodology: From Planning to Growth

ICF's tree growth methodology continued to follow a **science-led, community-owned model**:

1. **Soil & Ecological Analysis**
    - Ensured each site was suitable for native species survival
    - Factored in rainfall, slope, erosion patterns, and community needs
2. **Sapling Selection**
    - Priority given to trees that support biodiversity, water retention, shade, and sustainable resource generation
3. **Plantation Execution**
    - Conducted during monsoon for highest survival
    - Each sapling geo-tagged and tracked for follow-up
4. **Quarterly Audits**
    - Health assessments included foliage density, root development, and canopy spread
    - Saplings failing to thrive were replaced in the next suitable cycle
5. **Community Mobilisation**
    - Farmer training and knowledge sessions
    - School-based competitions, clean-up drives, and tree storytelling workshops

In 2023–2024, Impact Catalyst Foundation advanced its integrated tree growth initiative in Thattekere, Kanakapura, planting 9,985 native trees, maintaining over 11,000 from the previous year, and replanting saplings lost to climate stress—all while achieving an impressive 80% survival rate. By expanding the effort into local government schools and embedding tree stewardship within communities, the initiative demonstrated ICF's commitment to ecological resilience, rural livelihoods, and grassroots-led planetary health, thus shifting the focus from tree planting as a one-time act to long-term, community-owned environmental care.

Why This Matters: Integrated Impact at the Grassroots

This is not just a plantation project. It is a **climate-resilient livelihood initiative** that protects **community health**. It brings together the regenerative power of nature, the resilience of rural knowledge, and the foresight of catalytic philanthropy.

- For a young student, it's a lesson in stewardship.
- For a farmer, it's a long-term asset.
- For a family, it's cleaner air, shade, and dignity.
- For the planet, it's restoration that doesn't extract but gives back.

Looking Ahead: Growth with Intent

In 2024–25, we will continue to:

- **Replicate this model in other geographies** with similar climate vulnerabilities
- **Develop school-based tree guardianship toolkits**
- **Explore integration with health and nutrition missions**, especially where trees can support food security and bio-medicine
- **Strengthen data systems** to track impact across ecological, economic, and health indicators

Thattekere is not just a site—it is a system in motion. A growing testament to what is possible when **climate, livelihood, and health** are addressed **together**, not in silos.

At ICF, we remain committed to supporting ecosystems—both human and natural—that heal, adapt, and thrive. With every sapling that survives, every child who learns, and every farmer who stewards the land, we move one step closer to a future rooted in equity, resilience, and care.

Let's continue to grow, together.

Partnerships - *Darshak Vasavada, Innerwheel Rotary Club, Aster DM Healthcare, Karnataka Education Department, Jawahar Navodaya Schools, Moraji Desai Schools, GKVK and more.*

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Current Initiatives and Their Points of Continuity

1. **Tree Growth -** *The initiative will work towards the growth and survival of the 20,000 trees planted in Kanakapura, through regular farmer interactions, capacity building, and audits. Long-term incentives for tree survival will be provided through carbon credit opportunities - integration with the Climate Literacy Program (Detailed Below)*

2. **Bamboo Growth** - *Bamboo saplings will be planted this year. Farmers and plants will be monitored to understand the total demand for bamboo saplings, outputs, and to understand the cultural nuances of growing Bamboo. Over time, this will be integrated with the Climate Literacy Program (Detailed Below)*

Next Level of Initiatives Enabled via Trees

Results of a Working Model…

1. Taking our deep work in Thattekere on tree growth activities as a model that can be replicated, several organizations have approached Catalyst to replicate this model with small farmers across the country, using SHG/community models as the key driver

2. Large corporates have taken a leaf out of our book and have requested Catalyst to assist them with large-scale carbon sequestration work (5000 hectares and above) through tree growth

3. We have taken government schools as our primary target segment for the year, with commitments from One School At A Time (OSAAT) and others towards tree growth.

4. Tree Growth work has given shape to a model called **Integrated Land Development** - this includes soil/water restoration, agroforestry, regenerative agriculture, livelihoods, and financial inclusion. We will try out this model in Palghar, Maharashtra, and potentially with Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN)

5. We are exploring agroforestry and decarbonization options given our experience in trees and institutional partnerships, made as a result of our experience being well-received.

Keeping this progress in mind, we have decided to double down on 3 strategic models that are born through Tree Growth

Initiative 1: Climate Literacy Programs

India, with over 250 million school-going children, is among the most climate-vulnerable nations globally. Heatwaves, floods, and cyclones are already disrupting children's health, safety, and education.

A 2023 CAG study in Tamil Nadu found 73% of students lack basic climate change knowledge. This isn't just a knowledge gap—it's a preparedness gap. Children in flood zones don't understand early warning systems. Those in drought areas aren't taught water conservation. Youth facing heatwaves are unaware of heat action plans.

Despite 75% of Indian children being exposed to high climate risk (UNICEF), climate education remains largely missing from schools and informal learning spaces. Now, there's growing demand for localized, scalable climate education. Policies like NEP 2020 support integrating climate themes into curricula.

The space is seeing support from CSR, philanthropy, and multilateral agencies, while edtech tools, youth programs, and teacher training are gaining momentum, especially in high-risk regions.

Schools are being reimagined as hubs for community climate action. **Investing in climate literacy isn't just awareness—it's resilience, leadership, and equitable adaptation for a changing world.**

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Our Proposal:

- Creating **Climate Resilient Gram Panchayats (GPs) -** School driven Tree Growth initiatives, focused on native species lead to medium and long term improvements in Planetary & Human Health, and Local Ecologies while educating school children, engaging communities and creating local climate champions (explained below)

- **Climate Literacy Training Programs -** Educating school children on the benefits of ecological restoration through trees will be a comprehensive introductory education on the saplings planted, medium/long benefits of trees and ecological benefits. These accrue to communities, soil/water purification and carbon sequestration abilities of trees that are well taken care of - ensuring that climate smart practices seep into the community.

Initiative 2: Integrated Land Development

Leveraging our current work in tree planting we have identified several opportunities to improve local ecologies and power the benefits of trees. Recently we developed **Integrated Land Development (ILD)** , a concept that optimizes land use for agriculture, infrastructure, and economic growth while ensuring environmental sustainability and social equity. Key ILD components include sustainable agriculture, rural infrastructure, ecological restoration, social inclusion, and livelihood enhancement. ILD works on the following core pillars:

- **Enhancing Soil Health & Water Retention** – Implementing ecological restoration to improve moisture retention, nutrient cycling, and long-term productivity.

- **Water Conservation & Management** – Adopting sustainable practices to mitigate seasonal shortages.

- **Ecological Restoration** – Revitalizing landscapes to restore water cycles and biodiversity utilizing the power of native trees

- **Developing Climate-Resilient Crops** – Promoting adaptive farming for food security and ecosystem health.

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As a concept, ILD is being offered as a power-packed offering to several large private sector & other clients - LTPCT, Aga Khan Foundation, HSBC and more. ILD also offers a fantastic segue into layering on carbon credits as explained below.

Initiative 3: Decarbonization & Carbon Credits

With significant agroforestry efforts already underway and opportunities to scale through public-private partnerships, CMS aims to leverage its 30 years of expertise in impact consulting, on-ground implementation, and climate-focused interventions to offer targeted Climate Services to various partners.

We seek to unlock steady streams of climate finance, ensuring that both tangible and intangible benefits reach grassroots communities, and deepen the quality and scale of agroforestry work. By transforming underutilized institutional land into carbon sinks, the project will deliver environmental, social, and economic benefits.

We are looking at unlocking the potential to generate substantial revenue for NGOs, FPOs and other community institutions who are involved in agroforestry through carbon and biodiversity credit markets, enabling them to do a lot more through unique climate finance instruments.

Over time, we aspire to position the work done as a model for institutional climate leadership, creating a self-sustaining green legacy that drives corporate responsibility, ESG compliance, and impactful community engagement.

Conclusion - From Trees to Transformation: A Growing Ecosystem of Care

As we close this chapter on Thattekere, we are reminded that trees grow quietly, but never in isolation. Each tree nurtured through this initiative carries within it a **network of human intent, ecological insight, and community resilience**.

This is not just a climate initiative, it is a **livelihood strategy**, a **health intervention**, and a **youth education programme**. It proves that when we design with convergence in mind, **the outcomes multiply**: cleaner air, richer soil, stronger incomes, smarter communities, and more hopeful futures.

What began as the Tree Growth project has evolved into a **living systems model** led by local actors, sustained by collective care, and powered by data and intention. It exemplifies ICF's catalytic role: **enabling communities to co-own change, while ensuring that change is designed to last.**

Looking ahead, we see Thattekere not as an endpoint, but as a **template for replication**. Our learnings here will inform how we engage with schools, rural clusters, and state agencies across regions facing climate distress and socio-economic vulnerability.

In a world growing more fragmented and fragile, these trees stand as a reminder: **we can restore what has been lost—if we restore how we work together.**

Let's keep growing—roots deep, branches wide.

Impact Catalyst Foundation
April 2024

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Impact Catalyst Foundation
No.36,1st Floor, Vinayaka Layout, Bhoopasandra Main Road
RMV 2nd Stage, Bengaluru-560094
Statement of Income and Expenditure

Amount in 00's

	Particulars	Note No.	For the Year ended 31-Mar-24	For the Year ended 31-Mar-23
I	Revenue from operations-	7	16,750	10,000
II	Other Income	10	277	-
	Total Revenue (I + II)		17,027	10,000
IV	**Expenses:**			
	Programme Expenses	9	19,550	800
	Other expenses	8	549	390
	Total Expenses		20,099	1,190
V	Surplus/(Deficit) for the period from continuing operations (III-IV)		(3,072)	8,810
VI	**Tax expense:**			
	i. Current tax			-
	ii. Deferred tax (Assest)/ Liability			
VII	**Profit/(Loss) for the period**		(3,072)	8,810
VIII	**Earnings per equity share:**			
	(1) Basic		(31)	88
	(2) Diluted		(31)	88
Significant Accounting Policies & Notes to Accounts		**1**		

For and on behalf of the Board of Directors of
Impact Catalyst Foundation

Narayanan Raghunathan
Director
DIN : 01174820

Shiv Kumar
Director
DIN : 01133062

IMPACT CATALYST FOUNDATION BANGALORE

Subject to our report of even date annexed
For R V K S And Associates
Chartered Accountants
FRN. 008572S

22/07/2024

R V K S AND ASSOCIATES BANGALORE CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

Venugopal C
Partner
M No. 226247

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