



The February wrap up : All the highlights you need to know!

We had quite a busy February with events taking place along with our usual bustle. We completed our quarterly stock taking exercise in the Green Shops, a honey tasting event which was held in Chennai by the International Institute of Chocolate and Cacao tasting. Following up with last month's feature in The Locavore, our honey was part of a meet up held by The Locavore in Cochin. Other significant events included our peer review which was conducted by Mr. K. K. Mathew of MESH – for the World Fair Trade Organization (WFTO), and to wrap up the month, an engaging discussion with Slow Food International and members from Slow Food Asia on a recap of the events that took place in 2022 and the fresh outlook for the new year!

The Quarterly Stock Take



Our Green Shops in Coonoor and Kotagiri went through their quarterly stock take. An activity to ensure accurate stock levels in the stores. These activities involve physical scanning and recording of all items in the store. By conducting regular stock takes, the shops are able to identify discrepancies in stock levels and take appropriate measures to address them. This helps us ensure that customers have access to products they need and the shops are able to maintain accurate inventory records. With our first season of the calendar year ready to greet us really soon, with summer kicking in nice and easy, these stock takes help us in stocking the shops with new products! If you're on your summer break in the hills, do drop into our Green Shops and pick up your favorite Fair Trade, natural products!

The sweetness in Cacao



Suganthi hosted and was part of an engaging honey tasting event for the International Institute of Chocolate and Cacao Tasting in Chennai. The one-day event brought together chocolate experts, and participants from various parts of the world, including Romania, Iran, Germany, UK, Hyderabad, Bangalore and Chennai, to explore the relationship between honey and cacao. The event featured an interactive screening of a movie on Nilgiris honey hunting. This was followed by a comprehensive tasting session of our natural and spiced honey. The event saw the participants thoroughly enjoying the experience of exploring the unique flavors of honey. The truly exciting part of the event was feedback from the participants and some of our followers on the various combinations of honey and chocolate they would love indulging in. These included Cinnamon, Ginger and Pepper honey with chocolate, thyme honey with chocolate and plenty other intriguing combinations! What would your taste buds love? Do let us know!

The Locavore Meetup



The Locavore held its second Locavore meetup in Chennai and Cochin during the month. We joined the growing Locavore community last month as we were featured in The Locavore website and shared our story with their dynamic team on all things food at Last Forest! The event brought together chefs, conservationists, students, farmers and many more, all of whom care deeply about food! There were fun activities like The Locavore shuffle, a talk on heritage rice varieties across India – which was also part of a delicious menu for the day, a talk on the relationship between human and ocean health and more! There was a dedicated space that showcased products from the producer partners of The Locavore including our honey which was featured for tasting for all the guests who had visited and made the event a success!

The 'friendly' audit



After a delayed break due to the lockdowns in the last few years, we finally had our WFTO peer review. An audit that is done by one of our peers from the WFTO network. This time, Mr. K.K. Mathew made his way to our campus all the way from MESH, Delhi. During his visit, he evaluated our office and practices to ensure that we are complying with the 10 principles of Fair Trade. Over the span of two days, thorough audits were done at our head office, the Aadhimalai head office, Pudukkad production centre and Shalom Self Help group in Ooty. He provided constructive feedback on areas where we need to improve and set out a plan to make these improvements.

We love our gifts!



Here are some of the amazing team and office gifts that we ordered from our friends listed on The Catalyst Marketplace. We want to send a very special thanks to The Catalyst Marketplace – who made it affordable, clear, and fun to buy handmade Fair-Trade products from all over the world, directly from producers and artisans. We won a gift card from Catalyst thanks to their extremely easy-to-use site! We were able to get gifts for every member of our team and office. It felt special to not only celebrate our team, but to be able to do so in solidarity with other wonderful groups doing real fair and caring work in South and South East Asia. We had the pleasure in getting handwoven jute baskets and plant holders from BaSe Bangladesh, beautifully handmade teak cups from Biansa Home Fair Trade from Indonesia, and upcycled journals from Ekatra from Kota, India. With the Catalyst Market community growing and expanding in leaps and bounds, we look forward to working with many such groups in the growing community that is Catalyst Market!

February's Favorite
Last Forest brings to you clove essential oil, collected by water distillation of clove buds. It helps in cuts, burns, toothache, rheumatic pains, and ulcers
Shop Now!

Featured Product
A gift box of essential and aromatherapy oils meant for rejuvenation! this box contains a set of 5 aromatherapy oils that have a plethora of benefits ranging from skin care, hair care, dental care and relaxation!
Shop Now!

