



Quite a noisy November! - Newsletter, November 2022

As we reach the tail end of the calendar year, November proved to be yet another buzzing month. There were noteworthy milestones and events celebrated. Our partners Women On Wings held their 15 year anniversary celebrations of which we were a part of. Stanford Seed held its annual conclave in which Mathew was a panelist for a session on ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance). Fair Trade Forum India held its 22<sup>nd</sup> National Convention in the beautiful city of Agra, and very exciting times ahead as Last Forest was one among five organizations to receive an investment through the Mountain Facility, a financing mechanism operated by Mountain Partnership! On the ground, the dropping temperatures and rains failed to hold the team down as we went about our local sales in the immediate geography of The Nilgiris. An energetic visit from the students of TIPS School, Coimbatore one afternoon saw a good bustle which led to some sales during the month. And finally, our Christmas catalogue is out! We spent this month curating an exclusive holiday catalog for your gifting season, with everything from artisanal stocking stuffers to handmade copper (jingle) bells to Toda tree ornaments. Make sure to check it out below and get your gifting for the holiday season sorted with us soon!

15 Years of Women On Wings



In November, our partners Women On Wings celebrated a milestone on their 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary! To mark the milestone, a two-day program was held in the capital. A Social Impact Summit on the topic of 'Co-creating Livelihoods – the Road Ahead', bringing together 120 people who took part in discussions and activities on several topics from future of consumers' behaviour, future funding models, and cocreation of ecosystems to name a few. Members of the ecosystem of Women On Wings in which Last Forest is a part of, came together to listen to inspiring stories from women that the social enterprises have impacted, compelling accounts from entrepreneurs, reflection of how the volunteering in different areas of expertise impacted women and children, a perspective from Government officials and panel discussions took place. The summit also had a session on supply chain management where entrepreneurs from the ecosystem took part in fun activities that included interactive sessions and games that made the event a success!

Stanford SEED South Asia's Annual Conclave



Mathew travelled to Kovalam, Kerala to take part in the Stanford Seed - South Asia Annual Conclave during the month. He was part of a four-person panel to discuss the topic 'How to craft the Environmental, Social, Governance (ESG) and Sustainability roadmap for your company' where social enterprises and socially conscious organizations presented their ESG initiatives and spoke about the strategies they have implemented for their brands. There was also a learning of how to measure the Environmental, Social and Governance implications for various ventures. The event saw an exchange of knowledge, discussing challenges, and various other aspects of business between the cohorts of the Seed Transformation Program. For businesses, though non-financial, they form such important standards.

Fair Trade Forum India 22<sup>nd</sup> National Convention



We were part of Fair-Trade Forum India's 22 National Convention during which Mathew attended the AGM for the network of Fair-Trade Organizations. The convention took place in the stunning city of Agra, for two days. Sessions on strengthening the social business ecosystem and the annual lecture were the crux of the event. Mathew spoke about our beeswax food wraps, an environmentally friendly alternative to foil and plastic food wraps, which received much appreciation for all the members present there during the AGM.

Mountains Matter



We are happy to share that we have been selected as one of five organizations to receive an investment through the Mountain Facility, a financing mechanism brought to life by the Mountain Partnership, a network we have been a part of for a couple of years now. Applicants from the countries of Bolivia, Ethiopia, Kyrgyzstan, Peru, and India had their submissions selected for the first phase of the Mountain Facility. The first phase aims to promote climate resilient business models based on mountain biodiversity and sustainable local economies in mountain areas. The purpose of the grant will be to assist the selected innovative mountain entrepreneurs in implementing their concrete and achievable business plans.

Local Energies!



We had energetic visitors on a rare, sun kissed day in November in the form of students from The Indian Public School (TIPS) from Coimbatore. With the assistance from members of Keystone Foundation, we hosted the children who were intrigued with our products and bought some of our range of products for them, their friends, and parents, vowing to spread the word of our products and interested in sharing our story. Our ventures in local sales continued, with teams taking an extra responsibility to explore local villages and houses to get some revenue in. This was a welcome activity from the locals and something that is set to carry on in the coming months with much more improved planning!

Get the holiday season started off on the right foot with us!



Click the image above to visit our Christmas gifting catalog! In it you'll find everything from forest gift sets to handmade copper (jingle) bells to Toda embroidered holiday stockings and ornaments. As the year comes to a close with the holiday season just around the corner, we have put together a selection of products you will love to gift everyone around you! From little nuggets you can stuff in your stockings to the sweetest honey and ingredients you can use for your Christmas and New Year celebrations, we have the right selection of products that are environmentally friendly and pocket friendly as well! You can explore our catalogue and let us know what you need!

**Novembers' Favorite**

A classic quality carrier oil for massage, almond oil has been valued for this purpose in the East. It is non-irritating and hence can be used on sensitive skin types. It gently lubricates and softens the skin and is said to give it elasticity helping to prevent wrinkling.

**Shop Now!**

**Featured Product**

Organic beeswax handmade soap with the sweetest aroma of rose. These beeswax handmade soaps are made to keep your skin as happy as your wallet. All-natural and made with the highest quality beeswax.

**Shop Now!**

**Shop Now!**

