

January 2021



Dear supporters of *Friends of Madurai Seed (FMS)*

2020 was overshadowed by the Covid-19 pandemic everywhere around the world, in every aspect of life, and *Madurai Seed* was sadly no exception. Despite the huge problems, there were some achievements. In this newsletter I'll provide an overview of the year, and I've also included the end of 2020 balance sheet prepared by Martin, our Treasurer, as an appendix. You will notice that the annual transfer from KFR of CHF 1,000 was not initiated in 2020 owing to some changes to banking regulations for NGOs/NPOs in India: we expect the transfer to take place as soon as these changes have been clarified and confirmed.

Owing to the pandemic, all government schools and colleges in Tamil Nadu were closed in March. To date, they have not reopened: they may reopen in February 2021, but this is still unconfirmed at the time of writing. *Madurai Seed* was nevertheless able to run some of its classes during the latter part of the year, and also a number of both cultural and educational activities, with all the appropriate safety precautions. In this way, *Madurai Seed* could provide vital educational and social support to its youngsters, who would otherwise have had no schooling or cultural and social activities at all for almost the entire year.

The 10th standard government exams were cancelled in the spring, and all students were awarded a pass. The 12th standard government school exams in June 2020 did take place, and *Madurai Seed* helped ten students to pass, with a 100% pass rate. Seven of the students were the first from their family to reach this level of education.

Colleges and universities implemented distance (online) learning programmes, which are still continuing. BA and BEd students sponsored by *FMS* are therefore able to pursue their studies remotely.

Thanks to the great generosity of five individual donors, *FMS* has been able to sponsor a total of 16 college students for the 2020-2021 academic year. Eight BA students will receive funding to continue their degree courses, and four BA students will be able to start their first year (of three). Two BEd students will complete the second of their two-year post-graduate courses to become teachers, and two more will start their first year. We at *FMS* are extremely grateful for these considerable donations, which will change the lives and prospects of these young people. Thank you once again.

In addition, Clive Oxenden, one of the authors of the very highly-regarded English language course *New English File* (Oxford University Press), once again very generously donated class sets of his books and resources to *Madurai Seed* – as ever, our thanks to him.

You can read and download *Madurai Seed's* extremely detailed and fully-illustrated annual report for 2019 from the **Downloads** page on the *FMS* web site. It really is a very impressive document.

Once again, the Committee of *Friends of Madurai Seed* joins me in thanking you for your continued support and donations over the past year, and we hope that we can continue to count on your support in 2021. I've enclosed a copy of one of our brochures should you wish to pass it on to friends and acquaintances. Without your help, Madurai Seed would not be able to support and develop the educational, cultural, and social lives of over 400 disadvantaged children, teenagers and young adults – and in the present circumstances its work is even more essential to the community in Karumbalai.

Finally, I wish you and your families and friends good health in the coming year, with the hope that 2021 will see a far better prospect regarding the pandemic, and some return to normalcy.

With best wishes

John Potts, President, *Friends of Madurai Seed*
www.friendsofmaduraiseed.org

Appendix: **end-of-year 2020** balance for *Friends of Madurai Seed*

Buchhaltung per 31. Dezember 2020

Vermögen	
Eröffnung 01.01.20	222'509.91
Abschluss 31.12.20	220'548.39
<i>Reinverlust per 31.12.20</i>	<i>1'961.52</i>
1 Ertrag	
Total Gutschriften 2020	24'211.73
- Beiträge und private Spenden	23'211.73
- Beiträge von Stiftungen	1,000.00
- KFR/KmS	0.00
- Zinsabschluss	0.00
2 Aufwand	
Total Lastschriften 2020	26'173.25
- Administration (Internet, Porti etc)	-
- Druck/Werbung	-
- Postkontoverwaltung	146.00
- Banküberweisung an Madurai Seed	24'027.25
- Überweisung in Bar an Madurai Seed	-
- Ausgabe vor Ort (Madurai)	-
- Reisespesen Indien	2'000.00