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Tamil Nadu Women's Collective gets US honours

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CHENNAI: The US Food Sovereignty Alliance has honoured the Tamil Nadu Women's Collective (TNWC), which empowers one lakh rural and marginalised women across 15 districts in the state.

The TNWC aims at strengthening the rural women's food sovereignty by encouraging them to grow native millet varieties which are nutritious, drought resistant and easier to grow than rice or wheat.

The collective focuses on dalit rights, local governance, rights of workers in the unorganised sector and rights of senior citizens.

The winners of the fifth Food Sovereignty Prize were chosen from more than 40 projects that worked on 'on-the-ground-solutions' to hunger and poverty.

"The Food Sovereignty Prize symbolises the fight for safe and healthy food for all peoples of the earth," said Chavannes Jean-Baptiste, G4 Executive Committee member in a press release.

"It's a fight that must be waged both locally and globally, and requires deep solidarity among all organisations fighting for food sovereignty," he added.

The top honours went to Haitian Group of 4 (G4) and the South American Dessalines Brigade, an international peasant-to-peasant collaboration working to rebuild Haiti's seed, soil and agricultural systems.

Other organisations which received honours include the National Coordination of Peasant Organisations of Mali and Basque Country Peasants' Solidarity of the Basque Country in Europe.