

A woman wearing a red headscarf and a red shirt is smiling and working in a field of green plants. She is leaning over the plants, and her hands are visible as she tends to them. The background is a blurred field of similar plants.

Women Farmers¹: The Pillars of Food Security in Kerala

Sonakshi Anand² and Manish Maskara³

¹ Farmer is a generic term. However, its use has been biased along the lines of gender as women engaged in agriculture have not been acknowledged as farmers. This is because the agricultural work performed by women is seen as an extension of their household work. This case study emphasizes the use of the term 'women farmers' so that the role of women in agriculture is duly acknowledged and their rightful identity is recognized.

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From Farm Labourers to Farm Managers

Usha Rao Krishnan⁴ (name changed) used to work as an agricultural labourer on a farm in the area under her gram panchayat, Thirunelli, in the district of Wayanad in Kerala. She used to own some land but it did not suffice even for subsistence. Thus, she was forced to work in the fields of a rich landowner. She was soon joined by her husband. The daily wage at the time was Rs 200–250 and since the wages were seasonal in nature, the couple's income was irregular. There was no certainty regarding the availability of work and they had no say in the kinds of crops to be grown. A year after Usha had started working for the landowner, he suddenly moved to the district of Kottayam to work as a clerk, having sold off his land at a good price to a cash crop producer. Meanwhile, other landowners who did not find their cultivable land remunerative enough preferred to leave their land fallow. Thus, they did not need labourers to work on their land on a regular basis. This meant that Usha and her husband were deprived of a source of livelihood. With hardly any cultivable land of their own, no alternative sources of income in Thirunelli and no skills to take up a new job, the family was struggling. To add to their woes, foodgrains like paddy were not available at cheap rates due to the lack of food security in Kerala. Usha recalls how she felt the pinch while serving her children, husband and other family members as they sat down to eat.

⁴ Usha is one of the women the authors interacted with during the fieldwork of the case study. Her story and the journey of her Neighborhood Group, and subsequently, Joint Liability Group are used to illustrate the impact of Kudumbashree's work in Kerala.

It was not only Usha who found herself in this situation. There were many who lost their income due to the landowners' decisions and choices. The women discussed this issue at the meeting of their neighbourhood group (NHG), called Lavanya, and also talked about the lack of food security at the household level. Various NHGs similar to Lavanya had been formed in all the districts of Kerala under Kudumbashree, the state poverty eradication mission. The idea was to inculcate the habit of savings among women and also, to encourage them to extend support to each other in times of need and during emergencies. According to Usha, "When I approached the women in the neighbourhood to form these groups, they were skeptical. The usual response was, 'How can women, who have never come out of the confines of their homes, be ready to join such initiatives?'" This attitude gradually changed over the years, with persistent efforts, and Lavanya finally started doing well in Thirunelli. When Usha and women in the same straits discussed the problem of lack of work, they hoped that approaching Kudumbashree would help.

When the women approached Kudumbashree, the latter suggested that they could engage in farming, either on an individual or a collective basis, on the fallow lands. The response of the members of the NHGs was not encouraging. However, with some persuasion, a few

women started showing willingness to follow Kudumbashree's advice and soon, some of them tried their hand at collective farming. Their understanding of paddy cultivation grew slowly but steadily. In view of the existing community institutions of women in the state, Kudumbashree preferred that the women should take up collective farming. For this purpose, a joint liability group (JLG) was formed. In time, the women became very motivated to engage in paddy cultivation and with the help of Kudumbashree, various methods of irrigation and improved cultivation were introduced.

Describing her current situation, Usha says, "While eating at home, I proudly remind my husband of the fact that the rice we are eating is the fruit of my efforts. It is Kudumbashree that gave me the confidence to voice my opinion in front of my husband. I have also become confident about engaging in collective farming and vegetable cultivation."

Context

Until 2004, in 14 districts of Kerala, the size of the landholding owned by households falling in the Below Poverty Line (BPL) category was considered a significant indicator of their 'way of life'. Women of households which owned around 10–20 cents⁵ of land were identified as landless. Such women, who mostly belonged to the Scheduled Castes

5 Cents is a measurement of land. (100 cents = 1 acre)

(SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs) and minorities, could not depend on cultivating their land for their sustenance because it did not suffice. There were variations in this category of households across regions due to differences in the landscape. For example, in hilly terrain and forested areas, the women were left with little choice but to work as farm labourers. The near absence of choices compelled the landless women to depend on the big landowners for their livelihood. They worked as farm labourers on the larger landholdings of the latter. This was their major source of income and their daily wage was merely Rs 200–250. All able male members of the household also worked as farm labourers.

The landowners, on their part, preferred to leave their cultivable land fallow due to unsatisfactory returns from cultivation. This preference has also been attributed to the phenomenon of urbanization. Some landowners shifted their focus from the cultivation of food crops to the production of cash crops, such as coffee, rubber and pepper. Others migrated to the neighbouring towns and cities to search for alternative sources of income. On the whole, a lot of productive land was being left fallow and as a consequence, the landless women were deprived of their means of earning a living.

Kerala lost over 500,000 hectares of paddy fields between 1980 and 2007. The harvest came down by almost 50%, to 630,000 tonnes in 2007,

severely threatening food security in the state⁶. The use of productive land for commercial purposes in a state like Kerala, which depends on rice and vegetables, led to a severe food crisis. It seemed unlikely that the authorities would be able to ensure food security unless the production of food crops was stepped up.

Enabling Factors for the Intervention

Given the prevailing situation, Kudumbashree decided to intervene by taking measures to ensure food security and improve the livelihood of landless women in Kerala. It first gauged the willingness of the landless women who had earlier been working as farm labourers to organize themselves for the purpose of cultivating food crops on fallow lands. With this intervention, which was launched in 2004, Kudumbashree aimed to transform the identity of the women from that of farm labourers to that of farm producers.

Kudumbashree's agricultural intervention was facilitated by certain pre-existing factors. The foremost of these was Kudumbashree's existing three-tier community institution of women in all 14 districts of Kerala. Federations of these institutions at the gram panchayat level were called Community Development

6 Ensuring Food Security through Group Farming in Paddy Cultivation, Working Paper series No.2, Evaluation Division, Kerala State Planning Board, November 2012

Societies (CDS), while the ward-level federations were called Area Development Societies. The CDS is a registered body formed during 1998 under the Travancore Cochin Literary Scientific and Charitable Societies Registration Act, 1955.

The lowest unit of the three-tier institution of Kudumbashree is the NHG, which comprises of 10-20 women from poor, neighbouring households. Before the intervention, these women who were farm labourers, were involved in thrift and credit activities. Such a community-based organizational structure played a vital role in mobilizing the women, whether as individuals or as groups, for the purpose of farming on leased land.⁷

With this intervention, which was launched in 2004, Kudumbashree aimed to transform the identity of the women from that of farm labourers to that of farm producers.

Another factor which made it easier to implement the intervention was the abundant availability of cultivable land that had been left fallow. Lastly, the positive interface between the CDS and the gram panchayats helped to make the fallow land available for farming.

7 Farming on leased land is a system prevalent in Kerala in which land is leased out for cultivation by the landowner. In India, there are no legal provisions allowing for such transactions. However, in Kerala, due to the ease with which land is leased out, farming on leased land is very popular, so much so that there has been a good deal of policy advocacy on the matter.

The Intervention: Timeline, Strategy and Activities

Kudumbashree entered the field of agriculture in 2004, when it made efforts to motivate the members of the NHGs in all districts to take up farming on leased land, either as individuals or in groups. The women who were interested in farming forwarded their applications to the CDS concerned at the gram panchayat level. The CDS then stated how much land would be necessary for cultivation. Some women took up farming on their own cultivable land, while others started farming on leased land. Those who chose collective farming were members of neighbouring NHGs.

Institutional Interface– access to cultivable land

The intervention utilized the interface between the CDS and local self-government bodies (in this case, the gram panchayat) to procure fallow land from the landowners on lease at an economical rate. The land was leased either at a fixed rent or on the basis of the crop harvested. On an average, depending on the crop season, the rent for the fallow land varied from Rs 4000–8000 per acre. The gram panchayat and CDS helped the landowners and women to enter into the leasing arrangement, and helped in the resolution of any disputes.

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Incentive structure for farming

In order to motivate the women to take up farming on leased land, Kudumbashree came up with a scheme to provide them with incentives with the assistance of the state government. Area incentives were given to only those women who had taken land on lease in order to make it cultivable, whereas production incentives were given to those who were cultivating either their own farmland or leased lands. The incentives varied according



to the type of food crops grown. No incentive was given to women cultivating plantation or cash crops. The area incentive was disbursed prior to the harvest and was about 10% of the production cost, on an average. The women eligible for the production incentive were those in whose case the yield exceeded a certain average level determined by the government. The incentives differed for women cultivating their own land and those cultivating leased land. For example, the latter received an additional 10% of the incentive. Initially, incentives were sanctioned only for commercial cultivation. Individuals cultivating more than 0.1 ha and groups cultivating more than 0.8 ha were considered commercial cultivators. Groups engaged in organic farming were entitled to an additional 50% of the incentive, provided they received certification from the agriculture office.



Labour, selection of crops and support from agencies

Once land had been made available to the women, the decision regarding the food crops to be grown was solely theirs. The decision depended on the season, geographical features of the area, returns from the produce and the sources of irrigation available. The usual crops grown included paddy, tapioca, banana, carrot, black-eyed beans, brinjal, bitter gourd, ginger, turmeric and tubers. The labour required for cultivation was provided by the women of the groups. In cases in which individual women had taken up farming, their fellow farmers provided the necessary labour, with matters related to payment being settled by the women. Kudumbashree sought a tie-up with Kerala Agricultural University so that the women farmers could receive training to ensure a better yield. They were also provided input subsidies through the gram panchayats by the agricultural department. The women could sell their produce in the local market or the traders themselves collected the produce from the fields. Kudumbashree also tied up with the Vegetable and Fruit Promotion Council Kerala (VFPCCK) and SupplyCo, who had their own collection centres, to facilitate the sale of the women farmers' produce. The government of Kerala forged partnerships with various agencies that marketed crop produce to ensure that the women earned a certain level of income. The

local self-government bodies also facilitated the marketing and sale of the produce by organizing weekly fairs and markets.

Streamlining the Intervention

In the first few years of the intervention, the activities that had been initiated did not gain much momentum and only a very small area of land was brought under cultivation. In addition, the distribution of incentives to the eligible cultivators was very irregular. By 2006, it was realized that if the incentives did not reach the eligible women, they might lose their motivation to take up farming. This would perpetuate the vulnerability of the women, as well as the problem of food security. Hence, activities like bringing fallow land under cultivation, the distribution of incentives and the promotion of group-based farming were scaled up.

Putting collective farming over individual farming

It was observed that there were more individuals than groups farming on leased land and it was decided to promote only group-based farming from 2006 onwards. The situation was strictly monitored to ensure that only collective farming was promoted. Since the groups were formed by women who came

from the same or neighbouring NHGs, there was an emotional link between them that was conducive to the sharing of responsibilities. It also made it easier for them to arrive at a consensus when taking decisions related to farming. Group-based farming contributed to peer learning, and facilitated the division and distribution of labour on the fields, as and when necessary. Further, it made it possible to cultivate different kinds of food crops at the same time, depending on the amount of land leased. In many ways, group farming led to the distribution of input costs, risks and profits. The produce from group-based farming helped not only to meet the consumption needs of the women's households, but also provided them with the means to generate income.

Reduction in labour costs—convergence with NREGA

The enactment of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) in 2005 aided the intervention as far as farm labour was concerned. The farming groups received support from the NREGA programmes for their land development and water conservation activities. The wages were paid by the government. Thus, the input costs for labour were reduced. The gram panchayats facilitated the convergence with NREGA.

Institutional innovation— farming as Joint Liability Group

Kudumbashree's previous experience with agricultural interventions had shown that the main constraint was access to agricultural credit. Even if the groups did manage to obtain credit, it was at a very high interest rate. The rate charged by the moneylenders could go up to 20%. The groups also took internal loans from the NHGs, at an interest rate of 12%. By 2010, Kudumbashree felt that it was crucial to enable the farming groups to access credit at a low interest rate. This ultimately resulted in an institutional innovation—the joint liability groups (JLGs). On the basis of the guidelines of the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), a policy was formulated in 2010 to organize and register groups of women farmers as JLGs.

A JLG consisted of 4–10 members, and had a president and a secretary. It could be formed by women who were members of the same NHG or of different NHGs. The groups which had been formed earlier were brought under JLGs. The JLGs were registered in the CDS with an affiliation number known as the unique identification number (UID). The UID, along with a management and information system, were used to track the performance of the JLGs. The JLGs maintained a register on their farm activities, economic matters and calendar of operations.

When necessary, the groups would produce the documents before organizations like the ADS, CDS and Panchayat.

To encourage the formation of JLGs, NABARD gave the facilitating agency a promotional incentive of Rs 2000 for each JLG formed and linked.

In the course of the intervention, the CDS was made the facilitating agency and became eligible for the promotional incentive. With the constant efforts of Kudumbashree, the JLGs were also brought under the purview of the interest subsidy scheme (5% subsidy on agricultural loan at 7% interest rate) facilitated by the government of Kerala.

Meetings were held with the banks to work out a common set of banking procedures for Kudumbashree JLGs across the state, especially in the matter of the documents to be produced by the groups while opening savings and loan accounts. This would simplify matters, both for the banks and the groups. The JLGs were also made eligible for the Kisan Credit Card (KCC) scheme. Under this scheme, Kudumbashree JLGs would not only get 5% subsidy on interest, but could also once again borrow the amount they had paid back and would need to pay interest only on the outstanding amount. Each JLG member was made eligible for personal accidental insurance. Groups could continue in the scheme for three years with one-time registration. In the course of the intervention, the JLGs also came to be covered by the National

Agricultural Insurance Scheme, promoted by banks, and state agricultural insurance, promoted by the agricultural department.

Outreach

Over a period of time, more and more women from all districts of Kerala got involved in farming. The outreach of the intervention can be gauged from the tables in Annexures 1 and 2. It is evident that with the introduction of JLGs in 2010, the disbursement of incentives for farming increased to a great extent. In addition, there was an increase in the area of land under food crop cultivation (Refer tables in Annexures for data till 2014).

Impact

The impact of the intervention was multidimensional, as far as the livelihoods of the women were concerned. The intervention led to the development of land as a natural resource as well. It also empowered the women farmers in Kerala and indicated that the same could be possible elsewhere in the country. The power of women's collectives became evident from the role that they came to play in decision-making on farming. The intervention opened up several avenues for landless women. These are summarized below.

Farm labourers to producers to farm managers

The landless women, who had earlier been wage labourers, became farm producers thanks to the intervention. From the selection of the food crops to be cultivated to the distribution of profits following the sale of the produce, the women were the sole decision-makers. Thus, they gradually made a transition from being farm labourers to being farm managers. This restored their dignity and identity.

Enhanced Income

Before the intervention was launched, the women's wages were of a seasonal nature, which naturally put them in a vulnerable position. Once they could engage in farming as producers, there was an increase in their income, which was augmented by the diversification of the crops that they could now grow. The share of income of the members of a group and the revenue generated from the produce varied, depending on the crop. The revenue was utilized for the repayment of loans, meeting the input costs and adding to the group's savings. One acre of land under paddy cultivation yielded an average of 1500 kg over a period of 3–4 months, with the total cost of inputs being around Rs 10,000–12,000 per acre. Due to the initiative of the Kerala government, the paddy was sold to SupplyCo at a rate of Rs 18 per kg, which meant

an income of Rs 15,000. The sharing of profits was in keeping with the consensus among the women and also depended on the number of women in the group. In addition to their income from farming, the women also earned through their involvement in NREGA work, when it was available. On the whole, group-based farming provided the women with an income with which they could educate their children, get their own house constructed, and even buy gold, etc. The women also realized their dream of buying land with their own income.

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Preference for innovative farming practices

Over time, the women farmers developed preferences for certain farming practices, for instance, organic farming. Women who had received training in various kinds of farming came to appreciate and apply the methods of zero-budget natural farming, integrated farming, and so on. Such farming practices are associated with the minimal use of chemical fertilizers, pesticides, etc.

Soil fertility and productivity of fallow land

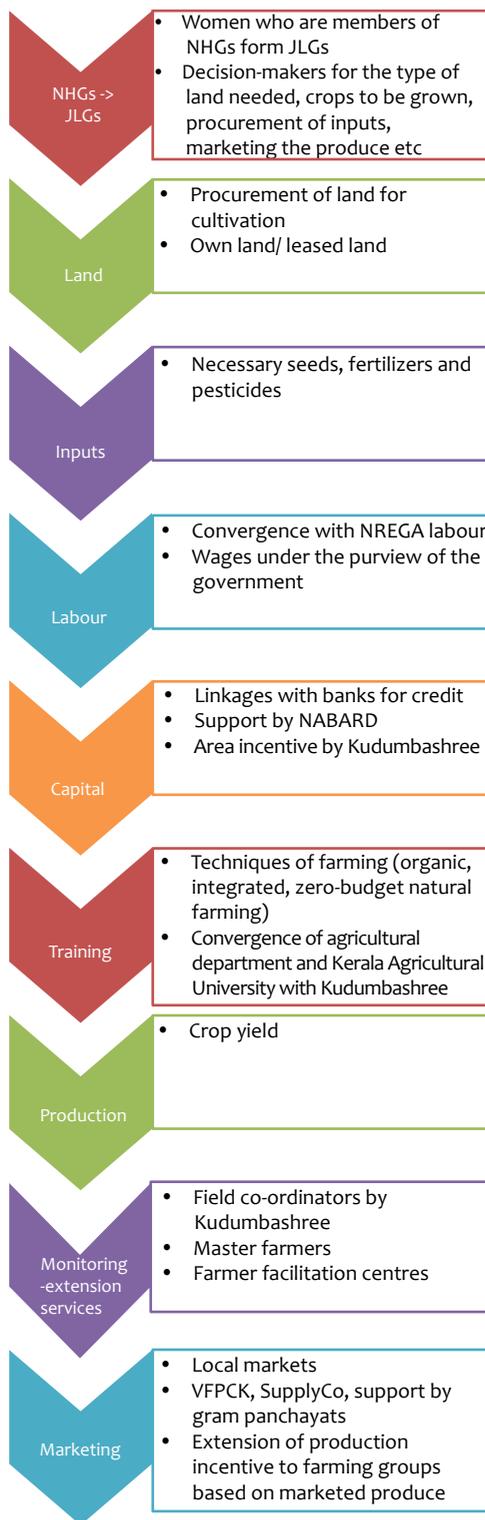
By utilizing the fallow land for cultivation, the women farmers converted it into fertile land, which augmented the productivity of the land. It has further incentivized the agricultural department to take an active interest in identifying fallow land for the purpose of farming.

Translation to a nationwide scheme – Mahila Kisan Sashakthikaran Pariyojana

In 2011, on the basis of Kudumbashree's experiences with collective farming, the Mahila Kisan Sashakthikaran Pariyojana (MKSP) was conceived as a sub-component of the National Rural Livelihood Mission for the promotion of farming by women across the country. The intervention launched by Kudumbashree in 2004 is currently functioning under the banner of the MKSP, which has set an example for all women labourers in the country to aspire to become farm producers.

Women as Master Farmers

Following the guidelines of the MKSP, Kudumbashree initiated the process of identifying 'master farmers' in the community who would share the best practices in farming with the others. These women were given an opportunity to share their experiences in farming, their knowledge of credit-linking



strategies, the problems they faced in farming, and their indigenous knowledge and information on the practices they used to promote environment-friendly agricultural techniques. The ‘master farmers’ are now looked upon as role models for women who wish to graduate from being farm labourers to being farm managers.

The following diagram outlines the entire course of Kudumbashree’s intervention, starting from encouraging the women to engage in collective farming to the sale of their produce.

Issues and challenges faced

Several issues and challenges were faced during the process of transformation of the women from farm labourers into farm producers. These broadly pertained to the aspects of land, labour and capital, apart from limited access to other natural resources required for agriculture. In this section, we shall discuss the challenges and go on to recommend possible ways out.

Availability of land

Since the programme focused on landless women, the availability of suitable cultivable land which could be taken on lease was a major concern. Another major problem was that of fragmented land. Most of the groups were offered plots that were far from each other, rather than

contiguous ones. This naturally made it difficult to manage the plots.

Collective leasing as a practice

Since the women farmers had converted the fallow land into fertile and productive land, the landowners began to wonder whether it was wise to lease out their land to the women on a regular basis. Thus it happened that with increasing frequency, the landowners began to offer their land only for a short period. As a result, the groups incurred heavy losses. In addition, the rates demanded by the landowners for leasing out their land often differed in different localities. Moreover, no clear incentives were being offered to the landowners to motivate them on the development of asset-based activities on their land. If this situation continued, it would undo the progress that had been made and the women farmers would find themselves in the vulnerable position they had once been in.

Convergence with NREGA

Another problematic area was sustaining the utilization of the NREGA to decrease the input costs. Though initially, labour engaged in the necessary land development activities on the leased land was being paid under the NREGA, the engagement of such labour was subsequently made a one-time affair.

Expenditure on irrigation and electricity

It was observed that the farming groups spent a huge amount on irrigation. Scarcity of water was one of the major problems encountered in the course of the intervention. The groups had even greater difficulty meeting the expenditure on electricity since unlike irrigation facilities, these expenses were not subsidized by the agricultural department. Moreover, the women farmers were not very good at the judicious management of water for irrigation, and did not know much about water conservation, the maintenance of soil health, soil conservation, etc.

Facilitation of credit and incentives

A significant component of the intervention was to facilitate the provision of credit to the women so that they could meet the costs of production. The farming groups depended on various sources for their credit requirements. For example, they could avail themselves of linkage loans or internal loans disbursed by the NHGs. Many farming groups also borrowed from private moneylenders at higher interest rates. The reluctance of commercial banks to finance the JLGs of Kudumbashree was a major hindrance to agricultural growth. The groups were unable to produce

the required documents and the banks often refused to release the loans, raising technical objections. It was problematic for the groups to produce documents since most of them were cultivating leased land. The women farmers did not receive the production incentives specified by the intervention because according to the eligibility criterion, their yield had to reach a certain level, which was not always possible for them. Finally, the Kudumbashree JLGs were often not granted insurance coverage for their crops.

Technological challenges

Though the women farmers were familiarized with the necessary capacity-building techniques to ensure better farming practices, the use of these techniques was limited. The convergence of various extension departments for the provision of technical inputs to the women remained a challenge. Since the extension services to be provided were generally decided upon by the departments concerned, the actual requirements of the women were not taken into account.

Plugging the gaps

To ensure the sustainability of such an intervention, efforts must be made to develop policies on farming on leased land. More particularly, steps should be taken to incentivize landowners to lease out their land. Kudumbashree is making efforts to this end. With an eye to reducing

the cost of labour, it is working on convergence with the NREGA programme on an institutional basis. In addition to this, a robust monitoring and evaluation system needs to be put in place to measure the performance of the farming groups. Such a mechanism would do away with the redundant task of gathering data on the JLGs. It would also help in identifying the kind of support required during the course of farming. Once such needs are identified, the farmer facilitation centres under the MKSP can be utilized to the optimal level.

Though the extension of credit was one of the significant components of the intervention, the insurance of crops remains a distant dream. Kudumbashree has been trying to create systems for the mitigation of risk so as to reduce the vulnerability of the landless women farmers. Savings-linked insurance coverage of crops could be a possible solution.

It must be ensured that the women who have been identified as ‘master farmers’ transfer their knowledge and expertise to boost the skills of their peers.

As for the potential of replication of the intervention, the emergence of the MKSP at a pan-India level, on the lines of the Kudumbashree’s intervention speaks volumes. The rest of the country has already taken notice of the efforts towards the empowerment of women farmers in Kerala and these have begun to make a mark.

A Successful Livelihood Intervention

The challenges aside, the intervention offered the landless women an opportunity for farming, which enhanced their income and reduced their dependence on landowners, from whom they had been receiving meagre and variable daily wages earlier. It converted the landless women into ‘farm managers’—something which would have been unthinkable otherwise. The involvement of these farm managers in agriculture was not a matter of token participation. Instead, the women controlled decisions concerning farming practices and the cropping pattern, and were not confined to their households. Their membership of JLGs gave them the necessary bargaining power in the market. Though the existing community institutions of women acted as an enabling factor for the intervention, it must be noted that the intervention was able to channelize the NHGs and put them on the right course. This was reflected in

As a result of Kudumbashree’s intervention, the women had more choices as to which crops they wanted to cultivate. The cultivation of land not only allowed the women to meet their consumption needs, but also provided them with a surplus that they could sell.

the collective decision-making on farming activities, as well as the sharing of responsibilities in the area of farm labour. They became the pillars of their families, given their ability to produce enough food to feed their family members. As the intervention was scaled up to a state-wide one and bore fruit in all 14

districts, one could even term the women the ‘pillars of food security’ in Kerala.

Belonging to farming groups instilled a sense of self-confidence in the women and made them feel empowered, both economically and socially. Another commendable achievement of the intervention was

the development of fallow land. Further, the intervention ushered in the revival of various environment-friendly techniques of farming.

It would not have been possible to launch the MKSP at the national level had it not been for the success of Kudumbashree’s intervention. The women being identified as ‘master farmers’ under this scheme are instrumental in the transfer of knowledge about good agricultural practices and also in helping fellow women farmers build sustainable livelihoods.

Annexures

Annexure 1: Year-by-year data on farming groups*

Sr. No.	Financial year	No. of groups	Beneficiaries	Area cultivated (ha)	Incentives (Rs cr)
1	2006–07	26499	234812	17370.14	0.65
2	2007–08	31680	249741	21805	3.03
3	2008–09	39770	291074	27270	7.99
4	2009–10	46444	232220	25062	20.12
5	2010–11	39734	175835	19850	7.8

*The data from 2011 up till now may be found in Annexure 2 as the MKSP was launched in 2011.

Annexure 2: State-level data on JLGs in 14 districts (till May 2014)

Total no. of JLGs (at present)		50519
Rural members		242848
Capacity-building target		150000
Capacity-building achievement		201650
Technical training target	Target	50863
	Achievement	54382
	Percentage	107
FFCs* (rural)	Target	972
	Achievement	916
	Percentage	94
Innovative/ indigenous practices	Target	140
	Achievement	119
	Percentage	85

Integrated practices	Target	1900
	Achievement	1559
	Percentage	82
High-technology agriculture	Target	14
	Achievement	10
	Percentage	71.4
Post-harvest markets	Target	140
	Achievement	79
	Percentage	56.4
Capacity-building of master farmers	Target	10628
	Achievement	10598
	Percentage	99.7
Technical training of master farmers	Target	10618
	Achievement	8393
	Percentage	79.0
Seed bank	Target	140
	Achievement	66
	Percentage	47.1

*FFC: Farmer Facilitation Centres. Here the mentioned statistics is about the FFCs opened under every Gram Panchayat. Apart from this the Local Self Government in urban areas too had FFCs.

Annexure 3: Details of JLGs of Thirunelli gram panchayat, Wayanad, Kerala

Sr.No.	Ward name	No. of NHGs	No. of NHG members	No. of JLGs	No. of JLG members
1	Karttikulam	26	328	14	94
2	Kaithavally	24	313	13	77
3	Cheloor	25	340	15	121
4	Oliyode	24	312	9	56
5	Begur	22	273	5	18
6	Appapara	18	213	7	40
7	Tholpetty	34	395	1	5
8	Baveli	28	375	13	84
9	Muthumary	26	329	13	76
10	Thrisslery	24	297	10	58
11	Thirunelly	17	249	1	6
12	Alathoor	26	346	13	72
13	Aramangalam	19	198	4	24
14	Aranappara	17	146	5	33
Total		330	4114	123	764

Annexure 4: Crop-wise details of JLGs (Thirunelli gram panchayat, Wayanad, Kerala)

Sr.No.	Name of crop	No. of JLGs	Area (in cents)	Members involved in cultivation
1	Paddy	202	48182	775
2	Tubers	59	5560	279
3	Vegetables	72	7053	289
4	Tapioca	32	4330	136
5	Banana and other fruits	1	50	6
6	Ginger and turmeric	122	15404	545
7	Banana nendran	36	5162	139
8	Others	1	3	5
Total		525	85744	2174

Annexure 5: Social category-wise details of JLG members (Thirunelli gram panchayat, Wayanad, Kerala)

CDS/gram panchayat		Above poverty line			
Thirunelli	SC	ST	Minority	General	Total
	0	0	0	15	15
CDS/gram panchayat		Below poverty line			
Thirunelli	SC	ST	Minority	General	Total
	15	191	81	462	749

Annexure 6: Article published by *The Hindu* (Trivandrum edition) on June 14, 2014

Empowering women farm workers

Kudumbasree members undergo Food Security Army training

Special Correspondent

TRIVANDRUM: The smile on Sheeba Sathesh's face says it all. While working in farms, she had been diligent, "I have been an agriculture worker for four years, but lacked skills," she said.

The Food Security Army (FSA) training has inspired confidence in her.

She and several colleagues in the Kudumbasree movement were a part of the FSA training conducted in the district recently.

Soye Celina Varadose of Kodakara, "The training has made us believe that nothing is impossible. We knew nothing about farm mechanisation and service of machinery. We doubted whether women could handle farm machinery. The doubts have been dispelled."

District panchayat president C.C. Seeleemur was the chief guest at the passing-out ceremony of the new FSA batches held at the Agricultural Research Station (ARS) of the Kerala Agricultural University (KAU) at Mannuthy.



The passing-out ceremony of Kudumbasree workers trained at the Agricultural Research Station of the Kerala Agricultural University.

- PHOTO: BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

KAU Director of Extension P.V. Balachandran presided. L. Jukumar, ARS head and FSA Chief, Kudumbasree district coordinator Abdul Manoj, training executive F.A. Eby, and A. Latha also spoke.

Sixty-nine women, split into three batches, have been trained in operation, service and maintenance of different agricultural machinery, at Kodakara, Thudikkulam and Thekkumkara centres. The training programme was implemented by the KAU and the Kudumbasree Mission.

In all, 168 FSA batches have been trained by KAU so far.

"No need to shy away from farm work. Farm machinery makes it easy for women," says F.A. Bushra of Thekkumkara.

An ideal co for young artisans

Special Correspondent

TRIVANDRUM: Is any art in Thirunelli's a interested in im her skills? The N Training and De located in Alapp training program

There are 15 programme, wh training in evolv ough for coo p course is ideal f sons," said A. tension-Cum-T Assistant, NCT

The course participants 5 fibre, yarn, c and most roun

Applicants seven the 32 They should and write, s sponsored by cooperative s government

Every trai a monthly s Twenty per are reserve Caste and candidates. tsc- 94464