

## **Aralam Tribal Special Intervention Programme**

Aralam Tribal Special Intervention programme is the special programme initiated by National Rural Livelihood Mission for giving special care and for bringing in sustainable development in the tribal predominant area in the district- Aralam Farm. The District Mission of Kannur had been paying special attention to the project with utmost importance that it is for the social upliftment as well as the social inclusion of the tribal population in the area. Let's have a look into the activities that had been initiated by the Mission to bring in sustainable changes in the lives of tribal people in the Aralam Farm Area of Kannur.

### **Tribals in Kerala**

Tribals in Kerala, oftenly called as 'Adivasis' are the indigenous population found in the southern Indian state of Kerala. Most of the tribal people of Kerala live in the forests and mountain areas of Western Ghats, bordering with the states Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.

According to the 2001 census of India, the Scheduled Tribe population in Kerala is 3,64,189. The Paniya (Paniyar) are the largest of the 35 major tribes in Kerala.

### **Tribal special interventions in four Districts**

For the welfare of the tribals, National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) made special interventions in 4 districts of Kerala, viz., Thirunelly Panchayat (Wayanad

district), Aralam Farm (Kannur district), Nilambur Block (Malappuram district) and parts of Idukki district.

In line with the project implemented in Attapady, a comprehensive approach and sustainable development programme is envisaged in major tribal predominant areas of the State as an expansion. The project aims at effectively attaining socio-economic development in these areas through the construction of strong social institutions of women and enable them to engage in micro-credit, sustainable livelihoods, upliftment of social status, accessing entitlements and rights and asserting agency as equal citizens in the development process. The project aims to alleviate the social and economic deprivation of Kattunaykan, Adiya and Paniya tribal communities of Kerala. Women's institutions would be built up strongly in these areas to be able to lead towards total financial inclusion leading towards poverty alleviation and social development.

The programme envisages in mobilizing the tribal population into a three tier institutional structure of self-sustaining institutions and endeavours comprehensive development of these families with reduced vulnerabilities, improved socio-economic and livelihood status and maximized access to their rights and entitlements.

### **Aralam Farm**

The famed Aralam Farm was originally established by the Government of India in the year 1970 with the assistance of erstwhile Soviet Union. It is situated in the Kappad and Aralam Villages of the Thalassery Taluk of Kannur District, 56 km away from Thalassery and Kannur Town and 16 km from Iritty Town.

The Farm was subsequently taken over by the SC & ST Development Department, Government of Kerala, to distribute 50% of the area to the landless tribals and the remaining 50% area to run as a Farm for the welfare of tribals to be settled in the Aralam Farm. Later the Aralam Farming Corporation (Kerala) Limited, a fully Government owned Company registered under Companies Act 1956, under the administrative control of Scheduled Caste & Scheduled Tribes Development Department, was incorporated on 10 June 2010. Its Registered Office is at Aralam. The farm is spread over 3500 acres encircled by rivulets and Aralam Wild Life Sanctuary.

The main objectives of the Farm are to produce and distribute quality planting materials of plantation/horticultural crops and also commercial production of crops in large scale and above all to provide all manner of support services to further the social and economic welfare of the tribal resettled in Aralam.

### **Interventions of Kudumbashree in the Aralam Farm**

As per the special project implemented in Aralam Farm, as part of the special tribal interventions, mobilisation of the tribals was initiated in June 2017. There are 6 blocks in the Aralam farm. Around 7000 is the population of tribals in the Aralam Farm.

Paniya, Karimbala, Kurichya, Mavilan, Kurumar, Kattunaykkan, Kanikkaran, Adiya and Malavettuva are the tribal communities dwelling in Aralam Farm.

The population distribution of tribal communities in the Aralam Farm are as follows :

<b>TRDM ARALAM FARM</b>	<b>No. of Families</b>	<b>Population</b>
Paniya	1237	6185
Karimbala	247	741
Kurichya	85	425
Mavilan	30	150
Kurumar	11	35
Kattunaykkan	5	23
Kanikkaran	1	3
Adiya	1	5
Malavettuva	1	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1618</b>	<b>7570</b>

The Paniya is the community with Maximum population in the district. After regular field visits, in the 55<sup>th</sup> Colony of 13<sup>th</sup> Block, Neighbourhood Groups were formed with around 18 members. And 6 NHGs were formed at the Kalikayam region with about 12 to 16 members.

On 12 July 2017, Community Kitchen was started in the 55<sup>th</sup> Colony of 13<sup>th</sup> Block, and the elderly, sick and children are the beneficiaries of the community kitchen.

For finding a livelihood of their own, sample seeds and needed machinery were distributed among the beneficiaries on 55<sup>th</sup> block and at Kalikayam region on 30 August 2017. Community Investment Fund (CIF) of Rs 1,20,000 was made available at the 55<sup>th</sup> colony of 13<sup>th</sup> Block itself. Skill training was also given and focus was given for the upliftment of the dropout students as well. Aadhaar Card camp was organised in the 55<sup>th</sup> colony of 13<sup>th</sup> block and 16 people got their Aadhaar cards. The procedures for starting bank accounts would be done in a fast pace.

The community's way of living is connected to riversides. After the interventions of Kudumbashree, the district collector gave special permission for doing cultivation and the seeds were given by the Agriculture Department.

In the 9<sup>th</sup> block, 7 NHGs were formed. The community leaders were given training and Community Investment Fund was distributed among and camp of children was also organised. The Animators are appointed in the farm and once their training would be over, their service would also be ensured.

District Level Football tournament was organised aiming at tribal youth formation. Bridge course model education is provided to the dropout students and regular students as well. The micro plan for the same had already been started. For starting Micro Enterprises, 35 women are undergoing special training in tailoring, which would help them to get a job in the future.

Kudumbashree Mission had made such a bigger leap by focusing on the main tribal areas in Kerala and studying them on detail. The interventions that Kudumbashree bring in had helped in many ways. Apart from the services provided by Kudumbashree Mission, the interventions that Kudumbashree made

had paved way for other departments interference in the programme as well. Once the appointment of the animators, the tribal interventions in the Aralam Farm will be in full pace.

### **Scope of the programme**

Such interventions from the side of government should be appreciated. If it would be executed properly and professional way, the programme would bring in drastic changes. It is clear that only a proper execution will bring in fruitful results. The scientific and realistic way of approach that the programme would give better results and would undoubtedly bring in positive changes in them. National Rural Livelihoods Mission had made a path breaking gesture by launching such a programme.