

Field Visit Report.

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Thrissur.

Self Help Group

I went to Karuna Kudumbashree of Vallathol nagar Panchayath. The group is made up of 12 active members mostly house wives and two working women. They are active in the Kudumbashree since 2005. At first there were 20 members but now it is 14 members. Some of them quit due to several personal issues. Their weekly meeting is on every Sundays. Their savings of one week is 20 rupees. They didn't take any loan this year. The repayment and accounts books are well maintained. They started a small canteen in the premises of the grampanchayath which was running by 6 of them. They are thinking of JLG for Banana on the banks of river Bharathapuzha. During onam and Vishu season, CDS use to have market where we use to have good demand for Banana and other vegetables.

CDS

As a part of my ST projects visit, I attended the CDS meeting of Pananchery Panchayath Kudumbashree. The name of the Chairperson is Sindhu Ramakrishnan. Sali Thomas who herself was a CDS member and Panchayath ward representative or ward member was there in the meeting. In the morning there we had a meeting of Aasraya beneficiaries and ST promoters who are helping us to implement Aasraya. The majority of the discussion in the first phase was around this. As per agenda the next topic was that about Life Mission and the members expressed the concerns and difficulties. They shed their sweat very much to be truthful to the objectives of the mission. But when the list comes there is a lot of mistakes and misappropriations. They also shares their concern that, hence the survey was taken by Kudumbashree, the political parties and representatives curse them for the issues. After these debates they also decided to resume and start as much as ME's and JLG's before the Onam.

Micro Enterprises Unit

A group of members under an SHG group is act as a main role of every Micro Enterprises Unit.

I have visited 2 ME unit, One is in Pananchery Panchayat and one is in Puthur Panchayat.

In Pananchery Panchayat, I have visited one organic farming products marketing unit. They also sell saplings of vegetables. They have started this 'Haritha' ME unit only six months back. They

couldn't get any profit from the unit, so they are planning to expand their unit with some more products.

The other ME Unit is 'Rani Honey in Marottichaal. An active member of 6 people is working hard under this beekeeping unit. The main woman is Ms. Sujatha, who got best farmer award once. Rani Honey is the only one apiculture ME Unit in Thrissur. Beekeeping helps to increase agriculture productivity through pollination. Honey bees also produce honey,beewax and royal jelly. So they get additional income to the farmer. In their unit, they sell only honey. The productivity is less but the market of the honey is high, thus they plan to expand their unit in a larger scale. They have only 10 honeybee traps.

JLG

I have visited Viswashree JLG of Nadathara Grampanchayath.They are cultivating Bitter guard in almost 50 cents of land.They are planning to expand their farm with other varieties of vegetables such as Pumpkin and snake guard. As an experiment, this year they have plantedboth in just one row. They are selling their products by their own; People use to come to their farm if they knew about the harvest. The issues they are currently facing is non-availability of land.

Asraya Beneficiary.

Omana Velayudhan from Nadathara Panchayath is the Aasraya Beneficiary I met when I visited Nadathara Panchayath to visit CDS Chairperson and team. She is from Valakkavu area. She is suffering from heart complaints since long and her husband, who was a wood mill worker, got paralyzed because of an accident at his work place. This happened few months after her marriage during her 35. So they didn't have any children. They spent their almost every belonging for the treatment of both of them. Omana's last angiogram happened because of the helps from the natives and great souls. Because of all these the panchayath committe didn't think second time to select her as one of the aasraya beneficiary.