The details of Attappady Comprehensive Tribal Development and Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group Development Project, being implemented through Kudumbashree for the welfare of the tribal communities was explained in ‘Making an Impact’ Article-73. Various social development activities planned and implemented at Attappady was also elaborated in various ‘Making an Impact’ Articles earlier. Starting from today, for the upcoming five to six days, we will write about activities being implemented for providing agricultural livelihood at Attappady.

Kambalam is one of the main interventions done in the agricultural sector of Attappady under the leadership
of Kudumbashree. As part of the Attappady Comprehensive Tribal Development and Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group Development Project, we are focusing on bringing back the conventional agricultural techniques and for increasing the participation in agricultural sector. Kambalam is the traditional agricultural festival of the tribal communities of Attappady. Kambalam, which was part of the tribal farming culture was recreated under the leadership of Panchayath Samithis and Oorusamithis of Kudumbashree. The latest Kambalam activity @ attappady succeeded in passing on the tradition of tribal agriculture to the new generation and energised the agricultural sector.

We organised Kambalam at 16 selected hamlets of Attappady. As a part of Kambalam, soil is tilled in the traditional ‘Panchakrishi’ model. Various seeds such as Ragi, Chaama, Thina, Cholam, Kambu, Varagu, Thumara, Amara etc (mostly millets) are sowed in the same field simultaneously. As different seeds that produce yield at different seasons are sowed and cultivated together, pulses could be reaped every month! And that’s the tradition @ attappady which was brought back by team Kudumbashree.

As part of Kambalam, farming was done in 18.5 acres of land. Kambalam was organised at various hamlets including Kavoondikkal, Onthamala, Kallamala, Sambarcode, Varagampaadi, Pettikkal, Kalpetti, Karathoor, Kinattukara, Kulukkoor, Narasimukku and Thazhe mulli. Through Kambalam we were able to give confidence and satisfaction to the agricultural sector of Attappady. The confidence gained by tribal farmers to follow the traditional agricultural techniques is giving us great happiness.