Value Addition in agriculture

Hope you all remember about the ‘Making an Impact Article- 07’ and ‘Making an Impact Article-28’, in which the details about the women farming groups and Organic Farming were explained respectively. These two are Kudumbashree a key intervention in agriculture livelihoods. On realising that value addition is essential for ensuring increase in income for farmers, we decided to encourage production of agro value added products.

Kudumbashree has two types of schemes for this. Subsidy Scheme for the small scale units which has project cost less than Rs 5 lakhs and the scheme which gives financial support to the moderate value addition production units which has project cost greater than Rs 5 lakhs. The value addition enterprises may be initiated either as individual enterprises or group enterprises. The individual
enterprises in the small scale enterprises would get 20% of the total project cost or Rs.10,000 (whichever is less) as financial support. The group enterprises would get 40% of the project cost or Rs.50,000 (whichever is less) as financial support. Bank loan is not compulsory for this. For the bank loans starting from Rs.4.5 lakhs for the moderate production units, 40% of the amount or maximum Rs 2 lakhs would be given as subsidy.

As of now, there are 350 small scale value addition production units and 119 moderate value addition production units started by Kudumbashree members/groups. This include value addition units of almost all crops/ fruits like paddy, vegetables passion fruit, pineapple, and banana. At present, we are trying to identify novel technologies that would help increase the production. Also the team is working towards identification of new markets. We are also in the process of developing a production monitoring system which would help in knowing the production and the other details of each units.