Today, Kerala’s Finance Minister presented the updated Annual Budget for 2021-22 financial year. As in the previous years, many important announcements had been made for Kudumbashree in this year’s budget as well. The important mentions about Kudumbashree in this budget are given below.

1. During the financial year 2021-22, bank loans of a minimum of Rs 1000 crores will be given to the NHGs. The loans upto Rs 5 lakhs will be given at 4% interest rate.

2. In the background of the crisis caused by covid pandemic, the allocation of the existing livelihood package is increased to Rs 100 crores for providing subsidy to enterprises and for imparting training to those who have lost their livelihoods to find out new ones.

3. Kudumbashree is making significant contribution through about 70,000 women farming groups (Joint Liability Groups) in the agricultural sector. Rs 10 crores was earmarked for starting Agriculture Value Added Production units through
Kudumbashree.

4. In order to utilize employment opportunities in care economy, manpower will be provided in each Grama panchayath after giving training for the care of senior citizen, differently abled etc.

5. For ensuring the representation of young women in Kudumbashree, 10,000 Auxiliary Neighbourhood Group (NHG) units will be started during this year.

6. Organic vegetables would be procured from the local farmers and would be marketed through the 'Kudumbashree Stores' of the Kudumbashree NHGs. Kerala Bank would give loans for starting such stores, purchasing vehicles and for store renovation. 2 to 3% subsidy will be given to those who repay the loan in time.

7. As part of Knowledge Economy Mission, the Kerala Technological University has set up Kerala Digital Work Force Management System (DWMS). Steps have been taken to consider it as a Sub Mission of Kudumbashree. 1048 Community Resource Persons, 152 block coordinators for training and 14 District Programme Executives for training for Kudumbashree and Kudumbashree State Level Mission team will mobilize their work associating with District Programme Executive of K-Disc and 274 skill development executives of ASAP.

8. Rs 10 crores is initially earmarked for the reduction of extreme poverty. A committee has been formed to conduct a detailed survey in this regard to determine the indicators and to submit the suggestions for the project.

9. Rs 5 crores is initially earmarked for the Smart Kitchen Programme which aims at lessening the burden of the household works. During the financial year of 2016-17 Kudumbashree receipts were Rs 75 cr. In the Budget for 2021-22 financial year, Rs 100 crores was allotted for Kudumbashree as part of the special livelihood package. The state share of Kudumbashree in this budget is Rs 200 crores. It brings us immense happiness that the Kudumbashree plan fund has therefore increased to Rs 300 crores (200+100). Considering the funds of other centrally sponsored schemes and some other projects, the total budget of Kudumbashree for the year 2021-22 will be more than Rs. 1500 crore.

Hope everyone's effort to effectively implement the announcements in the budget and the planned programmes amidst the crisis of covid-19 pandemic be a great success.