implemented during 2017-18 through Kudumbashree fraternity for producing the needed vegetables by the NHG themselves and for making the public aware of the importance of farming. Through this programme, 8.65 lakh NHG members were given training and were distributed seeds.) Launching convergence farming in panchayaths is a replicable pattern. If there are any plans to implement such ideas, the programme could achieve success by making use of the Kudumbashree farming groups.

5. Agri Business
Kudumbashree farmers could be given preference for starting agri businesses like grass cultivation, apiculture, grow bag making unit, cut vegetable and fruit units, the units that make handicrafts from bamboo, mills, jaivika plant nurseries etc. 124 Bio Pharmacies (350 members) were started during this financial year for making available good quality organic fertilizers at reasonable rates by giving training and financial assistance to women farmers. By making this enterprise part of the Panchayath level Subiksha Keralam Programme, the organic farming could be motivated and extended. Mobile Vegetable units could be started for selling agricultural products in the rural areas and urban areas and earn better income. Kudumbashree members or groups could be entrusted for the efficient management of the same. As of now, such mobile vegetable marketing units are successfully functioning in 4 districts. If programmes that aim at the formation of farming groups are considered, the federations functioning under Kudumbashree could be given priority. There are 87 paddy farming fraternities and other farming fraternities functioning under Kudumbashree. Such groups could be given financial assistance, the fraternity of the indigenous products of the panchayaths could be formed and the products could be taken to the market. The modern technologies would be introduced and promoted through the Subiksha Keralam programme. Kudumbashree farming groups are able to make use of the new ideas such as mazhamara farming, precision farming, hydroponics, aquaponics etc. So, if such programmes are planned in the panchayath level, Kudumbashree farmers could be considered as beneficiaries.

6. Marketing
Nattuchantha, the temporary market of Kudumbashree which makes available organic vegetables and other Kudumbashree products to the public could be renovated and empowered and can be turned into permanent marketing centres. Master Farmers are entrusted with the management of the same. Their services could continuously be used in this sector. If any projects would be submitted for launching marketing centres in panchayath level in connection with the Subiksha Programme, Kudumbashree’s farming groups could be made use of. Also they can be given opportunities to take products to such markets regularly.
and can also give opportunities for managing and maintaining the marketing centres. Kudumbashree farming groups have string marketing systems such as Nattuchantha, Home Shop, Monthly Markets etc for selling the agri products produced by Kudumbashree farming groups. But the lack of the cooling system is affecting the efficient marketing. So, if there are any plans to implement a cold storage system and the Kudumbashree’s marketing systems be included in the same, it would be helpful for Kudumbashree’s farmers. If there are any plans for diversification, branding, marketing, the existing Kudumbashree units or new Kudumbashree units who desire to come to the enterprise sector could be given preference. The agri department of Kudumbashree is all set to extend all help to them.

7. Human Resource
The 5000+ Community Resource Persons who got Kudumbashree’s training are capable of training the farmers who come forward to do fallow land cultivation in the panchayath level (JEVA and master farmers are extending training in all Panchayaths). The service of Agri Project Consultant could be made use of for the development projects in the LSGI level or for writing projects related to Subiksha or other related Departments. As of now, the selected Agriculture Department Block Coordinators were given special training of Agriculture University and equipped them for writing agricultural products. The Cluster Level Coordinators who got various training in organic farming are enhancing the organic farming sector of Kudumbashree. Their services can be given to new farmers who come to organic farming. The services of Kudumbashree’s Farmer Facilitation Centre (FFC) in all Panchayaths could be used in various levels. Small scale agricultural equipment could be rented out from here at reasonable rates. Various training based on the regional agricultural crops could be given through FFCs.

For converging these ideas, we write letter to the heads of the LSGIs and have requested them to discuss the same in their level. In addition to this, we are planning for organising a campaign as the next level activity, to make more convergences possible for Subiksha Keralam Programme during 15 days starting from 15 June to July 1st under the leadership of CDSs and Kudumbashree NHGs. The formulation of this campaign is under progress. Once it would be completed, I would explain the details about the same with you all. I hope Kudumbashree would play