Kudumbashree – Women Empowerment Model
Leased Land Farming by Women Collectives
Kudumbashree

Community Development Society
- Registered apex Federation at the Local Government level
- Covers 100% of local governments in the State

Area Development Society
- Federation of NHG at the ward level
- Covers 98% of the State

Neighbourhood Groups
- 10 to 20 women per group; one per family
- 261,000 NHG across Kerala
- 4.3 million members
Working with Local Governments

- Evaluation Committee of CDS chaired by GP President
- Asst. Secretary of GP is member secretary to CDS
- Five women elected representatives - ex-officio members of CDS
- CDS members are members of GP Planning Working Groups
- Ward member is patron of ADS
- ADS members are mates in MGNREGS
- NHGs are sub-units to Gram Sabha
Kudumbashree – Programme Domains

Social

Economic

Women

Empowerment
Context

• Kerala’s paddy cultivation touched an all time low in 2005 with the area under cultivation falling to 2.8 lakh hectares
• Low productivity in food crops
• Higher focus on cash crops (Mono crop
• Fragmentation of land and absentee landlordism
What Kudumbashree has achieved

- 43,000 ha of land under cultivation by women groups
- Women as farmers (not labour)
- Converting fallow land back into production

What Collectives of women can do
Salient Issues

1. How to ensure access to land on a continuous basis? How to support inputs?
2. How to reduce drudgery and ensure occupational safety when there is no incentive to invest in machinery or tools at the farmstead level?
3. How to enhance incomes from farming?
4. How to provide technical and managerial support?
1. Land access and inputs

- Land availed through informal lease agreements; 43,000 ha cultivated by 55,000 JLGs with more than 2.8 lakh women
- JLGs registered with CDSs
- Grama Panchayat and the CDS work together for availing land
- Informal lease agreements are now recognised by banks for credit; Rs 350 availed as loans from banks
2. Reducing Drudgery and Ensuring Occupational Safety

• Convergence with MGNREGS for converting fallow land into cultivable land (One time land development activity)
• Capacity building through MKSP under NRLM: Master farmers
• Farmer facilitation centres for mechanisation; overcoming the limitations of lack of incentive to invest in machinery at the plot level

What Collectives of Women can do
Convergence for MGNREGS

Perambra Panchayat, Kozhikode

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What Collectives of Women can do
3. Enhancing Incomes

• Cultivation targeted at major events and festivals
• Linking JLGs to markets (Market intelligence and product flows)
• Weekly markets
  – In August 2017, JLGs have sold 485t of vegetables for Rs 1.85 crore through 943 weekly markets
4. Technical and Managerial Support

• Low-cost model of community mobilization and development action

• Resource persons and resource institutions developed from within the community

• Enterprise approach to service provision – training, accounts and audit, business development services

A Movement called Kudumbashree
The Green Army

• Skilled Labour Bank
• 204 member workers, 104 women
• Services 4559 ha of land in a year
• Comprehensive mechanisation – tilling, sowing, weeding, harvesting
• Support on input side to farmers; support in marketing of produce
• A team of 5 members earn 3950 per day (TL-1000, DTL – 750, Workers – 700 each).
A resulting policy and awareness

- Kerala Conservation of Paddy Land and Wet Land Act 2008
- Prohibits conversion of wet land and paddy land
- Committees from PRI level to State level to approve and oversee conversion when necessary
- People’s movements across the state to protect wet land and water resources
Sajith Sukumaran  
Chief Operating Officer

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National Rural Livelihoods Mission

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