



Organic Farming for safe to eat fruits and vegetables



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It was already mentioned in this series (in Making an Impact-07) that we have 65,031 Joint Liability Groups (JLG - women doing group farming). Through these units more than 52,000 hectares of land is brought under cultivation. Kudumbashree farming groups, in general, are producing safe to eat vegetables and fruits and we take this to the needy through the local markets (Nattuchantha). Along with this 'Safe to Eat' tagline, we are planning to go for organic certification, to introduce organic products to the market.

Kudumbashree Mission shared the idea of stepping in into organic farming with the Participatory Guarantee



System (PGS) certificate of National Centre for Organic Farming (NCOF) in 2018 to its JLG s. Our women farmers welcomed the concept with much enthusiasm. In the first year itself 8,401 groups started taking the first step towards organic farming. The selected regional council is overseeing the organic farming activities of Kudumabshree for NCOF. The Joint Liability Groups which had been producing agricultural crops like paddy, plantain, vegetables and tubers had come forward to don organic farming. Now 10,433 groups are into organic cultivation in 8393 acres of land. Out of them, majority are cultivating vegetables.

Clusters are formed by joining the 'organic' Joint Liability Groups in block level. Above the clusters, we have Local Groups (LG). Local groups are formed joining 5 to 20 cluster members and the details of the local groups are registered in the website of NCOF. The cluster level members would be given training and other assistance through cluster level coordinators. The farms of such registered

groups would be visited and examined by the regional council representatives. One year after the start of cultivation, PGS Green Certificate (conversion to organic farming) would be given to the farming groups. After three years, NCOF would give PGS Organic Certificate. Through these certificates, the products of the farming groups could be brought to the market with Organic label.

The first certificate (IC1) would be issued during the first year, after the examination by the regional council. Following that, after the examination during second and third years, organic certificates would be issued. It is expected that more than 2000 farming groups would complete their registration this year. We aspire that by 2022, more than 50% of our farms would be converted to organic and our agricultural products will also be organically certified.

