

KUDUMBAM ANNUAL REPORT 2018-2019



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CONTENT

<i>Foreword</i>	
Introduction	6
1. Activities in Collaboration with Future Earth - Promoting Food Security	6
1.1. Capacity Building Training	6
1.2. State Level Bio Village Conference	7
1.3. Farmers' Field School on seed production	8
1.4. Training on climate resilient crops	8
1.5. Training on Producer Company	9
1.6. Training on PGS to Certified groups of farmers	9
1.7. Health camps	9
1.8. Seed ball Training	9
1.9. Awareness Training	9
1.10 Training on Women Trainers	10
2. Future Earth Asia Network - Common Activities:	10
2.1. Building capacities of farmers in healthy and quality seed production towards achieving seed self sufficient villages.	10
2.2. Global Greengrants Fund	11
2.3. Regional coordinator group (RCG) Strengthening people centric climate resilient practices for sustainable and equitable livelihood	12
3. Youth volunteers' programme	13
4. NIMBA - Empowerment of Textile workers and Training	14
4.1 Legal Education	15
4.2 Campaign on issues of migrant girls	16
4.3 Skill training on Tailoring	16
4.4. Awareness training about issues of Migrant workers and consequences of Migration for school children	17
5. Activities in Collaboration with Emmaus International	18
5.1. Collective projects: Re-establishing Farm Ecology to Enhance Food Production	19
5.2. Emmaus Montbeliard - Improving live-stock production, seed collection, processing and marketing	19
6. Emmaus - FAP - Construction Of Hostel For Parentless Boys And Drinking Water Over Head Tank	20
7. Emmaus Africa work camp - at Benin	21
8. Emmaus World Alternative Forum Planning Meeting	21
9. Emmaus World Alternative Forum at Geneva	22
10. Emmaus Asia Regional Meeting at Srilanka	23

11. Collaboration with PAN AP Network	24
11.1 Learning exchange program for Youth in Agro-ecology at Srilanka	24
12. NABARD	25
12.1. Training for farmers in quality seed production	25
13. Gaja Cyclone and Kolunji Ecological Farm	26
14. NABFINS - Micro Credit activities	31
14.1. At Kolunji	32
14.2. At Tranquobar	33
15. Translation of LEISA India Magazine Home	34
16. Vidivelli Children	35
17. Kolunji Ecological Farm	37
18. Kolunji Trainings -	39
18.1. Paid course Trainings on Sustainable agriculture and Integrated Farming System	39
18.2. Facilitation of Eco Clubs in Schools and Organic farming Training To Students	39
18.3. Organic farming Training for Farmers and Students	40
18.4. Student's internship at Kudumbam for the year April 2018-March 2019	40
19. Collaboration with SASTRA University	43
20. University students' Internship Programme	44
21. Contribution of Governing Body to Kudumbam	45
22. Proposed Activities for 2020	45

Foreword

I am happy to present 2018-2019 Annual Report of Kudumbam in the 37th Annual General Body Meeting. Having a strong motive to establish Bio Village, since 1982 Kudumbam actively involved in reviving sustainable agriculture practices, community forests, and community tanks and in developing eco villages. We could never forget the efforts of (Late)Dr. Nammalvar, (Late) Mr. Periyannayagasamy, (Late)Mr. Rengaraj and Ms. Gandhimathi, in the formation of Kudumbam NGO, Kolunji Ecological farm and the community forests in the villages.

Our focus has been in addressing the issues on deforestation, ground water depletion, migration due to monsoon failure and developing alternatives to address these issues. Kudumbam has realized the need for grass root sustainable development alternatives to increase tree cover, to desilt and deepen existing water bodies and to establish new farm ponds, thereby recharging the defunct water resources.

With declining water table, the groundwater situation needs urgent attention and demands a policy change in irrigation and cropping methods and land use. India annually extracts around 251 cubic kilometer groundwater which is 25% of the total global annual extraction and 26 times the water stored in the Bhakra Dam. In comparison, together China and the US extract just 112 cu km. 64% of the wells in the country show a drastic decline in water table. 33% of the wells drop in water table is rather gradual; 3% of the wells is comparatively stable.

In 2010 area under well irrigation dropped by 70%; In 2018, it dropped to 90%. In 2018, 10% of the rain-fed panchayats in India were purchasing drinking water in tanks. In 2019, 60% of the rain-fed districts in the country are purchasing drinking water in tanks. If this situation continues as it is, we are steadily inching towards catastrophe. Water, in any way, is going to be the reason for future troubles and conflicts. As climate change is becoming a recurring future, the stress on groundwater resources would increase.

India's groundwater use was just about 7 cubic kilometer in 1940; it went up to around 270 cubic kilometer at the millennium end. Since 1950, the total share of groundwater in irrigation has nearly doubled. The groundwater extraction rose sharply during the late 70s and 80s. This is the outcome of so called Green Revolution, planting of High Water Utilizing Crops, neglect of Community Water Bodies and Destruction of Community Forest.

In Tamil Nadu especially in the drought prone Pudukkottai region, 90% of the bore wells have gone dry and 100% of the tanks have not been filled for 10 years. Tank irrigated rice has not been harvested for the last 10 years. In the dry land of these region around Kolunji, last year, more than 250 farmers have cultivated e.g. Kodo millet (*Varagu*), Finger Millet (*Ragi*), Pearl Millet (*Kambu*), but they hardly got 50% yield due to low rainfall. Nearly 60 farmers cultivated traditional Rice varieties, of which, only 40 farmers got just 30% yield. It is noted that the reason behind the farmers who have succeeded found to be bunding of the land, tank silt application, green leaf manure, penning of cattle and choice of cultivation of drought varieties.

Food Security and Food Sovereignty:

We are involved in 26 panchayats in Pudukkottai district and 23 panchayats in Nagapattinam district. In an effort to enhance vegetable cultivation, we have initiated nutrition kitchen garden in the above panchayats. In an effort to address crop failure we facilitate seed production in Millets, Pulses and traditional Rice in 11 panchayats. In an effort to upscale cultivation of minor millets and pulses in 13 panchayats in Pudukkottai district and 9 panchayats in Nagapattinam district. In an effort to upscale cultivation of traditional rice, we facilitate cultivation of traditional rice in 7 villages in Pudukkottai district and 4 villages in Nagapattinam district.

Strengthening of Youth in Agriculture:

In the last 20 years there is a drastic decline in youth in agriculture. In an effort to address the above issue, we facilitate eco-clubs in 17 schools around Kolunji and 7 schools around Tranquobar. Children are involved in planting trees at schools, establishing kitchen garden and herbal garden at homes and preparing seed balls and planting it in village common lands.

Our involvement with university students in deepening their insights on the impact of the environmental degradation, depletion of water table, destruction of forest and their role in sensitizing fellow students and local communities in reviving and re-establishing the environment. We have organized 15 days training for Agriculture and Environmental Management/ Science students in which 15 students each from 5 agriculture colleges participated. We organized 3 day training programme for students from 3 colleges from the dept. of Biotechnology and Microbiology.

We organized a 3 month training for students from 5 colleges studying Masters of Social Work, in enhancing community participation in management of community water bodies, community forest and in facilitating collective farming, value addition and collective marketing.

Involvement with International Students:

We have been involved with two interns from Future Earth, Sweden who stayed with us for 6 months and two students who were involved in a minor field study on Environmental issues and grass root level sustainable alternatives and stayed at Kudumbam for 3 months.

Deforestation:

Forests play a vital role in water conservation as trees and other vegetation reduce the run-off and increase percolation of water into soil thereby improving the water regime in the area.

The coastal district of Pudukkottai has witnessed immense destruction caused by cyclone Gaja last November including uprooting of trees in large numbers all over the district. The State proposes to distribute 1.80 lakh seedlings under the Tamil Nadu Bio-Diversity Conservation and Greening Project. The seedlings would be planted on patta lands belonging to farmers residing outside the forest areas.

Though the forest cover has remained 20% since independence, in the last 3 decades, drought has become recurring in future. During 2008 -'18, there has been almost 10 years of consecutive

drought. Kudumbam's efforts in re-forestation of common lands, through preparing of seed balls and planting them in common lands. Establishing tree nurseries with 25 farmers in 5 villages, these tree nurseries are mainly timber trees, fodder and fuel seedlings have been distributed to more than 250 farmers in 10 villages and those farmers have been motivated to mobilize support for department of horticulture and dept. of forest and with their support tree planting has been taken up in farmers' fields.

Microcredit

Kudumbam's effort in micro credit is to provide credit together with NABFINS, to farmers' livelihood initiatives in reducing migration. Decline in the number of rainy days and annual rainfall has dropped from 650mm to 475mm. This has compelled young men between the age group of 17yrs and 45 yrs and girls between the age group of 15 and 35 yrs to migrate to the garment industries, liquor bottling factories or the construction industries. Feminization in agriculture is on the increase. In an effort to reduce external borrowing of the community from private money lenders whose rate of interest is between 36% to 60%. We have formed 207 Joint Liability Groups (JLG) and 20 SHGs, in Pudukkottai district and have enabled 1243 borrowers to avail loan of Rs.4,67,00,000/-from Nabfins at 17.75% and 387 JLGs consisting of 2220 borrowers with a loan amount of Rs. 9,09,19,000 in Tranquobar.

This report narrates our interventions and the impacts and learning's during the year April 2018 to March 2019. We are thankful to each and every one of you for your continued support and cooperation in enhancing livelihood of vulnerable communities in dry land and in coastal agriculture. We look forward for your continuous support in our journey in building a better World.

Oswald Quintal
Executive Director
Kudumbam

INTRODUCTION:

Kudumbam - "Family" is a democratic, secular and non-profit voluntary organization involved in the rural development facilitating sustainable eco-friendly agriculture. It has been functioning since 1982 as a registered society under Tamil Nadu Society's Act of 1975. It has its aims and objectives to promote ecological agriculture, to enable resource poor farmers, to shape themselves and a society on the firm pillars of justice and equality to empower people to have control over local natural resources and to evolve a network of NGOs and to promote LEISA (Low External Input Sustainable Agriculture). Kudumbam has established a farm cum training centre called Kolunji Ecological Farm. Our vision is to strengthen vulnerable communities through building a multi-stakeholder partnership for the preservation and regeneration of native flora and fauna, in order to ensure a sustainable livelihood. In the present arena Kudumbam works to find out the alternatives and solutions for the emerging issues of ground water depletion, deforestation and migration and debts. Based on our vision and objectives our activities for the year 2018-2019 are carried out with the full involvement of farmers, students, university and other research stations and other professionals and staff. We are happy to narrate our activities in detail below.

1. ACTIVITIES IN COLLABORATION WITH FUTURE EARTH:

Farming or agriculture is considered as the cradle of human civilization. In India, for majority of people who live in its villages, it is the means of livelihood and development. Further, it is the source for food production, food security and all other dependent/related production activities and industries. For the past few decades, Indian agriculture has been facing serious threats and therefore declining, causing great concern. Marginal, small and marginal farmers have been in extreme distress and some of them have even been pushed to the extent of committing suicide by burdening indebtedness and economic depression. Climate change, ground water depletion, deforestation and migration affects the basic rights of food security. It is with the support of Future Earth we could find alternatives to cope up with the natural and manmade adversaries.

It was at this juncture, that Kudumbam reflected upon the wisdom of our forefathers, whose ecological sense included non disturbance to the native flora & fauna and crop selection included adaptation capabilities. Since their wisdom of agriculture is all the more relevant in the present context, it was decided to take forward the cultivation of traditional food crop varieties among farmers and consumption among consumer to ensure food security and guarantee community health. Given below are the activities of Future Earth project:

1.1 Capacity building training:

Capacity building training has been given to farmers to sensitize farmers **on climate resilient technologies** like water management, seed selection on millet and traditional paddy at Puliur and Sappanipatti; 10 farmers from each village participated in the training. Resource persons are Mr. Kalaiselvan and Mr. Aravindan. Our farmers group has been experimenting on varieties that are climate resilient, specifically drought, flood and saline tolerant varieties. The training dates were

February 20th and 21st 2018. The next trainings were conducted on 15th October and 5th November respectively. Mr. Aravindan the lead farmers and trainer explained the techniques and benefits and shared his experience. After this training on climate resilient techniques the farmers are ready to change their cropping pattern. They started trying this technique by cultivating nearly 17 varieties in their field. By this they could cultivate different varieties of crops like, ground nut, chilly, tomato, lady's finger, onion, cow pea, tamarind, ginger, sesame, greens, black gram, cluster beans, brinjal, cotton, castor and the like. This type of mixed cropping method minimises the water usage, pest problems and could be harvested in different period. So that they can get income throughout the year and can get organic nutritious yield from their field itself. 20 Farmers changed their crops from irrigated paddy variety to traditional paddy variety, which are drought tolerant. 6 farmers started adopting drip irrigation system and 4 of farmers have established farm ponds; 25 farmers cultivating millet crops and 32 farmers are following mixed cropping practice by cultivating 4 to 17 crops.

1.2. State Level Bio Village Conference:

A **one day conference on Bio village** was organised at Kolunji ecological farm on 18th July 2018 and around 135 people participated. Prior to this a planning meeting was organised at Kudumbam administrative office at Trichy on 20th June. Lead farmers, coordinators from office, environmental activists and experts participated in the planning meeting.

This one day workshop on establishing Bio village was organized at Kolunji Ecological Farm cum Training Centre on 18th July 2018 in which farmers, ex-presidents of panchayats belonging to Kunnandarkoil Union of Pudukkottai District and NGOs numbering 135 participated. Mr. Oswald Quintal, Director started with the emphasis on the need for re-establishing self reliant, sustainable bio villages and explained the core components like seed, water, soil health, forest and agro-biodiversity. Lead farmers Mr. Kalaiselvan of Kovilveerakudi



shared his experience on mixed cropping method, Mr. Aravindhnan of Kovilveerakudi shared his experience on integrated farming system and Mrs. Palaniyammal of Nallathangalpatti highlighted the involvement of her village farmers in producing quality seeds in rice, pulses, oil seeds and vegetables and how their income has been raised when they tie up with State Seed Farms and selling their quality seeds to them regularly. As part of the event, the farmers were distributed with quality seeds of millets and traditional paddy varieties for this cropping season. 237 Kgs of millets seeds (Finger Millet, Foxtail Millet & Kodo millet) & 274 Kgs of traditional paddy seeds (Seeraga Samba, Kaivirai Samba, Mappillai Samba, Salem Sanna & Poongaar) were distributed to 135

farmers. These seeds were distributed by Mr. Karthik and Mrs. Kalpana, a NRI couple working at software companies in USA who came for a visit to Kudumbam to learn ecological agriculture practices.

1.3: Farmers' Field School on seed production was organised at Thirupur and Kongathiranpatti villages. Farmers from Thirupur, Kongathiranpatti, Pallathupatti and Veerapatti participated in this Farmers' Field School. Around 40 farmers got enriched their knowledge on seed production. Totally 3 FFS in traditional paddy variety was conducted at Kongathiranpatti village and 3 trainings on mixed cropping techniques was conducted at Thirupur village.

Through Farmers Field School for seed producers in two villages 6 traditional paddy varieties were popularised. Mr. Baskaran and Mr. Anbuselvan were the resource persons for this FFS training. The Farmers field schools dates are 26th April, 27th June, 1st July, 24th August, 28th September and 26th October 2018.

This training resulted in the increase of seed producers.

Seed producers :

Traditional paddy seed farmers -10

Millet seed producers -6

Pulses seed producers -8

Kudumbam now has a total of 121 seed producers.

1.4: Training on cultivation of climate resilient crops was imparted to Visalur and Rakkathampatti village farmers in three different schedules the first on 1.9.2018, second on 13.10.2018 and third on 30.10.2018. A total of 48 farmers took part in this training on climate resilient cropping technique. This training has increased farmers interest to change their cropping pattern. 26 farmers followed the method of climate resilient cropping in traditional paddy, millet and in some vegetables. Farmers showed more interest in cultivating millets and pulses.

1.5. Training on producer company was conducted in Nallathankalpatti, kovil veerakudi, Valiyampatti, Odugampatti and Udaiyalipatti farmers groups. One group from each village participated in these trainings. Six trainings were conducted in these villages. The first training was conducted at Nallathangalpatti village on 3.9.2018, Kovil veerakudi village on 4.9.2018, Valiyampatti village on 5.10.2018, Odugampatti village on 6.10.2018, and Udiaylipatti village on 1.11.2018 and 2.11.2018. The training aims at strengthening the existing groups, motivate them to obtain PGS certification, enrolment of new members, sharing of knowledge and collective marketing. 10 farmers from each group participated in these trainings.

The farmers' groups are involved in collective marketing. One tonn of Value added Red Gram (Pulses) was sold by Nallathankalpatti farmers producer groups and they earned Rs. 30/kg extra income from their collective marketing. Similarly 250 kg of traditional paddy seeds were sold by Kovil veerakudi farmers groups. A total of 112 farmers enrolled in the Producer group.

1.6. Training on PGS to Certified groups of farmers

PGS training was conducted in 5 villages. The training is on PGS organic standards, Maintaining farmers' profile, farm history, documentation work and marketing. For this training from Nallathankalpatti four groups, Navapatti one group, Veerapatti one group, Pallathupatti one group and from Kovilveerakudi three groups participated. Five trainings were conducted in 3 months period. The first on 16.6.2018, second on 27.7.2018, thrid on 28.7.2019, 4th on 22.8.2018 and 5th on 31.8.2018. Nearly 10 to 12 farmers from each group participated. Totally 112 farmers applied for PGS certification(11 groups).

1.7. Health camps:

Health camps were conducted in Themmavur, Odugampatti, Killukottai and in Puliur villages; around 900 persons were screened blood and sugar level. Diabetic patients were identified who visited this health camps and were made to consult the Doctors. Follow ups have been done continuously. During the camp, awareness training on nutritious food and dietetics was explained clearly.



1.8 **Seed Ball** training was conducted on the 11th of April 2018, during the environmental awareness week at SBIOA school at Trichy. Around 200 students participated in this training. Tree seeds were mixed with sand, soil, cow dung and water and made it dry in the Sun and the seed balls when thrown in the common land it will grow automatically when gets rain water.

1.9. Awareness Training:

An awareness training was given to Odugampatti school on 8th June and 30 students participated in that. The awareness on environmental conservation and safe food practices. After the training they have done drawings on global warming and its causes. Also they drew alternative methods.



In Veerapatti and Killukottai villages more women farmers have enrolled in the farmers groups. 220 women groups from 36 villages are now very active. At present 1200 members are in the women groups. The women in the group are trained in leadership, book keeping and collective marketing.

1.10. **Training on women** trainers was organised on 15.3.2018 at Kolunji Ecological Farm. The women trainers from this training learnt about gender equality, collective marketing and organic farming. The training was organised as to have more practical sessions. 15 women attended from three villages viz. Nallathangalpatti, Konguthirauanpatti and Udaiyalipatti. Among the 15 women participated they gave training on backyard kitchen garden and organic farming practices to the local women group members.

These trainers contribute and would contribute in strengthening the women group, PGS groups and in Micro credit programme.

2. FUTURE EARTH ASIA NETWORK COMMON ACTIVITIES:

2.1 Building capacities of farmers in healthy and quality seed production:



Seed is the basic need for farmers. In recent times, farmer's dependency on seed from external sources is on the increase which made farmers to use poor quality and impure seeds and hence an estimated crop loss of 15-20% and more of pesticides and chemical fertilizers usage and more of debt. To address this issue a 3 day training program on quality seed production was organized by Kudumbam NGO with the support of Future Earth under common activities and NABARD during the month of December 2018. We identified 10 farmers in each panchayats of Nallathangalpatti,

Kovilveerakudi and Vaaliyampatti panchayats. The objectives of the training are i) Revive seed conservation and exchange among farmers, ii) Capacity building on quality seed production , iii) to establish seed producer groups, iv) to make aware of the govt. schemes/ agriculture department, seed certification and to learn how to avail it.

Mr. Singaram, Deputy Director of Agriculture for Central Scheme, Mr. Rajasekaran, LDM (Lead District Manager) of Pudukkottai Mr. Somasundaram, District Development Manager of NABARD Pudukkottai were the chief guests. Mr. Singaram cautioned the farmers on getting unnecessary loans. Mr. Rajasekaran stressed the importance and necessity of money on crop insurance. Mr. Somasundaram, District Development Manager of NABARD Pudukkottai highlighted the investment made in construction of check dams, storage godowns, and supporting them in the formation of FPOs (Farmers Producer Organizations, art of enhancing farm income, farmers needs to choose the type of crops, to use techniques like SRI, and added that at present, the percentage of state seed supply is just 17 and efforts are being taken to raise it to 30%.He, also added that the farmers to take collective actions and efforts to avail the benefits of State schemes available for

promoting traditional agriculture practices. It was happy to note that around 200 farm ponds were dug in this region by farmers on their lands using the state subsidy and these are good sign of growing awareness among farmers.

The post lunch session was handled by Mr. Ramadass on seed production dealt about physical, physiological, health aspects and genetic purity of seeds, selection of seeds, land requirement, isolation, roughing, physiological maturity, harvest and trashing. Lead farmers like Mr. Govindasamy, Mrs. Palaniyammal and Mr. Anbarasan shared their experiences in seed production. The Deputy Director of Agriculture highlighted the State schemes available for farmers. As the farmer's group wanted to know more about PKYV in detail, Mr. Suresh Kanna



made a brief presentation about the objective of PKYV and how it sets targets at the national level and Tamil Nadu state level, its various support for promotion of organic agriculture and the components (seeds, green manures, bio fertilizers, construction of vermi-compost pits, study exposure visits.

2.2 Global Greengrants Fund



The support from Global Greengrants Fund has been used to fulfill the objective of the project in enhancing and strengthening farmer's capacities in understanding the role of climate variation and its effects in crop production and how they could collectively redesign their farming to mitigate the effects of climate change. Hence, in the project more emphasis has been given to farmers to study the everchanging climate and seasonal variations and understand the agro-ecosystem. They were engaged in a process of careful observation of their field at different intervals and analyze how each and every component is inter-connected

and vital for crop cultivation and crop yield. Understanding agro-ecosystem and its analysis is a process and hence we organized 15 Climate Field Schools at every 10 days during the cropping season right from seed to harvest in order to study, observe and learn the functions of agro-

ecosystem at different stages of crop growth. The fund from Global Greengrant were used to practically demonstrate the preparation and application of bio pest repellent mixtures, growth promoters like effective micro organisms, panchakaviya, amirtha karaisal, fish amino acid by using local resources and the by-products of animal and crop residues. The entire process of Climate Field School was facilitated by a team of experienced resource persons.

The project focus was mainly in two areas. One is in strengthening farmer's capacities in agro-ecosystem analysis and facilitates a process of participatory learning through Climate Field School approach and the other is strengthening their capacities in Participatory Guarantee System of Certification and collective actions on value addition and marketing.

The farmers groups in the 3 villages were oriented on how they could follow PGS (Participatory Guarantee Systems) to certify their products as organic by themselves. Likewise at the student's level, we have identified 3 schools and through the school authorities we have identified students who can contribute to the project with commitment and have the skills and potential to practically get involved in greening their school campus and make them understand the importance of environmental conservation and to plan for small garden and to plant seedlings. A total of 75 students and 3 teachers were engaged in the project activities in 3 middle schools in Kovilveerakudi, Udayalipatti and Vaaliyampatti village panchayats. The impact of this the farmers and students are still active in safeguarding and multiplying trees and crops. And by seeing the efforts of Mr. Kalaiselvan, a lead farmer of Kovilveerakudi, was invited for the 1st International Rural Youth Assembly organized by PAN AP in Jakarta, Indonesia in the month of April 2018 to share his experience in organic farming and also mixed cropping system.

2.3 Regional coordinator group (RCG):

RCG (Regional Coordination Group) is the facilitation and co-ordination body within Future Earth Asia network has been functioning for the last 11 years. Earlier, the Future Earth Asia network had a coordinator from Sweden who stayed in India and did this job of network coordination. About 11 years back, this was replaced by the RCG, in a way this has created an opportunity for all the members within the network to do this coordination with explicit democracy and participation of each and every member of the network should get a chance to do the co-ordination job for their own network and feel the ownership of its functioning. In the above context, for the last 11 years, the role of RCG has been crucial in supporting the network members to do the follow up on the decisions and planned activities in line with the common program goal.

Regional Co-ordination Group physically met 2 times during the year 2018 i.e., one in June 2018 at Pastapur, Telangana. The main objective of the first meeting was to relook on the decisions of the last regional assembly and review its progress, review of the project related development in each region of the network and to discuss the unutilized money and inviting proposals from members. The second meeting of the RCG was mainly to finalize the preparation for the Regional Assembly meeting of Future Earth Asia which was held in November 2018.

The active participation and division of responsibilities has helped in enhancing the communication which in turn has helped RCG in co-ordinating the planned activities and executed the same in time. As the RCG played a vital role in constant touch with members on the decisions and remind them on the deadline with members regularly has helped in timely implementation of project activities has helped the members to completely utilize the funds allotted to all projects.

Like last year, the RCG was engaged in the planning and preparation of many events of the network. The updation of communication regarding the decisions of RCG meeting and the skype meeting to the network members also made them aware of the network activities and their roles in supporting the activities committed by the member organizations. As did in 2017, the performance of RCG was also evaluated by the Regional assembly during its November 2018 meeting in Mumbai in which 2 new RCG members namely Mr. P.M. Mohan of CIRHEP and Ms. Ashma of SECMOL were elected. The RA also reassures their faith on newly included members of RCG and its functions.

Until, the Annual Regional Assembly which was held in November 2018 at New Delhi, the RCG comprised of the following persons.

1. Mr. Tashi - LEHO
2. Mr. Nortan - LEDeG
3. Mrs. Sangeeta - Srushtidnyan
4. Mr. Suresh Kanna - Kudumbam (Facilitator)

As Mr. Tashi's term of office was over, he was replaced by Mr. Mohan of CIRHEP through formal election process which was held at the Regional Assembly meeting in November 2018. The Regional Assembly of Future Earth Asia has also unanimously decided that Mr. Suresh Kanna to continue as the Facilitator of the network.

The RCG also worked meticulously in finalizing the program agenda for the regional assembly meeting. With regards to the newsletter, RCG played a great role in collecting information for the newsletter of Future Earth. RCG played a major role in motivating and regular follow up with members and make them to understand the importance of timely submission of information for newsletter and reports. RCG is committed to streamline the process in the following years.

3. Youth volunteers

It is the 17th year we got volunteers from Future Earth Sweden. Kudumbam considered this programme as an unique and important one connecting South and North learning the culture of Tamil Nadu and to get equipped with Sustainable Development practices. The then volunteers of Kudumbam are the present coordinators or in high positions of various funding agencies who support Sustainable development alternatives.

During their stay with us, they consider this as a wonderful opportunity for young people from Sweden to experience different environment, culture and understanding the development issues in the context of diverse social, economical and political situations and gender dimensions. They also enjoyed in learning the Tamil Culture in dressing, food preparation and consumption and in hospitality apart from their work.



In this reporting period two volunteers from Future Earth stayed here for 4 months. Ms. Lovisa Astrand and Ms. Saralinn Wallin worked in Kudumbam from February 3rd to June 11th 2019. They contributed in identifying widows and single women in Kudumbam working villages and prepared case studies. They involved in photo documentation of trainings organized at Kolunji Ecological Farm. They also prepared case studies and photo documentation of Vidivelli children. They visited and documented innovative farmers fields and their insights and practices on sustainable agriculture. They also documented coastal livelihood intervention. They were interested in finding out the health related issues of pregnant women and hence visited a Gynecologist in the nearby hospital. They also organized an awareness programme with regard to First Aid at Kudumbam office. Their involvement in learning Tamil culture was appreciable.

4. EMPOWERMENT OF TEXTILE WORKERS

Introduction

A 2016 survey by Tamil Nadu government revealed that there are 10.67 lakh migrant workers in the state. The highest employer of this group was the manufacturing sector (27%), followed by textile (14.1%) and construction (11.4%). There are more than 1,500 mills in Tamil Nadu, the biggest hub for textile and manufacturers in India, employing up to 400,000 workers to turn cotton into yarn, fabric and clothes (source: The times of India Newspaper). The workers are not being paid minimum wages and are unregistered. When they migrate to other places the social conditions and culture are different from their place.



Due to family economic conditions and consecutive drought the youth especially the girls above the age of 16 or 17 forced to migrate to this garment and textile industries in Tamil Nadu, In fact the parents of the textile workers borrow money from the agent of the textile factory, which compelled

them to work in semi bonded labour conditions. The local agents contact the parents made contract for 3 years with an advance of Rs.20,000 to Rs.30,000.

In a panchayat roughly 200 girls are there. Out of 200, nearly 125 are going for outside employment, that too 50 girls go for garment industry, 40 persons are going for construction work and 30 go for bottling (refilling). Due to drought almost 80% agriculture work is diminished. This compelled them to migrate to such work. They were able to demand and so 20% of wages get increased. From agriculture work they earn Rs.150 to 200, from bottling and garment industries they earn around Rs.300/-.

In the above context with the support of NIMBA -Sweden, Kudumbam facilitated the project called "Empowerment of Migrant workers" from 2012. The main aim of this project is to enhance the quality of life of migrant workers through increased knowledge and skills.

In 10 panchayats, for 30 people who are working in garment industry, Kudumbam organized a 2 day training programme for the women workers on women rights. It was for the women workers returned from the garment industry. Two trainings one on tailoring and embroidery and bio-input preparation and nursery rising. The second training was for the girls who have just completed 10th and 12th standards. For these girls training was on importance of women and education; it is to motivate them to study further to go for higher education. This training was conducted once in 3 months a one day training for 20 participants. Therefore 4 batches have been completed this training. After the training a total of 40 girls from 100 girls got the training, have joined for higher education in the following colleges Pudukkottai Government Arts College, Bharathidasan University 5 year integrated courses, Pavendar Bharathidasan College, MIET, Trichy, Arts colleges of Thuvakudi and Kantharvakottai.

4.1 Tailoring:

The discussions with migrant girls revealed that they are interested in learning some skill to supplement their household income and they are not interested to go for job outside their hometown. They showed interest in learning embroidery and tailoring. By providing vocational training to the girls and women, we can help them a step further so that they could do things on their own and earn their bread. With the vocational training, women can get economically empowered even when they do not have any proper job. They can start



their businesses; they can make and sell things from home, after successful completion of the course, they will be encouraged to get bank loans to start their own business.

The new location of the training was at Keeranur where more number of girls could learn the free course. A specialized person was recruited as tutor and in 2018 there were 28 young girls learnt stitching and tailoring.

4.2 Legal Education:

The primary objective of this legal education programme is to create awareness among girl students on legal rights and Constitutional entitlements. Advocate and women activist imparted training to the participants on legal rights and Constitutional entitlements and become conscious of their role and functions in the society and will assert themselves legally and socially.

Many of these women are affected from domestic violence. Their drunken husbands hardly contribute, economically to the family.



Issue has a lot to do with men who see women as objects of sexual fulfillment. This issue can only be addressed by change of attitude at grass roots level.

The trainer Mrs. Chitra explained how women are facing problems in their everyday life. She also shared different issues that happened to women in our society. She interacted with the girls and motivate them, how to manage the issues in our daily life. She educated the girls by sharing them, different acts especially for the women such as Domestic violence Act, Right to education, property rights, gender equality, etc. which would help them to live.

The training was held on 6th and 7th June 2018 at Kolunji farm were 18 participants attended the training.

4.3 Campaign on issues of Migrant girls through cultural programmes:

India is one of the world's largest textile and garment manufacturers. Spinning mills in Tamil Nadu are hiring more migrant workers on low salaries or fixed term contract for 3 years or 5 years. These workers live in company controlled hostels. Poor working conditions and other factors often affected by ailments including, lower back pain, neck pain, shoulder pain, and osteoarthritis of the knees, respiratory disorders, cancer etc. One of the major problem is sexual harassment in the workplace. By knowing the issues among the migrant workers, we have been doing a campaign at village level through cultural programmes. This year we have organised campaign at Sappanipatti, Kulavaipatti, Koppampatti village. Villagers have understood the problem in the textile mills. We

expect, this would contribute in reduction of migration at their villages. This had been organised during May 21st, 22nd and 23rd in 2018.

4.4 Awareness Training About Issues of Migrant Workers & Consequences of Migration for School Going Children

First step towards empowerment is education. Education can lead to economic and social independence. It was recognized that the main obstacles to empowerment has been the low level of educational attainments as well as poverty among women. There is a wide disparity between male and female literacy rates. It is a common thing to observe that the young girls are unable to complete their studies, which lead to their weakening financial condition, they are dependent on others or they are unable to support their families in the future. Taking into account this



fact, the Government of Tamil Nadu have framed various policies, designed specific interventions and implemented many programmes to eradicate poverty and to provide education to the vulnerable sections of the society. Students are getting free education until 12th standard and also providing noon meal, free bus pass and educational materials. The poor economic conditions of their families, the children are unable to continue their education. Monsoon failure, drought, crop failure, high indebt are some of the major issues the parents send their children to textile mills. Most of the young girls from the villages are between the age group of 12 and 16, who are working in the textile mills. They have become drop out from the school.

In the above context, Kudumbam is involved in educating the parents and students about the significance of education. The training was conducted at Kolunji farm and Ms.Christy, trainer from Pudukottai trained about the values of education. This training has been conducted on 10th September 2018. There were 28 children participated in the training.

REVIEW MEETING:

Monthly review meeting was organized every month. The team discussed about the implemented work, ongoing activities and forthcoming activities with the beneficiaries.

5. ACTIVITIES IN COLLABORATION WITH EMMAUS INTERNATIONAL

5.1.Re-establishing Farm Ecology to Enhance Food Production



The change in land use drastically reducing tree cover in the mountains and tree cover in the plains. When market driven agriculture came into effect the mountains have been planted with tea, coffee, pepper, Co-co and Cardamom. The tree cover on the plains on tank bunds and farm lands were cut down and replaced with mono-crops such as Rice, Sugarcane, Peanut and Cotton. This not only affects the farm ecology but also the village ecology as a whole. The tree cover in the plains and mountains could only mitigate global

warming. Deforestation is the main reason which increases the atmospheric carbon dioxide. Thus resulted in global warming, which is the main reason for climatic change and hence failure of monsoon. An attempt is made in this project to increase the tree cover by raising nursery and preparing seed balls for planting in farm lands, common places, tank bunds and school grounds. The planting of seed balls and tree seedlings would increase area under tree cover. This would increase biomass and soil fertility, increase in predator population and hence would reduce the pest attack. This would contribute in increasing productivity by 25 to 30% in the lands of the poorest of the poor.

Therefore by increasing tree cover we can re-establish the farm ecology, which can revive the village ecology and thus contribute sustainable food production. This project would sensitize the community on the magnitude of the issue. This would sensitize the farmers and common people to plant trees in common places, farm lands, tank bunds and schools. The activities planned are a) Nursery raising: Growing of tree seedlings at Kolunji Ecological Farm; b) Seed Collection and Seed ball preparation c) Training to School children in sowing of seed balls d) Training to women farmers on seed collection, nursery raising and tree planting. e) Training to women farmers on seed ball preparation f) Training to 25 farmers on nursery raising g) Training on tree planting to farmers of 10 villages h) Establishing decentralised nursery in 5 villages: In each village in 5 farmers' area with 5000 seedlings per farmer i) Promote Azolla cultivation in the farmers' field.

While strengthening the nurseries at Kolunji farm, 3 years old seedlings of Mango, Jack fruit, Guava and timber value trees seedlings like sandal wood, rose wood, teak wood 2000 raised; 2 years old seedlings like Lemon, Teak wood, vengai, etc., 4800 seedlings have been raised; 1 year old seedlings like herbal, Fruits and timber value trees seedlings 38,500 have been raised; Azolla is being cultivated in 10 plots. This initiative has been done at 10 women farmers' field at Nallathankalpatti

village, where they have run a milk society. These women harvest and feed their cattle. Nearly



18000 seedlings were distributed to 8 school students and in the 4th week of September, 1st week of October 2018 and 2nd week of November 2018. Also 13000 seedlings were distributed to 260 farmers in 6 villages. Tree nurseries have been established in Udaiyalipatti, Puliur, Kovil veerakudi, Valiyampatti and Odugampatti panchayat. 25 farmers were involved in these initiatives. Twenty elderly women had been trained in 2



trainings and involved in seed collection and seed ball preparation. Sowing of tree seed balls in 7 schools have been completed involving 30 children in each school. And at an average 10000-14000 seedlings were distributed. Around 50 Farmers in each of the five villages planted 1000 seedlings in the bunds and fence of farmers' field, common places, community tanks, Community forest and in temple lands.

5.2. Emmaus Montbeliard - Improving live-stock production, seed collection, processing and marketing

As Kudumbam is involved in enhancing sustainable livelihood of rural communities through collective production, processing and marketing of organic produce and live-stock rearing this project aims to increase the income of Kolunji farm and of the widows in the nearby villages of Kolunji farm. The activities implemented in this project is Goat rearing, Rearing of Deci chicken, Rearing of Turkeys, Collection of tree seeds and Repairing of goat and poultry shed. In this project 70% of the work has been completed and the remaining work would be completed within May 31st 2019. In Seed collection



70% of the work has been completed. In the work of reconstruction of goat and poultry shed dismantling of the old shed and levelling of the site is completed, foundation is established precast cement columns have been erected. Wall slab has been fixed, fixing of grills for ventilator and fixing

of steel truss and Zink roof has been completed. Electrification, painting, flooring and then purchase of goats, chicken and turkeys will be done in the months of April and May.

6. EMMAUS INTERNATIONALWORK CAMP AT BENIN

Emmaus International work camp for 2019 was held at Benin, Africa during January 29th to February 7th 2019. In this Benin work camp 38 participants from Asia, America and Europe participated. Mr. Senthil participated on behalf of Kudumbam, Trichy.



Mr. Atohoun Patrick the president of Emmaus International welcomed the participants and has arranged food and shelter for all participants for 10 days in a very good manner. It was very interesting that the Pahou community of his, collected the clothes, bags, furniture, Sewing machine, hospital bed, toys, pants and shirts and other equipments once in 6 months and separate the same category-wise and display it in stall for the common people for sales, once in a month. The amount collected thus would be useful to improve the livelihood of the poor people in their area.



Also for the women, he gives loan through micro credit for small entrepreneurship activities. Moreover he works hard for the improvement of the livelihood of the Ganvie Nokoue lake area people who are not even have drinking water facility, electricity and other basic needs. Thirty Eight Participants from the communities of India, Columbia, Peru, Brazil, Argentina, Suisse, France, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroun, Togo, Angola, Burundi, RDC, Cote d'voire and Emmaus International participated. The communities conducted an election for the 9 communities to elect (5 members) President,

Vice-president, Treasurer, representative 1 and representative 2. Therefore altogether in the 9 communities 45 members have been elected. The participants of work camp involved in the construction activities to carry over sand and stones. The participants felt very happy and involved whole heartedly in these activities.

The work camp participants down loaded things like furniture, chair, bed, steal table, wooden table, clothes plants and shirts, bags, hospital equipments, tailoring machines etc., to the Pahou office. They then established a platform for the stalls of these things. One day sale amount was 3000 euro. The things they get from Emmaus France would be sold and the amount would be used for their livelihood improvement.

7. EMMAUS - FAP-CONSTRUCTION OF HOSTEL FOR PARENTLESS BOYS AND DRINKING WATER OVER HEAD TANK

Our intervention in community development commenced from 1982. We observed 95% of the children were parentless or single parented. Vidivelli children home was established in 1996 at Kolunji Ecological Farm, spread over 15 hectares. In this farm we have 2700 trees of 150 different tree species. In the last 22 years 250 children have been educated in this Vidivelli children Home. At present we have 15 girls and 6 boys residing in this home. In 2001 with the support of Emmaus International, Kudumbam constructed a home for the girls. The boys were staying in a temporary house. The board of Kudumbam approached Abbe Piere Foundation for grant in Aid support through Emmaus International to construct the boys hostel.



Kudumbam proposed to build the ground floor of 40.93 Sq.mts with two rooms and the first floor of 40.93 Sq.mts with 2 rooms. Ground floor construction has been completed. First floor construction is also completed; doors and windows have been fixed, parapet wall completed. Inner plastering has been completed. The materials for electrification, plumbing and sanitary have been purchased. Construction of stair case for the first floor has been completed. Flooring, fixing of plumbing and sanitary works, electrical works, and construction of overhead tank, painting and purchase of benches, chairs and tables would take place in April.

8. EMMAUS WORLD ALTERNATIVE FORUM PLANNING MEETING:

The World Alternative Forum planning meeting was held at Paris to plan for the World Forum of Alternatives of the Emmaus Movement to be held at Geneva, Switzerland from 17th to 20th September 2018.

Planning process initiatives from Oct.2017 to Sept. 2018: A committee consisting of 2 representatives from Asia, Africa, America and Europe was formed. And Patrick Atohou chaired the committee coordinated by the International Secretariat. This committee met 4 times during the year.

- 21 workshops developed by 100 Emmaus groups and Ally organizations
- The aim of the workshop was to draw on experiences of Emmaus groups and their allies. To identify the root cause of poverty and come up with the initiatives to fight them
- Three key initiatives:
 - Of the 38 proposed initiatives evolved at the workshops---
 - Strengthening strategies for training initiatives and capacity building
 - Implementation and development of pilot initiatives
 - Advocacy and campaign
- The proposals emerged during the workshops are
 - Social and Environmental Justice - 19 proposals
 - Peace and Freedom of Movement - 9 proposals
 - Ethical and Solidarity Economy - 4 proposals
 - Encompassing all three struggles - 6 proposals

It was planned to create space for participants from 4 continents and the outcome was the following participants.

The committee coordinated the process where 418 participants from 37 countries would be participated, consisting of 242 Emmaus activists, 59 from America, 136 from Europe, 14 from Asia and 33 from Africa, 59 from Ally organizations and 58 volunteers.

9. EMMAUS WORLD FORUM OF ALTERNATIVE AT GENEVA:

The Emmaus Movement's World Forum of Alternatives Led by the Most Excluded, Geneva, Switzerland, held between 17-20 September 2018 and from Kudumbam Mr.Oswald Quintal, Mrs.Pangayavalli and Mr.Ramadass participated .

Background to the forum: At the Emmaus International world assembly in Jesolo in May 2016, the groups decided to organise an event which would "reach out and join forces with those working passionately to tackle the causes of poverty all around the world. We invited them to meet for a forum with all those excluded from society to discuss and formulate the alternative approaches we need to eradicate poverty."



The forum had linked to our 3 struggles for an ethical and solidarity economy, for social and environmental justice and for freedom of movement and residence for universal citizenship. The Emmaus movement organized 24 workshops. The first part which was for 1 hour & 30 minutes was about sharing of experiences from Kudumbam on Land grabbing and agribusiness, resistance and alternatives, link with Social and environmental justice. Then the participants & facilitator identified the causes and solutions for each of the experiences. The second half of the workshop involved in gathering of causes & solutions identified from the experiences and pooling the causes



and solutions separately. From this the participants have chosen 10 causes & solutions and proposed actions for each. Then those actions will be pooled together and 3 actions will be prioritized. Mrs.Pangayavalli and Mr.Ramadass, shared their experiences & introduced the topics with photos and presentations. Mr.Oswald has facilitated to two workshop in the forum.

The first day of the forum a plenary session was organized and some selected groups presented in relation to three struggles. From Kudumbam Mrs. Pangayavalli presented about the issues in agriculture like land grabbing, deforestation, depletion of ground water, usage of chemical fertilizers and pesticides, changes in farm inputs and food borne diseases. She had shared

about Kudumbam intervention is in documenting traditional knowledge, reviving traditional seeds, millets, pulses and vegetables, reviving water conservation techniques boundaries, farm ponds, sprinkler and drip irrigation. Enhancing soil fertility through green manure, compost, vermicompost, facilitating integrating pest management facilitating organic certification collective procuring and marketing.

A visit to Emmaus communities, Dijon, France

A one day meeting was organised on the 30th of September, Kudumbam Team members and staff, Kolunji staff meeting and leaders of the micro finance were Mr.Ramadass and poppy, shared the key issues identified at the world Alternative forum in Geneva and emerging alternatives. Kudumbam shared the experiences of the different workshops and of the participants and the process in which, the work shop were organised, the participants were extremely impressed the way the programme was organised, Kusumbam also shared the key resolution of the alternate forum .

Mr.Oswald, Mr.Ramadass, Mrs.Pangayavalli visited SASOZ, SAINTE SABINEE, PLANAY and NORGES LA VILLE, Emmaus communities around Dijon and also visited Chalon sur saone store. Ms.Tess yiy from SASOZ community staff had organised and co-ordinated the programme. The Kudumbam team shared their experience with staff members and micro credit leaders, about their visit to Emmaus communities around Dijon and the skill in which waste is classified, recycled, how things are repaired, Processed and marketed. Kudumbam team visited an organic farmer who was involving in producing seeds, vegetables seeds like Sugini, Pumpkin, Capsicum, and the livestock in his farm, cows, pigs and chicken and that farmer has 600 different varieties of Tomatoes, he is a potential farmer, Emmaus communities in the neighbourhood of Dijon, could look at establishing an organic farm, establish a group of trainers team from the Emmaus communities around Dijon, and this organic farmer could train the Emmaus trainers team around Dijon. The staff members were extremely amazed that a farmer has 600 different varieties of traditional tomatoes.

10. Emmaus Regional Meeting at SriLanka

Emmaus Regional meeting was held at GSS, SriLanka from 13th to 17th November, 2018. On behalf of Kudumbam Mrs. Pangayavalli represented the meeting and presented the Emmaus supported project activities for the year 2017-2018. Followed by the presentations of all group members, Emmaus shared and explained the specific criteria for 2019 Solidarity project proposals on online uploading. The team then visited the GSS project villages and vegetable garden and had discussions with the villagers.

11. COLLABORATION WITH PAN AP NETWORK

11.1 Learning exchange program for Youth in Agro-ecology:

Kudumbam is a key partner of PAN AP (Pesticide Action Network Asia and the Pacific) based in Penang, Malaysia for more than 2 decades. Networking with PANAP creates learning exchange and capacity building opportunity among its partners on Bio-diversity based Ecological Agriculture, Food Sovereignty and Agro-Ecology. During March 2018, PANAP partners involved in the campaign “Agro-ecology In Action” in Jakarta, Indonesia. There it was decided that conducting a learning exchange programme is one important strategy in advancing the advocacy in the region.



Based on the decision, a 4 day Learning exchange program for Youth in Agro-ecology was organized in Sri Lanka in February 2019. The objective of the program was to facilitate exchanges on agro-ecological practices among partners from Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Malaysia, Pakistan, Philippines and Sri Lanka. It was also aimed further sharpening analysis on agro-ecology and food sovereignty trends and issues through discussions incorporated in the field learning. On behalf of Kudumbam, Mr. Suresh Kanna participated. Vikalpani National Women’s Federation organized the programme and facilitated the on field and institution-based learning activities.



The participants were taken to Monarawagala, about 350 Kms from Colombo, the field area of Wikalpani where they visited home gardens established by women farmers with great amount of diversity of vegetables crops cultivated by organic methods. It includes, tomatoes, brinjal, lady's finger, chillies, onion, greens, cluster beans, pepper, bitter guard, snake gourd, mint, radish, vallaarai, Aloe Vera, coriander, turmeric, garlic, banana, trees like teak, mango, etc. The garden was designed in such a way to fulfil almost 80 per cent of their home needs with enhanced nutritional security of farm family

members. Glycidia sticks made for creepers, a climate resilience approach to create a micro climate environment and preserve soil moisture. Using coconut shells as waste recycling and prevent soil moisture.

It was observed that the success comes mainly from the whole family involvement. Their innovative techniques on waste recycling are quite amazing and the use of local material are some

of the important learning for the participants. The participants also witnessed the government initiatives, especially department of agriculture in Sri Lanka. The department of agriculture has established a centre of excellence for organic agriculture which is committed to expand organic agriculture in Sri Lanka. In the centre, they do lot of research on different kinds of bio inputs before recommending to farmers.

The participants visited a home garden in the urban side developed by an agriculture extension officer herself around her house. The visit to organic paddy field and the exercise on the diversity of cultivated and uncultivated crops in an organic field helped the participants to study and understand the different components contributing to agro ecology. There, the planting methods and yield increasing techniques of SRI (System of Rice Intensification) was demonstrated to the participants.

On the final day, the participants had a strategy meeting of advancing agro-ecology in each of the member organizations of PAN AP. Then, country wise sharing was done from India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Malaysia, Philippines and Cambodia.

On behalf of Kudumbam, Mr. Suresh Kanna presented the following as strategy planning for promoting youth for agro ecology at Kudumbam.

- Exposure for urban youth groups to rural areas and organic farmer's field.
- Exposure to rural youth to urban area to learn roof top gardening
- Water resource mapping exercise involving rural youth
- Training for school children in seed ball making
- Biodiversity camp in community forests with school children and college students and collection of seeds.
- Preparation of Information and education material on agro-ecology, roof top gardening and seed collection, seed ball making.
- Training for rural youth on PGS concepts of certification in order to support farmers group involved in organic crop production
- 1st week training on rural youth in cultural theatre on the concept of agro-ecology



The members visited NAFSO (National Fisherman Society) and met the activists and civil society leaders involved in the campaign against the China Project of building International Port City. Mrs. Subashini made a presentation about the Port City project and how it affect the fisherman livelihood and how the project is not a priority for the people and how the sand mining affecting the coastal ecosystem.

Mr. Suresh Kanna, shared about the issue of people's struggle against Thuthukudi Sterlite plant, the issue of methane gas extraction and shell gas production by GAIL in Kathiramangalam and Neduvasal. Philippine participants shared about how the youth are organized in opposing anti-people projects in their country. The members from Pakistan shared about how the social activists are threatened and intimidated, how many such people went missing and killed etc.,

All the members of PAN AP, extended their support and solidarity in the struggle of people in SL against the Port City project of China. The team visited a fisherman community nearby who are actively involved in opposing the Port City project and interacted with them. They showed their courage and commitment in opposing this project and explained how this struggle has united the Singalese and Tamil people.

12. COLLABORATION WITH NABARD

12.1. Training for farmers in quality seed production



To address the issues around the non-availability of quality seeds, 3 day training program on quality seed production was organized by Kudumbam NGO with the support of NABARD during the month of December 2018 under CAT program. This training program was organized exclusively for the farmers who are interested in seed production and a set of criteria like some experience in seed production in the past, have assured irrigation facilities for seed production, interest in learning the techniques

involved in seed production and also willing to produce seeds for their neighbourhood farmers in their villages. With these criteria in mind, the field team members of Kudumbam had a participatory preliminary consultation with organic farmers groups in Nallathangalpatti, Kovilveerakudi and Vaaliyampatti panchayats and identified 10 farmers in each panchayats and invited them for the training.

The objectives of the training are

- To revive the practices of seed saving and sharing systems and make the farmers self reliant in seeds.
- To build capacities of farmers in quality seed production in major crops they are cultivating in their villages.
- To make this seed production as a group activity at the village level by establishing seed producer groups.

- To make the farmers in understanding the difference between crop production and seed production and thereby enhance farmers income.
- To expose the farmers on the support systems and schemes with the State, especially with agriculture department/seed certification and how to avail those schemes collectively.

The farmers from Kovilveerakudi unable to participate in the 2nd day training and exposure in Nallathangalpatti due to MGNREGA program, the 2nd day training was separately organized for them at Kovilveerakudi on the next day by the trainers at Kudumbam. Mr. Ramadass shared the experience of Nallathangalpatti farmers in seed production. He trained them in seed selection, germination capacity, variety of selection and genetic purity.

He also pointed out that the crop should have 3 meters of isolation at all sides of the seed production plot for maintenance of genetic purity. To avoid the mixing, planting of border crops like sesbania or maize can be planted or damage sarees or dottis can be arranged as physical shields. He also narrated on how important for maintenance of genetic purity. While harvesting care should be taken to lodge out the plants for seed purpose. Withhold irrigation one week before harvest. Delayed harvest may lead to heavy shattering.



Bundled plants should be stacked as ear heads facing outside to avoid heat damage. Threshed produce should be clean and free of admixture in cracks and crevices. Birds scaring are also practiced in places of requirement. Finally, he shared the techniques involved in threshing to get the good quality seeds. However, care should be taken that the seeds are not mechanically damaged. Clean the floor, equipment, containers to avoid genetic and physical mixture.

At the end of the training, a brief interaction was held with the farmers group on the follow up action. Based on that interaction, the farmers in all the 3 panchayats have agreed to mobilize as seed producer groups. Kudumbam - Kolunji staff team will assist them to get their names registered with seed certification department and also setting up a seed bank in the villages and bring out a seed inventory of the seed varieties they conserved. Similarly, in all the 3 villages, 50 farmers in each villages will be mobilized as organic farmers group and approach the state to avail the schemes under PKVY. Kudumbam - Kolunji staff team will do all back up support in organizing the farmers.

13. GAJA CYCLONE:

With our experience of more than 3 ½ decades in the development field, we have been involved in responding to many natural disaster situations like floods, droughts, cyclones, storms, Tsunami and other cyclonic impacts over the last 37 years due to the effect of climate change. During those times, we have played a very important role and acted as a centre for community in rebuilding their confidence to overcome and manage such crisis situations. Most of these times, our confidence rebuilding programs were conducted at Kudumbam's Kolunji Ecological Farm at Odugampatti, Pudukkottai District of Tamil Nadu, India.

The overall impact of cyclone Gaja in Tamil Nadu:

On 15th November night, Cyclone Gaja made a landfall in Tamil Nadu between Nagapattinam and Vedaranyam leaving behind a trail of destruction and claiming at least 45 lives. The severe cyclone had a wind speed of above 90 to 100 kmph and reached up to 110 kmph when the eye of the storm made the landfall at 1.40 am in Nagapattinam. Besides the loss of lives, 1471 huts were partially damaged and 216 fully destroyed. In total, 384 relief camps have been established where 1,79,194 people have been accommodated. So far 1,27,448 trees have been uprooted across the state. 39,371 electric poles have fallen and 105 sub stations have been affected. The cyclonic storm crossed Tamil Nadu's coast between Nagapattinam and nearby Vedaranyam early hours Friday, bringing in heavy rains in the coastal regions in Cuddalore, Nagapattinam, Ramanathapuram, Thanjavur, Pudukkottai and Tiruvarur districts.

The impact of cyclone Gaja at Kolunji farm:

The impact it has created at Kolunji Ecological farm of Kudumbam is extremely devastating and terrible. With more than 3000 trees of different kinds were completely uprooted in a matter of 2 hours of ferocious strong wind on 16th November 2018 early morning which caused painstaking economic loss and environmental damage and completely changed the natural beauty and identity of the farm. With the complete uprooting of more than 80% of the well grown 2-3 decade old trees of fruits, fodder, timber value, now Kolunji farm looks very miserable and pathetic.



Apart from that, the vital units of the farms like nursery plots, bio input preparation units, thatched cattle sheds, training halls got severely damaged by the heavy wind blow, rain and the fall of trees. It also damaged the roof of the newly constructed kitchen and dining halls and sunshade mirrors of vidivelli children's home. The fall of huge trees also completely damaged the electrical poles, pipelines in the farm and detached electrical wires and disconnected the power supply. This made the children and staff members in the farm without

electricity for more than 15 days. We survived with the help of candles and kerosene lamps. The training programs that we planned to organize at the farm from November 15 to Jan.15 was cancelled. Similarly, the placement of students for the internship programs from India and abroad to visit and stay at Kolunji have also been cancelled. In a way, this cyclone Gaja also impacted on the revenue loss of the farm for the last 5 months.

Rehabilitation work:

1. Cutting & Cleaning of uprooted and fallen trees in Kolunji farm:

In the Kolunji farm in around 15 hectares more than 3000 trees had fallen down, or being uprooted by the cyclone Gaja. It has completely changed the landscape of the farm. This will have a serious environmental impact in the coming months. Economic wise, high value the timber trees which were planted 15 to 20 years, now has fallen down, can only be sold as firewood. Further the training and internship programs planned for till December were cancelled, since the farm need to be cleaned and rebuilt. This has a revenue loss, as fee from the training programs is one of the major



income to Kudumbam. With JCB machine, the fallen / uprooted trees have been cleared, trees have been sorted based on the varieties, then manually and by using machines, trees have been cut down, and finally the firewoods needed for Kolunji has been retained and the balance have been sold out. Trees of 120 tonnes have been cut and cleared. Of the 120 tonnes 75 tonnes have been sold at the rate of Rs.1450/ per tonne. Therefore $75 \text{ tonnes} \times \text{Rs.}1450 = \text{Rs.}1,08,750/-$ has been sold .

2. Repair of sheds and buildings:

The high speed wind damaged the sheds and the part of buildings of children's home and dining hall. In this budget head in the EB service room the fallen roof and wall has been repaired. In the Kitchen store room the broken tiles in the roof has been repaired. The repair work on broken sunshade glasses in the children home is in progress. The broken steel truss and Zinc sheets in the dining room constructed with FAP support has been repaired. The repairing work on broken roof cement



sheets in the toilets is in progress. The repairing work of the conference room (roof with coconut thatched shed) would be taken up in the first week of April.

3. Restoration of Electricity through installation of electrical fittings:

Roots & branches from the fallen trees had damaged water pipelines all over the farm. The water supply to Children home, kitchen, nursery, bathrooms, conference room, guest rooms and for agriculture were totally blocked due to the heavy wind were restored. 50% of the work has been completed The total amount spent of this is Rs.75,275/-.



4. Repair of plumbing connections in the farm:

The branches of the fallen trees had damaged water pipelines all over the farm which blocked the water supply to Children home, kitchen, nursery, bathrooms, conference room, guest rooms and for agriculture. 60% of the work has been completed and the amount spent for this is Rs.48,750/-

5. Raising nursery & replanting of trees:

The nursery in the Kolunji farm contains tree seedlings, medicinal plants and fruit trees which have been distributed to the farmers and to the schools and to the school children in the surrounding area. Similarly compost, vermin compost and Azola are produced and will be distributed and will be sold the neighbouring farmers. But the strong wind with heavy rain has damaged the total nursery. Therefore we took an effort to replant the trees and nurseries.

Preparation of nursery is in progress; Excavation of pits is in progress an excavator is being involved in the excavation of pits.

6. Strengthening of bunds and canals:

Heavy rain and fallen trees has damaged the bunds, filled the drainage canals and farm ponds with mud and fallen leaves and branches. Therefore an effort has been taken to desilt the Farm ponds, to strengthen the bunds and to deepen the drainage canals by digging trenches in the farm & around the Kolunji boundary area. 60% of the work is completed. The expenses met so far is Rs.60,575/-.

7. Fencing around the farm:

Uprooted trees that had fallen had damaged the stone pillars and fences around the farm in most of the areas. New stone pillars need to be erected, each at a distance of 2 meters, and iron mesh roll to be covered between the pillars for a total distance of 300 meters. Therefore 150 stone pillars were needed, each stone costing Rs.200.

The trees that have fallen on the fence have been cleared. Thorny bushes are also cleared. The broken stone pillars have been removed. New stone pillars have been purchased. Trench along the

fence has been excavated. 40% of the work in repairing the fence is completed. The amount spent on this so far is Rs. 40,350/-.

Emmaus International has supported a financial grant of Rs. 7,80,000/- The total amount spent till March is Rs. 4,08,700/-

14. NABFINS - MICRO CREDIT ACTIVITIES

Kudumbam has been involved as a business correspondent of Nabard Financial Service from 2017; It has been involved in micro credit activities with 25 panchayats in Pudukkottai District and 26 Panchayats in Nagapattinam District. The loan amount of Rs.30,000 to Rs. 50,000/- has been issued to SHGs and JLGs in these two districts.

Kudumbam has been actively involved to improve the standard of living by planning alternatives and programmes of the rural poor of below poverty line. It gives training on organic farming along with entrepreneurship, leadership micro credit activities. After the training these women have received loans from Nafins with an interest of 17.85% and is being paid in 24 instalments.

All the borrowers are women and they have mainly invested the loan for the following purpose. 55% of the borrowers invest on purchase of milch animals, purchase of goats and purchase of poultries. 25 % of the borrowers invested on repair of house, invest on their petty shops and so no. 20% of the borrowers used for agricultural activities.



The below is the detail of borrowers and the amount they borrowed from April 2018 to March 2019 in Pudukkottai district.

NABFINS - KUDUMBAM KOLUNJI LOAN DISBURESMENT LIST- APRIL 2018- MARCH 2019					
S.No	PANCHAYAT	JLG	SHGS	BORROWERS	TOTAL LOAN
1	AMMACHATHIRAM	4		20	8,00,000
2	CHETTY PATTI	8		41	16,40,000
3	KANNANKUDI	4	1	30	9,60,000
4	KILLANUR	16		73	27,80,000
5	KILLUKOTTAI	15		66	21,80,000
6	KILLUKUVAIPATTI	2	1	26	7,80,000
7	KOPPAMPATTI	9		48	19,20,000
8	KULATHUR	2	4	61	18,30,000
9	MINNATHUR	4		21	8,40,000
10	MELA PUTHUVAYAL	1		5	1,50,000
11	NANJOR	7		35	13,60,000
12	ODUKKUR	2		10	4,00,000
13	ODUGAMPATTI	13		62	23,90,000
14	PALLATHUPATTI	4		18	7,20,000
15	PERAMBUR	1		6	2,40,000
16	PULIYUR	11	4	95	35,00,000
17	RAKKATHAMMAPATTI	10		48	17,30,000
18	SENGALUR	8		39	15,20,000
19	T. KEELAIYUR	19		93	34,30,000
20	THENNATHIRANPATTI	6		30	10,40,000
21	UDAIYALIPATTI	14	2	85	31,60,000
22	VALIYAMPATTI	5	2	47	20,00,000
23	VATHANAKOTTAI	1		5	1,50,000
24	VALLAMANGALAM	13		66	26,40,000
25	VEERAKUDI	8	1	59	24,10,000
26	VISALUR	14		67	23,80,000
	TOTAL	207	20	1243	46,700,000

TOTAL PANCHAYATS	26
TOTAL VILLAGES	58
TOTAL JLGS	207
TOTAL SHGS	20
TOTAL BORROWERS	1243
TOTAL LOANS	RS.4,67,00,000

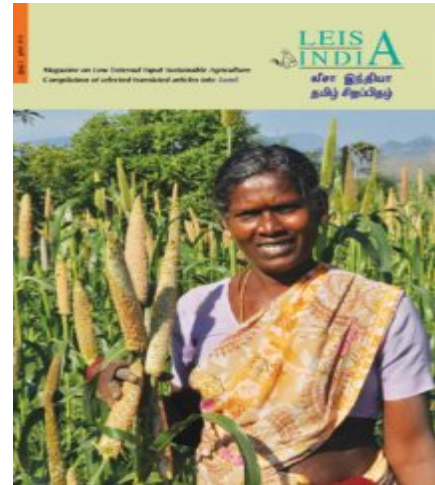
Micro Credit Activities Kudumbam MPCC, Sathan kudi Tranqubar , Nagappattinam District From April 2018 - March 2019

Sl.No	Name of the Panchyat	Loan Disbursement			Cause of Loan Required						
		No. of JLG	Borrowers	Loan amount	Milk cow	Goat	Fish Net	Shop	Agriculture	Business	Total
1	Tharangambadi	7	33	21,20,000.00	2	2	0	1	1	1	7
2	Thirukkadaiyur	47	232	96,00,000.00	2	1	0	3	28	13	46
3	Kazhiyappanallur	15	75	33,25,000.00	0	3	0	2	4	4	13
4	Kattuchery	2	11	4,40,000.00	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
5	T.Manalmedu	17	115	45,52,000.00	0	2	0	2	11	5	20
6	Akkur	5	27	10,10,000.00	1	0	0	0	2	2	5
7	Kalamanallur	97	523	2,22,47,000.00	6	8	0	8	50	25	97
8	Tharangambadi	4	20	8,00,000.00	0	2	0	0	0	2	4
9	Kazhiyappanallur	2	10	4,00,000.00	0	1	0	0	0	1	2
10	T.Manalmedu	3	19	7,60,000.00	0	1	0	0	0	2	3
11	Akkur	18	113	45,00,000.00	6	2	0	0	3	7	18
12	Mamakudi	6	34	13,37,000.00	1	0	0	0	5	0	6
13	Madapuram	10	59	26,88,000.00	1	4	0	0	1	4	10
14	Thalachangadu	2	13	5,20,000.00	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
15	Kattuchery	188	1065	4,44,97,000.00	22	24	0	8	66	64	188
16	Thillaiyadi	2	15	6,00,000.00	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
17	Nallichery	6	30	12,00,000.00	0	4	0	0	2	0	6
18	Neduvasal	7	42	16,80,000.00	0	5	0	1	1	0	7
19	Koodalur	6	35	14,00,000.00	0	6	0	0	0	0	6
20	Tharangambadi	447	2599	10,81,34,000.00	74	115	0	31	63	164	447
21	Tharangambadi	44	252	97,10,000.00	18	15	0	0	0	11	44
22	Manickappangu	4	30	11,90,000.00	0	3	0	0	0	1	4
23	Pillaiperumanallur	1	6	2,40,000.00	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
24	Eduthukkatti	360	2065	8,54,76,000.00	70	94	0	16	72	136	360
25	Iluppur	3	14	5,60,000.00	3	0	0	0	0	0	3
26	Killiyur	3	14	5,60,000.00	0	0	0	0	3	0	3
27	Eravanchery	1	6	2,40,000.00	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
28	Eduthukkatti	1	4	1,60,000.00	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
29	Narasinganatham	2	12	4,75,000.00	1	1	0	0	0	0	2
30	Parasalur	1	4	1,45,000.00	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
31	Maharajapuram	3	17	6,54,000.00	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
32	Thiruvilaiyattam	334	1894	7,81,44,000.00	64	86	0	16	72	124	334
33	Poombuhar	14	82	32,49,000.00	3	0	9	0	2	0	14
34	Maruthampallam	16	90	36,00,000.00	14	0	0	0	2	0	16
35	Kalamanallur	24	146	56,20,000.00	2	0	21	0	1	0	24
36	Kidangal	3	22	8,80,000.00	0	0	0	0	3	0	3
37	Mamakudi	4	25	10,00,000.00	2	0	0	0	2	0	4
38	Sembanarkovil	6	33	13,20,000.00	3	0	0	0	3	0	6
39	Thiruvengadu	2	9	3,00,000.00	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
	EBINESAR	69	407	1,59,69,000.00	26	0	30	0	13	0	69
	GRAND TOTAL	387	2220	9,09,19,000.00	84	80	30	16	72	124	387

TOTAL PANCHAYATS 39
TOTAL VILLAGES 105
TOTAL JLGS 387
TOTAL BORROWERS 2220
TOTAL LOANS RS.9,09,19,000.00

15. KUDUMBAM'S ROLE IN STRENGTHENING LEISA INDIA CONSORTIUM:

Kudumbam has been a key member of LEISA India consortium and responsible for translation of LEISA India Tamil editions from the back issues of LEISA India English editions. This is the 11th year in a row that Kudumbam is taking the responsibility of spreading grass root level innovations in sustainable farming to Tamil reading farmers beyond Tamil Nadu. The articles were selected mainly from the LEISA India English editions published between year 2017 & 2018. On behalf of Kudumbam, Mr. Suresh Kanna did the translation of 2 issues one in June 2018 and the other in December 2018 and for each issue 1500 copies have been printed. The followings are the articles translated for the 2 issues printed and published



during the reporting period. (1) Biodiversity builds (2) Developing Climate Resilient Farming (3) Millet based mixed farming (4) People’s Knowledge (5) Redesigning Farming (6) Reviving Crop Diversity, Restoring Food Sovereignty (7) A self reliant path for food sovereignty (8) Attaining food sovereignty by building access to local seeds (9) Balancing the old and new (10) Seeds of resistance for food sovereignty. Apart from Translation, Kudumbam also represented in the Annual Review and planning meeting of LEISA India consortium Core Group Meeting where the efforts of Kudumbam in mobilizing support from NABARD for the publication of Tamil editions of LEISA India have been explained. The need for impact study on the use of LEISA India magazine, the methods of study and the ways to mobilize funds for the self sustainability of the magazine have been discussed in the meeting.

16. VIDIVELLI CHILDREN HOME

Kudumbam is involved in revival of organic farming, and promoting ecological and sustainable agriculture. Vidivelli Home is situated in Kolunji Eco - Farm at Odugampatty village, which was formed in 1997 for semi orphan children. The Children are from local villages and they belong to our farmers groups or women groups. These children who have lost either their father or mother were resided in this home. 80% of them are girl children; There were 16girls and 6 boys there in Vidivelli. they are studying at Odugampatti Government Higher secondary School upto 12th Standard.



We are thankful to Abbe Piere Foundation (FAP) for their support in building a boys hostel separately for the stay of boys. As the present building, the Vidivelli children stay which is about 1000 Sq. ft, is not sufficient for the 21 children there; hence there was a need to build another building for the Library and study room purpose for 1000sq.ft. Foundation of Abbe Piere sanctioned the project of boys hostel with the study rooms and library in 1000 acres. In future 6 boys would be accommodated in the 4 rooms. Kudumbam planned to give admission for 6 more boys and 14 girls in 2020.

Tuition:

Children from class 1st to 12th standard are residing at the home and go to school at Odugampatti. A tuition teacher was employed and Every morning he has been taking tuition class to these students at Kolunji. This tuition programme is supported by In school, USA (Dr.Bharthi Raju).

Health:

Nutritious foods like millets, pulses, chick peas and vegetables are provided to all the children. All the children are practicing Yoga every morning.

Students, whenever they are in need of medical check up, Kudumbam team taking them to nearby Government hospital/ private hospital for treatment. Medical care is supported by In School (Dr.Bharathi Raju)USA.

Donars:

Vidivelli home is situated at Kolunji Ecological farm and the school is at Odugampatti villages which is about 2 km distance. So, the children used to walk 4 km everyday. A donar Mr.Murali from Chennai sponsored five bicycle to the children and the children now go by bicycle.

Ground water has increased its salinity at Pudukkottai district. Due to water problem, many of them suffer on kidney related diseases. There was a need to buy mineral water from local town. Mr.Murali from Chennai supported Rs.50,000/- to buy a water purifying unit at Kolunji. now this has been installed and the children using safe drinking water at Kolunji.

Mrs.Akila Asoke from Trichy supported a wet grinder to the home. She also supported Mat, bedsheets & pillows, new clothes for children during Diwali festivals.

Mr.Baskaran from Thanjavur supported umbrella and note books to all the children at the home.

Mr. Murali from Hyderabad sponsored 5 cycles and water purifier for the Vidivelli children.

Mr. George of former Kudumbam Administration gifted dresses for the Vidivelli children during his daughter's wedding.

Through Lydia our former volunteer from their Future Earth friend group Ms. There's father from his company Time Terminal donated Rs.46429 for the Vidivelli children. School bags, New dresses and Uniforms were purchased out of this amount and they celebrated Pongal festival with thankfulness to Time Terminal company and Future Earth friend group.



Mr. Anand of Bharathidasan University constituent college donated a little amount for the children of Vidivelli.

Mr. Madan Kumar Antony of Bentoli Agronutrients, Chennai supported with Rs.60,000/- for the Kolunji Ecological farm for the renovation work of Gaja cyclone which includes the reconstruction of damaged windows and roof of Vidivelli Children home.

Kudumbam through NABFINS micro credit activities the parents of the Vidivelli children were supported with loans of Rs.30,000 to Rs.40,000/- for entrepreneurship for poultry rearing, petti shops, goat rearing, cattle rearing, bio input preparation and nursery raising. Through this effort their income would be increased to Rs.4000/per month (the income at present is Rs.2200/ for the parents).

Vidivelli Children along with Kudumbam and Kolunji staff express their gratefulness support and donations received from the kind hearted philanthropists.

Construction of backyard:

For the safety and security of the children on the rear side, we have built closed backyard in the rear side. This construction was made of tin sheet roof, steel mesh; steel doors and 3 feet hollow block walls. This protection helps them to use the rest room fearlessly during night time.



Trainings:

During the trainings during summer vacation the children learnt folk dances, awareness songs related to environment conservation.

Also these children learnt hand writing, cursing writing and spoken English in May 2018.

In the coming year 2019 - 2020 the children would be given spoken English and hand writing training, folkdance, training on nutrition kitchen garden, bio input preparation.

We also do community parenting and conduct week end classes for the children nearby whose parents are getting loan from Kudumbam through NABFINS.

Tour

During summer vacation a 4 day tour was organised to Tranquobar. The children visited Poombuhar, Karaikal beach and stayed in the Nagapattinam office. They involved in gardening in the office too and also visited the nearby organic farmers' field. The children felt it was a good exposure for them to travel by train and enjoyed in the beach.

17. KOLUNJI ECOLOGICAL FARMCUM TRAINING CENTRE

On account of climate change there is reduced & erratic rainfall all over India. Since the monsoon rains are not timely & properly spread out, the pressure on ground water is more. As a result, the water level in open wells has dropped from 25 feet in 1980 to 100 feet in 2015. To tide over the water crisis, Kudumbam has established extensive water harvesting structures in its 30 acre farm by name Kolunji, by contour bunds & farm ponds. These structures prevent surface run off while it rains and enable more percolation into the soil.

1. Diversified tree species:

More than 300 diversified tree species of fruit, fodder & timber varieties have been planted on the farm as for improving the farm ecology, increase soil moisture, provide shelter for predators, increase bio mass availability and be of support to the cattle & poultry units other than their specific utility.

2. Cattle & poultry units:

In Kolunji farm, there are cows, sheep, goat, chicken, turkey & ducks, which survive on the farm residues & greenery, and provide valuable milk, eggs & meat to the inmates. They play a crucial role in bio waste recycling, enrich ecology and provide nutrition & revenue during their life cycle.

3. Vermin compost Unit:

Making use of the animal waste & bio waste, valuable vermin compost is being produced in the farm. It is a very source of soil enrichment and introducing soil life which in turn increase the productivity of the crops & vegetables. The surplus is being sold to the farmers and brings in revenue. Other input preparation as compost, Azola, Bio liquid fertilizers - Panchakavviya, Amirtha Karaisal, Fish solution and Pest repellents. The vermin compost is used in the nursery and vegetable gardens.

4. Maintenance of tree nursery seedlings:

On seeing the impact of diverse tree plantation, the trainees, local farmers & visitors who come to Kolunji farm ask for



tree seedlings. To fulfill their requests, there are 15000 seedlings (20 varieties of seedlings) maintained in the farm for sales. It is being maintained with sprinkler irrigation to minimize water requirement. Timber value Tree seedlings, Fruits tree seedlings, Fodder tree seedlings, herbal plants and ornamental plants raised and maintained. Nursery seedlings raised and maintained Approx. 1500019 varieties 23 kg tree seeds purchased for bed and Pocket seeding. 50 vanni seedlings purchased and planted.

5. Agro forestry:

The term typically denotes to combining agriculture with forestry as complementary components. In the present nutrient & rain deficit scenario, it is ideal that short term crops are cultivated in the vacant space between trees, so as to minimize evaporation and leaf litters serve as source of nutrient supply for the crops grown. To exhibit the benefits of agro forestry, traditional pulses & millets are grown during favorable agriculture seasons mainly for the use of inmates. From the fruit bearing trees, we get mango, lemon, guava, custard apple, wood apple, sappotta, tamarind, Amla, etc. We cultivate paddy, pulses, millets, redgram, black gram and oil seeds in the farm. Agro forestry 2acre seedlings planted.

6. Crops:

At present in Kolunji farm Millet cultivation in 20 cents, Paddy cultivation in one acre seedlings raised, paddy field prepared and 10cents transplanted. Fodder cultivation in 30cents, Vegetable Garden in 5cents are on the run. Tank silt purchased and applied for Paddy, Millets, Nursery and Vegetable plots.

7. Water Management

Renovated old farm ponds. New farm pond (Size: 24Meter x 24Meter x 5') constructed North side of Kolunji Farm with Support of Govt Agriculture Department. Formation of Bunds and Fence took place in the east and north side.

8. Renovation work at Kolunji Farm

- Renovated old Kitchen roof and Doors
- Repaired New Kitchen - roof
- Repaired Vidivelli home Windows and glasses and grill works
- Renovated of Vermicompost shed roof and tank
- Renovation of Azola pits
- Clearing Nursery places and Organise nurseries
- Cleared and levelled old damaged cattle shed and collect materials is usable - Stone pillars, doors, windows, Mesh etc.,
- Stage near bath room and toilets (1bathroom and 4toilets)
- Old bath room renovation

9. Construction of building and Cattle sheds

Emmaus FAP Boys hostel construction Project started on August 2018.

Emmaus Monbiliard Cattle shed construction work started on Feb 2019

Solidarity Project Nursery Shade Net Shed started Feb 2019.

Completion stage %

- FAP boys hostel Construction - 900sqft 90%
- Goat Shed 20' x 40' - 800sqft 85%
- Cow Shed 20' x 40' - 800sqft 90%
- Chicken Shed 20' x 30' -600sqft 85%
- Store Room 10' x 10' -100sqft 90%
- Feed room 10' x 10' - 100sqft 90%
- Green Shade Net Nursery Shed - 800sqft 95%

10. Women collectives managed vegetable garden:

Though the general space for women in the society is in its restricted & reserved niche, the space for widows is further limited to near seclusion from the mainstream social & economic order. In order to enable them to find their due place in society, Kudumbam has provided place, organic inputs, watering facilities and technical back up to produce organic vegetables and earn from the yield output.

18. KOLUNJI TRAININGS:

At Kolunji, number of trainings has been increased during the period 2018-19 and the trainings were mainly on organic farming, bio- input preparation, cattle management, roof top garden, savings and credit, entrepreneur training, skill development training, environmental conservation, etc.

18.1. Paid course Trainings on Sustainable agriculture and Integrated Farming System

Kudumbam organizes a 3 day training course on Integrated Farming System in the last week of every month. It is a paid course and the revenue has been used for the farm development activities. Professional of various disciplines and students use to participate in this training. The participants are from local, state level, national and international levels. An average of 20 participants participated in this training. For the past two years we are conducting this course. This is the third year with a two months gap during November and December 2018 as Kolunji farm has been severely affected by the Gaja cyclone on November 15th 2018. In this year 2018-'19 there were 142 participants among them are 26 women participants.



18.2 Facilitation of Eco Clubs in Schools and Organic farming Training to Students

In the last 20 years there is a drastic decline in youth in agriculture. In an effort to address the above issue, we facilitate eco-clubs in 17 schools around Kolunji and 7 schools around Tranquobar. Children are involved in planting trees at schools, establishing kitchen garden and herbal garden at homes and preparing seed balls and planting it in village common lands.

Our involvement with university students in deepening their insights on the impact of the environmental degradation, depletion of water table, destruction of forest and their role in sensitizing fellow students and local communities in reviving and re-establishing the environment. We have organized 15 days training for Agriculture and Environmental Management/ Science students in which 15 students each from 5 agriculture colleges participated. We organized 3 day training programme for students from 3 colleges from the dept. of Biotechnology and Microbiology.

We organized a 3 month training for students from 5 colleges studying Masters of Social Work, in enhancing community participation in management of community water bodies, community forest and in facilitating collective farming, value addition and collective marketing.

18.3. Organic farming Training for Farmers and Students

Growing consumer society has led to eroding human values. In an effort to revive environmental and social concerns, we have established a trainers team consisting of 17 university students and 20 innovative farmers. This team is responsible in enhancing capacities of JLG leaders and school children, MSW students, Environmental Management students and B.Sc. Agriculture students in emerging alternatives in seed production, water conservation, soil fertility management, integrated pest management and value addition.

We also provide organic farming training for farmers, NGOs and ICM Sisters. Organized, Nabard Seed producers' training for project area farmers. Kudumbam and KVK Vamban Jointly facilitated training for Producers farmers of Kovil veerakudi village.

Last year we organized bio village workshop and seed festival for Koulunji farmers groups and distributed seeds of traditional paddy varieties and Millets.

These all the trainings, meeting and workshop there are 306 participants benefitted these programs. Among these participants 168 are women.

18.4. Student's internship at Kudumbam for the year April 2018-March 2019

Kudumbam organizes student placement from Agricultural University/college and from MSW students from various colleges in Tamil Nadu.

For the final year Agriculture college students' placement will be a residential training placement for 10 to 15 days in Kolunji farm. The students will get training on organic farming and alternatives at Kolunji Ecological Farm and to visit farmers' field in the villages around Kolunji Farm.

Agriculture College Students Placement			
Name of the College/University	Date of Internship/visit	No. of students participated	Content of training
JSA college of agriculture and technology, Cuddalore	10.11.2018-14.11.2018 5 days training	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - seed ball preparation, - organic farming, - organic bio inputs - bio fertilizer preparation - panchakavya, fish acid, Amirth kaaisal - vegetable cultivation, - Circular bed, square bed and learned about forest trees. - farmers field school - politics in seeds - climate change - sugarcane nursery preparation - uses of solar panels - Climate resilient crops with multi cropping technology - agro -Ecological system analysis (AESAs) - value addition of millets - importance of farm ponds - soil and water conservation - post harvest Management - Indigenous techniques - Rain-fed ground nut cultivation
Athi Parasakthi horticulture college, Vellore	22.08.2018-31.08.2018 10 days training	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - value addition of millets - importance of farm ponds - soil and water conservation - post harvest Management - Indigenous techniques - Rain-fed ground nut cultivation - Roof top gardening
Gandhigram Rural University, Gandhigram	07.06.2018 - 08.06.2018 2 days	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - seed ball preparation, - organic farming, - organic bio inputs - bio fertilizer preparation - panchakavya, fish acid, Amirth kaaisal

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - vegetable cultivation, - Circular bed, square bed and learned about forest trees. - farmers field school - roof top gardening
Rover Agricultural college, Perambalur	19.11.2018 – 28. 11.2018 10 days training RAWE programme	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - seed ball preparation, - organic farming, - organic bio inputs - bio fertilizer preparation - panchakavya, fish acid, Amirth kaaisal - vegetable cultivation, - Circular bed, square bed and learned about forest trees. - farmers field school - Roof top gardening
MSW college students placement			
Bishop Heber college	14.05.2018-15.06.2018 One month internship	ARCADE NSHIMIRIMA NA African student	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - seed ball preparation, - organic farming, - organic bio inputs bio fertilizer preparation - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - value addition of millets - importance of farm ponds - soil and water conservation - post harvest Management - Roof top gardening
Bishop Heber college	December 2018, January – February 2019	Mr. Ashir Daniel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - seed ball preparation, - organic farming, - organic bio inputs bio fertilizer preparation - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - value addition of millets - importance of farm ponds - soil and water conservation - post harvest Management - Roof top gardening
Holy Cross College	22 nd January,2019 to March 9 th 2019.	Mr. Bakiyaman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - seed ball preparation, - organic farming, - organic bio inputs bio fertilizer preparation - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - value addition of millets - importance of farm ponds

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - soil and water conservation - post harvest Management - Roof top gardening
Bharathidasan University Constituent College, Orathanadu.	07.07.2018 to 15.09.2018	S.Kalaivani and V. Saranya	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - seed ball preparation, - organic farming, - organic bio inputs bio fertilizer preparation - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - value addition of millets - importance of farm ponds - soil and water conservation - post harvest Management - Roof top gardening
Rural Camp: Holy Cross College	17 th to 23 rd of September,2018	First year students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Field visit to Koviveerakudi - water conservation, - skill training for women, - games for village children, and paper pen making training
M.Sc. Environmental Science			
Bishop Heber college, Trichy	July 5 th to September 22 nd 2018	Christopher Naveen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - seed ball preparation, - organic farming, - organic bio inputs bio fertilizer preparation - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - value addition of millets - importance of farm ponds - soil and water conservation - post harvest Management - Roof top gardening

19. Collaboration with SASTRA University

Training for Farmers from SASTRA University- Rural women in up- scaling organic vegetables production on Kitchen and Roof Top Garden

Kudumbam and Sastra University organised a training course at Kolunji for 54 women at Kolunji on Organic terrace and kitchen garden on 14th, 21st and 22nd February 2019.



Though consumption of vegetables gives more vitamins and minerals to the human, today most of the vegetables are not so safe to consume. Since the vegetables are added by preservatives and dipping into chemicals to attract consumers a threat is there always amidst the consumers. Nevertheless farmers would like to produce organic products but the external factors such as scarcity of water, fluctuation of market price and fear of less demand are some of the reasons for them to reduce organic cultivation. Whereas the awareness of consuming vegetables getting increased. Therefore we have to educate the producer to change their crop pattern to manage the critical situation. In this needed situation to increase the supply each of them can cultivate organic vegetables on their backyard or on the terrace. When plan for terrace garden using of coir pith as one of the main raw materials to grow vegetables in the grow bag reduce using of water. Also a farmer could produce vegetables of his own choice as per his family interest.

In the above context we have organized 54 women from 4 villages to learn the small vegetable garden at their back yard or Terrace using grow bag. These women were trained at Kolunji with practical sessions on preparation of different organic manure and pest repellent such as vermicompost preparation, Panchakaviaya, EM solution, Ginger garlic paste, Herbal solution, etc. Mr.Chelladurai and Mrs. Usha has educated the farmers. We demonstrated them the necessary techniques which require very less water to fulfil the domestic consumption by using grow bag and coir pith. Dr.Sathya, Mrs.Usha, Mr.Chelladurai and Mr.Ramadass trained them on the cropping season, nutrition management and water management.

These women farmers have now established their own kitchen gardens with 25 grow bags each in their terrace and backyard.

20. PROGRAMME WITH UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

Agriculture students and Environment department students participate 15 days training program on Sustainable Agriculture at Kolunji Ecological Farm, Odugampatti, Keeranur.

During the program we cover sustainable agriculture and technologies. Importance of Soil and water conservation, Soil fertility, Green manures and bio fertilizers, Watershed management, PRA on water resource mapping in schools and villages, Seed ball preparation, formation Bio Intensive vegetable garden - they are also learned about Terrace Garden.

Students also trained agro forestry, seed production, organic certification, value addition. They are also participated Farmers field school in mixed crops, field visits on crops cattle rearing, solar motor. During training the lead farmers also shared their sustainable farming experience to the students.

We are also demonstrated bio input preparations, Vermicompost, Compost, Azola, Panchakavvya, Amirtha karaisal, Effective micro organisms, Fish solution, Egg solution, Pest control methods: Herbal pest repellent, Ginger Garlic chili Solution, Neem oil solution, Neem kernel extraction etc.,

Light traps, Rat trap, yellow sticky traps, bird perches for pest control.

The participants are very much interested to participate in this course. There are 8 participants from Annamalai University and 4 students from Bharathidasan university are participated in this course.

21. Contribution of Governing Body to Kudumbam:

The president and secretary of Kudumbam weekly reviewed and approved financial needs for implementing programmes at the field and at administrative office at Trichy. Their participation in process review activities, staff performance discussion on grass root level issues, has contributed in qualitative improvement of our activities. Their association with local schools have contributed in an increase in awareness among school teachers and students.

We would like to make a special mention to Mrs. Alexandria, President and Mrs. Loretta Gomes, Secretary for mobilising support from JOSA and for mobilising relief material during cyclone Gaja.

22. Proposed Activities for 2020:

In the year 2020 majority of the activities undertaken in this period (2018-'19) would be continuing. Future Earth Food Security project, Future Earth common activities programme, Emmaus Solidarity, NIMBA, Micro credit activities and all training programmes at Kolunji will be followed in the year 2020 also. So far the Future Earth volunteers are coming as interns to Kudumbam but from next year onwards Swallows volunteers would also be coming as interns to Kudumbam in the alternative period. It is planned to apply for CSR projects and Japanese Embassy projects.

Conclusion:

Kudumbam's efforts in addressing the issues of deforestation, ground water depletion, migration due to monsoon failure and developing alternatives and to build the capacities of small and marginal underprivileged farmers to march towards food security by establishing nurseries and increasing trees covers, managing the water bodies by desilting, deepening and establishing new farm ponds and through NABFINS loans make the farmers to work in confidence. Moreover, Kudumbam feels proud of strengthening the knowledge and insights of university students and school students in sustainable development through trainings at Kolunji Ecological Farm. After Gaja cyclone Kudumbam restructured the farm by strengthening nurseries, cattle sheds, poultry shed and bio-input models. We are ever thankful to the donors, governing body members and staff for their continuous involvement with full cooperation and support in bringing the vision and objectives to reality.