

# Kudumbam *Annual Report* 2023- 2024



## CONTENT

	<b><i>Forward</i></b>	
	<b>Introduction</b>	
<b>1.</b>	<b>Activities in Collaboration with Emmaus International, France</b>	
1.1	Annual Solidarity Project	
<b>2.</b>	<b>Activities in Collaboration with Future Earth, Sweden</b>	
2.1	Promoting Climate Resilient Food Systems for Sustainable Livelihood Security	
<b>3</b>	<b>Future Earth Asia Network Activities</b>	
3.1.	Future Earth Asia Network Regional Assembly	
<b>4.</b>	<b>Youth Volunteers Programme</b>	
<b>5.</b>	<b>Activities in collaboration with NABARD</b>	
5.	FPO – Farmers’ Producer Organization	
<b>6.</b>	<b>NABFINS – Micro Credit activities</b>	
6.1	At Pudukkottai	
<b>7.</b>	<b>Translation of LEISA India Magazine</b>	
<b>8.</b>	<b>Kolunji Ecological Farm Activities</b>	
<b>9.</b>	<b>Kolunji Farm Trainings</b>	
<b>10.</b>	<b>Contribution of Governing Body to Kudumbam</b>	
<b>11.</b>	<b>Proposed Activities for 2024 &amp; 2025</b>	

## **Forward**

*Climate variability and climate extremes have impacts on agricultural production systems. India is a primarily agricultural economy, climate change would have a strong effect on much of the population's livelihoods dependent directly on agriculture to feed a growing population and ensuring future; food and nutritional security becomes a challenging task in a changing climate. Changes in temperature and precipitation trends, Emission of Green House Gases, Impact of Climate Change on Crop Production, soil and water resources, adaptation and mitigation through Climate Action has to be given much importance.*

*Initiatives on Climate action in the context of National Action Plan on Climate change and specifically National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture through Indian Agriculture Research Institute, Indian Council on Agriculture Research, Agricultural Universities through various programmes and Panchayati Raj Institutions at grassroot level are being undertaken to recognize the region undergoing significant climate change, to establish methodologies for evaluating the effect of climate change on agricultural production and to recommend effective steps to reduce the impact of climate change by building resilient agro-ecosystems using climate information through climatesmart agriculture with defined institutional architecture to sustain the focus and integrate activities into ongoing schemes and programs related to sustainable agriculture practices. Technical solutions with community mobilization will help cope with climate fluctuations. Similarly organising knowledge sharing festivals and meet for all stakeholders help in wider adaptation and mitigation reducing the impact of climate change and weather variability's. Climate action is visible in policy decisions, research*

*programmes, capacity building and technology application.*

*With the much grateful heart I thank the nature and the community people who support our efforts in safe guarding the nature for the future generation to have a sustainable agriculture practices and conserve our bio-diversity; it is my pleasure and privilege to present Kudumbam's 2023-2024 Annual Report in the 42nd Annual General Body Meeting.*

*Kudumbam's journey in the field of Sustainable Climate Smart Agriculture reaches a level where not only the farmers but also the students of local colleges and international students and the common people have internalized the need to follow the climate resilient practices to cope up with the climate change and to have food security. Also awareness have been created among the children, the parents, teachers and public to have climate resilient nutritious food system by safe guarding the biodiversity and Agro-ecology.*

*We ever thank our co-founders and the late farm staffs for their effort to take up such a needful initiative. We are ever grateful to our funding partners Emmaus International, France, Future Earth, Sweden, PAN AP, NABARD and NABFINS and local government officials for their continuous support and encouragement for us make a successful journey. My heartfelt thanks to the Kudumbam team, governing body members and well-wishers for their committed effort in achieving Kudumbam's vision.*

*Above all I thank God Almighty and the nature for providing a conducive environment to move towards the goal. I am happy to present this annual report in this 42<sup>nd</sup> general body meeting.*

**Oswald Quintal**  
**Secretary, Kudumbam**

# Introduction

**Kudumbam** – “Family” is a democratic, secular and non-profit voluntary organization with the vision 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, 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. In the present arena Kudumbam works to find out the alternatives and solutions for the emerging issues of climate change, ground water depletion, deforestation and depletion of biodiversity and food insecurity and poor health.

Based on our vision and objectives our activities for the year 2023-2024 are strengthening JLG leadership, up-scaled production of traditional rice, millets, pulses, vegetables and Bio-input production with the full involvement of farmers, women groups, students of local and international, university departments and other research stations and professionals and staff. We are happy to narrate our activities in detail below.

## 1. Activities in collaboration with Emmaus International:

### 1.1. To Strengthen Economic Activities by Expansion of Nursery, Herbal and Vermi compost units in Kolunji Farm.

#### Nursery unit:

To enhance the nursery and increase seedlings production for additional income while benefiting to the group and the environment we expanded our Nursery unit with timber, fruits and herbal. We have grown timber tree saplings like Teak, Red Sandal, black bead(money pod), Mahogany, Gmelina arborea( kumil teak), Acha tree(hardwickia), Elm tree( ave tree), etc and Fruit trees saplings like Lemon, Mango, Jackfruit, Goose berry, Guava, Custard apple, Pomegranate, etc, Herbal plants like curry leaf, Aloe Vera, Basil leaves, Thuthuvalai, Insulin plant, Hibiscus plant, Beetal leaves, etc, and flowering / ornament plants. In the nursery nearly 88,000 saplings were raised. The unit was maintained by two women. We sold around 72,000 saplings to the farmers and ISHA foundation generating an income of Rs.2,60,000.

#### Herbal unit:

Herbal products, primarily utilized for health benefits and immune system enhancement, are sourced from the Kolunji farm and its surrounding neighborhood. Leaves, fruits and vegetables are collected and dried using a fuel dryer. The herbal production unit is efficiently managed by two women. Nearly 1,760 pockets containing Herbal flowers such as Cassia auriculata Avarampoo, Hibiscus flower – semparuthi poo, Henna, etc and herbal leaves Hibiscus leaves, Justicia adhatoda – Adathodai, Mint, Curry, Neem leaves, Albiziz amara -Usilai leaves, Indian Borage – Omavalli, Vegetables like Turkey berry – Sundaikai, Tomato, chilly, cluster bean etc and fruits like Banana, Pine apple, Goose



berry etc.,. We have successfully sold 380 pockets, generating a substantial income of Rs.54,000/-.

#### **Vermi compost unit:**

Vermicompost is rich in micro-nutrients, enhancing the soil and contributing to improved soil structure, aeration, water retention, and



healthier plant roots. In the production of vermicompost, waste materials such as dry leaves, farmyard manure, and agricultural waste are utilized from the farm and acquired from nearby farmers. The process involves the collection of materials, laying earthworms in the tubs, and daily watering by two women. Vermicompost is collected every 45 days from the tubs. The production occurs in three phases, yielding a minimum of 7-10 tonnes of compost each time. In total, 22 tonnes of vermicompost have been produced, with 10 tonnes sold to farmers and 12 tonnes sold to Kolunji. One kg of Vermi compost was sold at the rate of Rs.12. In total the income generated was Rs.2,64,000/-.

#### **1.2. Emmaus solidarity Fund -2023**

For over 42 years, KUDUMBAM has been actively involved in development activities in Pudukkottai District. Our focus has been on non-formal education programs, skill development training, sustainable agriculture, and microcredit initiatives. We've recognized the significant impact of climate change on agriculture and the challenges faced by farming communities. With men increasingly shifting to other unskilled jobs or migrating from villages, women often take on the responsibility of cultivating and generating

income, depending heavily on favorable monsoon conditions. Consequently, women handle significant challenges and often live with limited income sources.

After thorough study, we approached support from EMMAUS INTERNATIONAL for solidarity. Grateful for their response, we received a grant of Rs. 43,42,137 for one year to enhance the livelihoods of vulnerable women. Targeting small and marginal women farmers, landless individuals, single women, and widows, our aim is to promote economic independence leading to sustainable livelihoods. Kudumbam's focuses mainly in empowering these groups by creating opportunities such as start a small enterprises and cattle rearing, aiming for financial independency.

Kudumbam conducted training sessions in organic farming techniques, emphasizing the utilization of locally available manure and teaching participants how to convert it into vermicompost for their agricultural fields. 60% of the women chose to invest in purchasing a cow, selling its milk locally, and utilizing the cow manure to enrich their fields. Each of these women received Rs. 60,000, initiating income generation through milk sales while simultaneously enhancing soil fertility with manure.

In total, 80 women benefited from this program 48 women received a grant of Rs. 60,000 each for the purchase of a cow, while the remaining 32 women received Rs. 40,000 each to invest in various activities such as organic farming and small enterprises. Consequently, the income of the target groups has seen an improvement gradually from 10-15%.

#### **1.3 Emmaus International Board and Regional meetings:**

Mrs. Pangayavalli an elected representative of Emmaus International participated in various



meetings, events, forums, and working group sessions organized by Emmaus International and Emmaus Asia. The following details her visits to different countries during 2023 and 2024.

S.no	Month	Details of the visit	Places
1.	1-7 th April 2023	Emmaus Asia Regional Assembly	Beirut, Lebanon
2.	15-20 <sup>th</sup> April 2023	Emmaus International Board meeting	Bilbo, Spain
3.	15-20 October 2023	Emmaus Asia Regional Meeting	Pokara, Nepal
4.	30 <sup>th</sup> January - 1 <sup>st</sup> February 2024	Emmaus Gender Equality working group committee meeting	Paris, France
5.	1-5 <sup>th</sup> April 2024	Emmaus Asia Regional meeting	Bangladesh
6.	15-19 April 2024	Emmaus International Board meeting	Cotonou, Benin

#### 1.4. Mr.Tony Coilpet, Emmaus Emmaus Le Mayenne Community, France visit

Mr. Tony, representing the Emmaus Le Mayenne community, France, visited Kudumbam from 1<sup>st</sup> of September to the 21<sup>st</sup> of September 2023 to create video showcasing innovative farmers.

During his stay, he conducted interviews with



Kudumbam staff and documented their work. Additionally, he explored several farmers' fields to gain insight on sustainable agricultural practices implemented in Pudukottai district and Nagapatinam district.

## 2. Activities in Collaboration with Future Earth:

### 2.1 Future Earth Friend Group Project:

**Promoting climate resilient food systems for sustainable livelihood security**

**Training on climate resilient crops and technologies for pulses, Millet and traditional paddy crops**

It is quite obvious that the result of Global warming is severe drought or monsoon failure or heavy flood or erratic rainfall and storms which severely affect farming community. There is an urge to train farmers to learn about climate resilient cropping techniques and by practicing this they could overcome the climate change to a certain extend; We train farmers on crop selection, seeds, mixed cropping and water storage techniques, traditional crop cultivation and the like.

Kudumbam has taken initiative for the farmers to cultivate crops with climate resilient cropping techniques. This we trained the farmers on climate resilient crops and technologies for pulses, Millet and traditional paddy varieties. The trainings have been given four times to 180 farmers. The techniques like mixed cropping with

vegetable plants, herbal plants, pulse crops and traditional paddy varieties have been followed by the farmers who were trained at Keeranur Office, Pazhayaveerakudi village and at Kolunji farm. They got yield of different varieties; not only from the main crop but also of varieties of mixed crop yield. With this initiative we have trained nearly 180 farmers on climate resilient techniques and they got yield of mixed varieties of crops.

### **Strengthening capacities on seed producers in traditional rice varieties, millet varieties, pulses, oil seeds and local nutritional vegetables**

We have initiated purchase of seeds from the Farmers Friend Groups of Kolunji FPCL for business activity. According to the interest of the farmers the FIGs purchased ground nut seeds as a business activity.

The training on strengthening the capacities of the farmers of the Kolunji Farmer Producer Organization Ltd have made the farmers to invest some amount in purchase of oil seed that is Ground Nut collectively in a whole sale market. By this they could save some amount and they have sown the ground nut oil seeds at Karadivayal and Pazhayaveerakudi villages. They have also trained to cultivate collectively the local nutritional vegetables and herbs, traditional rice varieties and millet varieties.

With the NABARD DDM, we gave training to the Farmers interest Groups of Kovilveerakudi, Pazhayaveerakudi, Karadivayal and Valiyampatti of Kolunji FPCL. They were being motivated to takeover small business activity. This training is to strengthen the farmers' interest groups to purchase quality seeds for multiplication.

Eight farmers participated in the meeting held at Kovilveerakudi and got money for purchase of quality seeds viz. the Ground Nut seed (Oil seed) collectively for multiplication. A total of 20 bags (of 40kgs of ground nut/bag) have been purchased and shared by these 8 farmers to

cultivate in 10 acres and each farmer has got a yield of approximately 35 bags. These farmers have decided to distribute each to other 5 farmers in the farmers' interest groups and hence 40 farmers would be involved in seed multiplication in the coming season.

### **Strengthening Farmer Producer Company**

The members of FIGs belong to Kolunji FPCL from Kaaradivayal, Pazhaya Veerakudi, Kovilveerakudi and Valiyampatti participated in the meeting held at Karadivayal. Around 85 farmers both men and women participated in the training from these villages. The farmers who purchased ground nut seed for multiplication and marketing showed much interest about this initiative. The DDM of NABARD explained the benefits and marketing ventures of Farmer Producer Organization. The farmers shared their experience in organic farming and marketing. Dr. Lalitha shared the millet production, value addition and marketing for the FPOs. Mr. Suresh Kanna shared his experience with the other successful Farmer Producer organizations. In another meeting at Kovilveerakudi a total of 78 farmers participated from the above four villages. In this training the focus was on value addition and marketing. Most of the farmers are women farmers who are all interested to become entrepreneurs through FPO.

### **Organizing a State level conference - for policy influence**



Every year Kudumbam conducts a State level Bio-village conference at Kolunji Ecological Farm.



This year it was held on 19th of August 2023 with much focus on millet cultivation, value addition and consumption to commemorate the International Year of Millet. Farmers from 7 to 8 villages participated and the lead farmers shared their success stories in organic farming, climate resilient cropping, millet cultivation, traditional paddy varieties cultivation, value addition and FPO activities and marketing. More than 250 farmers participated in the event. This project is being funded by Future Earth, Sweden.

### **Health camp for screening and identification of chronic diseases**

In the villages around Kolunji for the past 10 years there was an increase in the no. of deaths among the people due to diabetes, kidney failure, heart disease, cancer and such chronic ailments. It was learnt that the deaths are in the last stage of diagnosing. Therefore two health camps have been conducted clubbing the four villages and around. In both the camps a total of 200 and more people participated. More of diabetic people participated and the doctors identified some kidney affected people with increase in the creatinin level. They have been advised to treat it in the Government hospital. The Holy Cross College, Trichy students volunteered in the health camp.

### **Awareness creation on traditional nutrition millet consumption through exhibitions and food mela for school and college students**

Kudumbam organized food mela in two schools to emphasize the children the importance of



nutritious food and to avoid junk food which the present children are crazy after. The traditional food as millet has more nutrition than our staple food of rice which contains more of carbohydrate. The farming community though they were aware of the nutrition value of the millets, due to global warming and climate change find it difficult to go for millet cultivation and hence the practice of millet consumption becomes uncommon. But as to get rid of malnutrition and to boost the immunity to withstand all kinds of health issues it is realized that the children should get aware of the nutrition value of millet and to follow up the practice of traditional food system especially consumption of millets. We conducted awareness camps in the form of Food Mela in two schools viz. Valiampatti, Government Middle School and Konduthirayanpatti, Government primary school. The school staff and students made their full attention to know about the need and details of nutritious millet food consumption and enjoyed the various food items through millet nearly six to seven food items and four to five snacks made up of Fox tail millet, Little Millet, Kodo millet, Baniyard millet, Finger millet, Pearl millet and some herbal chutney. There are 140 participants including children and staff participated in the two food melas. This initiative is an attempt first of all to make the children and school teachers to get aware of the nutritious aspects of the millets, pulses, vegetables and herbs. In the coming years we hope we could see the change among the children in the food consumption practice.

### **Strengthening Eco-club models**

We have organized Eco Club models and demonstrations on Bio-input preparation, nursery rising, organic farming practices, seed ball preparation, nutrient millet and vegetable cultivation, consumption and value addition, herbal power preparation for the local college and university students of from April 2023 onwards. Various college students of different batches participated and enriched with



knowledge. Mainly we have included two Eco club model training one at Kolunji for 54 students and the other at Valiyampatti School for 50 students. The children have learnt the importance of kitchen garden with nutritious local varieties of vegetables and have assured it to have one in each of their houses and another in the school premises.

### **Workshop to sensitize farmers to avail State Schemes on depleting water table and depleting bio-diversity:**

The State Schemes on depleting water table and the present status of water resources and the welfare measures the State has announced for the farmers and how to avail the schemes were being taught by the local Block Development officer. The farmers who have availed the benefits shared their experience. The farmers from various villages like Koviveerakudi, Pazhayaveerakudi, Karadivayal, Kurinjanpatti and koogur participated.

Usha Nanthini as a resource person from the Block Development Office to explain the State schemes on depletion of water table: Similarly the schemes on bi-diversity conservation especially with regard to the International year of Millet the State schemes and the benefits have been discussed and the Government's effort to include millets distribution in subsidy in the Public Distribution System has been explained to the farmers. The farmers of the FPO showed their interest in becoming entrepreneurs in millet cultivation and value added products of millet. The farmers from various villages like Koviveerakudi, Pazhayaveerakudi, Karadivayal, Kurinjanpatti and Koogur participated.

### **2.2. Future Earth Asia Network Common Activity:**

There was a common proposal for the south region network members on climate education was prepared and sent to Future Earth. It is to focus on climate education in schools for

children and teachers and to have eco clubs and home forestry, kitchen garden and herbal garden in the students' houses of the local schools.

### **2.3. Future Earth Asia Network Regional Assembly:**

The Asia network Regional Assembly was held at LEHO in Ladakh from 23<sup>rd</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> with the 2 days field visits.

The Future Earth south Asian networks participants Dr. Lalitha & Mr. Suresh Kanna from Kudumbam, Trichy, Mr. Jeyakumar from CIRHEP, Nilakkottai, Mr. Poornachandran, TEDE, Chennai and Ms. Sangeeta, Mr. Kunal and Mr. Tanmay from Srushtidyan and North network members from Ladakh that is from LEHO, LEDeG, SECMOL, Amchi Sabha and Wome's Alliance participated. LEHO hosted the programme. Dr. Linn Rabe from Future Earth, Sweden participated and presented the future status of the funding as there was change in their Swedish Government Policy. All the NGOs presented the presented the friend group project report. It was decided to have the Future Earth common activity project separately, one for the south region and one for the north region. The capacity building training will be given in June. Also the representative from Future Earth Dr. Linn Rabe clearly explained the situation in



Sweden and due to the new government rule it will be uncertain to have Future Earth from 2025 onwards. Therefore the programmes of Future Earth might come to an end in December 2024. The last 2 days the team visited two of the

working villages of LEHO Likri and Panamic via Kardungla pass the world's 2<sup>nd</sup> highest pass. With that the Future Earth Asia Network regional assembly was concluded.

### 3. Youth Volunteers Programme

#### Interns from Future Earth, Sweden

Three interns, namely Ebba Rosendahl, Linn Eriksson, and Fannie Axelsson from Sweden, completed their six-month internship at Kudumbam from February to June 2023. They participated in various activities during their internship with Kudumbam as part of the Future Earth Internship Program. They contributed to writing project proposals for future initiatives focused on organic agriculture, climate adaptation, and the empowerment of women and youth in Tamil Nadu. The interns visited farmers' fields to document videos of innovative agricultural techniques, successes, and challenges, and produced short films to raise awareness and enhance knowledge on social media. They maintained Kudumbam's social



media presence by posting about the organization's activities and important issues in the environmental and climate change movements, using text, photography, and video. Additionally, they engaged with the gender studies department at Bharathidasan University to gain insights into gender issues in Tamil Nadu. The interns prepared materials on Kudumbam's project achievements and wrote a comprehensive report summarizing Kudumbam's activities over the past five years. They visited and understood various activities such as micro-credit initiatives, and spent time at Kolunji Ecological Farm to learn about sustainable agricultural techniques and participate in women empowerment events.

#### Interns from France

At the beginning of 2024, Kudumbam received two interns, **Ms. Agathe Frecon and Ms. Adele Grimault** from France for an internship for the period of three months from February to April.



During their time at Kudumbam, they participated in various activities and events. They attended seminars at Bharathidasan University, where they shared their experiences with students. On the farm, they learned sustainable agricultural techniques, focusing on tasks such as sowing seeds, maintaining the tree nursery, and teaching children through the community parenting program. Additionally, they assisted in preparing documentation, including PowerPoint presentations.

### 5. Activities in Collaboration with NABARD

#### 5.1. Farmer Producer Organization:

During the period 2023-'24 almost every 3 months the Board of Directors held discussions on drought and its impact. Farmers expressed their interest in plating Ground Nut and from the Kolunji Farmer Producer Organization a loan of Rs.50,000/- has been provided for purchase of ground nut seeds. And the farmers have repaid this loan. Members of the Farmer Producer Organization have raised tree seedlings, Azola, Vermi compost, Bio-inputs and have processed and dried Herbs.

### 6. Partnership With Nabfins for Micro Credit Program.

Since 2017, Kudumbam has been serving as a business correspondent for NABFINS, with the program renewed in 2020 and 2023, continuing through 2026. This micro-credit program primarily supports vulnerable women, enabling

them to purchase milch animals, invest in agricultural activities, and start small enterprises. Kudumbam forms Self-Help Groups (SHGs) consisting of 12-20 members and Joint Liability Groups (JLGs) with 4-6 members. These groups can access initial loans of ₹40,000, with subsequent loans of ₹70,000 and ₹1,00,000 in the second and third phases, respectively.

Kudumbam's role in this program includes forming the groups, selecting borrowers, preparing necessary documentation, and collecting monthly EMI payments to be paid to NABFINS. For these services, Kudumbam receives a commission for both loan disbursement and repayment. This program significantly aids women in generating income through rearing milch animals and practicing organic farming. Approximately 3,500 women borrowers benefit from this initiative, with low-interest rates that help improve their economic situation and livelihood.

#### PUDUKOTTAI - 2023-2024 LOAN DETAILS

Clusters	Panchayats	Villages	Groups			Borrowers	Total loan amount
			SHGs	JLGs	Groups		
Mathur	6	8	0	12	12	52	3,370,000
Keeranur	12	20	0	44	44	204	13,810,000
Killukottai	11	29	2	85	87	412	31,190,000
Oduampatti	11	34	3	98	101	509	38,390,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>1177</b>	<b>86,750,000</b>

#### 7. Translation of LEISA India Magazine

As a Consortium partner of LEISA India, Kudumbam has been engaged in the Tamil translation for more than 2 decades with the support of AME (Agriculture Man Ecology) (AME Foundation). During this reporting year, 2 editions have been published one in June and the other in December 2023. Around 1500 copies were printed on each issue and it has a total readership of more than 3000 people across Tamil Nadu and few other Tamil speaking regions of India and Asia.

The June issue primarily focuses on education and knowledge sharing on agro-ecology and the importance of urban and resilient farming; the December issue primarily focuses on urban farming, renewable energy, dairy and natural farming initiatives.

#### 8. Kolunji Ecological Farm Activities:

##### A. Bio Inputs Production

###### 1. Solid Bio fertilizers

At Kolunji farm compost, vermin compost (using Farmyard manure and dry leaf and other organic materials) and Azola are produced. Apart from selling, the compost, Azola and vermin compost are being used to the vegetable plants, tree crops and nurseries in the farm.

###### 2. Liquid fertilizers

We produce Panchakavvya, Effective Microorganism (EM) solution, Fish Amino Acid Solution, Amirtha karaisal as Liquid fertilizer for plant growth. We use it in the farm for plant growth as well as sell to the farmers for immediate use. We also produce pest and disease control liquids like herbal decoction using ginger, garlic and neem oil and use it as pest control spray.

##### B. Crop Production

###### Vegetable Cultivation and fruit production

The vegetables like Brinjal, tomato, cluster beans, ladies finger, drum stick, creeper vegetables like cow pea, lab lab and green leaves & herbs are being cultivated in the farm; also fruits like mango, chickoo, banana, Amla, custard apple and tamarind for cooking purpose. The vegetables will be used for cooking for the training participants and for staff who stay in the farm. The surplus will be sold to the staff and nearby people.

### **Tree planting**

Our main focus is Agroforestry and hence we plant tree seedlings on roadside, bunds & fence, and nursery areas to maintain green cover in the farm, fodder for the cattle and for fuel wood purpose.

### **C. Farm Nursery**

In our nursery we have tree seedlings like timber seedlings, fruits and fodder and plants of flowers, ornamental, herbal and vegetables. We sell the nurseries to farmers distribute free seedlings to the participants of workshops, school and college students.

### **D. Herbal Drier Unit**

In herbal unit we have planted herbal plants, tree seedlings for herbal powder production through fuel drier. The following herbal powders we produce Avaram leaf and flower, Adathoda, Usilai, Henna, Drumstick, Tomato, Coconut, Gooseberry, basil, mint etc.,

### **E. Cattle and Poultry:**

We have at present 3 cows, 4 bulls and two calves and 50 country chickens. We have sold 3 cows and some chicken and eggs to the nearby farmers and staff.



### **F. Infra Structure maintenance:**

We have completed the skill development rural women hostel funded by Foundation Abbe Pierre, France.

We have repaired vermin compost unit and nursery unit

In the past years especially during Gaja cyclone Kolunji farm has experienced a major damage as more than 2000 trees have been fell and uprooted, that has been now re-planted and afforested and hence the great challenge has been faced by Kudumbam team successfully.

Secondly the free current played a major role in crop cultivation in the farm, it is a success when we speak the development of the farm. This contributes the re-greening of the farm and the increase in bio-mass and reduced the outside dependency of fodder for the cattle. The palm seedlings are also growing in a healthy way in the fences, bunds of farm bonds which have been sown by the local school and college students. The unreached bushy areas have been cleared and gave space for Isha nursery plantation. Also we aim for pepper cultivation with the support of Emmaus International in the remaining unreached bushy area. We have sold 31.764 tone fuel wood this year. Through the contract with Isha nursery we have produced and sold 63493 seedlings to Isha nursery.

The farm income has increased due to the ISHA nursery sale, sale of timber & firewood and sale of livestock in comparison with the previous year. The farm income has been used in maintenance of the farm.

### **G. Details of the Seedlings Production**



Seedlings	Qty	Amount Rs.	Damage
Teak	40062	200310	175
Naval	7931	39655	0
KodukkaPuli	5682	28410	18
Kumil	4628	23140	35
Mahogany	2850	14250	27
Manjiyam	1524	7620	0
Puli	819	4095	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>63496</b>	<b>317480</b>	<b>255</b>
<b>2024-2025</b>			
Teak	70000		
Red Sandal	20000		
Pomegranate	10000		
Neem	5000		
Kumil	3000		
Naval	3000		
Guava	3000		
Poovarasu	5000		
Tamarind	1000		
<b>Total</b>	<b>120000</b>		

## 9. Kolunji Farm Trainings

Sl. No	Dates	content	No. of days	Boys	Girls
1	Mar 3rd - April 27	Interns from, Sweden visited Organic farms from Mar - April 2023	30	0	3
2	June 19th - 24th	Integrated Farming System Training - For Gandhi gram University - BSC Agriculture students	6	0	4
3	July 21th	Bio Inputs Preparation and Integrated Farm Visit by - Dhanalakshmi Srinivasan Arts and Science College, Perambalur. Biotech Students	1	42	13
4	Aug 23rd	Bio Inputs Preparation and Integrated Farm Visit - BT students - National Arts and Science college, Jayangondam	1	30	35
5	Aug 30th	Terrace garden and Bio Inputs preparation training - Holy Cross college, Trichy . MSW	1	11	12

Sl. No	Dates	content	No. of days	Boys	Girls
		Students			
6	Sep 16th	Water Resource Map PRA - Local School students	1	5	8
7	Oct 9th - 14th	Holy Cross college MSW First year Students & staff - Eluchi -2023 Social Work Camp @ Pazhaya Veerakudi	5	11	12
8	Oct 18th	Bio Inputs Preparation and Integrated Farm Visit - BT students - Dhanalakshmi Srinivasan Arts and Science College for women, Perambalur. B.Sc. & M.Sc. Microbiology Students (62 students and 2 staff)	1	0	64
9	Dec , Jan-Feb	MSW - Students - 5 - (Holy cross -2. Biseep -1, BARD - University - 2) Internship	25	3	2
10	March 2nd & 3rd	Skill development training on Herbs identification and collection for Local School students	2	2	8
12	24th & 25th	Skill development training on Nursery packet soil mixer filling and seed ball making and gaming class for Local School students	2	8	5
		<b>Total Participants</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>150</b>
1	Aug 19th	Kudumbam - Bio village Conference - Aug 2023 at Kolunji farm	1	60	150
2	Now 4th	Millet's festival - Kongthiraiyanpattti and Valiampatti	1	75	125
		<b>Total participants</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>275</b>

Overall participants 40 201 425

### Indian students Internship programme

For field, block and RAWE internship program, we hosted interns from different colleges and universities from Trichy, Pudukottai, Karaikudi, and Perambapur. For the internship program various departments, including Social Work, Agriculture, Sociology, and Women's Studies, participated in the year 2023 for fieldwork/block



/RAWE placements at Kudumbam. The students visited/stayed at Kolunji farm and engaged in fieldwork activities for different durations, ranging from 1 to 3 months, depending on their curriculum requirements. During their internship, they have learnt about bio-input preparation, visited farmers' fields to understand organic farming practices and conducted awareness programs at schools and within the community, covering special topics with the resource team. These young students are trained in the development activities of Kudumbam and receive certificates upon completion of their internship.

### Skill and other training to the children of the Community (Community Parenting of Children)

The community children of our target villages will be given training on drawing and



paintings, making greetings cards, spoken English classes and games. Therefore on every weekend we organize trainings for the children of the community including the Vidivelli children on English coaching, Mathematics and also about organic farming related trainings and nursery rising etc.,. We celebrated Pongal festival in the month of January with the support from well wishers and other donors and distributed new dresses and sweets for 40 children with their



parents.

### 10. Contribution of Governing Body to Kudumbam

This year there were some changes made in the governing body members due to some inconvenience in attending meetings and programs and also to give space for youngsters to become governing body members in future. The vice president of Kudumbam Mr. I . Victor has become the treasurer now and the treasurer Ms. Lorette Gomez has become the member of the general body; similarly the member Usha Rani has become the vice president of Kudumbam Governing body and Ms. Shanthi has become the joint secretary of Kudumbam governing body. New members have been added in the removal of some elderly members in the governing body that includes two farmers Ms. Mariammal and Jeyathi.

The president and secretary of Kudumbam regularly review the financial needs and then

approve the same for implementing programmes at the field and at administrative office at Trichy. Their



participation in the process of reviewing the activities, staff performance and discussion on grass root level issues, is very contributive in improving the quality of our activities. Their association with local schools is very contributive in awareness creation on nature conservation and natural resource management to the students and teachers. Mrs. Loretta Gomez contribution in mobilizing support from JOSA is a great help for the children and other beneficiaries. The president and treasurer's constant visit and timely suggestions help to improve quality of our work. Mr. Victor's suggestion and help in identifying new donors make the team to look forward for new support by sending new proposals to new foreign donors. We are ever grateful to the governing body members for their constant support and contribution in the development of Kudumbam.

## **II. Proposed Activities for 2023 & 2024**

We are thankful to the Emmaus International for the solidarity project is continuing as usual in this year too.

Similarly the project from Future Earth, Sweden on Climate change and food security is continuing till December 2024.

The Nabfins micro credit activity of Nagappatinam has now been directly looking after by NABFINS and only the reduction and closing of NPA is being done by three of our staff. Micro credit activity at Pudukkottai has been renewed for the next phase. Kolunji FPO activities will be continued for the coming years. Emmaus solidarity fund is continuing in the following years too.

Four new proposals have been sent one to EU CAN AID, Belgium, DAP, Australia, one exchange program to Bangladesh proposal to Toyotto, Japan, and SIANI, Sweden and three more proposals are about to be sent one to Emmaus International, one to CFLI India and one to BEL Foundation, France.