



Progress of 'Green Carpet'

In 'Making an Impact' Article - 386, we elaborated about 'Green Carpet' units, which are formed as an enterprise specialising in gardening. We formulated the concept of 'Green Carpet' after identifying that there will be demand for those who are skilled enough to set up and conserve household gardens and kitchen gardens, especially in the urban areas. Thrissur and Kozhikode District teams showcased good initiative to complete the training at the earliest and now the trained teams started getting good opportunities.

Now, 4 Green Carpet Units have started functioning in Thrissur district. They are based out of Thrissur Corporation, Chalakudy Municipality, Perinjanam, Madakkathara CDSs. There are 4 groups in the district with 5 members each. These twenty entrepreneurs were provided with 14 day training from Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Mannuthy. This 14 day training including practical sessions in setting up gardens, managing kitchen gardens, setting up ornamental gardens, vertical gardening, landscaping, topiary, terrace farming etc. They were also provided with training in rain shield (mazha mara) farming, aquaponics and ornamental fish farming.

The Green Carpet Units which function in enterprise model, are ready to develop gardens and set vegetable gardens as per the need of the consumer. The District Level Consortium will be formed in Thrissur by combining these 4 Green Carpet Units and if there is work at big scale, the consortium will take it up. Out of these 4 groups, two groups have received work orders worth Rs 1 lakh for setting up the garden.

In addition to Thrissur, the training and unit formation has been completed in Kozhikode district. 20 people were provided with training at Farmers Training Centre, Vengeri and 5 units (Kottoor, Kakkoor, Panangad, Kozhikode North and Kayanna CDSs) were formed. Beneficiary selection and training activities are progressing in the remaining districts.

All the districts will form 'Green Carpet' units very soon. The leadership and initiative provided by Thrissur and Kozhikode district will be a good model for others to follow. 'Green Carpet' enterprises are set to provide good livelihood opportunities to NHG members. Appreciations to Thrissur, Kozhikode teams who moved forward with the activities at an accelerated pace.

