

Kudumbashree logs Rs 3.7 crore loss

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THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: The joint farming groups under Kudumbashree units in the state have suffered a total loss of Rs 3.67 crore due to the lockdown, according to an internal study report by the Kudumbashree Mission released here on Tuesday.

The loss included Rs 2 crore due to failure in harvesting 8.64 tonnes of farm produces and Rs 1.67 crore due to non-sale of produces or sale at a low price during the lockdown period. The report was prepared by the agriculture wing of the Kudumbashree.

The loss was unexpected for the Kudumbashree groups which invested in agriculture sector after surviving two consecutive floods in the state, the study said. The groups had cultivated various crops like paddy, vegetables, plantain and tuber varieties eyeing the Vishu market, which they could not harvest due to lockdown.

Thrissur district was the worst affected, where 821 farming groups which had cultivated on 277.82 hectares suffered losses, while in Malappuram district, the lockdown affected 778 groups.

A total of 4,8940 farming groups in the state had cultivated crops targeting this year's Vishu market, and out of this 31,421 groups were all set to make the harvest. But the lockdown had its severe impact on 4,042 groups, thus affecting cultivation on 1202 hectares of land, the study pointed out. Under Kudumbashree, there are a total of 68,388 farming groups in the state comprising a total of 3,38,202 women. They have been cultivating a total area of 50,000 hectares of land and out of this 75-80% are leased land.