

**One day Seminar on “ World Food Security and Sovereignty Day and Rural Women’s Day” with Minor Millet based food festival inviting rural women, and students, faculty and staff on 29.10.2015**

The Department of Women's Studies jointly with Kudumbam, NGO had organized a One day Seminar on “Women, Food security and Soverenity” to commemorate the World Rural Women's Day and Food Security Day as per the United Nations guidelines. The objective of the programme was to create awareness for the usage of small grains and millets in the daily food intake. The programme coupled the importance of rural women participation in the food production and security. It carried the message of the need to protect the environment which is fast depleting of its natural resources and the need to find an alternative in order to protect the environment from using hazardous products for fast and quick yield of food and its ancillary products.

Dr.N.Murugeswari, Professor of Women's studies and Publication Officer i/c welcomed the gathering. The Director of Kudumbam, Mr.Oswald Quintal had delivered the Presidential Address and had narrated briefly the need for organic farming sans fertilizers. He had given a brief view of the key issues in Agriculture and he depleting water table which makes the agriculture a burden to the farmers. He said the need of the hour was to conserve water, to deepen tanks and community management of tanks which would ensure better food production. Mr. Oswald concluded that it is the need of the hour for students to involve themselves to study the need and issues in detail and find alternatives to contribute to policy initiatives.

The Assistant Director of Kudumbam, Ms. Pankajavalli had narrated on the need for organic farming and introduced the women who were pioneers in organic farming and the issues and challenges they faced. Ms. Palaniammal had been the first woman in her village to start a revolution of using organic farming methods for cultivation and she had motivated the other women in her village to undertake the same. She is the producers of single seed farming whereby she teaches the others as well in the production of food grains. Ms. U.Gauthami had been a pioneer in the development of a joint group for the milk production and the breeding of cattle for milk production. Ms. M.Gauthami had given a brief view of the problems of the women who had migrated from agriculture to other jobs. Mrs. Gomathi had narrated the need organic farming and her experiences from a sugar Cane cultivator to a vegetable producer. Ms. UshaNandhni had

spoke on the growing population with diabetes mellitus and kidney failure due to fertilisers in food and the non consumption of proper food with high nutritional value. Ms. Inbavallia entrepreneur of small food grains and owning sales outlet for the same, spoke on the need for consuming millets instead of the normal food which does not have high nutritional value.

In continuation with the seminar a Food Mela cum exhibition was also organized which was opened under the auspices of the hon'ble Vice Chancellor who had briefed the gathering on the importance of celebrating the rural women's day and Food security Day. With the brief speech the Hon'ble Vice chancellor had opened the food mela to benefit the students and the staff.