

## **BEST PRACTICES 2022-23**

### **BEST PRACTICE :1**

#### **1. Title of the Practice: Ecological Farming and conservation of water bodies**

#### **2. Objectives of the Practice:**

1. To make student community aware of the importance of organic cultivation.
2. To encourage students to use their knowledge in improving the productivity of crops.
3. To conserve Sasthamcotta lake thereby ensuring water security and promoting a sustainable environment.
4. To restore ecosystems at the landscape level; soil health, water quality, biodiversity etc.
5. To maximize nutrition and public health.
6. To conserve the indigenous plant species around the lake and to keep a check on invasive alien species.

#### **3. The Context:**

The concept of ecological farming originated early in the 20<sup>th</sup> century with a view to provide food with optimum nutritional value and minimum dangerous ingredients. Organic farming can be beneficial on biodiversity and environmental protection at local level. Food production should increase to meet the demands of the growing population. It is to be ensured that our food system is ready to meet the challenges like shortage of food, adulteration and quality. Many people are switching their food habits and are depending more on organic food production. It is our duty to reduce human and animal health hazards by reducing the level of residues in the product. In this context, K.S.M.D.B College promotes sustainable agriculture ecosystem. The college campus and surroundings have vast areas of arable land which is utilized for farming.

The College and its various stakeholders wish to preserve the campus flora and to adopt measures that will endorse our vision for a viable and constructive approach. This initiative will also focus on the conservation of Sasthamcotta Lake and feasibility of adopting alternate energy sources for meeting the increasing demand for clean energy. This conservation initiative has been launched for the stakeholders of Sasthamcotta Panchayat and also those who depend on the Lake as the major drinking water source. Its workings are monitored and codified by the Principal, the IQAC, the Department of Botany, NSS, NCC, Sasthamcotta Grama Panchayat, the Biodiversity Club, Bhoomithra Sena club and the Environmental Club. It is necessary to enhance the role of youth in sustainable environment.

#### **4. The Practice:**

Subhisksha-2020 is an organic farming done by K.S.M.D.B College in consultation with the Agriculture department and Dairy Development Board at Sasthamcotta and executed with

the help of Grama Panchayath, Sasthamcotta. In order to infuse environmental consciousness and to develop kinship with environment, an initiative named “Harithakeralam” is also started in the campus.

A nature centered approach is promoted through the programme. Each NSS volunteer has to plant a tree and nurture it while in the campus. A large area of land is kept aside for cultivation. The main crop items include Pineapple, Plantain, Tapioca, different vegetables. This is a golden opportunity to procure pesticide-free pineapple. The fertilizers used in the farm are obtained from the animal farm setup in the campus itself. The produce is sold to staff members, students or to the nearby shops and markets. Workers on the farm take great care in maintaining the plantation by regular weeding and cleaning. After the harvest the vegetables and fruits are displayed for selling. The buyers include staff, students and they can buy the product at a reasonable rate. Based on the availability, outsiders also get an opportunity to buy products.

The students who learn the value of preserving our ecology will in turn propagate such ideals into the society, thus taking our message out into the larger world. The Bhoomithra Sena Club seeks to amalgamate the values of ecological preservation with viable models of resource management. The students are given seminars on conservation of nature and Biodiversity. The eco-friendly initiative has found a strong resonance in our Sasthamcotta locality towards the conservation of Ramsar Site. We are proud to say that our staff and students have created a sensation for the conservation of Sasthamcotta Lake

## **5. Evidence of success**

Ecological farming has been continuing here for the past six years and has proved to be a great success. More students, staff and workers are getting interested and actively participating. There is a huge demand for the production which will be sold very fast. Earning level also has increased much. The number of students who are participating in the conservation of lake also has increased very much during these years. The college has ignited and raised the level of environmental consciousness among students and made them responsible towards the conservation of Sasthamcotta Lake.

## **6. Problems Encountered**

The college is situated in a rural and highly elevated area. The extreme heat requires watering the crops frequently which requires tiresome work on the part of the workers. The area is inhabited by monkeys and great care is needed in protection of the crops. Many times the crops are destroyed and this is really a big challenge faced by the college authorities. Adequate financial assistance is required for the maintenance and upkeep of the various projects for conserving the Lake. Sudden climatic variations is also a big issue.

## **BEST PRACTICE :2**

### **1. Title of the practice**

Energy conservation strategies

### **2. Objective of the practice:**

1. We can no longer move easy with our energy sources and must conserve them. The purpose of the practice is to save energy for a better future .
2. Creating awareness among students and staff about saving energy wisely.
3. To minimize energy costs and waste without affecting quality.
4. Improving efficiency through technological upgrades, promoting operations and maintenance etc.
5. To make use of renewable source of energy which is pollution free.

### **3. The Context**

Energy conservation practices are inculcated among staff and students through cautioning them about things which are very effective in minimizing electricity consumption like turning off all lights, fans and other electrical devices when not in use. One or two students are selected from each class to monitor the electrical energy saving in their classrooms as well as labs as a part of energy conservation strategy. Awareness is also created among students through various club activities. Awareness classes about energy conservation were conducted by PG Department of Physics in association with Kerala State Electricity Board.

Installation of solar panel

Our college has installed solar panels which is ecofriendly, safe ,cheaper and meeting a part of our energy requirements.

LED making and its usage in college

The most significant advantage of LEDs when compared to traditional lighting solutions is its long life span. They have great response in local as well as global market. LED light manufacturing is also a highly profitable business also with substantial capital investment. Our college is organizing workshops on LED making for students and staff and promoting its usage

since it serves as the most energy efficient lighting option. Tube lights are being replaced by LED bulbs with a view to saving energy in office, library etc..

#### **4. Evidence of success**

As response of these initiatives, our students have become vocal presences on matters of conservation of energy. They have been actively participating in the conservation of energy through their everyday practices in the campus. As per ardent demand of the current scenario and keeping importance of youth's role for sustainable future, the college has ignited and raised the level of consciousness among students and made them responsible towards the conservation of energy. Our campus is benefitted with pollution free environment, low energy consumption rates and higher efficiency level.

#### **5. Problems Encountered**

Lack of financial assistance for the maintenance is one of the main problems faced .Initial cost of installation is also a problem encountered in the energy conservation practice in the campus.