



EKNM GOVERNMENT COLLEGE ELERITHATTU

(Established in 1981, Affiliated to Kannur University)

Accredited by NAAC with 'B' Grade

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DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE FOR

7.2.1. Describe two best practices successfully implemented by the Institution

BEST PRACTICE 1 - *JEEVADHAAYINI*

Fostering Life Skills and Pro-environment Values to Students: Organic Farming as a Green Campus Initiative



JEEVADHAAYINI – Fostering Life Skills and Pro-environment Values to Students: Organic Farming as a Green Campus Initiative

1. Objectives of the Practice:

- i) To promote sustainable eco-friendly agricultural practices in campus through organic cultivation and soil enrichment which will create environmental awareness.
- ii) To foster a culture of environmental responsibility by instilling pro-environmental values in a practical context.
- iii) To bring about a sensibility to conserve nature by abstaining from the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides to retain soil quality and fertility.
- iv) To motivate students to adopt organic farming practices at home and make them part of promotion of sustainable food production enabling food security of the nation.
- v) To inculcate social skills and values like collective action, responsibility sharing through hands-on experience in farming.
- vi) To teach students the importance of the timely needed paradigm shift from ‘global food’ to ‘local food’ (production and consumption) which is economically and environmentally more viable for sustainable development.
- vii) To benefit local communities by including them in these activities.

2. The Context:

Agriculture is generally considered as a declining sector in Kerala with young generation losing out interest in farming. The excessive dependence of the state on other states for vegetables has resulted in Kerala being flooded with low quality vegetables due to excessive application of chemical fertilisers and pesticides. Lifestyle diseases have become more incident due to the changes in food habits and lack of interest in physical work. It is in this context that the NSS units in the college planned to involve its volunteers to help them internalise the values of safe, healthy food and relevance of physical labour. In June 2018, as part of “Green Campus Clean Campus” project, campus cleaning was initiated on the World Environment Day (5/6/2018). In connection with this, trees were planted in the campus and students undertook a plan for rooftop vegetable cultivation.

Total of 100 volunteers from first year and second year were divided into 7 groups. Two groups of 15 members with other groups with 14 members each. Weekdays were allotted to each group for watering, manuring and de-weeding. Cow dung and other manures were collected from local farmers.

With the success of rooftop organic farming for two consecutive years, (2018-19 and 2019-20) further plans were designed to extend the practice but was forced to stop midway due to COVID pandemic. Resuming farming in 2021, grow bags were used for vegetable cultivation and the hostel terrace was used for the same. It was also a fruitful venture following which polyhouse farming was also taken up

in 2022 and 2023. Initial investment in construction of the polyhouse was a challenge. It also required maintenance and regular inspection. But overcoming all such constraints polyhouse farming also flourished.

3. **The Practice:**

Phase I:

Organic Farming on Rooftop:

Different varieties of organic seeds of cauliflower, cabbage, cucumber, bitter gourd, snake gourd, tomato, brinjal, beans, red chilly and lady's finger were bought from Kerala Tourism Development Society, Kanhangad. Reusable growbags were supplied by the society. Organic manure like cow dung and pesticides from neem were used throughout the cultivation. The retted coconut husk helped in spreading the roots properly. The cultivation required proper inspection and maintenance. The seedlings were daily watered and taken care of. Systematic planning and proper implementation by the student team made rooftop organic farming a grand success. The harvest was plentiful and the fresh organic vegetables were sold in an open auction in the college premises. The volunteers could produce 20kg of lady's finger, 30kg of tomato, 15kg of chilly, 10kg of brinjal and 5kg of spinach. The harvesting was formally inaugurated by Smt. Bindu Murali, Member of Ward No. 12 of West Eleri Grama Panchayath in the presence of NSS volunteers and Programme Co-ordinators.

Phase II:

Cultivation in Growbags at Ladies' Hostel

With the success of rooftop farming, further activities were planned in an extended level but was interrupted by the COVID pandemic. Later cultivation in growbags was resumed for vegetable gardening by the NSS volunteers of Unit No. 9. Out of the 80 female volunteers, 53 students stayed at hostels who volunteered to supervise the cultivation. The bags were prepared with enough soil and manure and clay pebbles were added for proper drainage at the bottom. Vegetable seeds were planted and a drip irrigation was arranged as grow bags require more frequent watering especially during summers. A good harvest was reaped towards the end of the season and the vegetables were kept for sale by the students. The local people also took part in the sales event.

Phase III:

Polyhouse Farming:

Post COVID, it was planned to give a new dimension to the successful farming venture. Polyhouse farming kickstarted with as a collaborative endeavour of NSS Units No. 9 and 16 with the Krishi

Bhavan, West Eleri Grama Panchayath as part of the Green Campus Initiatives of the college (Document attached). Under the Vegetable Development Programme, suggestions and advice about polyhouse farming were given by Sri Rajeevan V. V., Agricultural Officer of Krishi Bhavan, West Eleri. Technical advice on organic farming was shared with the students and the faculty. Though there were initial challenges for constructing the polyethylene structure, there was enhanced product yield throughout the year ensuring a consistent supply of vegetables. 200 pots were planted in an area of 100 square metre. Variety of vegetables were planted this time too and the harvest was sold by an auction at the campus. Deputy Director, Department of Agriculture visited the college and appreciated the team for their earnest work.

Uniqueness of the Practice:

The organic farming initiative as part of the Green Campus project promotes eco-friendly practices and motivates students to strengthen their pro-environmental behaviour. It also helps in spreading the value of sustainable agriculture among the students and the local community emphasizing the need for self-sufficiency in food production. It also promotes localized food production that has less impact on environment and is beneficial for the rural economies. It also ensures healthy and uncontaminated food for the local community. It also inculcates life skills like social responsibility, collaboration with the peer group and event management skills in students. It helps students to cultivate a mindset for collective farming and group living. It helps students to cultivate a mindset for collective farming and group living. It also instils a temperament for manual work nurturing the dignity of labour among the youth. Students get a firsthand knowledge with this sort of experiential learning outside classrooms. Moreover, the students have extended organic farming to their homes making it part of their lives.

4. Evidence of Success:



Fig. 1 Rooftop Cultivation of Vegetables



Fig. 2 Faculty Monitoring the Farming Activity



Fig. 3 Students Actively Engaged in Rooftop Farming



Fig. 4 Active Participation of Students

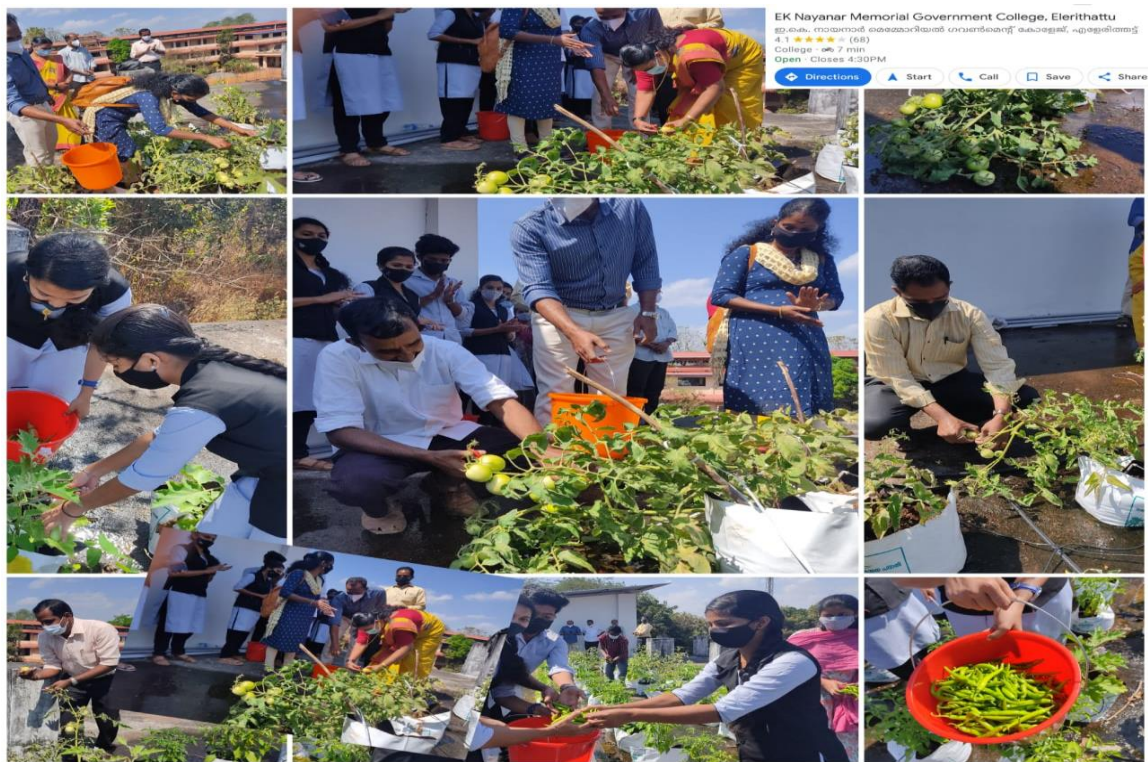


Fig. 5 Collage of the Farming Activities done Post COVID



Fig. 6 Farming done in Growbags at Girls' Hostel Compound



Fig. 7 Vegetables from Growbag Cultivation



Fig. 8 Harvest Collected at the end of the term



Fig. 9 Dr. Jince Joseph speaking at the occasion of Vegetable Sale



Fig. 10 Joint Venture of Students and Teachers



Fig. 11 Students Reaping their Efforts



Fig. 12 Getting the Harvest ready for Sale



Fig. 13 Arranging the Vegetables for Sale



Fig. 14 Joy of Harvesting



Fig. 15 Agricultural Officer of Krishi Bhavan, West Eleri Sri Rajeevan V. V., sharing advice regarding Polyhouse Farming



Fig. 16 Polyhouse Structure



Fig. 17 Polyhouse Farming implemented above the Canteen building



Fig. 18 Spinach Cultivation



Fig. 19 Students with the Spinach bunch

TAKING THE MESSAGE TO HOME



Fig. 20 Darsan N. K. (B.A. Economics 2022-25 batch) with his farming at home (Kalarikkal House, Nattakkal P.O., Nattakkalkavu, Vellarikund, Kasaragod, PIN – 671534)



Fig. 21 Anila Bhaskaran (B.A. Economics 2022-25 batch) with her vegetable garden at home (Vazhavalappil House, Chully P.O., Vellarikund, Kasaragod, PIN – 671534)



Fig. 22 Athulya P. S. (B.A. Hindi 2022-25 batch) at her home garden (Payangappadan House, Thodamchal, Kanakappally P.O., Parappa, Kasaragod, PIN – 671533)



Fig. 23 Nafia P. (M.A. Economics 2022-24) at her vegetable yard (Palakkoodan House, Alanthatta P. O., Hosdurg, Kasaragod, PIN – 671313)



Fig. 24 Adithyan T. (B.A. Functional English 2022-25) at his farming yard (Pungamchal, Punnakkunnu P. O., Kasaragod, PIN – 671533)



Fig. 25 Akash T. (B.A. Hindi 2023-26) at his farm (Thekkandathil House, Swamimukku, Ettukudukka P. O., Karivellur, Kannur, PIN – 670521)

5. Problems Encountered and Resources Required:

All the various farming methods needed proper inspection and frequent watering. Even during holidays, someone had to take up the charge to supervise the same. During the lockdown with the pandemic, the flourishing farm dried up as it was not possible to travel or to reach the college. It was quite a struggle to resume cultivation post-COVID. Rooftop farming had limited access to water but demanded more water requirement with the extreme hot weather. Polyhouse farming required high investment at the inceptive stage as it required proper construction of the polyhouse structure.

Various resources like quality seeds, grow bags, proper irrigation facilities, reliable water source and proper drainage, organic manures and organic pesticides, quality construction materials for polyhouse covering, were all required at the different phases of farming. Collaborations with Krishi Bhavan and West Eleri Panchayath helped in procuring the funds for the purchase of the same. Manpower was the most needed resource which was amply fulfilled by the enthusiastic students and the whole process was monitored and supported by the faculty.



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BEST PRACTICE 1 - *JEEVADHAAYINI*

ORGANIC FARMING PROJECT BY KRISHIBHAVAN, WEST ELERI



VEGETABLE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME 2022-23

INSTITUTIONAL CULTIVATION - EKNM GOVT. COLLEGE , ELERITHATTU

KRISHIBHAVAN- WEST ELERI

A Project Profile

1. Focus:

Uplifting of EKNM Govt. College Elerithattu for participating in vegetable development programme of The Department of Agriculture and make the Students Staff and surrounding society aware about different production technique of vegetable and safe to eat concept from the health aspects of producers and consumers.

2. Expected accomplishment of the sub programme :

- > Area and premises of EKNM Govt. College Elerithattu make green.
- > Safe food production & Sale for College Students and Staff.
- > To make interests among student staff and society in different agricultural production techniques.
- > Income generation for a Govt. Institution.

3. Participating Institution & Co-ordination:

EKNM Govt. College Elerithattu : Co-ordinated by NSS Unit.

: Total students : 200 Nos. Total Staffs 40 Nos.

4. **Target Group:**

All Students Staffs and PTA.

5. **Tentative time frame:**

October 2022 to the March 2023 and it may continue sustainably with the available resource.

B Situation analysis

Total Area: 4.00 Acre in West Eleri Village.

Area available for Cultivation: 1.00 Acre.

Labour Availability: NSS Students Staffs and PTA are available.

The land available in and around the EKNM Govt. College Elerithattu building is mostly barren and exposed. Land development by moisture conservation, adding organic matter will bring the land suited for cultivation. Interested NSS Students & Staffs can co-ordinate the programme with higher level of efficiency.

Strength:

- > EKNM Govt. College Elerithattu institution supported by all students staff and PTA for the activities.
- > Interested staffs.
- > Own land is protected.
- > Full sun light with minimum shade.
- > Available water for cultivation.

Weakness:

• Open and exposed soil.

Opportunity:

- > Safe food for College Students and Staff.
- > Reduction in food expenses by own production and consumption.
- > Income generation by marketing of surplus produce.
- > Developing a new agricultural production culture among the student staffs and society as a part of society.

Threat:

- > Most of produce required for internal consumption.

C Strategy

The vegetable garden will develop a green and safe food work culture in Institution. Establishment of separate plot for Rain Shelter, irrigation system (Vick Irrigation), Nutritional garden with fruit crops, azola, Earthen Pot, perennial – organic vegetable, tubers etc. would have been a demonstration for student, staffs and the society. The Principal will implement the programme. Timely Assistance and support would give from the Department of Agriculture through the Krishibhavan West Eleri, monitored from The Asst. Director of Agriculture Parappa and The Principal Agricultural Officer Kasaragod.

Results Frame work

● Project Goal: Production 4 tone of vegetable and tubers from the available area in a production cycle.

2. Outcome: Vegetable and tuber requirement will be met from the own vegetable garden and make marketable surplus.

Sl.No.	Item	Cultivation Area (Acre)	Estimate production (t)
1	Cowpea	0.1	0.6
2	Brinjal	0.05	0.2
3	Chilli	0.05	0.2
4	Okra	0.05	0.2
5	Pumpkin	0.1	0.4
6	Perennial vegetables - Drumstick, Pappaya & Curry leaf etc.	0.15	1.2
7	Banana	0.1	0.8
8	Little gourd	0.15	1.0
9	Amorphophallus	0.05	0.4
10	Ash gourd	0.1	0.6
11	Ridge gourd	0.05	0.2
12	Bitter gourd	0.05	0.2
	Total:	1.00	6.0

Net area of cultivation: 1.00 Acre.

Net Production : 6.00 MT

Indicative Project Budget

Sl.No.	Component	Cost Rs.	Subsidy
1	Seeds: Vegetable seeds and seedlings, Banana suckers, Amorphophallus, Yams etc.	4000	0
2	Manures: Organic manure, Bio control agents , Organic plant protection inputs etc.	10000	0
3	Pipeline & Vick Irrigation	35000	0
4	Agricultural Implements: spade, garden rakes, knife, etc.	5000	4500
5	Rain Shelter	67000	60300
6	Azola with tank	4000	0
7	Land preparation	8000	1300
8	Lime	4000	3600
9	Earthen pot with potting mixture	25500	25200
10	Soil Testing	500	0
11	Light trap	5500	4950
	Total:-	168500	99850

Rupees Ninty Nine Thousand Eight Hundred & Fifty only

Plan of Action

No.	Name of action	Oct-2022	Nov-2022	Dec-2022	Jan-2023	Feb-2023	Mar-2023	Apr-2023	May-2023
1	Land preparation	****	****						
2	Direct sowing and planting			****					
3	Irrigation facilities installation			****					
4	Rain Shelter			****					
5	Azolla Tank				****				
6	Intercultural operations				****				
7	Harvesting					****	****	****	****



Signature

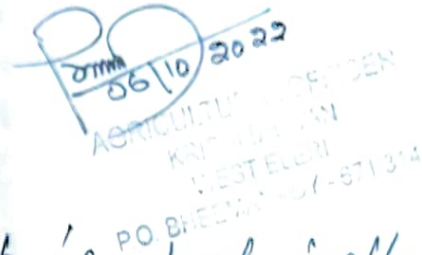
Principal

EKNM Gov. COLLEGE, ELERITHATU

PRINCIPAL
E. K. N. M. GOVT. COLLEGE
ELERITHATTU
ELERITHATTU P.O.
KASARAGOD DT, PIN: 671314

CERTIFICATE

Certified that I have physically verified the plot for vegetable cultivation and found feasible. Recommended for approval.



Certified that the project is technically feasible and economically viable. Recommended for approval of ₹ 99,850/- (Rupees Ninty nine thousand eight hundred fifty only)

[Signature]

S. D. L.
Assistant Director of Agriculture
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Recommended for sanction an amount of Rs. 99,850/- (Rupees ninty nine thousand eight hundred fifty only) being the subsidy amount of Project based cultivation under VDP (2022-23).

DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE
(N.W.D.P.R.A.)
KASARGODE

Sanctioned for an amount of Rs. 99,850/- (Rupees ninty nine thousand eight hundred and fifty only).



PRINCIPAL AGRICULTURAL OFFICER
P.O. VIDYANAGAR - 571 123
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