

Report on Extension Activity - Visit to Organic Farm for IV Sem Students

Introduction

On May 4th & 18th, students from IV Semester, Biotechnology Department of M S Ramaiah College of Arts, Science and College, participated in an educational visit to Gandhian School of Natural Farming at Dodda Hosuru, Tumakuru. The visit aimed to provide students with first-hand experience in organic farming practices, enhance their understanding of sustainable agriculture, and promote awareness of environmental conservation.

Objectives

- To educate students on the principles and practices of organic farming.
- To understand the benefits of organic farming for health and the environment.
- To introduce biofertilizers and biopesticides.
- To observe the day-to-day operations of an organic farm.
- To encourage interest in sustainable agriculture and environmental stewardship.

Participants

- Students: 80 in 2 batches
- Accompanying Teachers: Dr Radha, Dr Vinutha & Dr Sathish Babu
- Farm Guide: Dr Manjunath & Mr Ravish

Itinerary

1. **Departure:** The group departed from college at 7:30 AM.
2. **Arrival at the Farm:** Arrival at 9:15 AM.
3. **Introduction Session:** Briefing by the farm guide on the history and mission of the farm.
4. **Farm Tour:** Guided tour of the farm, including visits to different sections such as fruit orchards, and livestock areas.
5. **Educational Workshop:** A session on the principles of organic farming and sustainable practices.
6. **Q&A Session:** Students had the opportunity to ask questions and engage in discussions.
7. **Food:** Breakfast & Desi lunch provided by the farm.
8. **Conclusion and Feedback:** Summary of the day's learnings and feedback from students.
9. **Departure:** The group departed the farm at 4:00 PM and arrived back at college by 6:30 PM.

Activities and Learnings

1. **Introduction to Organic Farming**
 - The farm guide explained the principles of organic farming, emphasizing the avoidance of synthetic fertilizers and pesticides.
 - Discussion on the benefits of organic food for human health and the environment.

2. Farm Tour

- Students observed various crops being grown organically, including fruits, and herbs.
- They learned about cover crops, crop rotation, companion planting, and natural pest control methods.
- The tour included a visit to the composting area, where organic waste is recycled into nutrient-rich soil.

3. Educational Workshop

- The workshop covered topics such as sustainable water management, renewable energy use on the farm, and the importance of maintaining soil health.
- Students were introduced to the concept of non-violence and its application in organic farming.
- Damsharas game was played in which the words were selected relating to the environment issues, ecological issues & organic farm vocabulary.
- Democracy game was played in which students elected their leaders. Leaders formed the cabinet and elected Prime Minister. Cabinet ministers presented the policies of the Government which was presented to the students and the policies were debated. This game gave an insight into the government's work.

4. Q&A Session

- Students asked questions about the challenges and rewards of organic farming.
- The farm guide shared insights into market trends, consumer demand for organic produce, and the economic viability of organic farming.

Benefits and Impact

- **Enhanced Knowledge:** Students gained a deeper understanding of organic farming practices and their benefits.
- **Hands-on Experience:** Practical activities helped students appreciate the effort involved in sustainable farming.
- **Environmental Awareness:** The visit highlighted the importance of environmental conservation and sustainable living.
- **Interest in Agriculture:** Several students expressed increased interest in pursuing studies or careers in agriculture and environmental science.

Feedback

- **Students:** Many students found the visit inspiring and educational. They appreciated the opportunity to see organic farming in action.
- **Teachers:** Accompanying teachers noted the visit's positive impact on students' engagement and interest in environmental topics.
- **Farm Staff:** The farm staff were impressed by the students' enthusiasm and curiosity.

Action plan

- Each student declared individually what action they are going to take to save planet Earth.

Conclusion

The visit to Gandhian School of Natural Farming at Dodda Hosuru, Tumakuru, was a successful and enriching extension activity. It provided students with valuable insights into organic farming and sustainable agriculture, fostering a greater appreciation for environmental stewardship. The hands-on experience and educational sessions were particularly effective in enhancing students' understanding and interest in organic farming.

Recommendations

- **Follow-Up Activities:** Organize follow-up activities do project work related to organic farming and guest lectures from organic farmers.
- **Integration into Curriculum:** Incorporate learnings from the visit into relevant subjects such as biology, environmental science, and geography.
- **Future Visits:** Plan similar visits to other sustainable farms or environmental conservation sites to continue fostering students' interest and knowledge in sustainable practices.

  <p>M S RAMAIAH COLLEGE OF ARTS, SCIENCE AND COMMERCE MSRIT Post, MSR nagar, Bengaluru-560054. Re-accredited "A" grade by NAAC</p> <p>Extension Activity Organized by Department of Biotechnology and Genetics</p>  <p>"Organic farming, Biofertilizers and Biopesticides"</p> <p>Date: May 4, 18, 2024</p> <p>Venue: Gandhian School of Natural Farming, Tumakuru</p>	<p>About the Extension activity: The programme aims to give an insight on organic farming to undergraduate life science students. Organic farming is a holistic production management system that promotes and enhances agro-ecosystem health, including biodiversity, biological cycles, and soil biological activity. Organic farming uses environmentally friendly methods of weed, pest, and disease control. It mainly rely upon crop rotation, biofertilizers and biopesticides which greatly reduces the environmental pollution.</p> <p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ To provide hands on training in Organic farming ❖ Preparation of Biofertilizers ❖ Preparation of Biopesticides 	 <p>MSRCASC College: M. S. Ramaiah College of Arts, Science and Commerce (MSRCASC) was established in 1994 under the flagship of Gokula Education Foundation, Bangalore. The college is affiliated to Bengaluru City University (BCU). The college is recognized by the UGC under Sections 2(f) and 12(B) of the UGC Act of 1956. The Institution is reaccredited with "A" grade by NAAC in its 4th cycle in the year 2021. Its MBA program is approved by AICTE, New Delhi and recognized by the Government of Karnataka. The institution has been selected under the DBT-STAR College Scheme in 2021 by the Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of science and Technology, Government of India.</p>
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RESOURCE PERSONS	CONVENORS	STUDENT VOLUNTEERS:
<p>Dr. Manjunath & Mr. Ravish <i>Gandhian School of Natural Farming, Tumakuru</i></p> <p>PATRONS Dr. M R Jayaram <i>Hon'ble Chairman, GEF</i> Sri. M R Janakiram <i>Hon'ble, Director, GEF</i> Sri. M R Kodandaram <i>Hon'ble Director, GEF</i> Sri. B S Ramaprasad <i>Chief Executive, GEF (Engg & GS)</i> Sri. G Ramachandra <i>Chief of Finance, GEF (Engg & GS)</i></p> <p>ADVISORY COMMITTEE Dr. Vatsala G <i>Principal, MSRCASC</i> Dr. Anandappa Iramukhadavar <i>Registrar, Academics</i> Prof. Suresh J <i>Dep. Registrar, Admin & Evaluation</i> Prof. Jayaram B S <i>Vice Principal, MSRCASC</i> Prof. Pushpa H <i>Vice Principal, MSRCASC</i></p>	<p>Dr. Vinutha M <i>Assistant Professor</i> Dr. Sathish Babu H N <i>Assistant Professor</i> Dr. Radha Dayanidhi <i>Head of the Department (UG)</i> Dr. Vijayalakshmi TN <i>Assistant Professor</i></p> <p>ORGANIZING COMMITTEE Dr. Lakshmikanth. R N <i>Professor and Head (PG)</i> Dr. Jayashree, DR. <i>Professor</i> Dr. Ramakrishnaiah, T N <i>Assistant Professor</i> Dr. Sowbhagya. R. <i>Assistant Professor</i> Dr. Geetika Pant, <i>Assistant Professor</i> Dr. Rashmi Nagesh, <i>Assistant Professor</i> Mrs. Beaulah Angel, <i>Assistant Professor</i> Dr. Pavithra Kumari H.G. <i>Assistant Professor</i> Dr. Muktha H., <i>Assistant Professor</i> Dr. Pramod Desai, <i>Assistant Professor</i></p>	<p>Hastha D IV sem B.Sc Rekha L IV sem B.Sc Niharika S N IV sem B.Sc Swapna S IV sem B.Sc Nischal B IV sem B.Sc Priyadarshini M IV sem B.Sc Laya N IV sem B.Sc Manasa V IV sem B.Sc Hanumesha IV sem B.Sc Tejaswini S IV sem B.Sc Shiny Roberta IV sem B.Sc Tanya C IV sem B.Sc Hiranmai M IV sem B.Sc Nikitha A IV sem B.Sc Ajay N IV sem B.Sc Daisy D IV sem B.Sc Mahee P IV sem B.Sc Lalith K IV sem B.Sc</p>  <p>ALL ARE CORDIALLY INVITED</p>

Photos of the event





Dr. Vinutha
Dr Sathish Babu
Dr Radha
Dr Vijayalakshmi
Event Convenors

Dr. Puspha
DBT STAR Coordinator

Dr. Vatsala G
Principal