



JAIVAM

Introduction

'Jaivam' is an initiative by Cochin Arts and Science College launched in 2021, aimed at promoting organic farming within the college premises. The project encourages students to actively engage in sustainable agricultural practices, fostering environmental consciousness and community involvement. One of the key aspects of the project is the cultivation of vegetables, which are subsequently distributed to the Chakothumbala Colony under the 'Karuthal' project.

Objectives

- To foster awareness about the importance of organic farming and sustainable agriculture among students.
- To provide hands-on learning experiences for students in agricultural practices.
- To produce organic vegetables within the college premises for consumption and distribution.
- To contribute to the well-being of the local community by supplying organic produce.

Activities Implemented

Preparation of Land: The project began with the identification and preparation of suitable land within the college premises for organic cultivation.

Selection of Crops: Based on local climate conditions and student preferences, a variety of vegetable crops were selected for cultivation. An emphasis was placed on high-yield and fast-growing varieties to ensure a steady supply of produce like spinach, ladies' finger, peas, plantains, etc.

Cultivation Practices: Students actively participated in planting, watering, weeding, and pest control activities using organic and eco-friendly methods. Techniques such as composting and mulching were employed to maintain soil fertility and moisture.



Monitoring and Maintenance: Regular monitoring of crop growth and health was conducted to identify any issues early on. Students were trained in pest and disease management strategies to minimise crop losses.

Harvesting and Distribution: Once the vegetables reached maturity, they were harvested by the students. A portion of the produce was used for college cafeterias, promoting healthy eating habits among students. The remaining vegetables were packaged and distributed to the Chakothumala Colony under the ‘*Karuthal*’ initiative.

Outcomes and Impact

Educational Benefits: Students gained practical knowledge and skills in organic farming practices, enhancing their understanding of sustainable agriculture.

Community Engagement: The ‘*Karuthal*’ initiative fostered a sense of social responsibility among students by actively contributing to the well-being of the local community.

Environmental Sustainability: By promoting organic farming techniques, the project contributed to environmental sustainability and the conservation of natural resources.

Healthier Food Options: Both students and the community benefited from access to fresh, organic vegetables, promoting healthier dietary choices.

Appreciation: CASC received a Certificate of Merit from MG University for promoting organic farming and sustainable agriculture and a Certificate of Appreciation from Kunnathunadu Panchayath, the Rotary Club of Kochi Suburbs, and JCI Kakkanad, acknowledging CASC's commitment to environmental sustainability through enhanced learning and practical knowledge.

Challenges and Future Plans

Resource Constraints: Limited resources such as land, water, and funds posed challenges to the scalability of the project. Plans may involve seeking external funding or partnerships to expand operations.



Sustainability: Ensuring the long-term sustainability of the project requires continued commitment from students, faculty, and administration. Efforts will be made to institutionalise the project within the college framework.

Community Outreach: To further engage the local community, plans may include educational workshops, farmer training programmes, and extension services.

Conclusion:

‘**Jaivam**’ has emerged as a successful endeavour in promoting organic farming and community engagement within the college premises. Through collaborative efforts and student participation, the project has made significant strides in fostering environmental sustainability and social responsibility. With continued support and innovation, ‘**Jaivam**’ aims to serve as a model for similar initiatives promoting organic farming and community development in the future.

Photographs of Organic Farming





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Photographs of Organic Farming





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Photographs of awareness programme on organic farming

