

GOVT.DEGREE COLLEGE NARSAPUR, MEDAK DISTRICT

Department of Botany

Best Practices

Establishment of Seed Bank

Definition of Seed Bank: A seed bank is a place where seeds are stored to preserve genetic diversity for the future. They are usually flood, bomb and radiation-proof vaults holding jars of seeds from different plant species. More than 1,000 seed banks exist around the world, varying in type, size.

Why do we have seed banks?

Globally, it's estimated that 40% of plant species are vulnerable to extinction. A seed bank is a form of insurance, a way of maximising the number of plant species we can save from this fate.

Reasons for extinction of plants: Plants are under threat from many factors, including:

- habitat loss
- climate change
- pollution
- pests and diseases.

The rate of their impact is also increasing, leading to an ever-greater risk of an incremental and catastrophic loss. We are potentially losing plants faster than we are discovering them.

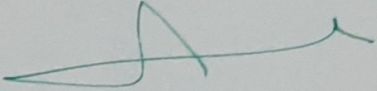
Hence Dept. of Botany, Eco Club of Govt. Degree College Narsapur, Medak District has decided to collect seeds of both cultivated and wild plants which are growing in the surrounding areas. In this regard we are encouraging students to collect seeds from their villages. With this collected seeds we have started seed bank at college level. This initiative has been taken in order to make the students sensitive about the environment. By establishing college level seed bank we can encourage the students to learn about seed banks, and their importance, collection processes of seeds, morphology of seeds, and their importance in a practical manner.

Students of all the three years BZC, BCCS, BZCS were involved in the collection process in different seasons. During NAAC PEER TEAM visit we have arranged an exhibition with the collected seeds. We have displayed their Scientific names, common names, families, and their economic importance in this seeds exhibition.

NAAC PEER TEAM appreciated the efforts of Dept. of Botany, Eco Club in establishing this college level seed bank. NAAC Peer Team members also advised Botany department to collect and conserve more number of rare plant species seeds. NAAC PEER TEAM considered this seed bank as best practice in the college and they have mentioned this point in the NAAC Peer Team Report also.

With the guidance and encouragement of our Principal Dr.P.Damodar sir we have taken up this initiative and established college level seed bank.




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QR CODES GENERATION,TAGGING OF PLANTS WITH THE QR CODES

Department of Botany GDC Narsapur prepared QR Codes as an innovative green practice. Principal Dr. P.Damodar sir addressed the students and staff and explained about these QR codes. Principal sir, Staff and students tagged the college campus plants with these QR codes. Instead of placing display boards / name boards to the plants we have prepared QR codes. These QR codes will provide information about scientific name, common name, family, their economic importance of those plants. When students or any person walking in the campus by scanning these QR codes they can get information about the plants. Principal Dr.P.Damodar sir appreciated Mrs.B.Rukmini Devi ,In charge of Botany Department and students of life sciences for preparing these QR codes. We have taken technical assistance from Computer Science faculty Mrs.M.Swapna of Govt.Degree College for Women ,Begumpet, Hyderabad.

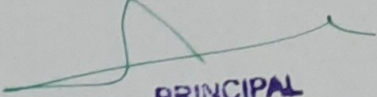
Advantages of QR Code Tagging to the plants:

- 1.It is an eco friendly practice because we can reduce usage of paper to prepare display boards to the plants.
- 2.No one requires botanists help to know about those plants information.They can simply scan and know the details of the plants.
3. We can use this QR Codes tags for longer periods because QR Codes are damage resistant. This is very useful during rainy season because these are water proof.
- 4.QR Codes will occupy very little space instead of display boards. Hence they can be easily placed on a small size plants too.
- 5.You can provide detailed information about the plants with QR Code.
- 6.QR Codes are readable in any direction even if you placed it in upside down also it can be scannable and readable.

During NAAC PEER TEAM visit they have appreciated the efforts of Dept. of Botany for providing QR Codes to the plants growing in the campus.. NAAC PEER TEAM considered tagging of campus plants with QR Codes as another best practice in the college and they have mentioned this point in the NAAC Peer Team Report also.

We are very thankful to our Principal Dr.P.Damodar sir for giving this opportunity in providing QR Codes to the campus plants.




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