

GOVERNMENT DEGREE COLLEGE, SHADNAGAR

DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY

BEST PRACTICE

CREATION OF FOOD GARDEN

Food garden is a diverse planting of edible plants that attempts to mimic the ecosystems and patterns found in nature. Food garden is all about growing different edible plants which include different types i.e. the trees, shrubs, herbs, edible roots, climbers and also twines.

Aims and Objectives:

- ❖ The main aim is to grow your own food without any use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides.
- ❖ To set an example of sustainable food production. To create awareness on methods of converting organic wastes into compost fertilizers
- ❖ Paving the way for environmentally friendly sustainable development
- ❖ To let everyone know that they can grow their own healthy food .
- ❖ To let them aware of the fact that it is necessary to live in harmony with nature with minimum care, less maintenance through sustainable agroforestry
- ❖ To produce nutritious food, provide habitat for the other wildlife and also build an healthy soil too.
- ❖ It is also to inculcate in the minds of students the idea of growing our own fruits and veggies at least to some extent at our homes without using chemical fertilizers and pesticides to meet our day to day needs which may also avoids runoff and contamination of water and land, avoids poisoning wild life.
- ❖ It also may serve as a centre for social interaction and civic engagement. People also start respecting the ecosystems that support their food supply.
- ❖ Eating foods that are in season ensures a greater variety in the diet which may further lead to healthier diet.

Context: The college has an area of 5 acres of land, In the rainy season many weeds and bushes rise up and make the campus dirty. This has become a recurrent problem, the cleaning and dumping of solid waste has become a challenge to the college management. To get rid of the bio waste, the life sciences departments have come up with an innovative idea of conversion of solid waste into compost and at the same time making good use of it.

The Practice: After the topography of the land we collectively resolved our land should be categorized into a playground, vegetable garden, flower garden, fruit garden and wild forest zone. To implement this we created a nursery and compost pit.

Firstly the solid waste is collected and segregated into bio and non-bio degradable wastes, and this work is done by the NSS volunteers, remaining girls and boys also take up this work when required. After segregating the biodegradable waste, it is dumped into the vermi compost pit which is meant for creating compost. Some rotten vegetables are kept in the pit layer by layer and a layer of soil is covered. Finally earthworms are spread on it and covered with soil. Everyday students sprinkle the water to retain moisture. After a month the compost is ready to use. The compost, so obtained, is used for the vegetable plants which are grown in the garden inside. This practice is so innovative that the students of all groups undertake it with a lot of excitement. This is a low cost practice except pit digging and purchase of earthworms. Solid waste dumping, covering with soil, and sprinkling the water are the works regularly done by the students. The earthworms lay eggs and the eggs are turned into new earthworms, the process continues. The college is known for this best practice as it has set a model of ecological balance. The college is privileged to have this campus.

Problems encountered and resources required:

The campus has the growth of large number of weeds and so , the students of NSS found it difficult to cut the weeds from time to time. The removal of weeds was a challenge for us. Despite that here the soil is alkaline in nature which is not more supportive to the growth of plants, hence the acquisition of soil was another task. Raising nursery, purchase of earthworms, some digging works are linked with funds, the removal of weeds in the wide campus and beautification of the campus with a variety of plants is a bigger challenge.

Evidence of Success


We grew a lot of vegetables within a short time. We have grown vegetables like tomato, brinjal, bitter gourd, ridged gourd, yellow cucumber, bottle gourd, sword beans, cluster beans, green chillies and also some green veggies like spinach, Amaranthus, Hibiscus cannabinus, coriandrum , Mentha, pudina. We have also grown tubers like potatoes, sweet potatoes corms like colocasia, rhizomes like ginger, bulbs like onions, garlic. In addition to these we have grown some medicinal plants like Nalleru, tulsi, turmeric, ginger, garlic, aloe vera, beetle leaf.

And the news of this practice has spread out and we got appreciation from the local people for implementing such an innovative method in college premises. The practice is given more publicity, so that the programme becomes a model and can be practiced by the local people.





Spinach

 GPS Map Camera

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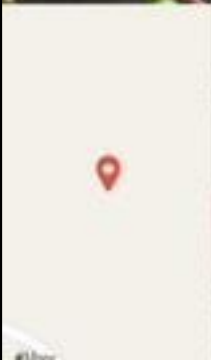
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Bitter gourd



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


Bitter gourd



Sword beans



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Cucumis




Cucumis

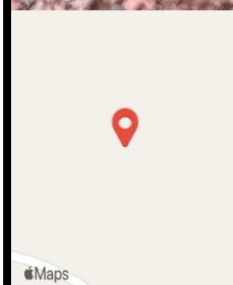


Tomato



Tomato

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Amaranthus

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Sweet Potato



Potato







Vaamu (Carom)

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Sabja

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Turmeric

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