

DS GOVT. DEGREE COLLEGE FOR WOMEN, ONGOLE

DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY



ORGANIC FARMING

Keeping in view of the hazardous effects of chemical pesticides and fertilizers on human health, our college started a small initiative towards traditional farming in the name “organic farming”. Department of Botany with the help of all other staff and students is doing organic farming in our college campus where the vegetables like Brinjal, Tomato, Bitter guard and leafy vegetables etc. are grown. This initiative has an objective of promoting the production of food with higher nutritional quality with less pesticide residue. We are using vermicompost, neem extracts and leaf compost prepared by us in this farming. This program is giving good result as most of the students are from agricultural families and rural background and they are giving awareness to the farmers in their villages about the same.

GOAL :

To develop knowledge among students & farmers about the chemical contamination of our food with pesticide residues and giving awareness about the importance of traditional farming system

OBJECTIVES:

1. To promote the use of natural pesticides and fertilizers.
2. To maintain and increase the soil capacity and long term fertility.
3. To produce chemical residue free food.
4. To develop self-sufficiency in terms of fertilizers by producing green manure and vermicompost in our college itself.

THE CONTEXT:

It is a known fact that we all are eating chemically contaminated food . The increasing population after independence forced us to use huge amounts of chemical fertilizers and pesticides which finally led to the deterioration of the soil health and ecological balance.

Further, the prolonged and indiscriminate use of pesticides resulted in the agricultural pollution that affected our air, soil and water. It is high time that we should encourage our age-old practices of agriculture along with new strategies. In this context, with an aim of sustaining and enhancing the health of soil, human and animals our college has started organic farming in a part of our Botanical Garden.

PRACTICE:

Before proceeding to organic farming, a group of our lecturers visited the organic farming lands in kothapatnam and pallamaalli to get adequate knowledge about the same. Once we acquired the adequate technical knowledge, we have selected a part of our Botanical Garden and dedicated it completely to this project. The land is prepared with proper fencing and provided with water supply.

All the students of BZC group under the guidance of Botany lecturers involved in sowing the seed and watering them regularly. We have used Trichoderma for seed treatment and vermicompost as fertilizer. With the knowledge gained from organic farmers, our students prepared organic pesticides like neem extract and tagetus oil to protect our crop from pest attack. All the students of our college irrespective of their group are getting involved in this process voluntarily. Our college principal, lecturers and the staff of our college are helping us in times of need. We are selling the vegetables among our staff and the money we get through this project is being used in the maintenance of the project itself for its smooth running.

EVIDENCE OF SUCCESS :

Our students are mostly from rural backgrounds and from agricultural families. As they are practicing organic farming in the college, they are giving awareness to the farmers in their villages which is our main aim to start this project.

PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED & RESOURCES REQUIRED:

The major obstacles we faced in this project is the nature of soil in our college. It is low fertile with high alkaline conditions. The soil samples are send to lab & as per their recommendations, we prepared the soil. Our college principal provided us with all the material we wanted for this purpose.

The second obstacle we faced is watering the plants during holidays. Our college lecturers & staff are supporting us in this matter.



Students growing and cutting Menthi leaves



Students selling Menthi leaves to the college Principal and other staff



Brinjal harvest in the college garden and selling to Lecturers



Tomato plants growing in college garden



Plants of Cucurbitaceae family