

## **Best Practice 1**

### **1. Title of the Practice: Subhiksha**

### **2. Objectives:**

- To attain self-sufficiency in agriculture
- To promote farming culture among students
- To promote a healthy way of living
- To attain sustainable agriculture ecosystem
- To increase food production to meet growing demand

### **3. The Context:**

Agriculture plays a chief role in economy and is considered to be the backbone of economic system for developing countries. For decades, agriculture has been related with the production of vital food crops. Self sufficiency in agriculture has been prioritized in every Five Year Plans. Food production should increase to meet the demands of the growing population. It is to be ensured that our food system is ready to meet the challenges like shortage of food, adulteration and quality. Many people are switching their food habits and are depending more on organic food produce. It is necessary to maintain good health both of human beings and animals. It is our duty to promote a healthy way of living. In this context, K.S.M.D.B College promotes sustainable agriculture ecosystem. Farming in sustainable ways without compromising the chance of future generations to meet their needs is the need of the hour. The college campus and surroundings have vast areas of arable land which is utilized for farming.

### **4. The Practice:**

SUBHIKSHA – 2020 is an organic farming done by KSMDDB College in consultation with the Agriculture department and Dairy Development Board at Sasthamcotta and executed with the help of Grama Panchayathu-Sasthamcotta. In order to infuse environmental consciousness and to develop kinship with environment, an initiative named “Haritha Keralam” is also started in the campus. A nature-centered approach is promoted through the programme. Each NSS volunteer has to plant a tree and nurture it while in the campus. A large area of land is kept aside for cultivation. This comprises of land inside the campus and also outside near the college. The main crop items include plantain, tapioca and different vegetables. Pineapple cultivation has attracted buyers from the campus and also from outside. This is a golden opportunity to procure pesticide free pineapple. The fertilizers used in the farm are obtained from the animal farm set up in the campus itself. The produce is sold to staff members, students or to the nearby shops and markets. Workers on the farm take great care in maintaining the plantation by regular weeding and cleaning. After the harvest the vegetables and fruits are displayed for selling. There is a huge demand for the produce which are sold very fast. The buyers include staff, students and they can buy the produce at a reasonable rate. Based on the availability, outsiders also get an opportunity to buy products.

## **5. Evidence of Success:**

The success of the farm is ensured in that the system is being continued for the past four years. The workers, students and staff are getting increasingly involved in the practice. Instead of spending their leisure time on other activities, the students are spending their time visiting the farm and observing the activities going on there and also offering necessary help when needed. The Management is also taking special interest in this venture. The students are aware how they can improve and maintain health by consuming organically produced food items. They are also trying to promote organic farming among their friends and family members. They are actively involved in the Food Fests conducted in the College to promote healthy food habits produced from organic products.

## **6. Problems Encountered**

The college is situated in a rural and highly elevated area. The extreme heat requires watering the crops frequently which requires tiresome work on the part of the workers. The area is inhabited by monkeys and great care is needed in protection of the crops. Many times the crops are destroyed and this is really a big challenge faced by the college authorities. The monsoon flood also hampers the progress of the programme.