



# **MAHATMA GANDHI UNIVERSITY**

## **DEPARTMENT OF LIFELONG LEARNING AND EXTENSION**

[www.dllemgu.in](http://www.dllemgu.in)

0481-2731560, 2731724, email-mgulifelong@gmail.com

### **REPORT ON PROPAGATION OF ORGANIC FARMING IN COLLEGES AND ADOPTED VILLAGES**



## ORGANIC FARMING

Organic farming system in India is not new and is being followed from ancient time. It is a method of farming system which primarily aimed at cultivating the land and raising crops in such a way, as to keep the soil alive and in good health by use of organic wastes (crop, animal and farm wastes, aquatic wastes) and other biological materials along with beneficial microbes (biofertilizers) to release nutrients to crops for increased sustainable production in an eco friendly pollution free environment.

As per the definition of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) study team on organic farming “organic farming is a system which avoids or largely excludes the use of synthetic inputs (such as fertilizers, pesticides, hormones, feed additives etc) and to the maximum extent feasible rely upon crop rotations, crop residues, animal manures, off-farm organic waste, mineral grade rock additives and biological system of nutrient mobilization and plant protection”.



## Need of Organic Farming

With the increase in population our compulsion would be not only to stabilize agricultural production but to increase it further in sustainable manner. The scientists have realized that the 'Green Revolution' with high input use has reached a plateau and is now sustained with diminishing return of falling dividends. Thus, a natural balance needs to be maintained at all cost for existence of life and property. The obvious choice for that would be more relevant in the present era, when these agrochemicals which are produced from fossil fuel and are not renewable and are diminishing in availability. It may also cost heavily on our foreign exchange in future.

### **The key characteristics of organic farming include**

- Protecting the long term fertility of soils by maintaining organic matter levels, encouraging soil biological activity, and careful mechanical intervention
- Providing crop nutrients indirectly using relatively insoluble nutrient sources which are made available to the plant by the action of soil micro-organisms
- Nitrogen self-sufficiency through the use of legumes and biological nitrogen fixation, as well as effective recycling of organic materials including crop residues and livestock manures
- Weed, disease and pest control relying primarily on crop rotations, natural predators, diversity, organic manuring, resistant varieties and limited (preferably minimal) thermal, biological and chemical intervention
- The extensive management of livestock, paying full regard to their evolutionary adaptations, behavioural needs and animal welfare issues with respect to nutrition, housing, health, breeding and rearing
- Careful attention to the impact of the farming system on the wider environment and the conservation of wildlife and natural habitats

## **MAHATMA GANDHI UNIVERSITY-THE VISIONARY IN PROPAGATING ORGANIC FARMING**

Mahatma Gandhi University, Department of Lifelong Learning and Extension is the first university department in Kerala to introduce a certificate Course in Organic Farming. The proposal to start the course was at a time when the new findings in the health sector is showing the alarming rate at which the life-threatening diseases

were spreading because of the use of chemically contaminated food. The purpose of the course was to sensitise the general public about the threats that is approaching and also to give them the sustainable solution that is moving towards Organic Farming.

The curriculum itself was designed in a revolutionary manner. For the first time the syllabus committee included a farmer to design the course along with the academicians. This proves the different approach in the designing of the curriculum.

The course was well appreciated by the academic and practising sector. As a result there is a huge rush whenever a new batch is notified.

The course is designed in such a way that there is much room for the practical aspect of learning Organic Farming. There are practical sessions in which the making of unique organic manures is also demonstrated.

The student folk include all kinds of people-From the farmers to Doctors, Engineers and Students.

Due to the increase in demand from the Alumni the Diploma in Organic Farming Course was also introduced

A brief note on the Structure and functioning of the Courses in Organic Farming

### **INNOVATIVE TEACHING METHODS ADOPTED IN THE ORGANIC FARMING COURSE**

- The teaching-learning format is non formal
- **Aim** -a satisfactory, peaceful, safe, sustainable, beautiful, and free social structure. The agriculture in that social structure is being taught in this organic farming course. We need a complete change in the present system. We can achieve the new social reformation if we can change the present food, health, housing, family, art , job, technology, social law, to what is apt for the nature. Organic farming is the new form of agriculture in the renovated social system.
- The certificate and diploma course is designed and implemented bearing the basic aim which is mentioned above. Our food is our medicine. The course is designed giving due importance to practical and theory part of agriculture which is nature friendly and which makes the people aware of the impending dangers which can befall on mankind if we go against nature.

- In the course, there are visit to farms which are using the organic farming method. And also there is practical sessions on how to make organic manure and how to organic farming. The course also sensitizes the students about the present situation which is harming the whole earth. A better understanding of the present situation is important in implementing the solution
- Another aspect unique to the course is the forest camps which is not part of any curriculum related to agriculture. That knowledge will enlighten the students to use the idea of natural energy conservation and effective use of it.
- The innovative teaching methodology which is unique to the course is based on the seven principles of sustainable agriculture. They are
  1. *Naturality- The more natural the more sustainable.*
  2. *Diversity-The more diverse the more sustainable*
  3. *Re-Setability- The more re-setable design the more sustainable*
  4. *Productivity- The more productive the more sustainable*
  5. *Responsibility-The more responsible , the more sustainable*
  6. *Mentality-The more Aware-the more sustainable*
  7. *Activity- Based on the above, Activity will sustain*
- The above mentioned unique teaching method is implemented in the whole course. One such example is the preparation of nursery soil. The principle which is used is the second one- the more diverse the more sustainable. The virgin soil which is found in the forest is prepared at the farm using natural methodology. The virgin soil which is found in forests will take thousands of years to have the present composition. The same is prepared using natural components like leaves of plants and cow dung solution in just 60 days. This soil which is prepared makes the farming more economic and sustainable. The more the diversity of the leaf used the more sustainable will be the manure prepared. This innovative technique is taught as part of the course and the preparation of the same is implemented during the practical session.

## Stepping Forward

As a result of the successful implementation of the course the thoughts to spread the concept of Organic Farming and the urgent need of doing the same caught the attention of the Department. Any change can be brought to the society effectively if it is inculcated in the minds of the young generation. This thought was converted into action and as a result the Department of Lifelong Long Learning and Extension has submitted a project to the Govt. of Kerala to propagate Organic Farming in 100 affiliated colleges and 100 partnership villages of the University. The project was sanctioned.

### *Organic Farming in 100 Colleges and the 100 Partnership villages- Project by the Department of Life Long Learning and Extension-A Brief Report*

Department of Life Learning and Extension was entrusted with the task of spreading Organic Farming among the 100 affiliated colleges under Mahatma Gandhi University by the Govt. of Kerala. As per the proposal an initial amount of Rs.14, 50000/- were given to the Department.

The project's first initiative was to spread organic farming in the 100 affiliated colleges. The trained resource persons have taken classes for the students in each college about how to do organic farming. Theory and practical sessions were there. The resource persons have helped the college to develop model organic farms. The intended result was getting non polluted vegetables in colleges and also to train the students in the practical aspects of farming. As a result the trained students have initiated organic farming among their society in which they live.

The remuneration for the resource person and the expenditure for conducting the classes were met from the project fund. The classes were conducted in the 100 partnership villages also. Organic clubs were formed. The handouts in connection with the Organic farming were distributed among the students of the college. There were classes in associated aspects of farming like organic manure making, rain water pit making, and seed distribution etc. seminars and competitions were conducted in colleges with the message of spreading organic farming. Students have actively participated in all the competitions.

The literature in connection with Organic farming were distributed among the students and partnership villages in the form of pamphlets, handouts etc. College

level harvest festival was conducted in the newly constructed model farms. Exhibitions were conducted with the aim of selling the vegetables produced at the model farms at the college level and all those were great success.

The second initiative of the project was to spread the message of Organic farming among the 100 partnership villages of each NSS unit. That aim was achieved through the seven days camp. Through the camp the resource persons from the department has taken classes on Organic farming for the students and also for the general public. The NSS volunteers, as part of the camps visit the homes in the villages and they have sensitized the people about the need to shift to the organic farming and also they have given pamphlets on the theme of Organic Farming.

The colleges are conducting visits to Organic Farms mostly in connection with the alumni of the Certificate Course in Organic Farming and thereby students have got firsthand information on how the Organic Farming is done on larger scale.

The first phase of the project is over and the intended aim was successfully achieved and the future plan is to start organic medicinal plants farm at the affiliated colleges and the partnership villages. The initial phase of the data collection is almost over and also the plan to implement a need based study among the colleges.

#### *Awards and Recognitions*

“Next to Excellence is the appreciation of it”-William Makepeace Thackarey

The Department of Lifelong Learning and Extension had been bestowed with awards and appreciations from various Organizations for spreading Organic Farming.

**Dr.K.Sabukuttan received the Prestigious Sarojini Damodaran Foundation Award in 2013 and 2016**



**Dr.K.Sabukuttan, receiving the Sarojini Damodaran Foundation Award from Sri.Oommen Chandy, in recognition of the remarkable efforts to promote and popularize organic farming in the State by conducting Certificate Course in Organic Farming and also for conducting seminars and Workshops about Organic Farming**

Reg. No. 273/99-2000  
Bangalore

**Sarojini - Damodaran Foundation**

<b>S.D. SHIBULAL</b> (Co-Founder & CEO, Infosys) Founder	<b>KUMARI SHIBULAL</b> Managing Trustee	<b>Prof. S. RAMANAND</b> Trustee (Vice-Principal, S.D. College, Alappuzha Ph : 0477-2252460, 9447152460	<b>Adv. K.P. MEHABOOB SHERIFF</b> Legal Adviser Ph : 0477-2245519
-------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------

---

*Certificate of Appreciation*

This is to certify that the Department of Lifelong Learning and Extension, Mahatma Gandhi University, PD Hills P O, Kottayam, Kerala , 686 560 has been taking remarkable efforts to promote and popularize Organic Farming in the State since 2010.

The Sarojini-Damodaran Foundation appreciates **Dr.K SABUKUTTAN**, Head of the Department of Lifelong Learning and Extension, and the Department of Lifelong Learning and Extension, Mahatma Gandhi University for giving academic coordination to Organic Farming by organizing seminars and conducting Certificate and Diploma courses at University level.

  
**S.D. Shibulal**  
Founder

  
**Kumari Shibulal**  
Chair Person



03/03/2013





**Dr.K.Sabukuttan receiving the Sarojini Damodaran Foundation Award from the famous Malayalam Film Director Sri.Sathyan Anthikkad in recognition of his innovative contribution in spreading Organic Farming in 100 affiliated Colleges in 2016**



## A note of Appreciation from the Erumeli Gramapanchayath



An appreciation certificate from the Village Panchayath, Erumeli, Kottayam for spreading Organic Farming Literacy Programme in Erumeli Panchath in association with the Department of Lifelong Learning and Extension.

### Striving Towards the Mission

Department of Lifelong Learning and Extension is moving ahead with the mission of spreading organic farming relentlessly. As a result the Govt.of Kerala has entrusted with the mission to spread Organic Farming under Mahatma Gandhi University by starting Inter University Centre for Organic Farming and Sustainable Agriculture. Though the Inter University Centre is performing as a separate entity the decision to start the Centre was the result of the Department's tireless initiative in spreading Organic Farming

## Gallery

Organic Farming activities @the various affiliated colleges





















കോട്ടയം ബിസിഎം കോളജ് നാഷനൽ സർവീസ് സ്കീമിന്റെ ആഭിമുഖ്യത്തിൽ ജൈവകൃഷി സന്ദേശവുമായി കൃഷിയിടത്തിലിറങ്ങിയ വിദ്യാർത്ഥികൾക്ക് കാർഷിക അനുബന്ധ പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങളുടെ ഉദ്ഘാടനവേളയിൽ വനം-ഗതാഗത വകുപ്പ് മന്ത്രി തിരുവഞ്ചൂർ രാധാകൃഷ്ണൻ കൃഷിയറിവ് പങ്കുവെച്ചപ്പോൾ.

# ജൈവകൃഷി സന്ദേശവുമായി ബിസിഎം കോളജ് വിദ്യാർത്ഥികൾ

കോട്ടയം • ബിസിഎം കോളജ് എൻഎസ്എസിന്റെ ആഭിമുഖ്യത്തിൽ ജൈവകൃഷി സന്ദേശവുമായി വിദ്യാർത്ഥികൾ കൃഷി ഭൂമിയിൽ. ജൈവകൃഷി പ്രോൽസാഹനത്തിന്റെ ഭാഗമായി ഹരിതസമൃദ്ധി പദ്ധതിയിലൂടെ ഈ ഞ്ഞാൽ ജയ് മോൻ ആലപ്പാട്ടിന്റെ ഒന്നര ഏക്കർ കൃഷിയിടത്തിൽ കപ്പ, വാഴ, ഇഞ്ചി, മഞ്ഞൾ, പച്ചക്കറികൾ തുടങ്ങിയ വിളകളാ

ണ് കൃഷി ചെയ്യുന്നത്. വിദ്യാർത്ഥികളുടെ കാർഷിക അനുബന്ധ പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങളുടെ ഉദ്ഘാടനം മന്ത്രി തിരുവഞ്ചൂർ രാധാകൃഷ്ണൻ നിർവഹിച്ചു. എന്റെ ഭൂമിക എന്ന പേരിൽ കോളജിലെ മുഴുവൻ അധ്യാപക-വിദ്യാർത്ഥികളെയും പങ്കെടുപ്പിച്ചുകൊണ്ടുള്ള അടുക്കളത്തോട്ട നിർമ്മാണവും നടന്നുവരുന്നു. പൂർണ്ണമായും ജൈവ രീതിയിലാണ് കൃഷി.









