

Report of Department of Botany 2019-2020

Organic Farming:

In order to inculcate the traditional agricultural practices among students, Botany Department has started Organic Farming. The function was inaugurated by our Principal Dr. Lata Marina Varghese on 19th June 2019. Getting students involved in farming will help them to connect with nature and understand the importance of farming. This will also create a positive attitude among children towards farmers. Students also get opportunity to breathe fresh air and these outdoor activities also provide some sort of exercise.

Field visit

On 21st June 2019 5th semester botany students and teacher went for field visit to Idukki. The area is characterised by misty hills and lush meadows, this charming hill station. The first destination was Parunthumpara, a small scenic location near Wagamon en route to Peerumedu. This area provides a bird's eye view of an endless stretch of green forest land and low-lying areas. Panchalimedu was the next destination in Idukki. Panchalimedu provides an unearthly atmosphere with its specialty being the cold climate and refreshing breeze. Standing atop its hills and feeling a cold breeze sending you to the world of retirement is something you cannot experience everywhere. The refreshing beauty of Panchalimedu is the major reason why everyone should catch a glimpse of this small paradise in the making.

Institute visit (CPCRI, Kayamkulam)

On 26th June 3rd semester students visited CPCRI, Kayamkulam. The Central Plantation Crops Research Institute (CPCRI) is a renowned research institute under Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India. CPCRI has six regional centers. Kayamkulam CPCRI is one among those centers. We were welcomed and Dr. Rajeev Gopinath guided us. The nursery visit helped to know about various coconut varieties. Dr. Joseph Raj Kumar, Principal Scientist (Agrl. Entomology), and Dr. Joseph, Scientist in Entomology Division demonstrated his experimental plot regarding intercropping.

Visit to Mangrove Ecosystem

After visiting Krishnapuram place, an archeologically important palace at Krishnapuram, 25 students and 3 staffs from Dept of Botany went to Ayiramthengu for visiting the mangrove ecosystem. Ayiramthengu mangrove (9 06 to 9 08 N:76.28 to 76.29 E) is an important part of kayamkulam estuary and it situated about 6 km west of Ochira town and the bank of kayamkulam estuary. Ayiramthengu mangrove forest was declared an environment hot spot after it was ravaged by the Tsunami 2004 and threatened with extinction. We could come across

about 9 species of mangrove vegetation. The vivipary nature of mangroves and the occurrence of aerial breathing roots were new experience to students.

Celebration of Vanamaholsava

Vana Mahotsava is an annual tree planting festival in the month of July. In this year this all over India, this was celebrated on July 01 to 07. Students celebrated this week by planting various types of trees in college campus

Association Inauguration

Botany association was inaugurated on 02.07.2019. The meeting was presided by Dr. Lata Marina Varghese, Principal. Dr. Vinod Kumar TG, Association Coordinator gave welcome speech. Keynote address and inauguration was done by renowned environmentalist Dr. Abhilash R, Assistant Professor of Zoology, Christian College, Chengannur. His talk was on “the secret language of nature”.

Birth star plant garden:

As per Indian astrology, trees can relieve person from depression, sickness, physical, mental and social trouble stress by planting a tree/plant relevant to the constellation existing at the time of his/her birth. Each tree keeps giving energy to that particular person/people born during that particular star and the regular worship would come all prosperity in one’s life. Moreover, when a tree of any kind is planted, the result would come to the whole world. So Dept of Botany initiated a program to set a garden of Birth Star plant.

The plants were collected with the help of students from various parts of Pathanamthitta. Separate space was provided by the college management to construct star forest. The planting programme was officially inaugurated by Dr. Abhilash R., winner of Vanamitra Award 2019 hosted by Department of Forests and Wildlife, Government of Kerala. All the birth star plants were planted in our Star Forest.

Report of Ozone Day Celebration (16.09.2019)

Department of Botany has organized Ozone day celebration sponsored by Kerala State Council for Science, Technology and Environment in collaboration with Bhoomithrasena Club and the programme was inaugurated by Dr KA Sreejith, Scientist, Kerala Forest Research Institute, Peechi on 16th September 2019. The theme of the programme was “Let’s protect our Ozone Layer for a better tomorrow”. The function was presided over by the Principal, Dr. Lata Marina Varghese. Dr. Devi Priya, Programme o-ordinator made the welcome speech. Dr. Sreejith gave keynote address. Dr. Vinod Kumar (Co-oridnator, NSS) and Dr. Aruna Devy (Co-oridnator,

Bhoomithrasena Club) provided felicitation. After that the technical session started. Dr. Sreejith gave an enlightening speech on the importance and conservation of ozone and its effect on environment. During the interactive session, the audience actively participated. Students raised various queries and he patiently cleared all their doubts. Due to lack of time the various competitions associated with this celebration has been postponed to 18.09.2019. Students from various departments came and participated in various competitions like Quiz, Slogan writing, Essay writing etc... The winners were given certificate and a cash prize of Rs 500/- each.

Report on value added products from various parts of Coconut Exhibition

In order to celebrate World Coconut Day (September 2) Department of Botany has organized an exhibition on added products from various parts of Coconut. The exhibition was inaugurated by our former principal Dr. Babu Joseph. Along with our principal Dr. Lata Marina Varghese, he viewed all the crafts made by the students of botany and appreciated the efforts made by the students. Ms. Aswathy MS (DC III Botany) was the student coordinator. Different types of charts were displayed on the history and uses of coconut. Students and teachers from various departments came and well appreciated the exhibition also the creativity of botany students

Report of One day workshop on taxonomy

On 26th November 2019 Dept of Botany has organized a one day workshop on Taxonomic Identification. Dr. ES Santhosh Kumar, Sr. Technical Officer, JNTBGRI, Palode, Trivandrum gave the keynote address. With great proud we can say that he is an alumnus of this Department. In the morning session he took a class on Importance of Taxonomy. Within 2 hours he provided a good outlook on plant identification methods and various naming methods to students. The noon session mainly focused on the hands on training of taxonomic identification of plants in the college campus. With a group of keenly interested students (botany and zoology), he walked all around the campus and identified all plants and gave details of each plant with cues for rapid identification. The session came to an end at 4.00pm. Students of Botany were highly benefited with this program and the students highly appreciated the way of his presentation and plant identifying methods. In future we would like to conduct such programme as a national level workshop by inviting various eminent personalities like Dr. Santhosh