

## RICE CULTIVATION AND WETLAND CONSERVATION

Pazhassiraja College had a very clear opinion on current global climate scenario and the need of wetland ecosystem conservation. This view made the fellow students adapt rice cultivation as an extra-curricular activity.

### Objectives

1. To identify a fallow arable wetland for paddy cultivation
2. To ensure maximum participation of students, youth, localites and people's representatives
3. To learn the significance of Wetland ecosystem conservation in the global climate scenario

### Outcomes

1. An area of 1.5 acres of rice fallow was identified with the help of localites and the youth of Pulpally
2. Analyzed the cultivation of paddy in the perspectives of both the farmer and nature conservationist.
3. The participant members could learn field activities viz:
  - a. Rice crop planning
  - b. Seed and variety selection
  - c. Seed treatment
  - d. Land preparation
  - e. Nursery raising
  - f. Sowing
  - g. Transplanting
  - h. Water management
  - i. Nutrient management
  - j. Identification of weed and weed management
  - k. Plant protection
  - l. Harvesting



  
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- m. Post-harvest handling
- n. Storage
- o. Marketing of produce

Wayanad district is famous for its richness in the cultivation of rice and spices. The district of Wayanad is the heart of agriculture in Kerala. The name Wayanad itself is derived from the Malayalam word "Vayalelakkalude Nadu" which means the land of rice fields. This context urged the college to perform rice cultivation using the human resources available in the college and the locality.



  
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## Stage I: Identification and preparation of field

The students with the help of other progressive farmers from the panchayat identified 1.5 acres of fallow arable land of Mr. Manoj Pullattel at Anappara locality near the college. The participants cleared the field and prepared the field using agricultural implements and machineries and made it suitable for rice cultivation.

### Activities

1. Ploughing
2. Bund forming
3. Levelling



  
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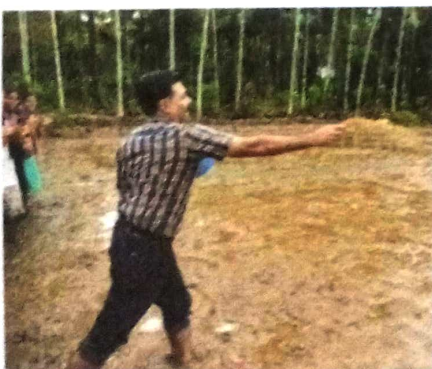
## Stage II: Nursery preparation and Sowing

Nursery preparation is one of the important stages of wetland paddy cultivation. The fine tilth is made after continuous ploughing and levelling. The seeds are broadcasted in this field for nursery preparation. The seedlings were kept in the field for 28 days before transplanting to the main field. The nursery sowing programme was inaugurated by Sri. T V Anilmon, Standing Committee Chairman, Pulpally Grama Panchayat on 20.07.2019. Honourable Vice Principal, Pazhassiraja College, Dr. Dileep M R presided over the function. Mr. Abdul Bari K K, Nodal officer of B. Voc. Programmes and Mr.SachinA S gave felicitations.

The Chief Guest Sri. T V Anilmon in his inaugural speech quoted the importance of conserving wetland paddy fields and the need for practicing anaerobic paddy cultivation by the younger generation giving special reference to the climatic and geographical conditions of Wayanad.

### Activities

1. Nursery field preparation
2. Inauguration
3. Nursery Sowing



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### Stage III; Main Field Transplanting

After the preparation of main field, the rice seedlings were transplanted in to it. This act gave the slogan of wetland paddy conservation to the youth engaged. This activity was inaugurated by Sri. T S Dileep Kumar, Honorable Block Panchayat President on 20.08.2019. Pulpally Grama Panchayat member Sri. Karunakaran presided over the function. Dr. Anil Kumar K, Principal, Pazhassiraja College, Fr. Varghese Kollamavudy, CEO Pazhassiraja College gave felicitations.

The chief guest reminded everyone especially the student community about the need of rejuvenating the lost prosperity of Wayanad district in the field of agriculture. He also added that the district's rich culture in rice cultivation and the need for preserving the wetland ecosystem for sustainability.



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