

IDENTIFICATION OF BARREN LAND AND CULTIVATION PRACTICE

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.

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



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



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.



Stage IV: Harvest, Threshing and Marketing

The paddy variety cultivated was a medium duration variety. It was harvested at the right stage manually by the students and the localites. The activity had a considerable participation of the people nearby. The harvest was inaugurated by Sri. T S Dileep Kumar, Honorable Block Panchayat President and Fr. Varghese Kollamavudy, CEO, Pazhassiraja College presided over the function.

After the harvest, the paddy was dried to optimum moisture content and then threshed it mechanically and was packed for sale. A yield of 1.5 ton was obtained from the paddy cultivation. It was then sold to Kerala Civil Supplies Corporation.



Agriculture was always a ready -to -do activity for the students of Pazhassiraja College and the locality as it is the livelihood of lion's share people in this beautiful district of Wayanad. The students identified 0.45 acres of barren piece of arable land within the college campus for the cultivation of different crops. The Department of Vocational Studies (Agriculture) gave the technical and mechanical support for the successive stages of crop cultivation. Students across the departments along with the students of B. Voc. Agriculture programme collected seeds locally and also from reputed agricultural institutions. The participant students started field preparations on 25 March 2019. Crops like maize, tapioca and cowpea were selected for

cultivation. The participants dedicated their time and effort to perform all the activities right from selection of land till marketing.



Tribal Higher Education Sensitisation Programme

Pazhassiraja college started **Pazhassiraja College Tribal Higher Education Sensitisation Programme 'Bodhi'** on 18-08-2018 aiming at the promotion of tribal sectors of nearby areas. Wayanad is an earmarked district in Kerala, because of its very peculiar geo system and the huge presence of tribal population. It is known as the "Green Paradise of Kerala" for, 37% of the total area is covered by forest. No other district in Kerala can claim the credit. The district is a prime tourist destination of Kerala too. The district of Wayanad extends over an area of 2125 sq.km. The south-western tip of the Deccan Plateau is at an altitude of 700 meters above the sea level. Tamil Nadu and Karnataka states and Kannur and Kozhikode districts of Kerala state are the borders around. Wayanad district is famous for its tropical climate and lush green hills, valleys and forests. The district is emerging as the major location for eco-tourism in southern India. It is also the inheritor of ancient religious and cultural heritages festivals tribal ballads, tribal medicines and their folk performances. The studies and survey conducted by the Pazhassiraja College Tribal Higher Education Sensitisation Programme in various tribal populations in Wayanad and started a career guidance and motivation classes for the students among the tribals. The programme also aims to develop a personality development programme in the colonies of tribal populations.



At the first stage, the team of Pazhassiraja tribal higher education sensitisation programme visited the tribal colonies and taken the aims and merits of the programme among the tribal students and their parents. We arranged different awareness classes about the programme. This event could help them to aware the various important career oriented jobs and the benefits of reservation which they can attain the national mainstream life of the students. The team realized the main problems of tribal students. Students also got a chance to understand the different ways of living and community life.



Empowerment programmes for tribal women

The status of a woman in a society is a significant reflection of the level of social justice in that society. Women status is often described in terms of their level of income, employment, education, health and fertility as well as their roles within the family, community and society. In tribal communities the role of women is substantial and crucial. The strategy for tribal development especially women needs improvement, betterment and development to reflect their empowerment. The programmes conducted by the team oriented towards the empowerment of tribals particularly women, for improving their socio-economic conditions and status.





UG students became the part of Pazhassiraja College Tribal Higher Education Sensitisation Programme and engaged in tribal welfare sector as facilitator for counseling, arranging conferences, increasing resources, spreading public awareness through conducting awareness in the tribal colonies against the consumption of drugs, alcohols, tobacco in a community organization mode.

