



RAJAGIRI VISWAJYOTHI
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND APPLIED SCIENCES
VENGOOR, PERUMBAVOOR KERALA- 683546



CRITERION 7

INSTITUTIONAL VALUES AND BEST PRACTICES

7.3 Institutional Distinctiveness

2019-24

Submitted to



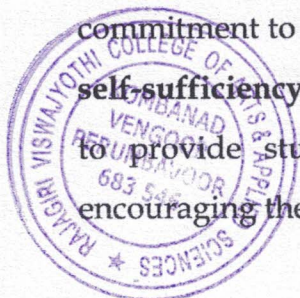
Institutional Distinctiveness

Rajagiri Viswajyothi KISAN (Knowledge Integrated Sustainable Agrarian Nexus)

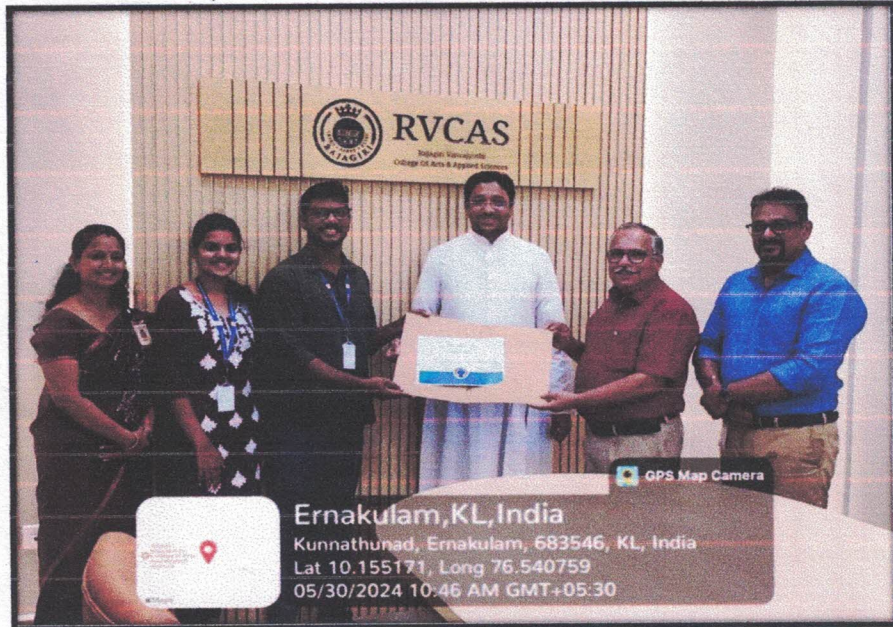
The visionary founders of the Congregation of the Carmelites of Mary Immaculate (CMI) have demonstrated extraordinary foresight in establishing Higher Education Institutions that extend beyond mere academic endeavors. Their pioneering approach focused on initiating educational institutions in rural areas and gradually integrating them with urban centers, creating a **“sustainable growth ecosystem”** designed to bolster societal development. This forward-thinking ethos is embodied in the Rajagiri Group of Institutions, which perfectly reflects St. Chavara's vision of *besrauma* – a Syriac term meaning **“a house on the hilltop.”**

Rajagiri Viswajyothi College of Arts & Sciences (RVCAS) represents the latest chapter in this illustrious legacy. Strategically situated in the verdant locale of Perumbavoor, the RVCAS campus leverages its **natural beauty and lush greenery** to cultivate an educational environment that respects and nurtures nature. The fertile lands of Vengoor further enrich this context, offering students a unique opportunity to engage with their surroundings meaningfully, explore their roots, and pursue self-sustenance. Through its initiatives, such as **KISAN**, RVCAS reaffirms its commitment to environmental sustainability and the promotion of self-sufficiency through innovative farming practices. Furthermore, the institution has been awarded a prestigious **Green Certificate** by the Haritha Kerala Mission, earning an outstanding **“A Plus”** grade for its dedication to eco-conscious practices and sustainable development.

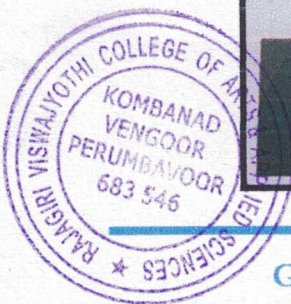
At the core of RVCAS's sustainability efforts, the KISAN initiative reflects a deep commitment to **fostering a meaningful connection with the earth while promoting self-sufficiency through various innovative farming practices.** The programme aims to provide students with **hands-on experience** in diverse farming methods, encouraging them to reconnect with their agricultural roots. By cultivating the fertile



land surrounding the campus, KISAN seeks to achieve **self-sustenance in agriculture**, optimizing land use while also **contributing to the local economy**. Ultimately, the initiative nurtures a sense of environmental stewardship, empowering students to engage with **sustainable practices** that benefit both the community and the ecosystem.



RVCAS Awarded Green Institution Status by Haritha Kerala Mission



Green Institution Certificate from Haritha Kerala Mission

KISAN (Knowledge Integrated Sustainable Agrarian Nexus) Practices

1. Nurturing Nature: The Bamboo Haven and Eco-Initiatives at RVCAS

Spread across a vast 6.3 acres, the RVCAS campus is home to a thriving biophilic belt, teeming with diverse flora and fauna. Central to this green haven is an **L-shaped bamboo grove**, featuring over 50 clusters of various bamboo species, including Buddha, Lathi, Milky, Painting, and Golden Bamboo. These groves not only provide shade and oxygen but also create a protective layer, offering students a peaceful environment to connect with nature's "rustle and hustle." This **bamboo belt** serves as a living demonstration, educating learners about the role of bamboo in preventing soil erosion and mitigating landslides. In addition to this, regular tree-planting events are organized to further enrich the campus's green cover and support the local ecosystem. During the assessment period, over 300 trees were planted by students and staff, significantly enhancing the campus's biodiversity and reinforcing its commitment to ecological health.



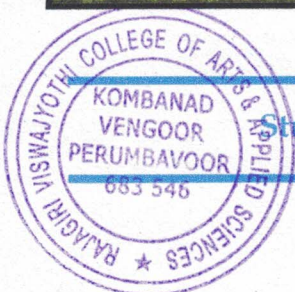
Bamboo Belt on Campus



Perumbavoor MLA Eldhose Kunnappilly Planting a Sapling



Students and Teachers Planting Saplings on Campus



The “Jaivam Veggies” initiative at RVCAS is a collaborative endeavor led by the NSS Unit, Nature Club, and ED Club, aimed at cultivating a wide variety of organic vegetables on campus. Given RVCAS's predominantly residential nature, the campus dedicates 2 acres of land to grow key vegetables for daily consumption. Seasonal organic crops include plantains, ginger, turmeric, tapioca, snake gourd, coccacia, pumpkin, and ash gourd, alongside fruits such as seethaphal, papaya, guava, and mangosteen. The campus also boasts a thriving **Herbal Garden**, home to over 50 species of medicinal herbs, preserving traditional knowledge while promoting ecological and health awareness. This immersive farming environment aligns seamlessly with the **MOOC course on Organic Farming**, part of the MG University curriculum. Its success is reflected in 100% student participation and pass rates, further reinforced by their project reports, which narrate the initiative's practical impact on learning and sustainable practices.

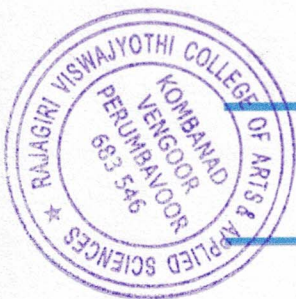


Cultivation of Plantains





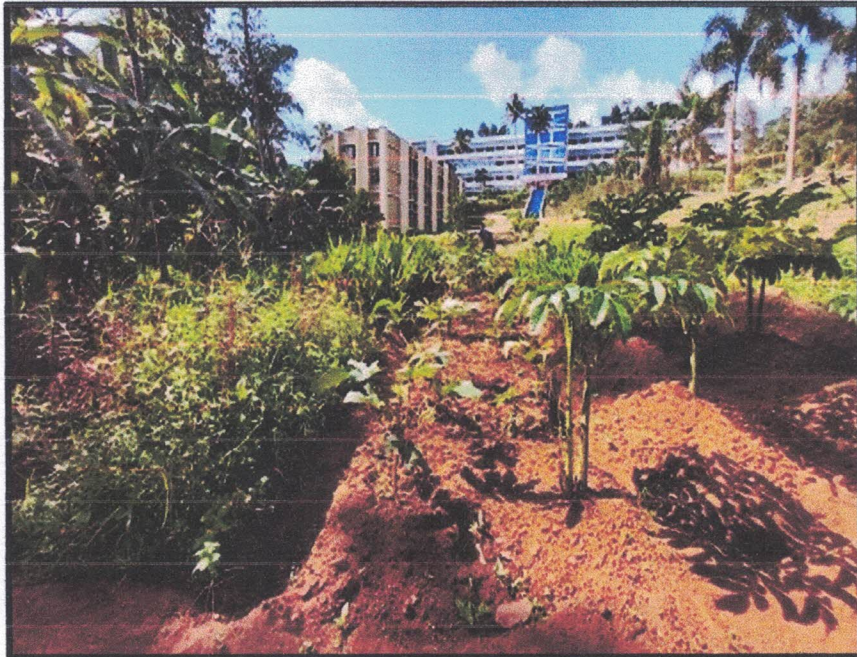
Cultivation of Ginger



**Campus-Grown Veggies now Freshen Up Our Canteen,
Embodying Our Commitment to Sustainability**



Turmeric Cultivation on Campus



Yam Cultivation on Campus





Green Gram Harvest



Zapota and Pulasaan Trees on the Campus





Ripe Passion Fruits on Campus

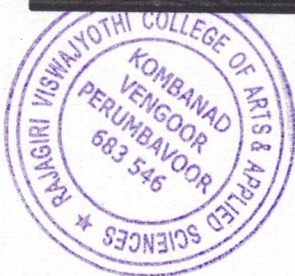
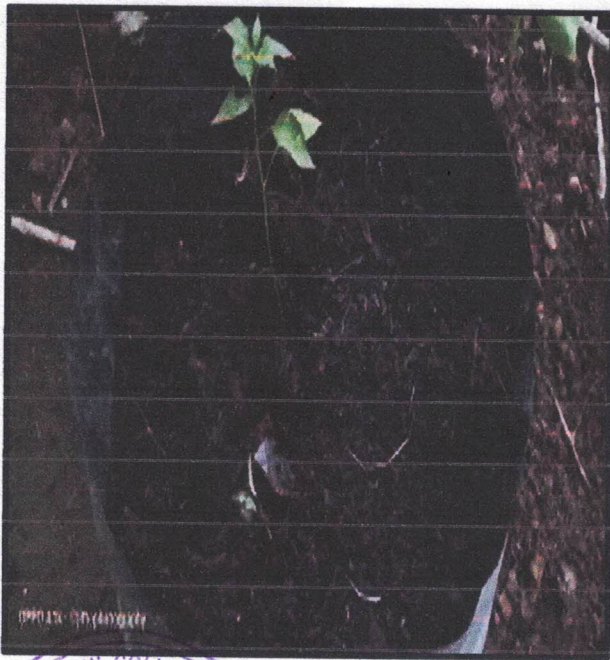


Herbal Garden on Campus





RVCAS Students Practicing Organic Farming at Home



PROJECT REPORT ON MOOC COURSE – ORGANIC MANURE PREPARATION

A project report submitted to Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam in the partial fulfillment of the requirement for the award of the degree of

BACHELOR OF COMMERCE

2020-2023



Submitted by

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(Affiliated to Mahatma Gandhi University)

ORGANIC MANURE PREPARATION

Chapter III: OBSREVATIONS / RESULT

3. Compost from Kitchen waste



3.1 After 2 days



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Student's MOOC Course Project Report on Organic Manure Making

ORGANIC MANURE PREPARATION

3.2 After 4 days



3.3 After 6 days



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ORGANIC MANURE PREPARATION

3.6 After 20 days



4. DISCUSSION

4.1. Compost from Kitchen waste

Compost from kitchen waste was prepared from useless waste vegetables and vegetable peels.

4.2. Compost from Garden wastes

Compost from garden was prepared from using dead plants and dry leaves.

4.3. Comparison between two procedures practiced

Both the procedures were performed together and the best part was both the garden waste and vegetable waste decomposed easily but the garden waste that is the dry leaves and dead plants took a week extra for decomposition.

4.4. Concluding remarks

Compost of garden waste and kitchen waste were performed together in a single container and it took about 4-5 weeks for the final outcome of decomposition and manure preparation process.

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2. Holistic Sustainability: Integrating Animal Husbandry and Eco-Friendly Practices at RVCAS

The sustainability goals of RVCAS extend into its **animal husbandry programme**, which encompasses the rearing of poultry, ducks, rabbits, cattle, guinea pigs, and goats. Students are actively involved in learning the intricacies of caring for these animals, from hatching and feeding to ensuring a harmonious bond between humans and animals. The programme offers rewarding outcomes, such as producing approximately 400 eggs per month through poultry farming. Additionally, goats and cows graze the campus lawns, contributing to ecosystem maintenance while reducing carbon emissions and energy usage. The meat from these animals is utilized in the college canteen, furthering self-sufficiency. Manure from the animals is repurposed as organic fertilizer, enriching the campus gardens and boosting soil fertility. Food scraps are also used to feed poultry and fish, while liquid and vegetable waste is converted into biogas. Any remaining waste is processed through food waste pipe composting, turning it into nutrient-rich organic manure, thereby closing the loop in the institution's sustainable practices.



Poultry Farm on Campus



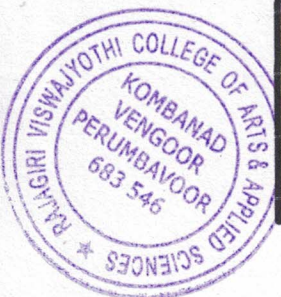
Rabbitry on Campus



Goat Pen on Campus



Rabbits and Ducks on Campus



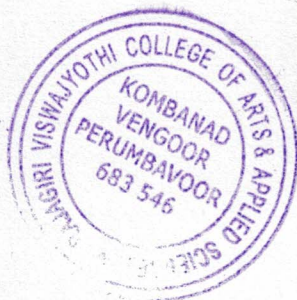


Flying Duck and Goats on Campus



3. Waterscape and Beyond: Sustainable Fish Farming and Experiential Learning at RVCAS

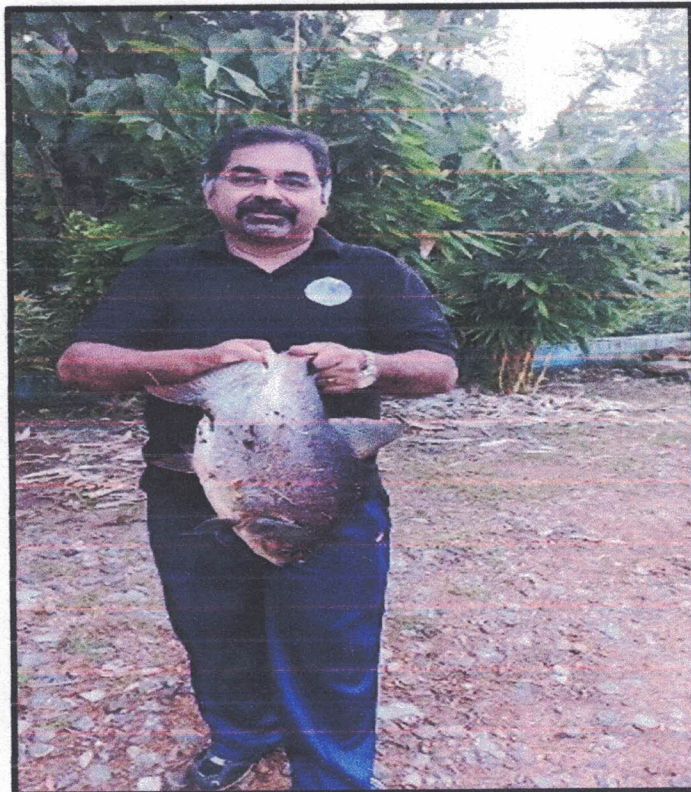
The **fish farming initiative** at RVCAS is an integral part of its sustainability efforts, supported by two fish tanks with capacities of 500 and 1000 liters, and a sprawling pond, known as *Waterscape*, which holds 960,000 cubic liters of water. Initially, around 250 fish are nurtured in the smaller tanks for four months before being transferred to Waterscape for full-scale pisciculture. This vibrant pond is home to over 4,000 fish, including species such as Black and White Sharks, Red and Black Tilapia, Giant Gourami, and Grass Carp. Students participate in the feeding and care of the fish and ducks, gaining hands-on, immersive learning experiences in a natural setting. To further engage the community, angling tournaments and fishing derbies are regularly organized, often involving participants from other institutions. The fish from Waterscape, averaging about 5 kg per month, are also served in the college canteen, providing fresh, locally sourced meals to students and staff, reinforcing the institution's commitment to sustainability and experiential learning.



Fish Farm on Campus



Angling by the Waterscape

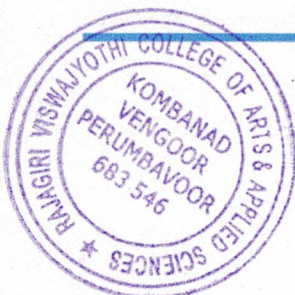


4. Pathway to Peace: The Wisdom Path and Garden Library at RVCAS

The **Wisdom Path** at RVCAS offers a peaceful green canopy that runs alongside the Bamboo L-belt, creating a tranquil space for mindfulness and reflection, gently guiding those who walk it toward inner peace. This path is part of the **Oxygen Zone**, a thoughtfully designed green space with a lower carbon footprint, which encompasses both the Wisdom Path and the bamboo belt. Along this serene journey, students can explore a one-of-a-kind garden library, where nest-shaped holders house books, inviting them to pause and immerse themselves in quiet reading. Here, the simple act of walking becomes more than just a stroll—it transforms into a pathway to knowledge and enlightenment, blending nature’s calm with the pursuit of wisdom.

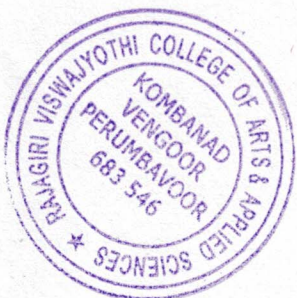


Wisdom Path on Campus





Oxygen Zone on Campus



KISAN Initiative: Defining RVCAS Through Sustainable Innovation and Community Impact

The KISAN initiative epitomizes the **distinctiveness** of RVCAS, showcasing our commitment to environmental sustainability. This innovative programme offers students **hands-on experience in organic farming**, enabling them to cultivate a diverse range of vegetables on campus. The produce, including fresh eggs and vegetables, supports the college canteen and is featured in stalls managed by the ED Club, emphasizing our **transition from reliance on external food sources to fostering a self-sufficient, healthy lifestyle**.

Complementing this, our campus features a thriving **biophilic environment**, including a Bamboo L-belt and the Wisdom Path, which provide tranquil spaces for mindfulness and reflection. The bamboo grove serves as a living classroom, teaching students about soil erosion prevention and landslide mitigation. Additionally, our fish farming initiative in Waterscape, along with our animal husbandry programme, further enhances our sustainability efforts.

The fish from our large pond and the produce from animal husbandry contribute to campus life, with the meat and eggs used in the canteen and manure repurposed as organic fertilizer to enrich campus gardens. Food scraps are recycled into biogas, and excess waste is processed into nutrient-rich compost, completing our sustainability cycle.

Through KISAN and these integrated initiatives, RVCAS exemplifies its unique dedication to ecological responsibility, setting a powerful example of environmental stewardship that underscores our institution's distinctiveness and commitment to sustainability.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "D. S. D.", written over a horizontal line.

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