

# GREEN MISSION

An Institutional Initiative for a Green and Sustainable Campus



## Green Mission

The Green Mission envisages the practice of combining environment-friendly activities with green academics. It involves the promotion of environmental culture and development of new paradigms for creating sustainable solutions.

### **Objectives of the Practice:**

1. To promote the Global agenda of “Save our planet”
2. To conserve the resources and to create a conducive environment for the future generation
3. To increase the green core and to balance the carbon emission rate
4. To imbibe a spirit of environmental consciousness and urge for protection of nature.

### **Context:**

The campus is blessed with green vegetation and varied habitats like ponds, grasslands and paddy fields. The vegetation in and around the campus is dominated by varieties of flora and fauna. The avifaunal diversity of the campus is well recognized. The green mission focuses on protecting, restoring and enhancing the existing green environment of the institution. This is achieved by promoting the active participation of the students in programmes related to conservation and sustainable management of natural resources. It envisages a holistic view of greening that extends beyond tree planting. The college has implemented the

project “Clean and green Campus” as part of the green mission, it focuses on solid waste management, management of landscaping, energy conservation, water conservation, water quality control and air quality control.

### **The Practice:**

Eco-friendly environment is maintained by planting trees and reducing the use of plastic in day-to-day life to promote a “Clean and Green Campus”. The NSS unit, Forestry club and the Radio MACFAST are actively supporting the green practices through various awareness programmes. An ample number of trees, plants and attractive vines on the campus act as rich sources of oxygen. The institute is maintaining a herbal garden of more than 300 species with financial support obtained from National Medicinal Plant Board. The institute also promotes the usage of organic fertilizers on and outside campus through the ‘Jaivam’ farming awareness programme initiated by the Government of Kerala and coordinated by the NSS unit. To highlight environmental promotional activities, one hour in a week is specifically earmarked as “Green hour” in the curriculum. Every Thursday, this session of one hour is organized as follows: 20 minutes for keynote message, 20 minutes for presentation of new plans and goals, 10 minutes for discussions on environmental issues, and 10 minutes for review. The institution has the practice of conducting an Environmental and Green audit to identify environmental compliances and implementation gaps for corrective actions. As part of the Go-Green praxis, the college has installed a 30-cubic meter biogas plant on the campus in 2007. The well maintained and actively functioning solar power plant is used as an alternative source of electricity.

### **Evidence of success:**

The institution succeeded in infusing the spirit of environmental consciousness among the students, teaching and non-teaching staff through green mission practices. The college has adopted the policy of using alternative energy resources such as solar power and biogas for its daily requirements. The cooking gas used in the common kitchen is availed from the biogas plant of the campus. The solar power plant of the institution is hand-holding with Kerala State Electricity Board (KSEB) with a wheeling to the grid agreement. The Institute has an effective system for disposal of wastes, purchase and supply of eco-friendly materials such as pen, file folders, sensor-based LED lamps and introduction of the effective recycling process.

The plastic-free campaign encouraged the students to avoid the use of bottled waters and motivated them to use stainless steel bottles and glasses. The mission resulted in reducing the number of one-time usage plastics on and around the campus. The community radio of the college, Radio MACFAST 90.4 is awarded 'Harithamudra' from the Government of Kerala for its programme 'Krishi Jaalakom'. The green mission helped in enriching the flora and fauna at the campus. The institution is a home place to 140 different species of birds, 77 species of butterflies and around 310 species of plants including red-listed varieties. The campus was recognized by the 'Bird Count India', an informal partnership of organizations and groups working together to increase our collective knowledge about bird distributions and populations.

They announced the institution as the 3rd Best Biodiversity campus in Kerala and 10th in India in 2019. The energy and green audits report lauded the success in energy conservation through the systematic usage of renewable energy resources. The report also certifies that the campus is carbon negative. It shows the efficacy of the CO<sub>2</sub> mitigation plans adopted

by the institute. Rainwater harvesting and the well-recharge system implemented on the campus have successfully contributed to flawless water management on the campus.

### **Problems encountered and resources required:**

Even though the green mission was a great success, the institution could not attain the zero plastic status because of the usage of plastic pens, folders, carry bags, bottles etc. inside the campus. Moreover, the restrictions and lockdown due to COVID-19 during the time span from 2019 March to date drastically affected all the green mission activities. The institution has already implemented the usage of renewable energy resources such as biogas, solar power plant etc., but 100% replacement of current energy source is not yet achieved. In the present situation, we require solar panels with enhanced capacity to meet the increasing need and more biogas plants to increase gas production.