

AGRICULTURE SKILL TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR ATTRACTING AND RETAINING OF YOUTH IN AGRICULTURE

The Department of Economics of Government College of Arts, Science and Commerce, Khandola in partnership with the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development, Goa Regional Office organized the *Agriculture Skill Training Programme for Attracting and Retaining of Youth in Agriculture* from 19th to 29th August 2019.



The inauguration of the training programme was held on 19th August 2019. The Chief Guest, at the inaugural function was Ms. Kamakshi Pai, General Manager, Officer-in-charge of NABARD, Goa Regional Office.



Ms Kamakshi Pai stressed upon the importance of agriculture to the Goan economy and the need to involve the youth in agriculture. The youth need to be motivated to take agriculture up as a profession and not shy away. Such training programmes would go a long way in enabling the youth perceive agriculture as a full time profitable occupation.



The Principal Dr Purnakala Samant welcomed the gathering. Dr Christina De Souza, Head of the Department of Economics presented a summary of the Agriculture Skill Training Programme. Dr Sharmila Dessai Assistant Professor of Economics introduced the Chief Guest and Ms. Anthia Dias Assistant Professor of Economics compered the inaugural function.

The first session on ‘Organic Farming’ was conducted by **Mr. Miguel Braganza, Agriculturist**



who was introduced by Ms. Manisha Phadte Assistant Professor of Economics. Mr Braganza dealt with the importance of organic farming and covered the

nuances of organic farming. The benefits of organic farming, soil preparation, organic fertilizers, insecticides and pesticides were also discussed.



The session on 'Vertical Garden' on 20th August'19 was conducted by **Ms. Priyanka Parab Agriculturist**. Ms Priyanka through her presentation created an awareness and interest in vertical garden in which different types of plants could be grown and cultivated like vegetables, herbs etc. She also conducted a demonstration on vertical garden and the participants with pet bottles prepared their own vertical garden.



The session on 21st August'19 was on 'Growing of Vegetables and Fruits' conducted by **Ms. Priyanka Parab**. Ms Parab enlightened the participants about the techniques of growing vegetables and fruits, the type of soil required, soil preparation. The various seasons in which different types of vegetables and fruits could be cultivated. She demonstrated the methods of cultivating various types of vegetables and fruits as well as answered the queries of the participants.



Ms. Priyanka Parab and Mr Miguel Braganza on 22nd August'19 conducted the session on 'Grafting'. Ms Parab helped the participants understand the different methods of grafting.



A demonstration on grafting by the resource persons enabled the participants realize the intricacies of grafting. Ms. Priyanka and Mr. Miguel assisted the participants to prepare grafts



The session on 'Bonsai' was conducted by **Mr. Daniel De Souza a Bonsai Expert** on 23rd August'19.

Mr Daniel explained to the participants the art of bonsai and the various techniques involved in preparing different types of bonsai. He also highlighted the advantages of bonsai. The participants were encouraged to make their bonsai and their queries were addressed by Daniel.



On 23rd August'19 a field visit was organized to Mr Daniel's bonsai garden in Assagao where the participants gained practical knowledge on the art of bonsai. in addition to the bonsai collection the participants were provided insights into the various plants, trees and flowers existing at his botanical garden.





Mr. Altaf Shaikh *Golden Leaf Agrotech India Pvt. Ltd.* conducted the session on ‘Floriculture- Cultivation of Flowers’ on 26th August’19.

Through his presentation Mr Altaf informed the participants about the various methods of growing and nurturing different types of flowers.



In his demonstration Mr Altaf showed the participants how to cultivate orchids, anthuriums and tropical flowers.



Mr. Nelson Figueiredo *Ex-Director of Agriculture* conducted the session on Integrated Pest Management on 27th August'19. He enlightened the participants on the strategies adopted in integrated pest management. through a presentation and demonstrations.



The session on 'Organic Composting' on 28th August'19 was conducted by **Priyanka Parab** and **Mr. Miguel Braganza**. The process of organic composting was explained by Ms Priyanka and assisted by Mr. Miguel.



An organic composting pit set up by Ms Priyanka was shown to the participants. The participants got first-hand experience of an organic compost pit.

On the last day of the training programme 29th August'19 a field visit to the hydroponics farm Letcetra Agritech Thane Valpoi managed by **Ajay Naik & Harish Usgaonker** was organized.

The participants were exposed to a functional hydroponics where various types of vegetables were grown.



The Agriculture Skill Training Programme for Attracting and Retaining of Youth in Agriculture was attended by a mixed group of youth and adults. There were 70 participants who attended and participated in the programme.



The Department of Economics of Government College, Khandola expresses its gratitude to the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development, Goa Regional Office for funding the *Agriculture Skill Training Programme for Attracting and Retaining of Youth in Agriculture* from 19th to 29th August 2019.



The expertise of the resource persons and the hands on training during the sessions of this programme were highly appreciated by the participants. This programme has encouraged the participants to implement sustainable agriculture in Goa.

Dr Christina De Souza

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