

*Departmental Best Practice*

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Shikshan Prasarak Sanstha's  
**Padmabhushan Vasantodada Patil Mahavidyalaya**



Kavathe Mahankal, Sangli  
Affiliated to Shivaji University, Kolhapur

*Grow Together and Plant it Forward Activity as a  
Departmental Best Practice*

2023-24



Prepared By

**Department of Botany and Department of NSS**

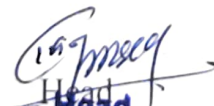
## Departmental Best Practice



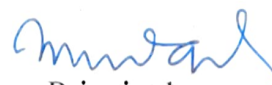
Shikshan Prasarak Sanstha's  
Padmabhushan Vasantraodada Patil Mahavidyalaya, Kavathe Mahankal  
DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY

### Activity Report: Departmental Best Practice (2023-24)

<b>Title</b>	<b>Grow together and Plant it Forward</b>
<b>Time Period</b>	September, 2023 to January, 2024
<b>Organizer</b>	Department of <b>Botany</b> and Department of NSS
<b>Participants</b>	Teachers: 06, Students: 50, Total: 56
<b>Coordinator</b>	<b>Mr. T. G. Patil, Dr. S. A. Babar</b>
<b>Background</b>	The Department of <b>Botany</b> dedicated to promoting environmental sustainability, recently conducted a departmental best practice <b>Grow Together and Plant it Forward</b> with collaboration of Department of NSS. This was an extension activity of <b>Seedling Bags Project</b> . This initiative focused on community engagement and social benefit.
<b>Objective</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❖ To share knowledge, skills and experiences to promote collective growth.</li><li>❖ To ensure equal opportunities for all participants to grow and develop.</li><li>❖ To promote the development and conservation of sustainable ecosystem.</li><li>❖ To bring up responsible land use and environmental conservation.</li><li>❖ To engage the community in plantation activities, promoting social cohesion and pride.</li></ul>
<b>Evidence of Success</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❖ Students and community members share their knowledge and also gain a new skills and training about the conservation practices.</li><li>❖ Distribute the endemic plant species which is benefitted for local environment and biodiversity.</li><li>❖ Established new relationships and social connections between students and community members.</li><li>❖ Successfully replicate the endemic plant species and expand this activity hand to hand.</li><li>❖ The local people and students understood and aware about sustainable environmental conservation practices.</li></ul>
<b>Conclusion</b>	Grow Together and Plant it Forward is a student and community based initiative that promotes sustainability, education and community engagement through plantation and conservation. By bringing people together to grow and share plants, the initiative fosters social connections, knowledge sharing and sense of community pride.

  
Head  
Department of Botany  
P.V.P. Mahavidyalaya  
Kavathe Mahankal Dist-Sangli

  
NSS Program Officer  
**PROGRAM OFFICER**  
National Service Scheme  
P. V. P. Mahavidyalaya,  
Kavathe Mahankal.

  
Principal  
**PRINCIPAL,**  
Padmabhushan Vasantraodada Patil  
Mahavidyalaya, K. Mahankal, Dist-Sangli

## Department of Botany

Head of the Department,  
Department of Botany  
P. V. P. Mahavidyalaya,  
KavatheMahankal, Dist. Sangli,  
Maharashtra 416405  
Date: 26 August, 2023.

To,  
The Principal,  
PadmabhushanVasatraodada Patil Mahavidyalaya,  
Kavathe Mahankal, Dist. Sangli,  
Maharashtra 416405

**Subject:** Seeking a permission to start the community engagement initiative, **Grow Together and Plant it Forward** as a departmental best practice.

Respected sir,

As per your guidelines the Department of **Botany** and the Department of **NSS** are going to start community engagement initiative, "**Grow Together and Plant it Forward**" as a departmental best practice. This initiative will be completed during September, 2023 to January, 2024. The initiative will be definitely beneficial for community and students.

I request you, to give the permission to start the above community engagement initiative.

Thanking you.

*Permission granted.*

*Murad*



*10/9/2023*  
*[Signature]*  
Head  
Department of Botany  
P.V.P. Mahavidyalaya  
Kavathe Mahankal Dist-Sangli

## **Title of the Practice**

### **Grow Together and Plant it Forward**

Plantation awareness as a best practice refers to the knowledge and understanding of the importance of plantations in maintaining ecological balance, biodiversity, and environmental sustainability. Plantation awareness is essential for promoting sustainable development and environmental stewardship. Plantation awareness in the community involves educating and engaging the public on the importance of plantations for environmental sustainability and community benefits. For these reason, in this educational year the Department of Botany and Department of NSS conduct the **Grow Together** and **Plant it Forward** activity as departmental best practice. **Grow Together** is a beautiful concept that aligns perfectly with the **Plant it Forward** initiative. **Grow Together** emphasizes the importance of community, collaboration, and mutual support in achieving growth and success. It inspires us to nurture a sense of belonging, foster meaningful connections and cultivate brighter future. **Plant it Forward** is a wonderful initiative that promotes sustainability, community building, and environmental stewardship. By encouraging individuals to plant and share their seedlings, it fosters a sense of responsibility and connection to the natural world. By plantation and sharing knowledge **Plant it Forward** fosters a sense of community, promotes healthy living and supports a more sustainable future. **Grow Together** and **Plant it Forward** is a powerful combination that represents the ultimate goal of the initiative.





## **Objectives/ Intended Outcomes, Underlying Principles/ Concept of Practice**

**Objectives/ Intended Outcomes:** Objectives of this practice is as follows-

- ❖ Community Building: Bring up sense of community and connection among the participants.
- ❖ Collective Learning: Share knowledge, skills and experiences to promote collective growth.
- ❖ Inclusive Growth: Ensure equal opportunities for all participants to grow and develop.
- ❖ Sustainable Eco-Systems: Promote the development and conservation of sustainable ecosystem.
- ❖ Environmental Stewardship: Bring up responsible land use and environmental conservation.
- ❖ Community Engagement: Engage the community in plantation activities, promoting social cohesion and pride.
- ❖ Community Development: Empower communities to come together, grow and thrive.
- ❖ Sustainable Impact: Create a positive, lasting impact on the environment and society.
- ❖ Education and Skills: Share knowledge and skills, promoting person growth and development.
- ❖ Kindness and Generosity: Inspire a culture of kindness and generosity spirit.

### **Underlying Principles/ Concept of Practice**

The concept of **Grow Together** and **Plant it Forward** represents a powerful metaphor for community engagement, environment sustainability and kindness. **Grow together** symbolizes collective growth and development in which we will grown the seedlings together. It encourages mutual support and learning from one another.

**Plant it Forward** represents the act of paying it forward and sharing resources in which we forward the well grown seedlings from students to local community. Plant it Forward symbolizes the potential for growth and positive impact on environment.

Together the concept promotes a cycle of seedling growth, sharing and kindness where students and community work together to build a sustainable ecological conservation model. The concept can be applied various aspects of life such as community awareness and environment conservation. By embracing the concept of **Grow Together** and **Plant it Forward** we can nurture a culture of collaboration, kindness and sustainability leading to positive outcomes for students, communities, environment and our Institute.

## **Contextual Features or Challenging Issues**

During this practice period some contextual feature or challenging issue we faced. The most contextual features or challenging we have faced is as follows:

- ❖ Sustainability: Ensuring long term viability and maintainance of the garden.
- ❖ Inclusivity: Encouraging participation from all community members, regardless of ability or background
- ❖ Funding: Securing consistent funding and grants to support the initiative.
- ❖ Available Space: Utilizing small or irregularly shaped space for making nursery.
- ❖ Pests and Diseases: Managing pests and diseases without harming the environment.
- ❖ Water Conservation: Implementing efficient irrigation systems and conserving water.
- ❖ Community Engagement: Maintaining community interest and involvement over time.
- ❖ Education and Training: Provide necessary skills and knowledge for successful plantation.
- ❖ Community Conflicts: Resolving conflicts or disagreements within the community.
- ❖ Scalability: Expanding the initiative while maintaining its effectiveness and integrity.

These contextual features and challenging issues can impact the success and effectiveness of the practice. By acknowledging and addressing these factors we can develop strategies to overcome obstacles and ensure positive outcome.





## The Practice

In the starting of education year 2023-24, the Department of Botany and Department of National Service Scheme (NSS) joined hands together and launched the activity "**Grow Together and Plant it Forward**" as a departmental Best Practice. The activity started from September, 2023. After making the strategies we started activity and firstly we conduct the making seedling bags project in collaboration with students of both departments. In this activity, a dedicated team of 50 student volunteers worked tirelessly to produce a total of 500 eco-friendly bags with filling soil, compost and sown seeds. In these bags we sowed the native plant which is endemic to our region. These bags were designed to be sustainable, durable and easily transportable. After that we distributed these bags to community members. Over 200 community members, including local residents and environmental enthusiasts, received bags from our institute to support sustainable conservation of nature. At that time our faculty member and students interact with community members and aware them about sustainable conservation and importance of plantation. The distribution event saw active participation from students, promoting a sense of community engagement and environmental responsibility. Remaining bags are put in our garden for grown up seedlings and to make nursery. After some days the seedlings are form and grown slowly. The seedlings maintained through daily watering and observation by volunteer students of both departments. The pest management of the seedlings was done by using some organics pesticides. In the month of January the plants in bags are ready to plantation. In the month of January we distribute the plants to volunteer students, and the volunteer students distribute the plants to local people and farmers to grow in their farm and garden. At that time above 100 endemic plants are distributed to community members. Community members like farmers and local peoples give tremendous response to **Grow Together and Plant it Forward** activity.

## Uniqueness of the Practice in the Context of Indian Higher Education

Here are some unique aspects of **Grow Together and Plant it Forward** in Indian higher education:

- ❖ **Experiential Learning:** Hands on plantation and conservation experience teaches students about science, nutrition; and sustainability in a practical way.
- ❖ **Interdisciplinary Approach:** Combines subjects like Botany, NSS and environmental science into a real world application.
- ❖ **Project Based Learning:** Encourages students to design plan and maintain their own nursery, developing problem solving and critical thinking skills.
- ❖ **Community Engagement:** Involves students in community service, promoting social responsibility and civic engagement.
- ❖ **Place Based Education:** Uses the school garden as a learning laboratory, connecting students to their surroundings and fostering a sense of place.

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- ❖ **Personalized Learning:** Allows students to explore individual interests and learning styles through nursery, plantation and sustainable conservation activities.
- ❖ **Cross Generational Mentoring:** Brings together students, teachers, and community members, promoting knowledge sharing and mutual learning.
- ❖ **Real World Application:** Connects academic concepts to real life scenarios, making learning more meaningful and relevant.
- ❖ **Development of Soft Skills:** Cultivates essential life skills like teamwork, communication and time management through gardening activities.
- ❖ **Emphasis on Sustainability:** Instills environmental awareness and responsibility, preparing students to address global challenges.

By incorporating these unique aspects, **Grow Together and Plant it Forward** in education provides a comprehensive and engaging learning experience that extends beyond the classroom.

### **Constraints of the Practice**

**Grow Together and Plant it Forward** can refer to various initiatives focused on sustainable environmental conservation. Constraints in such practice might include:

- ❖ **Limited Resources:** Insufficient funding, materials, or equipment.
- ❖ **Space Constraints:** Limited availability of garden space or suitable areas for making nursery.
- ❖ **Climate and Weather Limitations:** Extreme weather conditions, such as drought or heavy rainfall that affect plant growth.
- ❖ **Soil Quality and Availability:** Poor soil quality or lack of access to suitable soil.
- ❖ **Water Availability and Access:** Limited access to water or water restrictions.
- ❖ **Regulatory Constraints:** Local regulations or ordinances that restrict or govern gardening or nursery practices.
- ❖ **Time Constraints:** Limited time for participants to maintain and care for seedlings and nursery.
- ❖ **Knowledge and Skill Limitations:** Participants may lack nursery management expertise or experience.
- ❖ **Accessibility and Mobility Issues:** Participants may face physical barriers or mobility issues that limit their ability to participate.
- ❖ **Sustainability and Maintenance:** Ensuring the long-term sustainability and maintenance of the nursery after the initial planting.



## **Evidence of Success**

**Grow Together** and **Plant it Forward** activity was conducted during the period of September, 2023 to January, 2024. At the time of beginning the Department of Botany and the Department of NSS conduct seedling bags project and these bags distributed to the community members like local peoples and farmers and consult them how to grow seedlings, how to plantation the plants, importance of plantation, importance of conservation and many more things about conservation practices. The community member gave us good response and they collaborate with us, then we began the **Grow Together** and **Plant it Forward** initiative as a Departmental best practice. During this activity we focused on objectives and intended outcomes. Here some evidence of success of this activity as follows:

- ❖ **Increased Community Engagement:** During this activity participants and community member communicate together and work together hence the our major objective was successfully done.
- ❖ **Enhanced Education:** Students and community members share their knowledge and also gain a new skills and training about the conservation practices.
- ❖ **Environmental Benefits:** During this activity we distribute the endemic plant species which is benefitted for local environment and biodiversity.
- ❖ **Social Cohesion:** In this activity period we established new relationships and social connections between students and community members.
- ❖ **Replication and Expansion:** We successfully replicate the endemic plant species and expand this activity hand to hand.
- ❖ **Sustainability:** We achieve the goal of sustainability to distribute over 200 seedlings bags for grow together and at the ending time we forward over 100 plants for plantation to community members.
- ❖ **Conservation Awareness:** The local people understood and aware about sustainable environmental conservation practices.



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20	Vitthal Haruti Mali	BSC-II	V.uerli
21	Pranav Dinkar Bodgire	BSC - II	<del>P. Bodgire</del>
22	Bhagavan Appasaheb Yadav	BSC - II	<del>A. Yadav</del>
23	Rohan Balu Patil	BSC-II	<del>R. Patil</del>
24	Rutuja Vilas Mali	BSC-II	<del>Mali</del>
25	Anamika Nivas Karpe	B.A-I	<del>A. Karpe</del>
26	Amruta Vinod Kenger	B-A-I	<del>V. Kenger</del>
27	Poonam Shivaji Wagh	B.A-I	<del>P. Wagh</del>
28	Prachi Gulab Hakke	B.A.I	<del>P. Hakke</del>
29	Diksha Dilip Dhobale	B.A.I	D.D.DHOBALÉ
30	Shravan Dnyaneshwar Pathrat	B.A.I	<del>S. Pathrat</del>
31	Rutuja Balu Balugavade	B.C.M.I	R.B. Balugavade
32	Shital Santosh Chandanshikar	B.C.M.I	<del>S. Chandanshikar</del>
33	Sanika Shamrao Sapute	B.com.I	S.S. Sapute
34	Vaasha Santosh Shinde	B.Com.I	<del>V. Shinde</del>
36	Pragati Rajendra Kolekar	B.com.I	P.R. Kolekar
37	Sakshi Arvind Mane	B.SC-I	S.A. Mane
38	Sanika Ravasa Chaugule	B.SC-I	<del>S. Chaugule</del>
39	Hasmata Vishwas Bhosale	B.SC-I	<del>H. Bhosale</del>
40	Swapnali Mahendra Sabale	B.A-I	S.M. Sabale
41	Asin Paigambar Mujawar	B.A-I	<del>A.P. Mujawar</del>
42	Shweta Sanjay Bhosale	B.A.I	S.S. Bhosale
43	Koshti Grushti Anil	B. <sup>Com. I</sup> A.I	<del>S.A. Koshti</del>
44	Sakshi Madhukar Chalake	B.com-I	<del>S. Chalake</del>
45	Jagtap Pratikta Machindra	B.com-I	<del>J. Machindra</del>

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### **Problems Encountered and Resources Required**

During the activity of **Grow Together** and **Plant it Forward**, we faced number of problems and lack of resources. The first problem we faced is funding. For implementation of this Initiative was costly like purchasing seedling bags, purchasing equipments, availability of soil and compost. These problems encountered by our college development committee, they communicate the stakeholders and collect the funds for this activity. After collection of funds we registered the volunteer students from Department of Botany and Department of NSS. Registration of students is very challenging thing which was done by NSS Program Officer. The volunteer students have no idea and knowledge about the initiative. The faculty members of both departments conduct a seminar for students to understand the initiative. The next issue was lack of required and proper space. The volunteer students make a space for nursery in garden area and space problem is solved. We also faced the some environmental challenges like climate change, transition period of seasons, soil contamination due to natural microorganism, pest and disease and extreme weather events. These problems tackled by different nursery management practices with the help of students, community members and faculty members. In this initiative the major problem is the community engagement. There is limited community members interested in it and they should not ready to participate in this initiative. For solving this problem we communicate the local farmer group and consult them about the initiative and its positive approach, then they ready to participate in the activity of **Grow Together** and **Plant it Forward**.



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Shikshan Prasarak Sanstha's  
Padmabhushan Vasantodada Patil Mahavidyalaya,  
KavatheMahankal

DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY & NSS  
Participated Student Attendance

Name of Activity: Grow Together and Plant it Forward  
Day & Date: Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> September, 2023.



Sr. No.	Name of Student	Class	Sign
1	Bhosale Snehal Manohar	BSc. II	Bhosale
2	Tone snehal vitthal	BSC. II	Tone
3	Khot Vrushali Ramhari	BSc. II	Khot
4	Craikwad Riya Ravindra	BSC II	Craikwad
5	Patil Varsha Vinod	B.Sc II	Patil
6	Dukandar Ashwini Ankush.	B.Sc II	A.A. Dukandar
7	Khobare Rutuja Shrikant	B.Sc. II	Khobare
8	Lazeena Afjal Tamboli	B.Sc II	L. Tamboli
9	Lokhande Jaywardhan Vijay	B.Sc II	Lokhande
10	Bhosale satyajit Pratap	B.sc II	Bhosale
11	Bansode Sumit Shivkumar	B.Sc II	Bansode
12	patole vaishnavi Jagannath	B.sc II	Patole
13	Shinde Shubhangi Jagannath	B.sc - II	Shinde
14	patole sanjana Sambhaji	B.Sc - II	Patole
15	chougule Aparna Nathaji	B.sc - II	A.N. Chougule
16	Kodag Prajakta Sanjay	B.S.C-II	Kodag
17	shubhangi Prakash Bhosale	B.sc II	Bhosale
18	Omkar vishwas Karande	B.sc II	Omkar
19	Bhosale vishwajit Kiran	B.sc II	Bhosale

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46	Renuko Suresh Borkar	B. SC - II	R.S. Borkar.
47	Vaishnavi Shivaji shinde	B. SC - II	<del>shinde</del>
48	Sanika Shubhash Mane	B. SC - II	S.S. Mane.
49	Minal kumar Patil	B. SC - II	<del>M.K. Patil</del>
50	Shraddha shrikant Koshti	B. SC - II	<del>shrikant</del>



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**Photographs  
Grow Together and Plant it Forward Activity**

