



7.2 Best Practices

Best Practice 1


1. Title of the Practice:

Haritham Amrutham Drive

2. Objectives of the practice

The institution has initiated 'Haritham Amrutham' to champion its vision of promoting biodiversity preservation and sustainable lifestyles, aiming to curb habitat destruction and overexploitation of natural resources. Key objectives include raising awareness about ecological challenges, preventing ecological degradation, nurturing an ecologically sensitive generation, and advocating eco-ethics and eco-justice. This initiative integrates sustainability by encouraging organic farming and traditional agricultural practices among students and the local community, with the goal of transforming the campus into a zero-carbon emission zone. Additionally, 'Haritham Amrutham' focuses on preserving surrounding wetlands, converting biodegradable waste into manure for a hygienic environment, and enhancing public awareness about biodiversity's value. The program's motto underscores that biodiversity preservation is not optional but an urgent necessity for the planet's future, emphasizing collective responsibility for a harmonious coexistence between humans and nature.

3. The Context


Dr. (Dr.) Gimsuri D. Parambil
Principal
St. Xavier's College Vaikom
Kothavara P.O. 586617


Biodiversity conservation, crucial for our health, economy, and overall well-being, involves safeguarding the variety of species, habitats, ecosystems, and genetic diversity on Earth. It is integral to development sectors and mitigates climate change impacts. Preserving habitats reduces carbon dioxide emissions, and protecting coastal ecosystems like mangroves helps counteract effects such as flooding. Biodiverse ecosystems act as natural filters, purifying air and water, regulating climate, and sustaining fertile soils. Forests, wetlands, and coral reefs provide natural defence against floods and erosion, safeguarding communities. Overall, biodiversity preservation is essential for the stability, resilience, and sustainability of life on Earth.

4. The Practice

The initiative engages in various programs to raise awareness about biodiversity preservation in Vaikom Taluk. This includes awareness campaigns, surveys, and door-to-door distribution of handouts. The institution supports local agricultural promotion, waste management, anti-plastic campaigns, and social auditing. To achieve goals, the "Green Volunteers" group, along with NSS and NCC members, leads anti-plastic and cleaning drives. The college dedicates areas for a Mangrove Garden, Butterfly Garden, Medicinal Plant Garden, and Aquatic Plants Garden, emphasizing water channel preservation and biodiversity conservation. Organic farming and eco-friendly agricultural practices are also promoted on campus.

5. Evidence of Success

Biodiversity preservation, inherently complex to measure directly, is closely tied to the attitudes and actions of the youth and local residents. Recognizing this, initiatives include an annual survey



among local dwellers to gauge their understanding, awareness, and engagement in biodiversity conservation. Assessing community perspectives and behaviours helps tailor effective conservation strategies and enhances their involvement in preserving biodiversity.

6. Problems Encountered and Resources Required

A notable limitation of current performance measurement systems is their dependence on internal self-assessments. To bolster credibility with stakeholders, implementing independent verification and audit systems is essential. These external mechanisms offer unbiased evaluations, ensuring transparency and enhancing organizational credibility.

Best Practice 2

1. Title of the Practice:

Sujalam Vembanad Drive

2. Objectives of the practice

The institution's "Sujalam Vembanad Drive" actively engages students and local residents in the eco-restoration of Vembanad Lake, a globally recognized Ramsar site. This initiative focuses on eliminating water pollution and preserving fisheries, safeguarding wetland ecosystems, promoting sustainable development, and protecting diverse plant and animal species. Vembanad Lake, acting as a crucial habitat and nursery, serves as a transitional ecotone between the sea and land. The primary objective is to garner public support for maintaining the lake's cleanliness, while also promoting sustainable practices like responsible tourism, eco-friendly agriculture, and lake-friendly fishing techniques in the surrounding areas. The drive underscores the significance of preserving the


Dr. (Dr.) Gimsuri D. Paramath
Principal
St. Xavier's College Vaikom
Kothavara P.O. 686617

ecological balance and biodiversity of wetlands. Actively involving students and local communities, it aims to raise awareness and foster collective efforts in conserving Vembanad Lake and its surrounding wetlands, contributing positively to Ramsar site conservation and the sustainable development of the region.

3. The Context

Vembanad Lake in Kerala, the largest lake in India and a Ramsar site, boasts diverse habitats like marshes, backwaters, and mangrove forests. This ecosystem harbours a rich array of plant and animal species, including endangered birds. Crucial for flood control and protection against coastal erosion, the lake was designated a Ramsar Site in 2002. As the institution is situated on its bank, preserving Vembanad Lake is a top priority. Safeguarding this ecosystem ensures long-term sustainability, benefiting biodiversity, climate change mitigation, water resource management, and the well-being of both nature and humanity.

4. The Practice

This comprehensive drive focuses on youth, local residents, houseboat owners, tourists, and fisherfolk communities, conducting awareness programs, surveys, and distributing handouts. The institution's Green Volunteers actively plant mangroves, collaborate with Clean Vembanad Organization for bank conservation, and conduct annual anti-plastic drives. Releasing fingerlings into Vembanad Lake since 2019 contributes to biodiversity preservation. Faculty and students actively participate in lake protection, awareness campaigns, and social auditing. Engaging the college community and stakeholders fosters collective responsibility for Vembanad Lake's conservation. Through the Green Volunteers and institutional support,

these initiatives aim to positively impact the lake's ecological well-being and promote sustainable development in the region.

5. Evidence of Success

This drive focuses on youth, residents, houseboat owners, tourists, and fisherfolk through awareness programs, surveys, and handouts. Green Volunteers plant mangroves, collaborate with Clean Vembanad Organization, and conduct anti-plastic drives. Since 2019, releasing fingerlings into Vembanad Lake aids biodiversity preservation. Faculty and students actively participate in lake protection, awareness campaigns, and social auditing. Engaging the college community and stakeholders fosters collective responsibility for Vembanad Lake's conservation. Through Green Volunteers and institutional support, these initiatives aim to positively impact the lake's ecological well-being and promote sustainable development in the region.

6. Problems Encountered and Resources Required

. Current performance measurement systems often rely on internal self-assessments, potentially lacking objectivity and introducing biases. To bolster credibility and transparency with stakeholders, it is essential to implement additional independent verification and audit systems, ensuring a more comprehensive and unbiased evaluation.



Dr. (Dr.) Gimsiri D. Parambil
Principal
at Xavier's College Valiam
Kothavara P.O. 586617

7.2

BEST PRACTICES

HARITHAM AMRUTHAM

Green Protocol



ST. XAVIER'S COLLEGE VAIKOM

GREEN PROTOCOL

LET'S WORK TOGETHER TO KEEP OUR PLANET GREEN AND CLEAN

BE MINDFUL OF WATER USAGE

CHOOSE WALKING, CYCLING, CAR-POOLING WHENEVER POSSIBLE. REDUCE EMISSIONS AND PROMOTE CLEANER AIR.

JOIN TREE-PLANTING INITIATIVES TO CREATE A GREENER ENVIRONMENT.

CHOOSE ORGANIC PRODUCTS TO REDUCE THE CARBON FOOTPRINT

ENCOURAGE RECYCLING AT SOURCE

TURN OFF LIGHTS AND ELECTRONICS WHEN NOT IN USE

AVOID USE AND THROW PLASTIC CARRY BAGS

USE ECO-FRIENDLY PRODUCTS

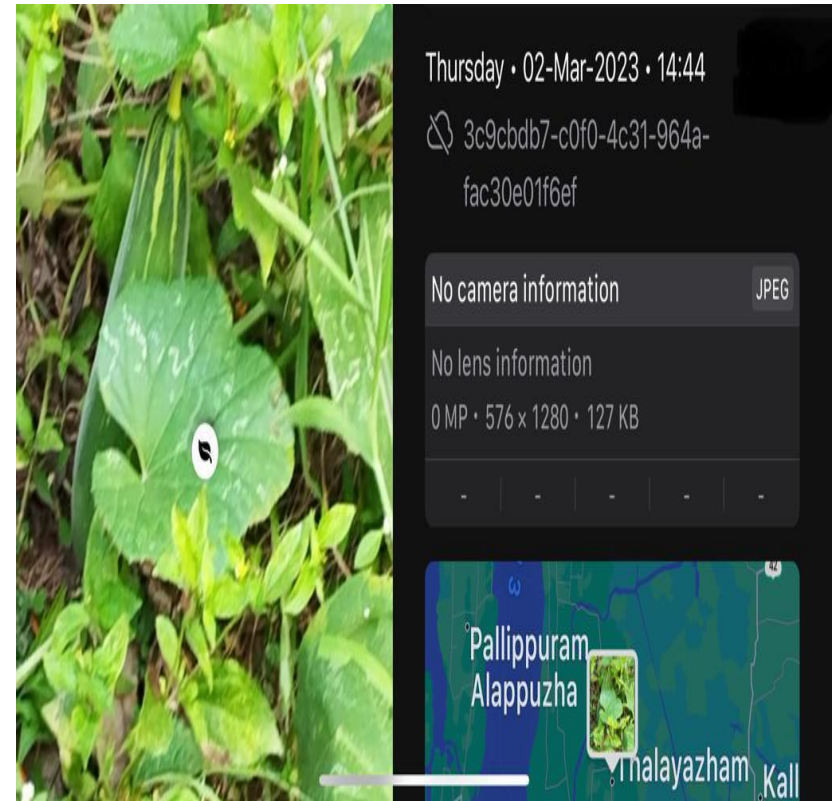
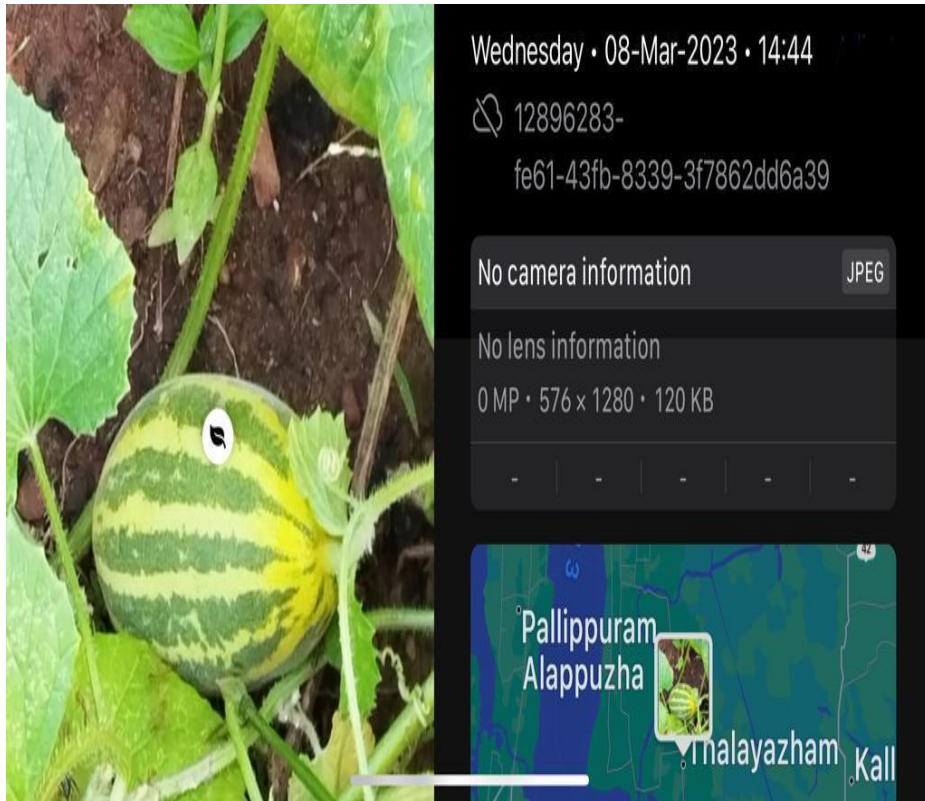
ADOPT ENERGY-EFFICIENT PRACTICES.

Save
THE EARTH



GREEN INITIATIVES

Organic Farming



Organic Farming



Thursday • 16-Mar-2023 • 14:44

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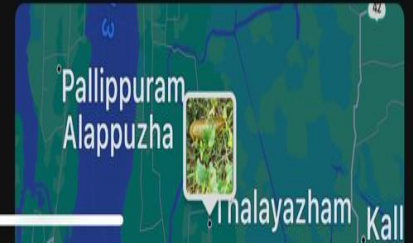
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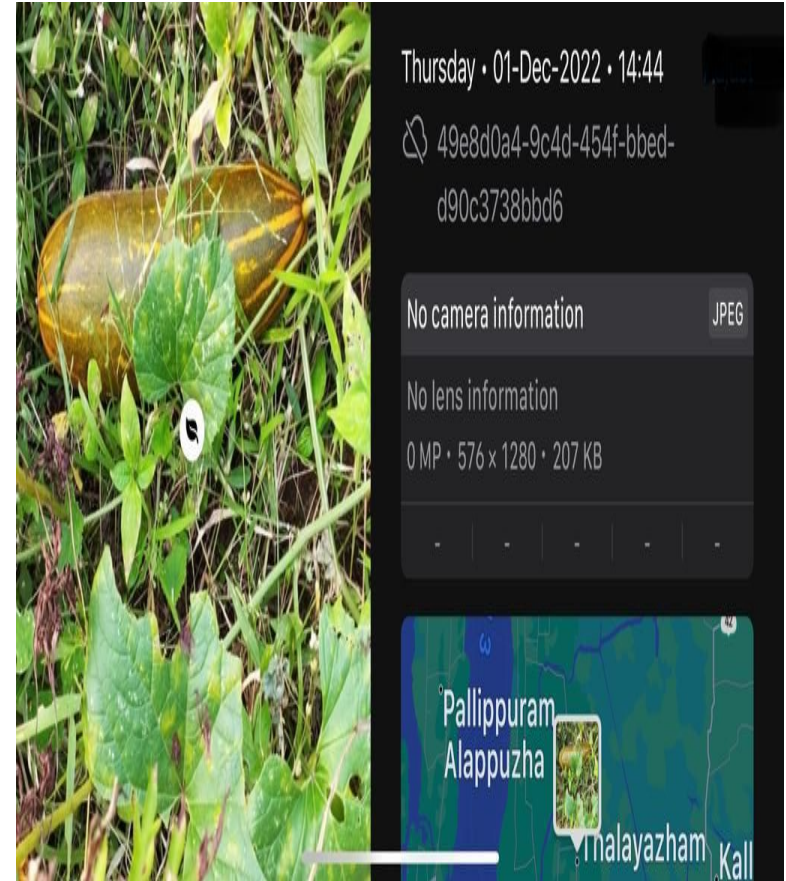
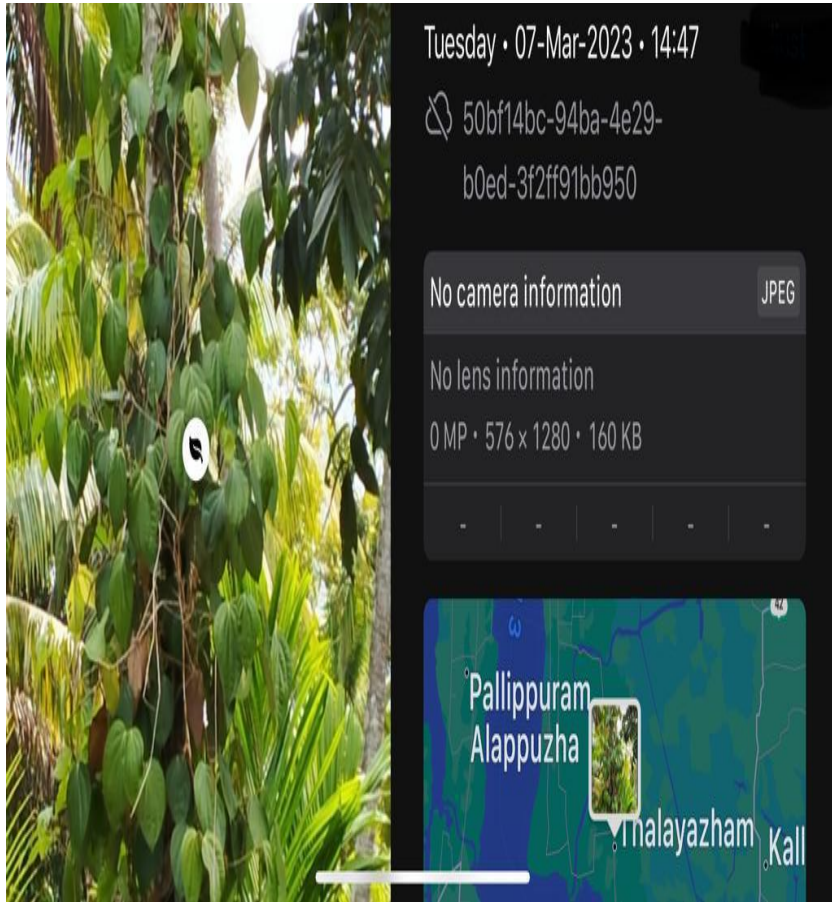
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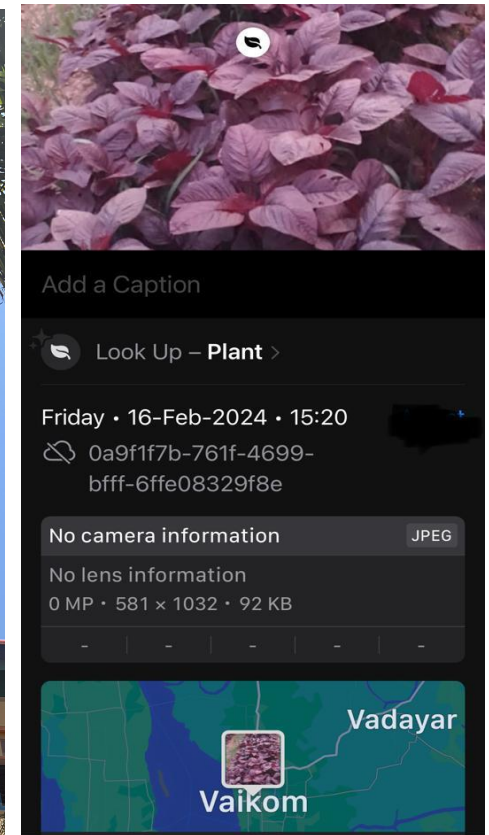
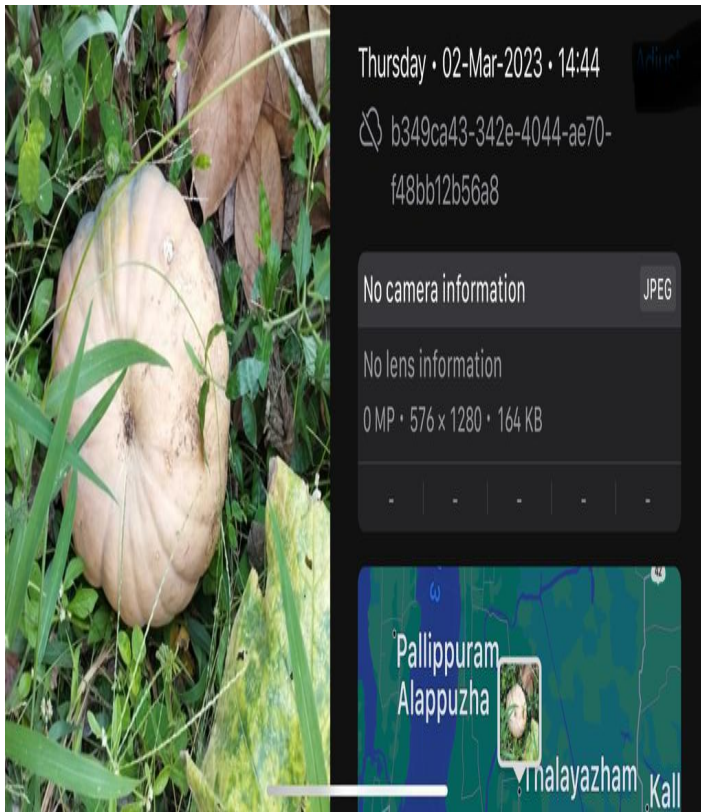
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Organic Farming



Organic Farming



Flora and Fauna



Flora



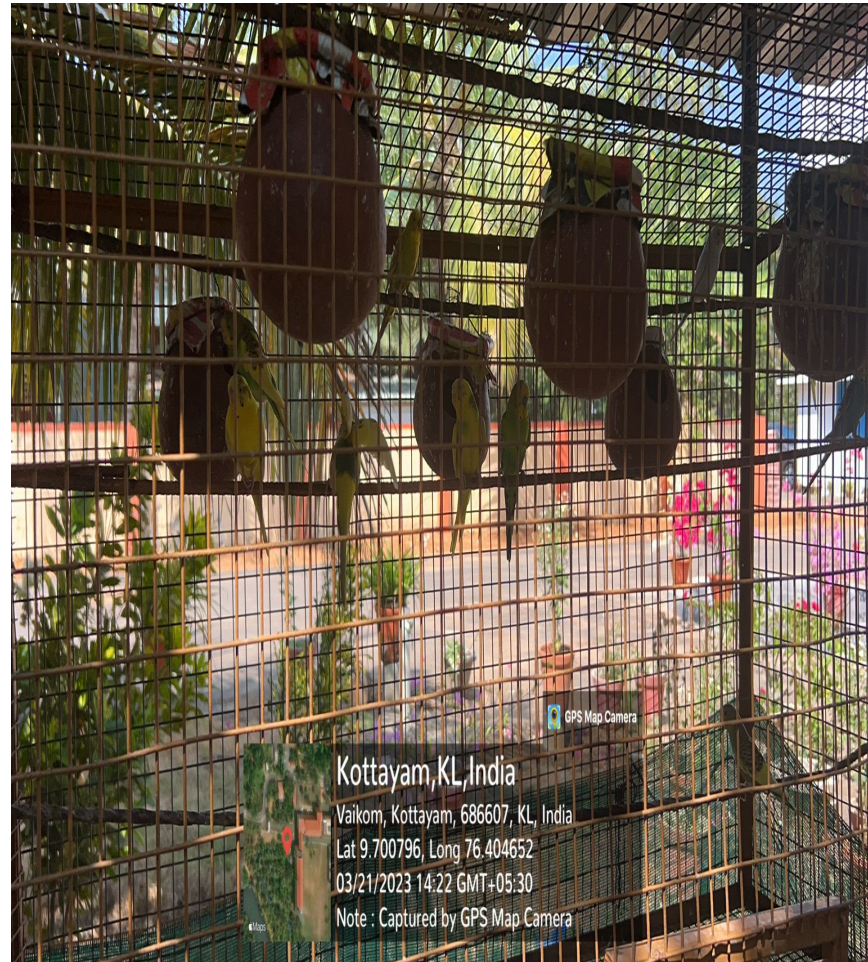
Flora



Flora



Fauna



Fauna



GREEN VEGETATION





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GPS Map Camera

Kottayam, KL, India

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Green vegetation





GPS Map Camera

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WATER BODIES and PISCICULTURE

