



## **G. Venkataswamy Naidu College (Autonomous), Kovilpatti**

### **Department of Botany**

### **Departmental Policy Document**

#### **1. Vision**

To provide knowledge and skills that contribute to the sustainable utilization, conservation, and scientific understanding of the Plant Biosphere.

#### **2. Mission**

- To foster excellence in teaching and learning by providing a comprehensive curriculum in plant sciences that enhances knowledge, skills, and technical competency.
- To inculcate research aptitude and scientific reasoning for employment and higher studies in biological sciences.
- To promote environmental awareness, sustainability, and ethical responsibility through botanical education.
- To strengthen interdisciplinary learning that connects plant science with environmental, agricultural, and biotechnological fields.

#### **3. Curriculum and Course Design**

- The department follows the syllabus designed under the Outcome-Based Education (OBE) framework prescribed by the affiliating university.
- Curriculum delivery is aligned with clearly defined Programme Educational Objectives (PEOs), Programme Specific Outcomes (PSOs), and Programme Outcomes (POs).
- Continuous curriculum revision is undertaken through the Board of Studies to incorporate recent advancements in plant sciences, ecology, and biotechnology.

#### **4. Teaching-Learning Process**

- Utilizes ICT-enabled methods such as PowerPoint presentations, virtual lab demonstrations, and digital herbarium databases.

- Encourages participatory and experiential learning through field studies, botanical excursions, and project-based learning.
- Conducts seminars, quizzes, and group discussions to enhance student engagement and critical thinking.
- Adopts inclusive learning strategies to cater to students with diverse academic abilities.

## **5. Faculty Development**

- Faculty members are encouraged to participate in Faculty Development Programmes (FDPs), Refresher Courses, and Workshops on pedagogy, research, and biodiversity conservation.
- Staff are motivated to pursue MOOC Courses, publish in Scopus & UGC CARE-listed journals, and collaborate on funded research projects.
- The department promotes active participation in research institution such as the ATREE and other academic forums.

## **6. Research and Publications**

- Faculty and students undertake mini-projects, herbarium documentation, and biodiversity studies on local flora.
- The department encourages faculty to publish research papers, book chapters, and review articles in reputed journals.
- Collaborative and interdisciplinary research initiatives are promoted in the areas of plant taxonomy, physiology, and environmental biology.

## **7. Co-curricular and Extension Activities**

- The Botanical Association organizes lectures, quiz competitions, and exhibitions to promote awareness of plant science.
- Field visits to research institutes, botanical gardens, and conservation centers are arranged regularly.
- Observes World Environment Day, World Wetlands Day, and Ozone Day to instill ecological consciousness.
- Conducts outreach programmes for local schools and rural communities on environmental sustainability and medicinal plant awareness.

## **8. Student Support**

- Remedial coaching and peer mentoring are provided for slow learners.
- Students are guided for higher studies, research fellowships, and competitive examinations.
- The department maintains a mentor-mentee system to monitor academic progress and provide career counselling.
- Laboratory safety training and hands-on sessions are organized to ensure technical proficiency.

## **9. Gender Sensitivity and Inclusivity**

- Promotes women's participation in botanical research, biodiversity conservation, and green entrepreneurship.
- Organizes awareness programmes on gender equity and environmental justice.
- Ensures equal opportunity and inclusivity in all academic, research, and extension activities.

## **10. Continuous Improvement and Feedback**

- Feedback on curriculum, teaching methods, and laboratory facilities is collected from students every semester.
- Feedback analysis and action-taken reports are discussed in departmental meetings and submitted to IQAC for continuous improvement.
- Stakeholder feedback (alumni, faculty, and industry experts) is utilized during Board of Studies revisions.

## **11. Best Practice**

The department's "Campus Green Initiative" — focusing on plant identification and Installs QR code on trees to aid learning — is recognized as a best practice. This initiative integrates environmental stewardship with student participation and research-based learning.

The department's another best practice is the "Earn While You Learn" initiative, through which students integrate entrepreneurship with academic

learning by establishing a college company named '*Padaippukoodai*'. Under this initiative, Botany students design, produce, and sell plant-based eco-friendly products—such as organic fertilizers, herbal powders, seed balls, and ornamental plants—to students, staff, and local community members.

This innovative venture provides students with hands-on experience in entrepreneurship, product development, and marketing, while nurturing self-reliance, creativity, and environmental awareness. The “College Company – Padaippukoodai” not only promotes sustainable living but also stands as a model of experiential learning and social responsibility within the institution.