



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.