

TERRACE FARMING PROJECT, KALAMASSERY



Annual Report 2017-18

Submitted to:

Apollo Tyre Foundation

Implemented by:

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INTRODUCTION

Gardening is an extremely satisfying hobby. Gardeners find that anything they plant and nurture become their babies, be it trees, shrubs or even lawns. But for sheer back-to-nature fulfilment, it's hard to beat the vegetable growing aspect of gardening. The terrace farming of vegetables is a good way out, but one should adopt scientific and specified practices for good results. Our objective was to promote homestead organic farming in the households of community for food safety.

A pre-project study was conducted on Ward XI and Ward XII. On the basis of the inputs from the study, 85 beneficiaries were selected for doing organic farming at their households. The beneficiaries were provided with 35 grow bags. In the year 2016-17, the project was extended to Ward XII with an addition of 50 beneficiaries to our project.

OBJECTIVE

To promote homestead organic farming in the households of community for food safety.

DESCRIPTION

In 2017- 2018 Project, 52 households were selected from the existing terrace farming beneficiaries of both Ward VII and Ward VIII of Kalamassery Municipality to continue Organic Farming. Selection of the beneficiaries based on the criteria such as genuine interest in farming, willingness to follow given method of farming, availability of space, sunlight etc. Vegetables were selected considering the seasonal preference and local interest which includes lady's finger, Brinjal, pea, chilly, amaranthas, tomato Cabbage, Cauliflower, Cucumber, White Gourd, Snake Gourd etc. All types of guidance were provided for various farming activities. One technical assistant visited all the houses periodically and guided them in farming process. A helpline (telephone) was maintained by TIES for answering queries and giving instructions on farming practices.



Project Assistant used to visit each households once in a week. Guidance was provided whenever required. Regular visit to households helped in raising their interest towards organic farming. It also helped us resolving their issues on time. Helpline service was also maintained by TIES for answering queries and given instructions on farming practices. An expert from TIES visited selected households once in every quarter. Representatives from ATF also visited few households and evaluated the status of Terrace Farming. Facility centre was open three days in a week. Saplings, seeds, organic fertilizers and all required items for running Terrace Farming were distributed

through Facility centre. Variety of vegetables was chosen based on seasonal preference and beneficiaries' interest.

Sapling distribution was conducted in May, September and January. Quarterly meeting were conducted with the farmers to discuss the problems and concerns, and to provide suggestions for resolving the issue. They were provided with periodical training on the techniques of organic farming. An exhibition was conducted in January and March for the terrace farming beneficiaries, where they could sell and purchase the organic produce.



Total yield produced till March from all the beneficiaries is **1091.12 Kg**.

CHALLENGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- Majority of the farmers follow our technique, but few beneficiaries always used to incorporate their ideas with our technique which usually affects result.
- Sufficiently grown saplings are provided each time we distribute saplings. However, any delay in replacing the saplings to grow bags will affect its growth. Every time, we distribute saplings, delay in planting saplings is observed in many households.
- Seasonal variations affect growth and production of vegetables.
- It is very difficult to maintain sustainable participation of the community. The disinterest in this type of activities is a prevailing phenomenon in the urban areas.

CONCLUSION

Organic farming is the only solution to curb the consumption of poison food. Household farming has several other advantages too, such as it provides greenery in the home yard and offers avenues good physical exercise for the residents. The Terrace Farming project supported these notions and achieved success in majority of the houses.