

## ***REPORT OF ACTIVITIES UNDER MoU BETWEEN ALL SAINTS' COLLEGE AND KALLEN POKKUDAN MANGROVE TREE TRUST-***

### ***OUTREACH PROGRAMME OF ALL SAINTS' COLLEGE AT POONTHURA***

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#### ***Back ground of the current Project***

The main idea of plantation of mangroves at Poonthura was presented to Dr. Deepa.M., Principal, All Saints' College by Dr. Jayakrishnan Divakaran, IEEE (IQAC-Industry). Further discussions with Dr. Sherly Williams and Dr. Sabu Joseph of Department of Environmental Sciences, Karyavattam and Mr. Anandan Pokkudan of Kallen Pokkudan Mangrove Tree Trust, Kannur gave the idea of initiating an outreach programme at Poonthura coastal belt which was an Ockhi hit region and best fit for mangrove plantation.

#### ***Site selection for present outreach programme & Importance of Mangroves***

Mangroves in Kerala are unique ecosystems, extremely rich in biodiversity, growing along the inter-tidal coastal habitats such as shorelines, estuaries and backwaters. Mangroves in Kerala is regarded as the most diverse growth of Mangroves in India. Other major places of Mangroves in India are Pichavaram in Tamilnadu and Sundarbans in West Bengal.

The thick and continuous growth of Mangroves is strong. Mangroves in India act as barriers against cyclones and tsunamis (Mangroves in India evidenced in their important role in reducing the impact of the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami), prevent coastal erosion, and maintain inland water quality by acting as a filter that prevents seawater intrusion.

Eventhough mangrove plantation and propagation were much prominent in Northern Kerala under the leadership of Mr. Kallen Pokkudan, limited mangrove plantations were seen in the south. Efforts to enhance mangrove plantations in the Alappuzha coast along the southern region of Kerala were prominent in the recent times. So, an outreach activity in an area like Poonthura which was affected by Ockhi that hit the Kerala coast during December 2017 and the Tsunami that hit the Indian Coast during December 2004, will ensure long term benefits to the community.

#### ***Report of first meeting on 28.01.2021 at Principals room, All Saints' College***

The preliminary meeting was held at Principal's room, All Saints' College on 28.01.2021. The meeting started at 9.00 AM with a silent prayer. Principal of the College, Dr. Deepa. M., presided the meeting. The technical experts invited for the meeting were Dr. Sabu Joseph and Dr. Sherly Williams of Department of Environmental Sciences, Karyavattom, along with

members of faculty from both the departments of Environmental Sciences and Botany, of the college. Dr. Sabu Joseph shared the views on mangrove plantation initiated at Arattupuzha coast by the Department of Environmental Sciences, Kariavattom as an outreach programme. Dr. Sherly Williams briefed about the technical aspects of mangrove plantation and how to maintain and protect it for a period of five years. She also mentioned about the importance of Mangroves and how it can act as a natural bioshield against frequent storm surges in coastal areas. Ensuring community involvement and participation was also discussed. All members opined that, Involving students of nearby schools and colleges will be an additional support for the program in imparting experiential learning platforms to students and thereby understanding the importance of community outreach services. The School of Life Sciences – Dept. of Environmental Sciences, Botany and Zoology were assigned the responsibility to manage this major outreach project. The Principal authorised Dr. Reshma.J.K., Asst. Professor and Head, Department of Environmental Sciences, All Saints' College to be the Coordinator of the program. Next meeting with the Parish priest and Church officials of Poonthura parish, ward councillor and local residents were also fixed for 04.02.2021.

Meeting concluded with the following key thoughts to be further analysed by the Management of All Saints' College, Thiruvananthapuram.

- 1) An outreach programme of planting mangroves in a coastal area like Poonthura which was affected by Ockhi that hit the Kerala coast during December 2017 and the Tsunami that hit the Indian Coast during December 2004, will last longer and provide larger societal benefits in future.
- 2) Community outreach Services to be made as part of curriculum and should offer Experiential learning platforms to students, so that they will become socially committed citizens in future.
- 3) Innovation models of conservation and environmental sustainability of this kind will encourage and motivate the students to take up field based activities and be a part of environmental protection activities in future.

Further discussion with Mother Mary Frances, Manager, Joseph J Inchoodey, Advisor, Sr. Belinda Pereira, Director and heads of all departments of the college, on the same day, further reinstated that the activities can go on and promised assistance from their end.

  
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### *Minutes of the second meeting held on 04.02.2021 at Poonthura Parish Conference Hall*

The proposed plantation of mangroves at Poonthura coast was the main agenda of the second meeting which was organised at the parish conference hall, Poonthura at 10:00 a.m. on 04.02.2021.

The second meeting was presided over by the parish priest of Poonthura parish Fr. Dr. Edison. Faculty members and experts in this area, Dr. Sabu Joseph and Dr. Sherly Williams from Department of Environmental Sciences, Karyavattam along with members of faculty from All Saints' College, Dr Reshma.J.K. (Co-ordinator of the project), Dr. Cinthya Christopher (Faculty representative from Botany Department) and Dr Sini G Benjamin (Faculty representative from Zoology Department) and management representatives, Dr. Sr. Shaina T J (Asst. Professor, Department of Botany) and Sr. Nancy (Librarian) were present during the meeting. Also, the Councillor of Poonthura, Ms. Mary Jipsy Maya was also an invited member for the meeting.



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Meeting started with a prayer by Fr. Dr. Edison. He also summarised the background of the program and the activities to be initiated in the Poonthura coast. Dr. Sabu Joseph gave a detailed explanation of the Action plan to be implemented along with people's participation in the area. He also cited examples of village adoption programme and outreach programmes which were successfully implemented under the Innovative programme schemes funded by by University of Kerala. One outstanding achievement was the mangrove plantation at Arattupuzha coast by the Department of Environmental Sciences, Kariavattom which was successfully implemented by the Kallen Pokkudan Mangrove Tree Trust by the active participation of students and by the support of local residents. To ensure people's participation, it was decided to conduct an awareness session including technical experts and members from Kallen Pokkudan Tree Trust.

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Dr Shirley Williams gave a detailed account of maintenance and propagation of mangroves over time, and the long term benefits it offer to the community. Student involvement in mangrove plantation and other coastal cleanup activities were also assured by faculty of the College. As per discussion, Parish Priest and Councillor opined that Plastic pollution was one of the major problems which are faced by the coastal community and that should be studied along with the current project.

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**NAME AND SIGNATURE OF MEMBERS PRESENT**

1. Fr. Dr. Edison
2. Ms. Mary Jipsy Maya
3. Dr. Sabu Joseph
4. Dr. Sherly Williams
5. Dr. Sr. Shaina T J
6. Sr. Nancy
7. Dr. Reshma J K
8. Dr. Cinthya Christopher
9. Dr. Sini G Benjamin

After the preliminary discussions in the conference hall, the team went to visit the areas planned for mangrove plantation which was located towards the left and right side of the parish. The area identified was near the sea wall which was installed by the government to prevent storm surges. The team walked together towards the right side of the parish for around one kilometer.



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The main matters discussed are as follows:

- 1) Clean up of the area prior to plantation of mangroves along the road side.
- 2) Ensuring grilled covers for the mangrove saplings after plantation.
- 3) Plantation of coconut saplings at regular intervals adjacent to mangrove plantation, in order to generate a sense of belonging to the local residents.
- 4) Outreach programmes and awareness sessions to be conducted related to mangrove plantation and solid waste disposal.

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- 5) Installation of dust bins at specific intervals.
- 6) Training sessions to be conducted for women in the locality about the manufacture of paper bags and cloth bags from discarded paper and textile waste.

An effort was also made to meet the local residents and to collect the first hand opinion of the local residents regarding the plantation activity which is planned for the area. Majority had an opinion that bioshields like this has to be planted because the future generations will be benefited.

Team members discussed the future plan of organizing a meeting in the locality on a convenient date within a week, to discuss about the importance of plantation of mangroves in the coastal belt and ensuring people participation for the same, with necessary support of the Ward Councillor. It was also decided to bring the community leaders along with the Kallen Pokkudan Mangrove trust authorities and the technical experts from various fields to talk to the local residents and give opinion about their concerns about the activity.

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#### Organising Committee

Rev. Mother Mary Frances, Manager  
Sr. Belinda Pereira, Director  
Dr. Deepa M., Principal  
Dr. Sr. Shaina T.J. and Sr. Nancy Wimal, Management Representatives  
Dr. Reshma J.K., Co-ordinator and Convenor  
Dr. Cinthya Christopher and Dr. D. Sherly, Co-convenors

An awareness session was also organised on 18.02.2021 to give awareness regarding the plantation activity which was planned on 19.02.2021. The team from All Saints' College representing School of life Sciences and the management representatives of the college organised the meeting with the parish priest as convenor. The technical experts from University of Kerala and from Kallen Pokkudan mangrove tree trust interacted with the audience and clarified all the doubts of the local residents. Nearly 100 people participated in this session.

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Fr.Edison, Parish priest welcoming the gathering



Dr. Sherly Williams interacting with participants

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Dr.Sabu Joseph interacting with participants

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Team inspecting the proposed site for plantation scheduled on 19.02.2021



**Major Outreach Project  
Organized by  
School of Life Sciences  
All Saints' College  
Mangrove Plantation Program  
at Poonthura coast  
10:00 AM, 19.02.2021**

**Why mangrove planting?**

The dense root systems of mangrove forests trap sediments flowing down rivers and off the land. This helps stabilize the coastline and prevents erosion from waves and storms. In areas where mangroves have been cleared, coastal damage from hurricanes and typhoons is much more severe. Mangrove conservation efforts are largely aimed at preventing destruction of mangrove ecosystems, and increasing coverage.

**Programme**

Welcome- *Dr. Deepa, M, Principal, All Saints' College*  
 Brief Overview of the Project- *Dr. Reshma, J. K, Head, Department of Environmental Sciences, All Saints' College and Co-Ordinator*  
 Presidential Address- *Rev. Mother Mary Frances, Manager, All Saints' College*  
 Inaugural Address- *Smt. Arya Rajendram, Hon. Mayor, Thiruvananthapuram Corporation*  
 Felicitations  
 + *Rev. Fr. Dr. Edison Y. M, Parish Priest, Poonthura Parish*  
 + *Ms. Mary Jissy, Councillor, Poonthura*  
 + *Mr. Sreejith Paithalen, Kallen Pokkudan Mangrove Tree Trust, Kannur*  
 Vote of Thanks- *Dr. Cinthya Christopher, Head, Department of Botany*

**Organizing committee**

*Rev. Mother Mary Frances, Manager*  
*Sr. Infelda Teresa, Director*  
*Dr. Deepa, M., Principal*  
*Dr. Dr. Shalea, T. I and Sr. Mary Ward, Management Assistant*  
*Dr. Reshma, J. K, Co-Ordinator and Convener*  
*Dr. Cinthya Christopher and Dr. D. Sherry, Co-conveners*  
*Dr. Nikha K K*  
*Dr. Anura Jayadev*  
*Dr. Smitha Kabi V*  
*Mrs. Rajee V*  
*Dr. Chandralekshy T. R*  
*Dr. Shy D Benjamin*  
*Mrs. Jeyasri (NIP)*

  
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All Saints' College, Thiruvananthapuram in its project on extending environmental outreach services selected Okhi affected Poonthura shoreline to develop Biofencing against wave surge. In this rare initiative, a team including College Management and the School of Life Sciences (Research Centre and Post Graduate Department of Environmental Sciences, Department of Botany and Department of Zoology) started planting a Mangrove vegetation in the Poonthura Coast which was affected by the recent Ockhi and severe stormsurges in the area. The management of All Saints' felt that a Biowall using mangrove will help solve this problem and provide long-term solution. Mangrove saplings were planted along the coast line of 2 kilometres. The five day long plantation activity was sponsored by the Management of All Saints' College with the technical support of Department of Environmental Sciences, University of Kerala and Kallen Pokkudan Mangrove Tree Trust, Kannur. The project was officially inaugurated by Ms. Arya Rajendran, Honourable Mayor, Thiruvananthapuram Corporation in a meeting which was presided over by Rev. Mother Mary Frances, Manager, All Saints' College. Dr. Deepa M., Principal, Management representatives, Faculty of School of Life Sciences and students attended the project launching function which was held on 19.02.2021. The project activities coordinated by Dr. Reshma J.K., Head, Department of Environmental Sciences, and co-coordinated Dr. Cynthia Christopher, Head, Department of Botany and Dr. Sherly D, Assistant Professor, Department of Zoology will be Co-coordinators for the same. Students of the college were offered hands on training experience on plantation of Mangroves during these days. Awareness sessions were also arranged for the local residents on importance of Mangroves and the need for protection. This plantation which is initiated now is a long term project which involves activities throughout the year. The Mangrove has to be preserved properly for four to five years until it reaches full growth. This Mangrove will help reduce pollution by absorbing toxicants from the surrounding areas, also act as effective carbon sinks,

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sequestering vast amounts of carbon. Once fully grown, these spectacular and prolific ecosystems on the boundary between land and sea, contribute to the wellbeing, food security, and protection of the local community. They support a rich biodiversity and provide a valuable nursery habitat for fish and crustaceans. Mangroves also act as a form of natural coastal defense against storm surges, tsunamis, rising sea levels and erosion. Moreover students of the college can indulge in projects related to Mangroves which can be of value for their academics.



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### MANGROVE PLANTATION DRIVE HELD AT POONTHURA COAST

All Saints' College held a five-day mangrove plantation drive in the Poonthura. Saplings were planted along the coast line of two kilometres. The event which was inaugurated by Mayor Arya Rajendran was presided over by Mother Mary Frances, manager, All Saints' College. Deepa M, principal, management representatives, faculty of School of Life Sciences of All Saints' College and students participated in the drive. The project activities are coordinated by Freshma J K, head, Department of Environmental Sciences, Cynthia Christopher, head, Department of Botany and Sheryl G, assistant professor, Department of Zoology are the co-coordinators.

News in Malayala Manorama dt. 22.03.2021

College on a mission to prote...  
newsindianexpress.com

Thiruvananthapuram shift their boats to a safe zone. (Photo | B P Deepu, EPS)

**By Express News Service**

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: All Saints' College will adopt Ockhi-affected Poonthura shoreline to develop bio fencing against wave surge. In this rare initiative, a team including college management and School of Life Sciences (Research Centre and Post Graduate Department of Environmental Sciences), Department of Botany and Department of Zoology intend to develop a mangrove vegetation on the Poonthura coast which was affected by Cyclone Ockhi and severe storm surges.

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Students of the departments of School of Life Sciences along with faculty participated in plantation activities during the following days after inauguration.



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## College on a mission to protect Poonthura coast

*The project was officially inaugurated by Mayor Arya Rajendran at a meeting which was presided over by Rev Mother Mary Frances, manager, All Saints' College.*



Published: 20th February 2021 06:56 AM | Last

Updated: 20th February 2021 06:56 AM

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### *Follow up activities*

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Follow up of the programmes will be conducted on periodic basis and reports of the programmes will be generated as part of the same. Periodical visits will be organised for students to monitor the growth of saplings planted and to analyse the changes over time.

Signature of Principal:

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