

Report of activities done under MoU with Kew Royal Botanic Gardens

"Connecting People with Nature and Conservation of Orchids"



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Gardens **Kew**

Dr V Sarasan, on behalf of KSCSTE and Kew, chaired the meeting, meeting started at 2pm IST.

1. Sarasan welcomed the attendees and all the participants introduced themselves and briefly explained the main activities currently going on.
Sarasan (Kew) presented an overview of highlight events happened in the last six months. Chelsea Flower Show, engagement, current activities at MGIPS. He reported the Indian Native Orchid stand at the Chelsea Flower Show which had visitors such as Britain's King and Queen, Minister for Farming and Biodiversity, Indian press (Eastern Eye for The Telegraph). Visited by more than 175,000 people over five days. Three newspaper articles about Chelsea Flower Show published in Hindu, and Kerala Kaumudi.
The pilot education activities conducted at one school in the city were presented by Dr Anil kumar (KSCSTE).

Partner presentations in the order as below:

- a. Malabar Botanic Garden and Institute for Plant Science (Dr N S Pradeep, invited headline presentation), Pradeep presented the work so far and played a video. Around 6000 plants already planted and by November 1st nearly 12,000 plants could be planted. He presented the details of the 21 species (including Vanda wightii) collected, locations of collections (Kerala and Karnataka) and the work done so far on organic matter DNA extraction. They could collect as many plants that can be loaded into a van/truck responding to tip off from contacts and grow inside MBGIPS until planted. Nearly 100% plants survived so far and all the plants looking very good at Sarovaram Park. The Kozhikode Tourism officials are keen to have the same model repeated at other tourist locations nearby. He played a video showing the park with planted orchids on trees. Three newspaper articles published in local newspapers about the transforming the park into an orchid haven.
- b. JNTBGRI, Palode, **None attended and no update shared**
- c. KAU, Vellanikkara, Prof Abida shared the details of the extraction of DNA work and promised to work with KFRI for planting in Thrissur (attended but not audible to share the details).
- d. KFRI, Thrissur, DR Sreekumar shared the report Adarsh attended but was not available to present the slides. Sarasan presented the progress report which



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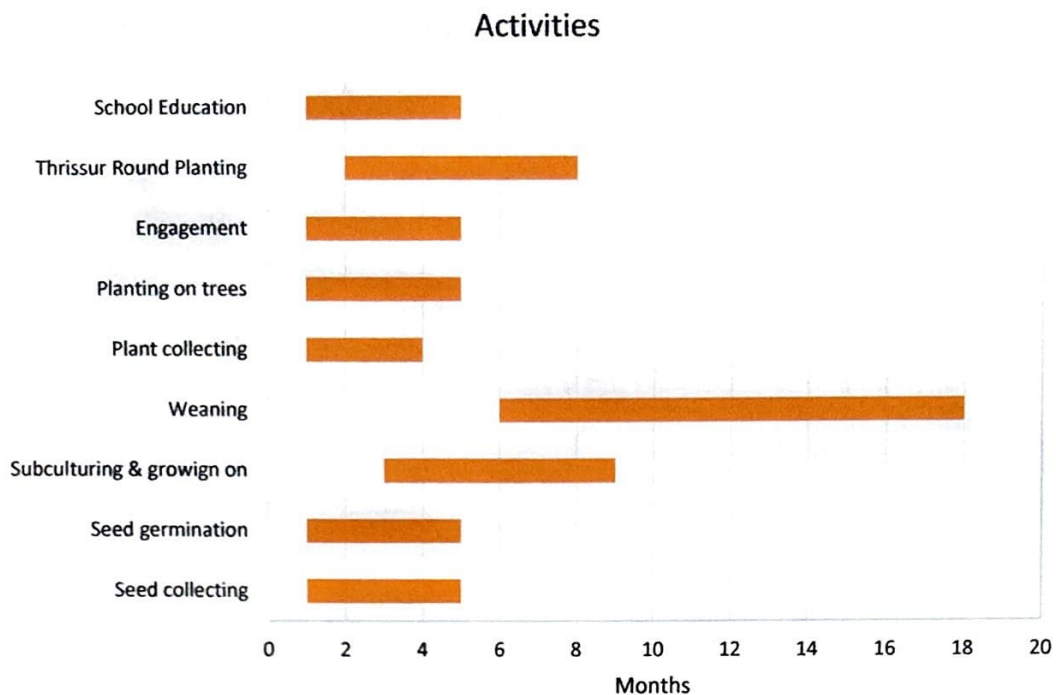
highlights the propagation work and future plan to get permission for planting in Thrissur Round

- e. All Saints College, Dr Cynthia presented the work highlighting the involvement of larger proportion of undergraduate students and involvement of other staff
 - f. Catholicate College, Dr Binoy shared the report about planting event details **none attended, Sarasan presented**
 - g. Fatima Mata National College Dr Sinilal presented the report- Shared collecting of plants from different locations and planting details. Expressed concerns over lack of germination of seeds.
 - h. Maharaja's College, Dr Jaseela presented the report- collecting of plants from different locations and planting in the campus.
 - i. St Thomas College. Dr Suji presented (Dr Leena attended) activities regarding collecting of plants from different locations and planting details. Large selection of species collected including Vanada wightii which has high conservation value. Also presented details of work that are going to be done soon. One local newspaper published an article about the planting event.
 - j. University College. Dr Preetha presented the report. She admitted they couldn't do much mainly because they don't have any tress to plant on etc.
 - k. Women's College. Dr Anil kumar sent apologies as he could not join. Sarasan presented the details of a recent event and some planting activities they conducted, **none attended**
2. Group discussion (all), 30 minutes
- a. What has worked and how this has been achieved?
Dr Pradeep explained how he and his team successfully collected more than 6000 plants over six months and planted nearly all of them at Sarovarom Park. The takeaway message was it is possible to achieve same level of outputs by anyone as the cost and resources required is quite low. He didn't see any major bottlenecks or challenges.
 - b. What were the challenges, bottlenecks identified and how this can be resolved?
Some colleges don't have time, resources and even not enough trees to plant orchids in their campus. They are finding it difficult to achieve most of the target as teaching, lack of money etc are the major reasons. Sarasan offered help in terms of getting capsules if parties are interested. He emphasised the remit of this project which is all about mutually beneficial outcomes. Colleges are benefited from the partnership with Kew for ranking etc. but the reverse benefits also must also be materialised as contributions to the project from colleges. If it is very difficult to achieve the progress will be revisited in October 2024 and colleges which are not fulfilling the obligations can be relived from the partnership although the collaboration really wants them on board as it will benefit students. For Kew and KSCSTE, however, this is a mutually beneficial programme so without progress and positive outcomes from colleges it may not be viable.
 - c. Any partner with major concerns regarding their participation and contribution see b above
3. Joint action plan for the next six months (all) 15 minutes
- a. Suggestions- seed capsules will be available for MBGIPs and asked every partner to attend the November 1st inauguration of the display at Sarovaram Park, Kozhikode. Pradeep is happy to host them as part of an open day
 - b. Preparation of a Gant chart- see below
4. Dates for the diaries (5 minutes) October second week for the next meeting
5. Any other business (5 minutes) None



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6. Meeting concluded at 3.55pm IST.



Activities at All Saints' College, Thiruvananthapuram

Collection of Native Orchids- Six species of orchids collected

- *Cleisostoma tenuifolium*
- *Luisia zeylanica*
- *Vanda tessellata*
- *Dendrobium ovatum*
- *Acampe praemorsa*
- *Coelogyne imbricata*

These Plants were introduced to our campus

Introduction of Practical work on localization of mycorrhizal hyphae in orchid roots



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- Colonization of mycorrhizal hyphae
- Localization of fungal pelotons
- Percentage of colonization



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