

INNOVATIVE ACTIVITIES OF THE COLLEGE

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INNOVATIVE INITIATIVES OF CHRIST COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS), IRINJALAKUDA

Yes; the institution possesses huge potential in nurturing an ecosystem for innovation. It manifests in the campus by availing all possible resources for the ideation, creation, and implementation of research centers and activities promoting entrepreneurship, community orientation, incubation, etc.

Apart from the College IQAC, the Institutions Innovation Council is dedicated exclusively in transforming the budding innovative ideas of the management, students as well as faculty into practical examples for future development in a sustainable fashion. The following are a few of such initiatives:

CHRIST INNOVATIONS AND AGRO-PARK

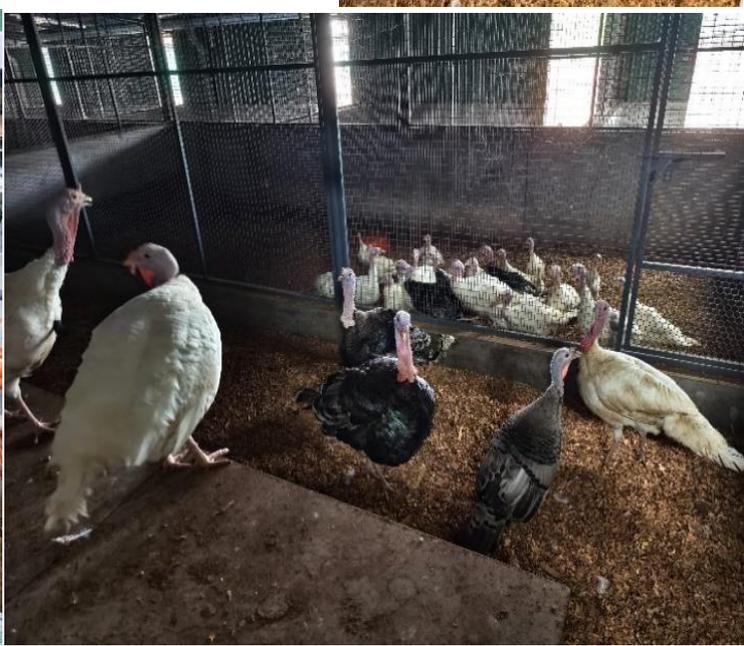
It is in 2023 that the College Management introduced the project of Christ Innovations and Agro-Park, in collaboration with various departments in order to provide experiential learning, research orientation, and ideas for entrepreneurship for students. Snehabhavan Block has been witnessing unprecedented development with regards to the College's projects surrounding animal husbandry, aquaculture, ornithology, and agro-products.

Christ Centre for Innovations has academic and research-oriented facilities including Centre for Aquaculture and Research, Centre for Animal Husbandry and Research, Centre for Ornithology and Research, Centre for Lifelong Learning, Centre for Experiential Learning, etc. All of these centers of research provide adequate academic and theoretical orientation that supplies the scientific sources of knowledge required for the implementation of related activities. It also provides the impetus for research in such areas, helping immensely in the students' hands-on training and experimentation with regard to each of the mentioned areas.



ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

A major attraction of the Snehbhavan Block is its special wing that houses several varieties and breeds of animals and birds. The poultry farm comprises birds domesticated for meat and eggs, including many varieties of hens, ducks, turkeys, Emu, etc. The ornamental birds include various varieties of parakeets, macaws, etc. that attract the on-lookers with their fancy-coloured appearance and their shrill voices. The animals reared include several species of goats, cows, horses, donkeys, rabbits, etc. They become the chief sources of high-quality milk and meat. These animals are also well-tamed, nurtured in their ideal conditions of habitation, and carefully maintained with separate staff appointed for the purpose.





PISCICULTURE

Christ also promotes aquaculture that involves the production of both ornamental as well as consumable fishes. The controlled semi-natural conditions in which the fishes thrive makes it best for them to adapt and proliferate easily.



SUGARCANE FARMING AND MUSHROOM CULTIVATION

Sugarcane farming has been made practical and slowly extended to a commercial scale at Snehabhavan. The ripened sugarcanes and sugarcane juice have been made available to the faculty and students at a minimal rate near the Main Gate of the College. Fruit trees, especially mango trees have also been lining the boundaries of the sugarcane cultivation. Mushroom cultivation has also been taken up at a commercial scale. This provides a practical opportunity for students to take mushroom cultivation as an enterprise that can earn them profit in a sustainable manner.

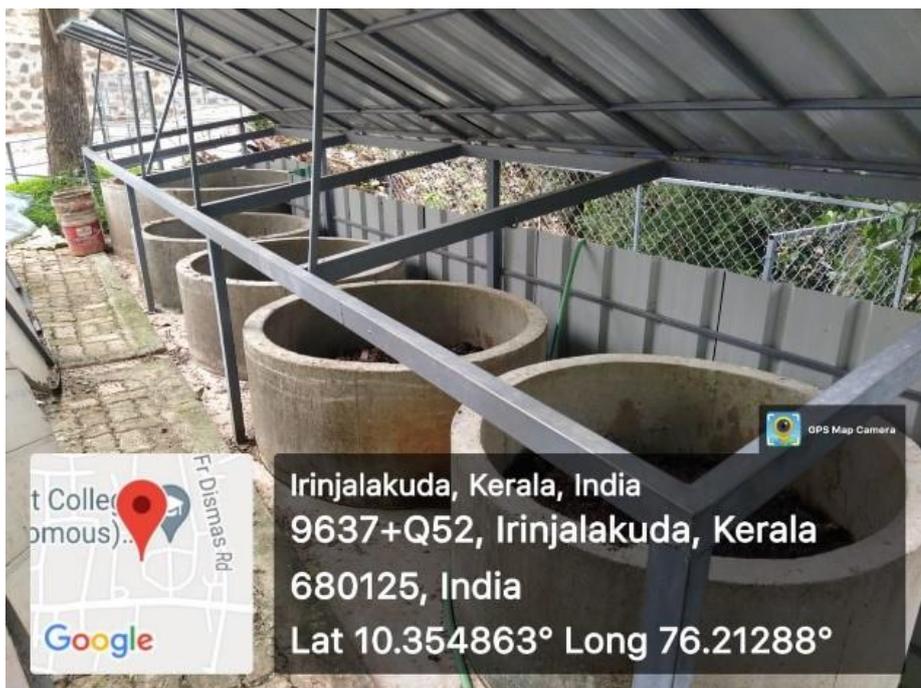


SALE OF BIO-ORGANIC PRODUCTS

The products manufactured at Christ College are sold to the Christ College faculty as well as students every evening. This include consumable fishes, eggs, meat, fruits, and also bio-degradable and eco-friendly bags that can replace the plastic covers. The availability of the products for each day are updated in a Whatsapp group. Interested customers can pre-order the products and purchase them from a counter at the Main Gate. The products, being home-grown and well-tended, add to the sales and customers' satisfied reviews. Involving students in such initiatives not only train them in producing and consuming eco-sensitively, but also teach them the first steps of entraprenuership and community orientation in a practical manner.

VERMICOMPOSTING UNIT

The college makes sure that its wealth of dried leaves collected from trees and other organic waste do not go wasted. The Vermicomposting Unit, a green initiative of the College, uses worms to break down organic waste into nutrient- rich compost. Not only does this provide an eco-friendly alternative for organic-waste disposal of solid waste, it also is a sustainable solution to recycle kitchen scraps from various places of food production and consumption in the College to produce organic manures and fertilizers for plants. Since 2022 when the Vermi-Composting Unit has started functioning, the College has been using the fertilizers thus produced to maintain its richly green campus. The College has also recognized and realized the marketing potential of the organic fertilizers, and provides these for sale at reasonable rates to the local community, thus enhancing its community orientation.



AQUAPONIC UNIT:

-It is used for fish cultivation.

For Christ College, Aquaponics is not just a part of the theoretical study, but is a very successful practical application yielding sustainability and profit. In the Aquaponic Unit (set up initially in 2022 and currently a prestigious initiative of the College), aquaculture (fish farming) and hydroponics (soilless plant cultivation) are combined in a closed-loop system. The fish waste provides nutrients for plants, and the plants in turn, help filter and purify the water for the fish. This symbiotic food production system is also open to students as a means of observation, practical studies, and implementation at their homes.



PAPER RECYCLE UNIT:

- It is part of the Earn while Learn Programme.

The paper waste produced in the College amounts to a huge mass; just selling all the outdated assignments, projects, internal assessment papers, and other obsolete digitalized physical documents is also not an eco-sensitive move. Hence, the College has introduced a Paper Recycling Unit, as a combined effort alongside the “Earn while You Learn” Programme.

It is a facility that processes used paper and cardboard to recycle them into new paper products. The process typically involves sorting, cleaning, and breaking down the paper fibres to create pulp, which can then be used to produce recycled paper. This helps reduce the demand for virgin wood pulp, conserves resources, and minimizes environmental impact associated with paper production.

The paper files used in the College for all kinds of administrative data storage are products of the Paper Recycling Unit.



BUTTERFLY GARDEN

– It's a very aesthetic spot in the campus which is home to 39 species of butterflies and their host plants.

The Butterfly Garden in the Campus is an eco-conscious initiative that arose from recognising its natural potential and inclination towards attracting various species butterflies due to its vibrant gardens and varied flowers. One of the most aesthetic and refreshing spots on the Campus, the Butterfly Garden is home to around thirty-nine species of butterflies and their host plants. Designed with meticulous care, our garden offers serene escape, inviting the visitors to witness the magical dance of these captivating insects in a tranquil and carefully curated environment. It is maintained beautifully with utmost care and controlled human intervention, and is a hub for butterflies and a feast of colours for the human eye.



BEE HOTEL

- safe haven for bees and wasps contributes to the well-being of flowering plants in the campus. Host to varieties of flowers, fruit trees, and vegetables, the Bee Hotel was initiated in order to facilitate organic pollination in alignment with healthy and quality production of honey. The College Campus is blessed with multiple benefits of Bee Farming, beginning from its natural contribution to the well-being of flowers in the Campus. The organic honey produced from the Bee Hotel is supplied to various Departments as well as the local community, especially serving culinary and medicinal purposes. It is also a welcoming fact that bee farming contributes to the conservation of bee species, supporting biodiversity by maintaining healthy populations of these important pollinators. As part of their extended curriculum, students are also conscientized with an orientation towards making Bee Farming a commercial enterprise for earning their livelihood, as well as contributing to the welfare of the planet.



STAR VANAM (Nakshathravanam)

Christ College maintains its biodiversity through innovative efforts to safeguard trees that define and demarcate the geographical terrain that houses the campus. The Nakshathra Vanam is constructed based on the idea that a particular species of tree corresponds to each star in the Malayalam Calendar (Ashwathy: Kanjiram/Nux vomica, Bharani: Nelli/Indian Gooseberry, etc.). There are twenty-seven Malayalam stars, which amounts to the selection, cultivation, and maintenance of twenty-seven trees. All of these trees are famed for their medicinal and culinary properties. The accompanying Fruit Garden consists of thirty indigenous fruit trees accurately identified and scientifically tagged. Dragonfly Garden, also part of the Fruit Tree Garden, is a teeming hub that attracts dragonflies, thus serving as the natural remedy for mosquitoes. Built in 2022, the Nakshathra Vanam is a unique feature that instil a sense of a biodiverse campus in the students' and teachers' minds.



FRUIT GARDEN

The Fruit Garden of Christ College is home to around thirty fruit-bearing trees, all accurately identified, scientifically tagged, and maintained with care. Jackfruit, mango, jamun, rose apple, etc. are among the fruit trees cultivated in the Fruit Garden. The NSS Unit of Christ College is indebted to the nourishment and maintenance of the Fruit Garden, under strict guidance from Fr. Joy Peenikaparambil, Manager of Christ College. The produce from the fruit trees is also available for yard sales, and organic agro-markets.

Dragonfly garden: It serves as a natural remedy for mosquitoes.



SHANTHISTHAL

The Department of Botany and the Biodiversity Club of Christ College initiated the project of Shanthisthal. It refers to twenty cents of land dedicated exclusively for the protection of rare and endangered plant varieties. The intention of Shanthisthal is also creating awareness amongst the younger generation about the need to conserve and preserve the fauna of each geographical terrain, making definitive changes toward a sustainable future.



JNANA UDYAN (Garden Library)

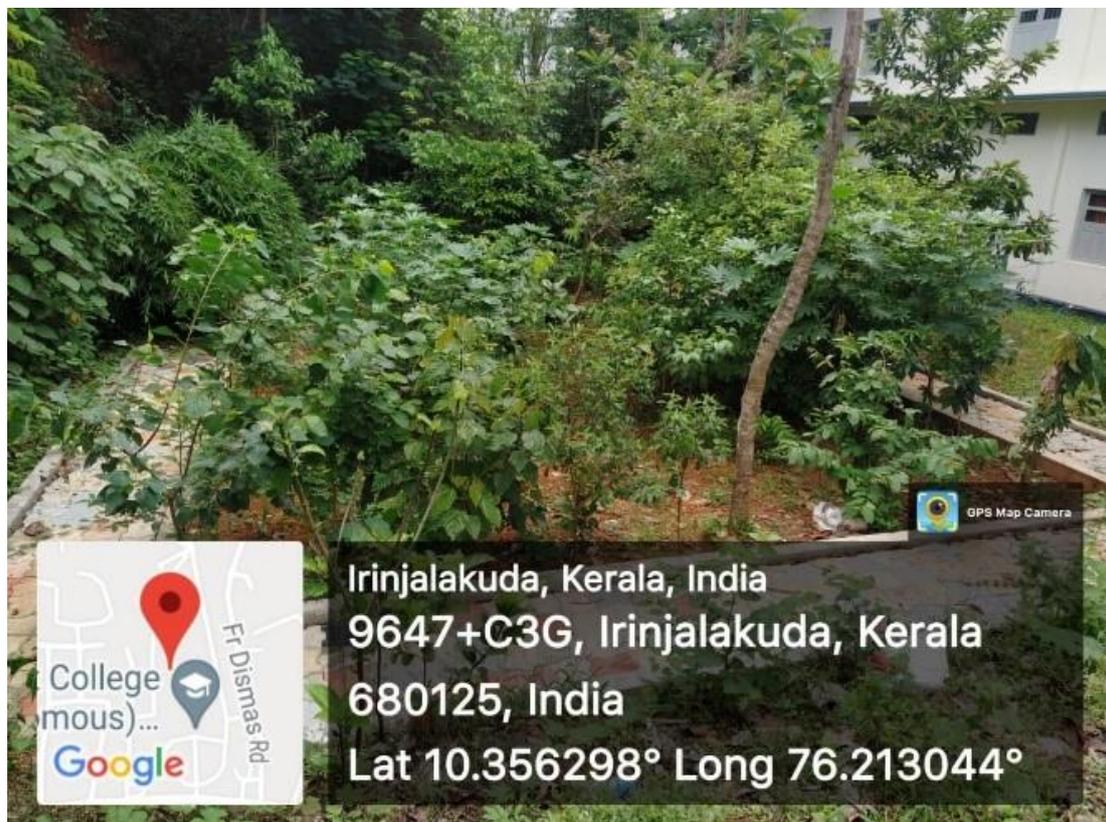
Jnana Udyan is an eco-friendly space adjacent to the College Library, constructed by interweaving architecture with the existing flora of the space. Also known as the Open Library, here, students are provided space to read, ponder, and conduct discussions revolving reading and books. The ambience provided by the Garden Library is an active ingredient in the sumptuous discussions that often mark the space. Several clubs in the College choose the Garden Library as their meeting place for discussions and activities, thus fostering community orientation. It is also the venue for “green classroom sessions”, sought after by teachers as an effective alternative to the mundane closed classroom spaces. The statue of Christ meditating in the Buddha posture of enlightenment that adorns the Garden Library also signifies its secular nature.



MIYAWAKY FOREST

- It is maintained by Department of Environmental

Funded by the Social Forestry Department of the Government of Kerala, the Miyawaki Forest in Christ College is nurtured by the Department of Environmental Science. The area chosen for the Miyawaki Forest is five cents of land adjacent to the Men's Hostel. Modelled on the Miyawaki Forests from Japanese culture, the Miyawaki Forest in the College houses around 150 plants and trees, belonging to fifty-six different species. In no time has the Miyawaki Forest borne fruit, as it already looks quite densely populated, though it dates back only to a short span of a few years. Reduction of air pollution and noise pollution, serving the natural habitat of a variety of animals, etc. are the benefits of the Miyawaki Forest.



SOLAR PANELS

Solar Panels have been of great advantage to the College as well as the community and the world at large, ever since they have been installed in the campus. The terrace of the Administrative Block houses solar panels, enabling the utilization of direct sunlight in the production of electricity. The electricity required by the College is met largely through the electricity produced by the solar panels. There is also provision for excess electricity to be supplied to KSEB.



RAIN WATER HARVESTING

Rainwater Harvesting may be estimated as the most apt and easily applicable green initiative for Christ College, considering its location on a higher ground compared to the rest of Irinjalakuda's land. Rain water is collected and stored in a huge reservoir during the monsoon, and later used for various purposes in the college. Our college's main water resource, this reservoir supplies water to washrooms in the College, and also for other external purposes including watering the plants in the gardens. Ground water outlets are also constructed so as to collect the running water during heavy monsoons. Though an available resource, such conservation of water saves the campus in the scorching summer heat.

