



Sree Narayana Mangalam College, Maliankara

(Affiliated to Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam)

MoU WITH

**MS Swaminathan Research Foundation
(MSSRF)**



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MANGROVE RESTORATION

About MSSRF: The M S Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF) was established in 1988 at Chennai to accelerate use of modern science and technology for agricultural and rural development to improve lives and livelihoods of communities. The foundation applies appropriate science and technology options to address practical problems faced by rural populations in agriculture, food and nutrition. These efforts have been undertaken in a participatory manner and in partnership with other knowledge-based institutions, public and private sector organisations and local communities. Conservation of Biodiversity has been one of the focus areas of MSSRF since inception. MSSRF is carrying out research and development in major areas namely, coastal systems, biodiversity, biotechnology, ecotechnology, agriculture, climate change, nutrition and health etc. In 1997, MSSRF established its first Community Agrobiodiversity Centre (CAbC) in Wayanad district of Kerala to work on 'community biodiversity management' by promoting a coalition of government departments and voluntary organizations for the conservation of the genetic wealth of Wayanad and surrounding region.

Community Agrobiodiversity Centre (CAbC): The CAbC was established in 1997 at Wayanad district of Kerala, as one of the regional centres of M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF), Chennai, India. The Centre was established to promote community conservation systems of rural and tribal people through research, extension and advocacy. It works in partnership with rural and farming communities for sustainable agricultural and rural development. The activities of the centre included research, interventions involving communities to promote agro-biodiversity conservation, enhancing food security, capacity of communities, demonstrating models and policy advocacy. The underlying objective is the sustainable management of agro biodiversity and sustainable enhancement of livelihood, food nutrition security of marginalized sections of rural communities including vulnerable communities of target population in priority areas.



Description of the programme:

Introduction: Ernakulam district has got around 8% of the total Kerala's coastline, extending for 46 km. A study done jointly by the National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management and Central Marine Fisheries Institute in 2018 reported that the district is rich with 10 true mangrove species. In the case of Diversity Indices, the district stood third after Kannur and Malappuram. Though the mangroves of the district have high single species dominance, the low basal area has indicated poor structural development. Recent research from S.N.M College, Maliankara has reported 14 true mangrove species and 42 mangrove associates from the coastline of the district. It is evident that the Mangrove cover acts as the first line of defense against sea level rise and other natural calamities like flooding and coastal erosion, and saline intrusion in low-lying wetlands. It also increases the climate adaptability of agriculture and fish culture. Unfortunately, the natural mangrove patches in the coastal villages of Ernakulam District are dwindling due to various reasons, especially because of the intense but insensitive land uses.

Hence to meet the objective of mangrove restoration, S.N.M college, Maliankara has signed an MoU with Community Agro-biodiversity Centre of MS Swaminathan Research Foundation, Chennai on 1st February 2022. The Department of Botany and NSS unit of the college are the policy makers and implementing group for this project. The MoU stands for the conservation and management of coastal ecosystems in Vypeen area. To make the MoU functional, the Research Department of Botany and NSS unit of the college organized a programme titled "Observance of international day for the conservation of the mangrove ecosystem" on 26th July 2022 at seminar hall from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm. The programme is organized under the HDFC Bank's CSR initiative called Parivartan and implemented by M S Swaminathan Research Foundation in partnership with S.N.M College, Maliankara, Grassroute Nayrambalam and the local self-governments.



The morning session began with an academic panel discussion which brought together the stakeholders of the area for devising a sustainable mangrove restoration plan starting on the coastline of Vypin Island. Conservation requirements of mangroves was also deliberated along with MSSRF's successful community-participated mangrove conservation efforts on the eastern coast of India. Prof.(Dr) V. R Prakasam, Professor and Head (Retd.), Department of Environmental Sciences, University of Kerala chaired the session. Followed by the panel discussion, there were two invited talks. Talk 1 by Dr. C. N Sunil, Research Advisor, Department of Botany, S.N.M College, Maliankara on the topic "Biodiversity of Mangroves". Talk 2 by Dr. R Ramasubramanian on "Community-centred approaches to restore and sustain mangrove wetland of India". Afternoon session started with reflections from the grassroutes and was chaired by Dr. T.H Jitha, Principal, S.N.M College, Maliankara. The session was followed by an open forum which included reflections from local self government and community. The session ended with a felicitation ceremony to vanamithra awardees.

Programme outcome: Mangroves are important players in some of the greatest challenges facing the world today. They provide a defense between land and sea, absorb carbon, contribute to economic and food security and are home to some of the most rare and colourful species. But mangroves are disappearing at an accelerating rate. In this scenario, the programme helped the participants to understand more about mangroves and what is driving their loss, importance and need of mangrove restoration and how restoration works. The theme of the programme was well delivered in the invited talks by the resource persons. The content was very effectively conveyed to the listeners.



Brochure:

SNM COLLEGE MALIANKARA
Research Department of Botany & NSS Unit



In Collaboration with
**M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation,
HDFC Bank Parivartan and Grassroute Nayarambalam**

**Observance of "International Day for the Conservation of
the Mangrove Ecosystem"**

**One-day Consultation on Mangrove Conservation and
Management in Vypin Island, on July 26, 2022.**

Venue: Seminar Hall



**Session 1: Panel discussion
(09:30 to 13:00)**
Chair:
Prof.(Dr) V. R. Prakasam,
Professor & Head (Retd.)
Department of Environmental
Sciences, University of Kerala

Invited Talk 1:
Biodiversity of Mangroves
By
Dr C.N. Sunil,
Research Advisor, Department
of Botany, SNM College

Invited Talk 2:
**Community-centred
approaches to restore and
sustain mangrove wetlands
of India**
By
Dr R. Ramasubramanian,
MSSRF, Chennai
Panel discussion

**Session 2: Reflections from the
Grassroute (14.00 to 16.30)**
Chair:
Dr T.H. Jitha,
Principal, SNM College

Open Forum
Local Self Government
Departments and Community
Organizations

Reflections from the Local
Self Governments

Reflections from the
Community

Summarizing the Way
Forward Plan

Felicitations to the
Vanamithra Awardees



Photos



KUFOS, Fishery
Kochi, Kerala, India
Fisheries Station, Puduveyppu campus, X6PJ+G7F, Vypin, Kochi, Kerala
682508, India
Lat 9.986371°
Long 76.230649°
08/06/22 10:10 AM

