

7.3 – Institutional Distinctiveness

7.3.1 – Provide the details of the performance of the institution in one area distinctive to its vision, priority and thrust in not more than 500 words.

The rapid increase in the biodegradable waste due to ever increase urbanization has put tremendous pressure on the solid waste management agencies. Among the various sources of biodegradable waste- kitchen waste, tea waste and fruit/flower/leave waste forms a major proportion.

Kitchen waste is also a source of decay, odour and bachate. Tea waste goes to dustbin which otherwise can be turned into a “treasure” if added to the garden soil. And the flowers /dry leave waste goes into rivers or water bodies and results in water pollution which in turn serves as a breeding ground for various pests, flies and mosquitoes. This biodegradable waste cannot be allowed to harm the environment for long periods of time. To avoid this, our students of M.Sc (Microbial Biotechnology) have taken an initiative as a part of their internship programme through “composting”.

This method of “pit composting” is eco-friendly as it is devoid of harmful effects of chemical fertilizers. The composted material is a rich source of macro as well as micro nutrients required for the growth of plants / trees.

M.Sc Microbial Biotech students of our college collect biodegradable waste including vegetables and fruit waste from college mess and canteen along with fallen leaves and grass clippings from the garden. They further put this waste in the compost pit dug in the college campus. Composting process is initiated after adding soil in alternate layers along with the waste. Thereafter composting process is initiated. The entire composting process is monitored by the students very carefully and regularly. They ensure turning of the immature compost (pit contents) and maintenance of moist/humid conditions by sprinkling water at regular intervals of time. After the completion of the composting, the quality of mature/ final compost is checked by determining its NPK (nitrogen , phosphorous and potassium content) moisture content and PH of compost is also checked. Our students further assess the effect of applications of this compost on the growth of plants.

This small initiative of our students is a big step towards sustainable development.