



# DHUPGURI GIRLS' COLLEGE

DHUPGURI \* JALPAIGURI \* PIN-735210

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## 7.2.1

### BEST PRACTICE 2

- 1. Title: Innovative Organic Farming Practices at Dhupguri Girls College: Cultivating Sustainability and Education**
- 2. The Context:** Dhupguri Girls College, located in the agrarian heartland of West Bengal, has a long-standing commitment to integrating sustainable practices into its curriculum and community activities. While recognizing the importance of sustainable agriculture in the face of environmental challenges and imparting the knowledge to the students, the college has implemented an organic farming program aimed at promoting eco-friendly farming methods among students and the local community.
- 3. Objective:** The primary objective of the organic farming initiative at Dhupguri Girls College is to educate students and local farmers about sustainable agriculture practices. By doing so, the college aims to reduce the dependency on chemical fertilizers and pesticides, improve soil health, and enhance biodiversity. The program also seeks to provide practical knowledge and skills that can lead the students to practice the same at their backyards and to increased employment opportunities in the agricultural sector.
- 4. The Practice:** The organic farming initiative at Dhupguri Girls College involves several key practices:
  - **Organic Composting:** The college has set up composting units to convert kitchen waste and garden clippings into nutrient-rich compost. This compost is used to fertilize the college's organic farm, reducing the need for chemical fertilizers.
  - **Crop Rotation and Diversification:** Students and faculty members practice crop rotation and diversification to maintain soil health and reduce pest infestations. This involves planting a variety of crops in different seasons, ensuring that the soil is not depleted of specific nutrients.
  - **Biological Pest Control:** Instead of chemical pesticides, the college uses natural predators and organic insecticides to manage pests. Ladybugs, neem oil, and other natural solutions are employed to protect crops without harming the environment.
  - **Water Conservation Techniques:** Drip irrigation and rainwater harvesting are implemented to ensure efficient use of water resources. These methods help in conserving water and reducing the impact of drought conditions.
  - **Educational Workshops and Training:** Regular workshops and training sessions are conducted for students and local farmers. The College has introduced an ADD-ON course on organic farming in 2022. These sessions covered various aspects of organic farming, including soil health, composting, and sustainable pest management.
- 5. Required Resources:** To support the organic farming initiative, Dhupguri Girls College has leveraged various resources:

  
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- **Faculty Expertise:** Professors and experts in agriculture and environmental science provide knowledge and guidance on organic farming techniques, soil health, and pest management.
- **Student Participation:** Students actively participate in the farming activities, gaining hands-on experience in organic farming practices and contributing to the farm's maintenance and development.
- **Educational Materials:** Books, research papers, and online resources are used to provide theoretical knowledge on organic farming practices. These materials are essential for conducting workshops and training sessions.
- **Infrastructure:** Setting up composting units, rainwater harvesting systems, and drip irrigation systems require initial investment in infrastructure. Proper maintenance of these systems is necessary for the long-term success of the initiative.
- **Seeds and Plants:** Access to organic seeds and planting materials is essential for maintaining crop diversity and ensuring the success of organic farming practices.
- **Pest Control Supplies:** Natural predators and organic insecticides need to be sourced to manage pests without resorting to chemical pesticides.

**5. Obstacles Faced:** Despite the successes, the initiative has faced several challenges:

- **Knowledge Gap:** There was a significant knowledge gap among students and local farmers regarding organic farming techniques. Overcoming this required extensive education and training efforts.
- **Pest and Disease Management:** Without chemical pesticides, managing pests and diseases organically proved to be challenging and required innovative solutions and constant monitoring.

**6. Impact of the Practice:** The organic farming initiative at Dhupguri Girls College has had a positive impact on both the college and the local community:

- **Enhanced Soil Health:** The use of organic compost and crop rotation has significantly improved soil fertility and structure, leading to better crop yields.
- **Increased Awareness:** Students and local farmers have gained valuable knowledge about sustainable agriculture practices, leading to a gradual shift towards organic farming in the region.
- **Biodiversity Improvement:** The reduction in chemical pesticide use has led to an increase in local biodiversity, including beneficial insects and soil microorganisms.
- **Community Engagement:** The initiative has strengthened the bond between the college and the local community, fostering a sense of shared responsibility for environmental stewardship.

  
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