

Best Practice I

Title: - COUNSELING TO FARMERS TO AVOID PESTICIDE POISONING

Objective:-

To provide guideline to avoid pesticide poisoning

To demonstrate advantages of safety measures.

To make aware farmers about side effects of pesticides and fertilizers.

Context:-

In Yavatmal, District of Maharashtra state during 2017-2018 about twenty-one (21) farmers and farm labourers had died and around 1,000 others were infected in pesticide poisoning. The Special Investigation Team (SIT) appointed by the Maharashtra government blamed the farmers and farm laborers for various reasons.

1. They never used the protective gears/safety measures like masks, hand gloves, caps, goggles or apron.
2. They had to lift the spraying pumps above their height for spraying on taller plants that resulted in inhalation of pesticides aerosol.
3. Humid climate induced sweating resulted in the pesticide spreading to other body parts of the farmers.
4. Use of cheaper and unscientific mixtures of pesticides.
5. Large-volume spraying pumps make the longer exposure than normal use of pesticides.

Practice:-

By observing the incidence of farmers the institute has taken initiatives to provide counselling and proper guideline to the farmers of nearby area about choosing and handling of pesticides and chemicals, disposal of pesticide empty containers, use of safety measures to avoid certain causalities.

Institute has also decided to distribute the protective gears like masks, hand gloves, caps, and goggles to the few farmers at their pesticide spraying work of NSS unit adopted village Yeranda as a representative sample.

The literature on handling of pesticides safety measures is collected. Appropriate guidelines in local language are prepared. The protective gears like masks, hand gloves, caps, and goggles are purchased.

Farmers from adopted village are invited at camp place with the help of selected NSS students and counselled about handling of pesticides and use of safety measures. Farmers are also educated for safe dispose of pesticide containers after use. In addition masks, hand gloves, caps, and goggles are also distributed in few farmers.

Evidence of success: - On the basis of feedback collected from different farmers on different times it can be concluded that the number of farmers using safety measures has increased which consequently results in the decrease in causalities of poisoning.

Problem: - Initially it was difficult to motivate farmers to respond. Farmers were reluctant to change their traditional system. It was difficult to collect required literature.

Best Practice 2

Title: - **Guidance on Cultivation of Non-Conventional Medicinal Plants for Farmers Wards**

Objective: - To uplift socio-economic status of students from families with agriculture source of income.

Context: - S. N. Institute have most of students from farmer's family who are depending on routine traditional farming with only agriculture as a source of income. The traditional agriculture system doesn't have sufficient profit to fulfil the ever increasing demands of family. So, the farming with non-conventional Medicinal plants could enhance the economy of farmers as it will give more profit, which uplift socio-economic status of whole family. It could be achieved by proper counselling and guidance of farmer's wards to implement cultivation of medicinal herbal drugs plants.

The institute decided to implement scheme of providing knowledge and guidance on cultivation of non-conventional medicinal plants for farmer's wards at institute campus.

Such course could be easily understood by students. Through students this novel idea can conveyed towards their parents and also nearby farmers.

Practice: - After discussion with staffs in meetings the Guidance Cell has been established. The required information and literature on cultivation of Non-Conventional Medicinal Plants made available in both English and Marathi language at guidance cell. Number of interested aspirant are

identified and motivated to take advantage of guidance cell during off practical or theory. Also the students are instructed to spread knowledge to their parent and nearby farmers also.

Many students have acquainted about cultivation, collection procedures and different varieties of plants, fertilizer and marketing of product.

Evidence of success: - Increased no. of interested students in guidance cell, many farmers convinced for medicinal plants farming is indicated success of efforts.

Problem: - Initially it was difficult to motivate students to participate. It was difficult to collect required literature. Also farmers were hardly agreed to change their traditional system.