



UNION CHRISTIAN COLLEGE ALUVA-2



Criterion 7

SSR 5th CYCLE 2023

7.1.2 Green Campus Initiatives



UNION CHRISTIAN COLLEGE, ALUVA

Affiliated to Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam, India
NAAC Re-Accredited with A Grade in 4th Cycle (CGPA 3.45)
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2023

Green Campus Initiatives

College has always been committed to nurturing not just the minds of its students but also the environment around it. From its inception, the college has embraced a vision of sustainability and environmental consciousness, which has led to the establishment of various green campus initiatives. These efforts have transformed the campus into a thriving ecosystem where students, faculty, and staff actively participate in preserving nature and promoting sustainable practices.

The Seed of Sustainability:

The roots of college's green campus initiatives can be traced back to the very beginning of the institution. Our green campus initiatives got a proud beginning with the planting of the mango tree sapling by none other than the father of our nation Mahatma Gandhi during his visit to our college in 1925. We preserve the same and are popularly known as "Gandhi Mavu ". This symbolic act represented their commitment to nurturing the environment and set the tone for future sustainability efforts.





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Annual Tree Plantation Drives:

One of the flagship green initiatives at college is the annual tree plantation drive. Each year, we celebrate World Environment Day on June 5 and as part of it students and faculty come together to plant a diverse range of native trees across the campus. These trees not only enhance the aesthetic appeal of the college but also play a crucial role in improving air quality and providing a habitat for local wildlife.

Under the beatification committee since 2017 conducts mass propagation of ornamental plants and planted in the campus

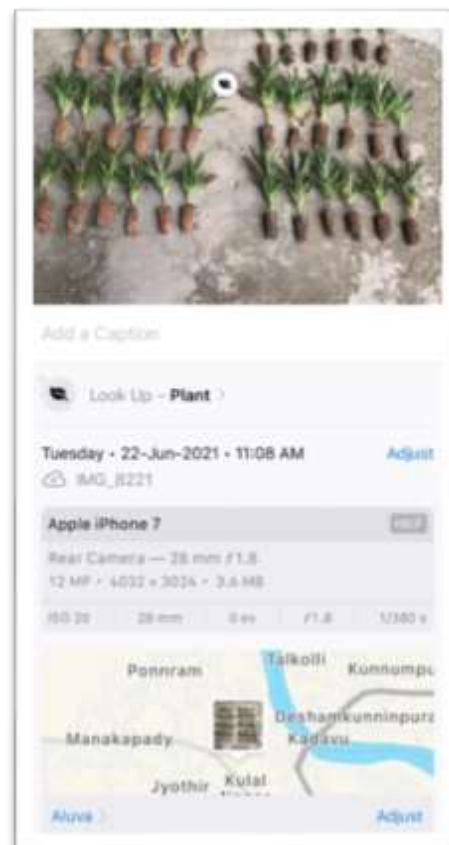
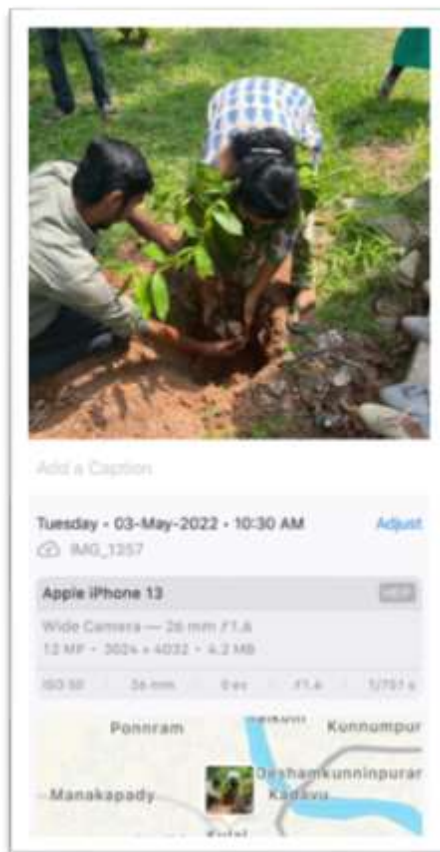
2018-19 : 5500 plants

2019-20: 7070 plants

2020-21: 5200 plants

2021-22: 4000 plants

2022-23: 6700 plants



Pedestrian friendly pathways

Through a detailed survey it was found that there is a growing demand for ornamentals and fruit tree saplings for the on-campus planting, local community and partner institutes. A major initiative to regenerate indigenous tree species such as *Morinda citrifolia* (Noni), *Syzygium cumini* (Njaval), *Syzygium jambos*



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(Rose apple), *Bunchosia glandulifera* (peanut butter fruit), *Garcinia gummi-gutta* (Camboge), *Phyllanthus emblica* (Gooseberry) was performed.

A pilot plantation of the species in the herbal garden of Union Christian College under the supervision of Research Scholars of the Department of Botany was carried out in student friendly manner with pedestrian friendly pathways.

Restricted Entry of Automobiles:

To reduce the ecological footprint of vehicular emissions and enhance the overall environmental quality on campus, the entry of automobiles has been restricted to designated areas. This strategic measure not only contributes to lowering carbon emissions but also fosters a safer and more pedestrian-friendly campus environment. Restricted entry zones are clearly demarcated, and compliance with this policy is essential for the collective well-being of the campus community.





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In tandem with the restriction on automobiles, we actively encourage the use of bicycles as a sustainable and healthy mode of transportation. To facilitate this, dedicated bicycle lanes and parking areas have been established across the campus.



Ban on use of plastic:

Even though complete ban on plastic is not declared, the Service-Learning Centre, NCC (Girls unit), NSS and Beautification committee jointly organizes plastic audit programme in every 3-6 months, during which thrown away plastics are gathered and handed over for proper disposal.



Landscaping

Over 200 varieties of ornamental plants which fall under Dracaena (25 + varieties), Croton (25 + varieties), Ixora (5 + varieties), Tabernaemontana (5 + varieties), Spiral gingers (5 + varieties), Pandanus (5 +



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varieties). Lilly (10 + varieties), Water lily (5 + varieties), Crassulaceans (10 + varieties) and over 100+ assorted flowering plants were performed. Over 10000 ornamental plants were raised and planted in the campus as a part of greening the campus.

Rooting and cultivation technology for Schefflera arboricola, Graptophyllum pictum, Excoecaria cochinchinensis, Coleus scutellarioides, Dracaena white, Red leaf edged dracaena, lucky bamboo, Coleus white and geranium aralia was developed by 7 students of BSc Botany Biological methods for reducing invasion of apple snails in UCC campus is fast in progress.

Faculties of the Department of Botany serve as consultants for the medicinal and aromatic plant garden in the Government Lower Primary School (Chamaparambu), Kadungaloor. Members also support the herbal garden in the School for the Blind, Keezhmadu, Aluva.



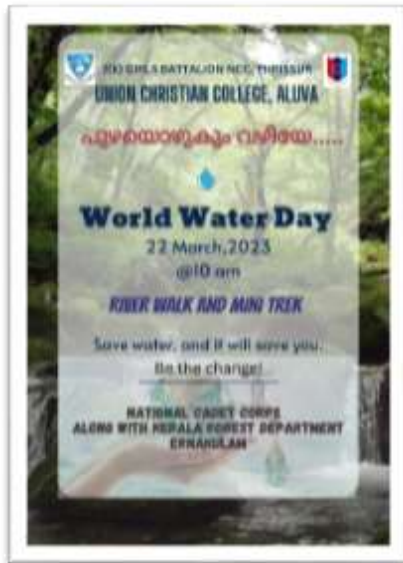
Promotion of Waste Recycling: Minimizing Footprints, Maximizing Impact

Our campus serves as a beacon of waste reduction and responsible resource management. By strategically placing recycling bins throughout the campus, we have effectively instilled a culture of waste segregation and recycling among our student body and staff. Regular awareness campaigns and workshops further educate our community about the importance of waste recycling, empowering them to actively participate in reducing their ecological footprint.



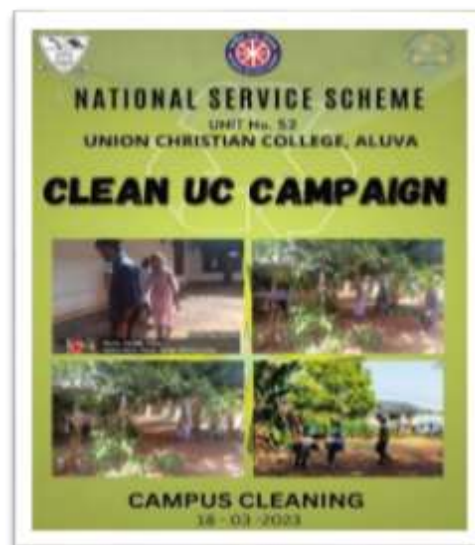
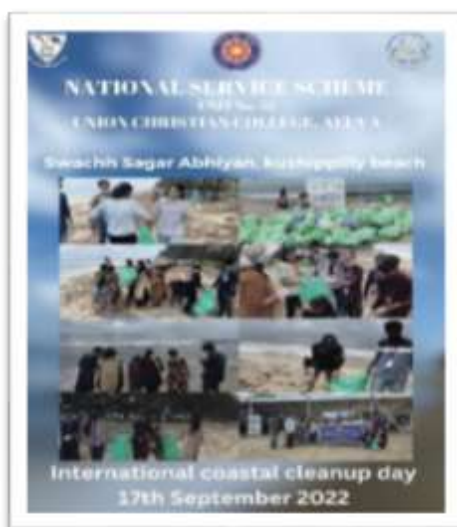
Observance of Days Related to Environment Protection: Celebrating Green Milestones

Throughout the year, we mark various environmentally significant days such as Earth Day, World Environment Day, and Arbor Day. These observances serve as catalysts for heightened awareness and action. Activities like tree planting drives, clean-up campaigns, and seminars on climate change and biodiversity conservation are organized, engaging participants in meaningful ways to champion the cause of environmental protection.



Cells and Club Activities: Nurturing Green Champions

Our dedicated cells and clubs (NSS, NCC, Kandal Club, Gandhi Darsahan Club etc.) are the driving force behind many of our campus' green initiatives. These student-led groups work tirelessly to organize workshops, lectures, and interactive sessions that address a spectrum of environmental concerns. From discussing renewable energy solutions to advocating for sustainable consumption patterns, these forums provide a platform for students to collaborate, learn, and contribute to a more sustainable future.





Organic Farming: Theory and Practical - Cultivating a Greener Tomorrow

Understanding the pivotal role of agriculture in environmental sustainability, our campus has embarked on a journey into the world of organic farming. A specialized curriculum has been developed that encompasses both theoretical knowledge and practical experience. Students learn about the principles of organic farming, soil health, natural pest control, and sustainable crop cultivation. They also get their hands dirty by actively participating in the cultivation and maintenance of our organic farm, honing valuable skills that can be applied beyond the campus walls.