



# ST FRANCIS DE SALES COLLEGE

Permanently Affiliated to Bangalore University | Electronics City, Bengaluru - 100

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A FRANSALIAN INSTITUTE OF HIGHER LEARNING

## DFFA REPORT 2020-21

The farmers who succeed are the ones who are going to incorporate new technologies - STAN BLADE

**Agriculture** is the art and science of cultivating the soil, growing crops and raising livestock. It includes the preparation of plant and animal products for people to use and their distribution to markets. Agriculture provides most of the world's food and fabrics. Agriculture in India is livelihood for a majority of the population and can never be underestimated. Although its contribution in the gross domestic product (GDP) has reduced to less than 20 per cent and contribution of other sectors increased at a faster rate, agricultural production has grown. Organic farming one of the important parts of agriculture is a technique, which involves the cultivation of plants and rearing of animals in natural ways. This process involves the use of biological materials, avoiding synthetic substances to maintain soil fertility and ecological balance thereby minimizing pollution and wastage. Organic farming is in a nascent stage in India. About 2.78 million hectares of farmland was under organic cultivation as of March 2020, according to the Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare. So, this year our college decided to take the science students to an organic farm and keep them aware about the organic farming. The organic farm that we chose was a farm in Halehalli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore, which is been led by farmer A. Mahesh.

Students were taken on 12<sup>th</sup> March of 2021 to the organic farm and were made to meet the farmer A. Mahesh who has received Yuva Raitha award 2020, Bangalore district level VK Super Star Farmer where in the chief minister was the chief guest. He has indulged himself in organic farming. Some of the crops raised using organic farming are tomato, beans, potato, papaya, beetroot, ladies' finger, radish and green vegetable. He is also a member of "ತರಕಾರಿ ಬೆಳೆಗಾರರ ಸಂಘ" Mayasandhra. This time we had taken students of our college to meet this farmer and to learn about organic farming. He gave us very good insights about the organic farming. Firstly we were taken to the farm, and he started showing us all the crops that he has grown. He is more into growing commercial crops. So students got a very good idea about the commercial crops. Difference between the normal crops and the commercial crops. Some of the commercial crops that he is growing are Variety of rose plants and sun flower. He thought students how to balance between the different crops as few give less income and few give good income. So how to balance between these kinds of crops were thought. He also explained how to choose different crops for plantation.

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He also explained showed the mechanism of trapping the insects without using pesticides and insecticides. He is making use of solar insect trapper which will glow in the dark and the insects are trapped towards it without harming the crops.

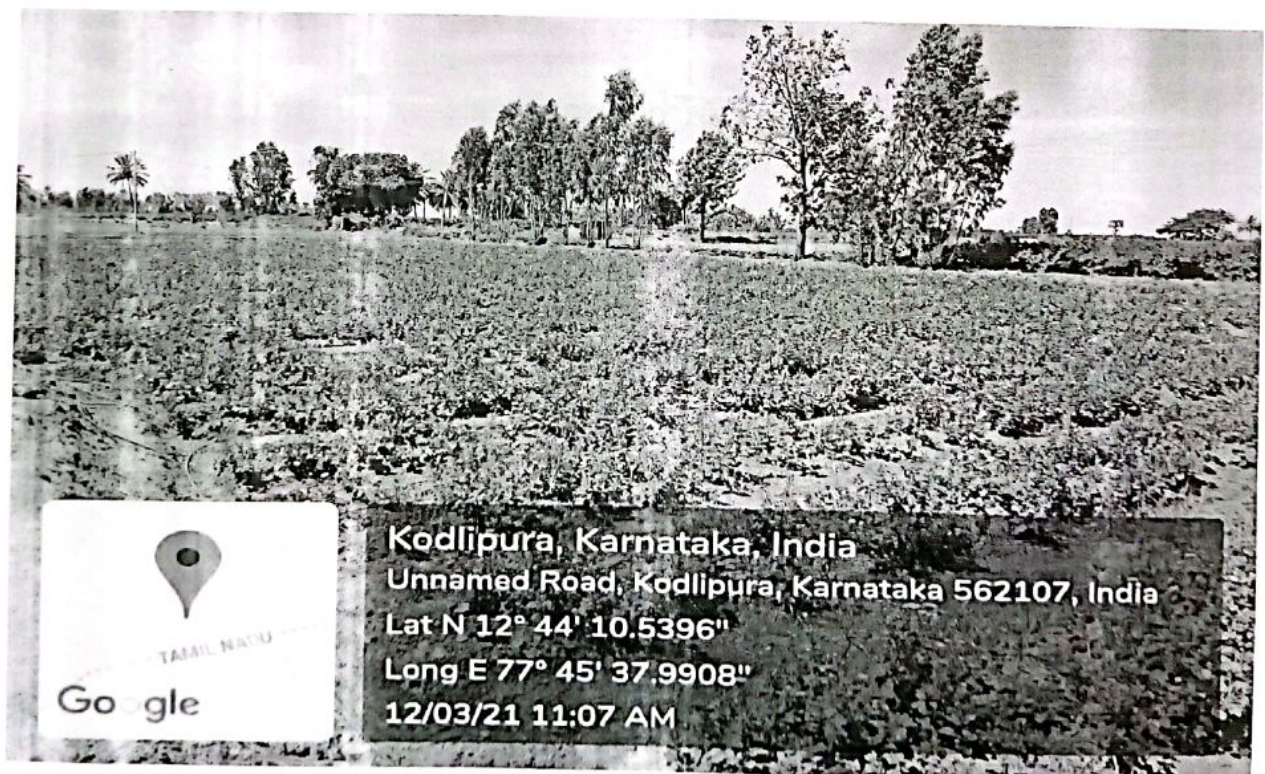
Apart from the organic farming he is also into other forms of agriculture. Some of them are fishing, dairying, Honey bee Agriculture, farm pits, sheep farming and so on. He thought students how these different forms of agriculture are important. How this will help in balancing other crops.

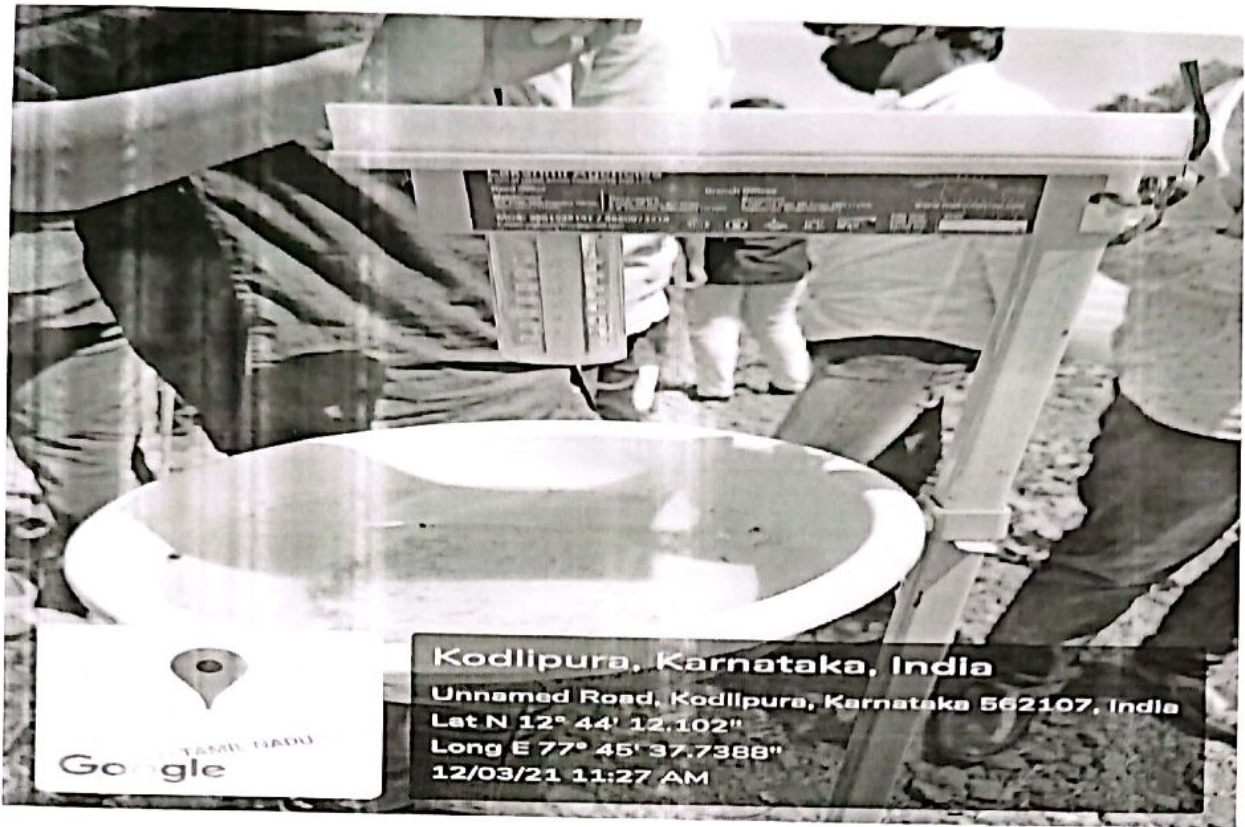
In the farm pits there are almost around 5000 fishes. He is using this for fishing and also using that stored water sometimes for farming when the sufficient water is not there for farming.

He also explained how important it is to educate farmers. As the government is offering many schemes to the farmers, and many are unaware of these schemes. Farmers do not know what crop to be cultivated with which crop. The impact of which is causing lot of losses to the farmers and most of them suiciding due to losses. So, the farmers being educated is very important and they should make use of the schemes that are provided by government. A Mahesh has made a very good use of all these schemes and is having all the complementary crops and other farming forms.

And after all these explanations, the faculty members felicitated the farmer A. Mahesh and thanked him for giving an opportunity to learn about organic farming and many aspects of farming practically.

This initiative was taken by the DFFA- Desalite Farmers Friendly Association of St Francis de Sales College and the science students were associated in this visit.

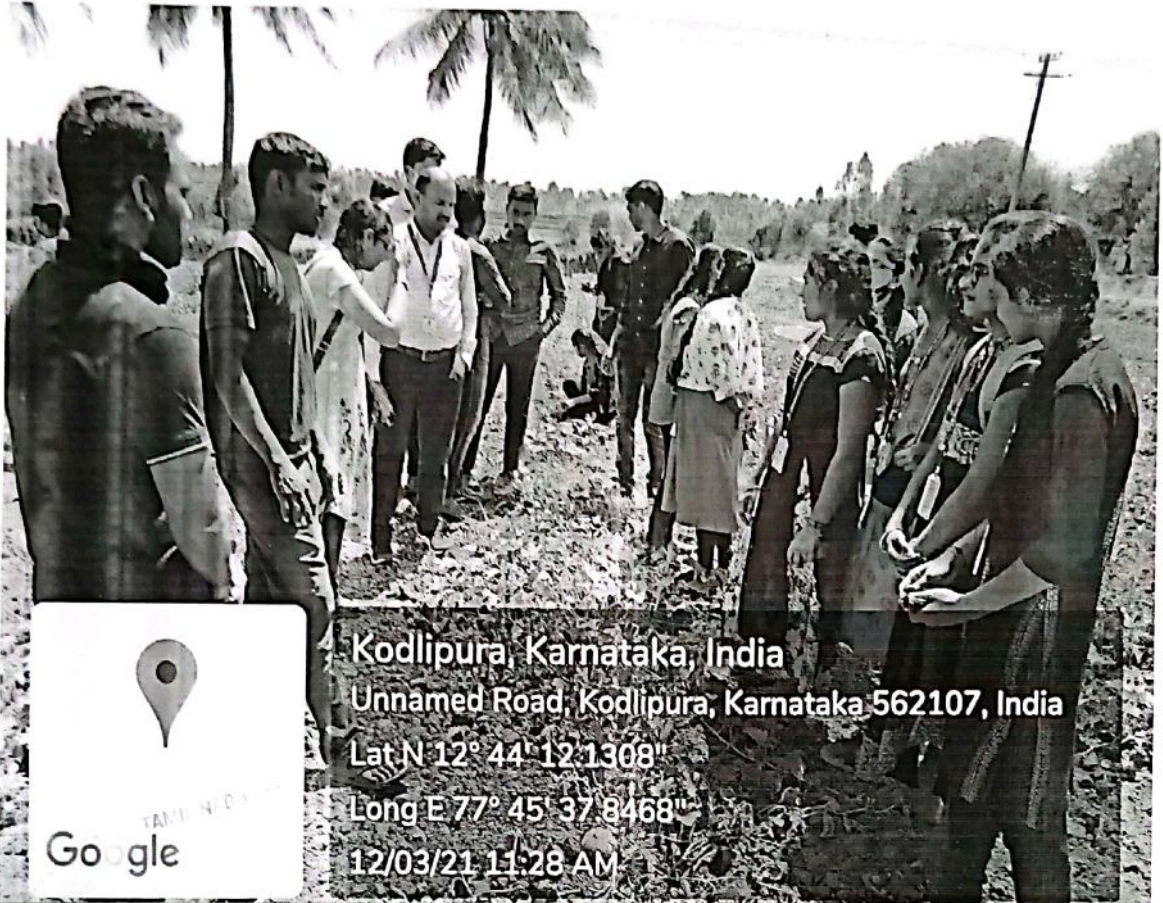




Solar insect trap used in organic farming.

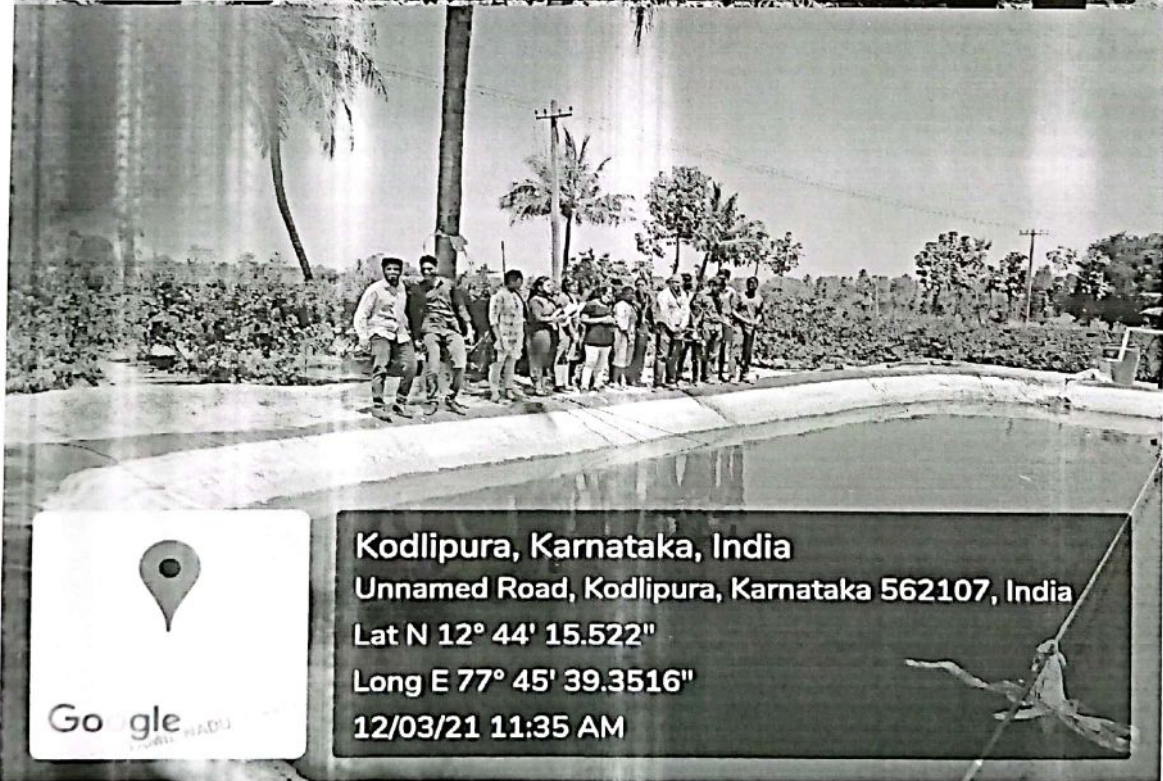


Honey Bee Cultivation



Google

**Kodlipura, Karnataka, India**  
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Krishi honda/ Farm pit having 5000 fishes.



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Felicitation done to Farmer A Mahesh by the Faculty Members of ST Francis de Sales College.