Project Report of "Capacity building for promoting organic farming through effective implementation of Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY)" project no. RP-03525G under UBA-SEGs

1. Title of SEG Project: "Capacity building for promoting organic farming through effective implementation of Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY)"

2. Name of UBA SEG under which the project has been sanctioned: Capacity Building, Strategy for Convergence and Implementation of Various Govt. Schemes
3. Field of Technical Intervention/Customization under UBA Themes: Organic farming
4. Name of the Participating Institution: Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, **AISHE Code:** U-0436
5. Name of Principle Investigator/s with Complete Contact Details: Dr.S.Kanagaraj, Dept. of Social Work, Amrita School of Social and Behavioural Sciences, Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, Coimbatore, India, Email id: s_kanagaraj@cb.amrita.edu , Mobile Number: 9943703604
6. Name of Village/s where Project Development Activities were Carried Out: PG Puthur, Ettimadai Panchayat
7. Project Justification/ Brief Introduction of the project

a) Problem Description

The project on "Capacity Building for Promoting Organic Farming through Effective Implementation of Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY)" aims to address the pressing need for sustainable agricultural practices by focusing on promoting organic farming. The project seeks to identify and address the key barriers faced by farmers and stakeholders in adopting organic farming under the PKVY program. It aims to build the capacity of farmers, agricultural extension officers, and relevant stakeholders through comprehensive training programs, workshops, and knowledge-sharing initiatives.

b) Objectives of the Project

- To promote organic farming practices among rural farmers.
- To strengthen farmers' capacity through training and soil testing.

- To implement a multi-grain cropping system for soil restoration.
- To form and sustain a farmers' group for collective action.

c) Details of the Solution Adopted to Solve the Problem

The project tackled the challenges in promoting organic farming through an integrated approach. A capacity-building workshop was organized at Veerapanur, where 18 farmers participated and interacted with experienced organic farmers who shared practical insights into sustainable agriculture. Key techniques such as soil preparation, composting, and organic fertilizers were explained.

Soil testing played a central role in understanding the existing soil health. Samples were collected from interested farmers and submitted to a government-approved soil testing lab in Coimbatore. The test results provided farmers with Soil Health Cards, enabling them to make informed decisions about crop selection and nutrient management.

To encourage long-term collaboration and sustainability, the *Amrita Farmers Club* was formed with 14 members who agreed on monthly savings contributions. The club also initiated steps to open a bank account to manage its funds collectively and transparently.

A scientifically supported multi-grain cropping system was introduced as the first step toward land recovery from chemical degradation. Seeds of various crops such as red gram, sesame, bajra, and country corn were distributed to the farmers. These crops were sown simultaneously and planned to be ploughed back after 45 days to enrich the soil with organic matter and microbial activity.

Overall, this community-based model emphasized awareness, collective action, scientific intervention, and economic sustainability to enable a successful transition to organic farming.

d) Brief Methodology with Photographs

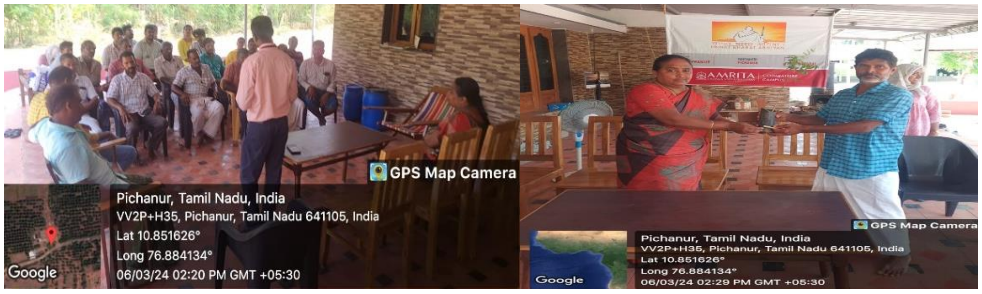
The project began with farmer mobilization and community engagement to identify interested participants. Following this, a one-day capacity-building workshop was held,

where experienced practitioners demonstrated organic techniques and answered farmer queries. Hands-on sessions were conducted on composting, water conservation, and low-cost methods.

Next, soil sample collection was carried out from participating farmers. These samples, along with farmer details, were submitted to the Soil Testing Laboratory at Lawley Road. Soil Health Cards were issued, providing individual recommendations on soil inputs and suitable crops.

Simultaneously, the farmers' group was formed with regular meetings and consensus on operational rules. A financial model involving ₹200 monthly savings was introduced to build financial sustainability. An application was submitted to open a bank account in the group's name.

The seed distribution process followed, where each farmer received a portion of 490 kg of multi-grain seeds (including country corn, bajra, red gram, sesame, coriander, sunn hemp, and groundnut). The sowing began shortly afterward, with farmers instructed to plough the crops back into the soil after 45 days to improve organic content. This process was to be repeated 2–3 times.



Soil Test

Farmers' meeting

e) Implementation Steps

The project was implemented in sequential steps to ensure community participation and scientific rigor.

1. **Farmer Identification & Mobilization**: Interested farmers were identified through field visits and initial orientation sessions.
2. **Training Workshop**: A practical training session on organic farming was conducted with expert farmers.
3. **Soil Testing**: Soil samples were collected and analyzed; Soil Health Cards were distributed.
4. **Formation of Farmers Group**: A 14-member *Amrita Farmers Club* was formed, with members contributing savings and establishing group rules.
5. **Seed Procurement and Distribution**: High-quality multi-grain seeds were procured and distributed for organic soil enrichment.
6. **Land Preparation and Sowing**: Farmers began preparing their land and initiated the first cycle of multi-cropping.
7. **Monitoring and Follow-up**: Regular meetings were scheduled to track progress, finalize the bank account, and plan future training sessions.

This structured and participatory implementation ensured that each farmer not only received technical knowledge but also became part of a sustainable community-driven initiative for organic agriculture

f) Details of Resources and Skills Set up

The project leveraged both tangible and intangible resources to ensure effective implementation and sustainability of organic farming practices in the village cluster.

Human Resources:

A dedicated team led by Dr. S. Kanagaraj, Assistant Professor and UBA Coordinator from the Department of Social Work, Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, oversaw the execution of the project. Local resource persons with practical knowledge in organic farming, such as Mrs. Pushpa Nandini and Mr. Senthilkumar, served as field trainers during workshops and farmer interactions. The formation of the *Amrita Farmers Club* with 14 active members created a peer-

support structure that fostered collaboration, accountability, and knowledge sharing among farmers.

Technical Resources and Tools:

- **Soil Testing Support:** Soil samples collected from the farmers' fields were tested at the Government Soil Testing Laboratory in Lawley Road, Coimbatore. This helped determine soil nutrient levels, pH balance, and overall fertility, which guided informed decision-making regarding crop selection and organic input application.
- **Seed Inputs:** A total of 490 kg of high-quality multi-grain seeds, comprising 5 main and 20 sub-varieties, were procured and distributed to farmers to initiate the soil restoration process.
- **Documentation Tools:** Meeting minutes, farmer records, and application forms for bank account registration were prepared using standardized templates to maintain transparency and accountability within the group.

Skill Development Initiatives:

Farmers were trained through capacity-building workshops on essential organic farming practices including:

- Natural composting and green manure techniques
- Water conservation and efficient irrigation
- Crop rotation and multi-cropping systems
- Seed mixing and soil preparation methods

These sessions were interactive and included demonstrations, promoting experiential learning. The ongoing support from agricultural experts and planned exposure visits will further enhance the skill base of the farmers.

Institutional and Financial Setup:

The Farmers' Club agreed upon a financial model where each member contributes ₹200 monthly towards a common fund. Efforts were made to open a joint bank account with Tamil Nadu Grama Bank to manage finances formally. This setup encourages shared investment and financial discipline, essential for scaling and sustaining organic farming initiatives.

g) *Budget of the Project*

Budget Details

Statement of Accounts			
Date	**Voucher Number/bill number**	**Particulars**	**Amount**
Field Work Expenses			
20.11.24	1	Field Work Expenses	2576
06.03.24		Refreshments	117
06.03.24		Refreshments	495
11.04.24		Refreshments	82
23.04.24		Refreshments	330
23.04.24		Refreshments	20
15.08.24	11416	Lunch	1134
Total			**4754**
Contingency			
20.02.24		Photocopy	120
22.04.24		Reprography	75
25.10.24		Stationery items	433
20.11.24	RPA/24-25/140	Polymer Stamp	378
Total			**1006**
Materials delivered to the Beneficiaries			
16.11.24		Purchase of seeds	44240
Total			**44240**
Grand Total			**50000**

1. Deviation Made from Original Objectives, if any, While Implementing the Project and Reasons thereof

No major deviations were made from the original objectives. However, due to the time required for soil testing and group formation procedures, the actual sowing and implementation of multi-grain cropping had to be initiated in a phased manner. This was necessary to ensure that farmers were well-prepared and trained before adopting the organic practices, thus maintaining the quality and sustainability of outcomes.

2. Whether the Problem Identified/Issue has been Resolved by the Implementation of this Project?

Yes, the project has effectively addressed the core issues related to lack of awareness, poor soil health, and unorganized farming practices. Farmers have gained knowledge through training, received Soil Health Cards for better crop planning, and initiated multi-grain cropping to rejuvenate the soil. The formation of the Amrita Farmers Club has laid a strong foundation for sustained organic farming practices and community-based agricultural development.

3. Achievements of the Project

a) Outcome of the Project

The project led to significant positive outcomes in promoting organic farming practices at the grassroots level. A key achievement was the successful formation of the *Amrita Farmers Club* with 14 members, which now serves as a collective platform for sustainable agricultural initiatives. The participating farmers underwent structured training, gained practical knowledge in organic farming, and began implementing the multi-grain cropping system as a preparatory step toward soil restoration.

Each farmer received a Soil Health Card based on scientific soil testing, enabling them to make informed decisions on crop selection and nutrient management. The distributed multi-crop seeds have been sown, and the farmers have initiated the first round of ploughing, as per organic practices. Financial planning through monthly savings and the initiation of a joint bank account has enhanced the group's financial discipline and sustainability.

Overall, the project has improved awareness, strengthened local capacity, and established a model for community-led organic farming that is both ecologically sustainable and economically viable.

b) Tangible and Intangible Benefits

The farmers are reaping several benefits from the project, including improved soil fertility through the adoption of composting and vermicomposting techniques. The distribution of multi-grain seeds for cultivating 1.5 acres per farmer is expected to boost productivity. The formation of a Farmers' Club, along with a dedicated bank account, has enhanced financial and resource management. Additionally, farmers have gained greater awareness of the importance

and advantages of organic farming. The project has strengthened community networks and fostered cooperative practices, while also empowering farmers with new skills and knowledge for long-term sustainability. Confidence in transitioning to eco-friendly and organic farming methods has significantly increased.

4. The Final Impact of this Project in the Adopted Villages (in 100 words) in Livelihood, Agriculture, Infrastructure, Rural Energy, Literacy, Others, etc.

   The project successfully promoted sustainable organic farming practices, directly benefiting 14 farmers through capacity-building workshops, soil testing, and the distribution of seeds for multi-cropping. Farmers formed a Farmers' Club, fostering community collaboration, knowledge sharing, and financial management through a dedicated bank account. The initiative improved soil fertility and reduced chemical dependency by introducing organic techniques such as composting and vermicomposting. Multi-grain sowing and sustainable practices were implemented, enhancing land productivity and empowering farmers to adopt eco-friendly methods. The project ensured long-term sustainability through regular training, follow-up meetings, and expert-led sessions, creating a strong foundation for continued organic farming adoption.

5. Number of Student Participation/Involvement with details

The project engaged approximately 25 students who played a pivotal role in promoting organic farming. They organized awareness drives within the project area to educate farmers on the benefits of organic farming. As part of their involvement, students conducted surveys to gather data on existing farming practices, challenges faced by farmers, and their perceptions of organic farming. Students specializing in agriculture contributed significantly by assisting in training farmers on soil testing and various sustainable farming techniques, including composting and vermicomposting. They collaborated with experts to deliver hands-on training sessions, ensuring practical understanding and application. Additionally, students facilitated the formation of Organic Farming Groups by mobilizing farmers and fostering community networks for knowledge-sharing and cooperative practices.

6. Number of Faculty Participation/Involvement

The involvement of five faculty members in the project has been pivotal to its success. Their contributions include organizing and leading training programs, serving as resource persons to share expertise, and guiding students in program implementation. Faculty members also arranged exposure visits and field visits, providing farmers and students with practical

insights into organic farming. Additionally, they actively engaged in interacting with farmers to understand their challenges and needs, creating awareness about sustainable practices. Their mentorship and participation have ensured effective capacity-building and seamless execution of the project objectives.

7. Impact of this Work on the Learning of Students

The project significantly enhanced students' learning and practical understanding of sustainable agriculture and community engagement. Students gained hands-on experience in organic farming practices, including soil testing, composting, vermicomposting, and multi-cropping techniques. By conducting surveys and data collection, students improved their research, analytical, and problem-solving skills. Interacting with farmers and organizing awareness drives strengthened their communication, leadership, and teamwork abilities. Collaborating with faculty members and agricultural experts provided students with mentorship and insights into real-world applications of sustainable farming. Students learned to plan, coordinate, and implement field activities, enhancing their organizational and management skills. Working closely with farmers deepened their understanding of rural challenges, instilling a sense of responsibility toward sustainable development and community welfare. This experiential learning approach bridged the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical application, equipping students with skills for future endeavors.

8. Impact of this Work on the Learning of the Teacher

The implementation of this project provided the teacher with valuable experiential learning in community engagement, participatory planning, and grassroots-level capacity building. It deepened the understanding of rural agricultural challenges, particularly those related to transitioning from chemical-intensive to organic farming systems. Working directly with farmers enhanced the teacher’s ability to design practical, need-based interventions rooted in local knowledge and scientific principles.

The project also offered insights into policy-level schemes like PKVY and their ground-level execution, enabling the teacher to bridge the gap between academic knowledge and field application. Facilitating group formation, coordinating with government institutions for soil testing, and managing financial and logistical components of the project contributed to strengthened skills in leadership, project management, and participatory rural development.

Overall, the experience enriched the teacher's role as both a facilitator of sustainable practices and an academic mentor, reinforcing the importance of integrating social work values into community-based agricultural initiatives.

Number of Families and Rural Population Impacted

Here are the details of the farmers impacted by the project:

S.No.	Name	Gender	Aadhar No.	Age	Land Holding	Details of crop
1.	Senthilkumar T	Male	379269552712	44	1 acre	Banana
2.	Arulraj P	Male	525686820972	60	2 acre	Horticultural Crops
3.	Subbulakashmi.T	Female	437996713368	68	1 acre	Banana
4.	Jeganathan.P	Male	469544165809	62	2 acre	Banana
5.	Senthilkumar. S	Male	626626075305	49	4 acre	Coconut, Banana
6.	Palanisamy.K	Male	942689129576	40	2.5 acre	Horticultural Crops
7.	Prakash.P	Male	438340155329	46	3 acre	Horticultural Crops
8.	Padmavathy.P	Female	476726705904	67	3 acre	Horticultural Crops
9.	Allahsamy.A	Male	945072900263	38	1 acre	Horticultural Crops
10.	Kalisamy.P	Male	553993215779	68	2 acre	Banana
11.	Manojkumar. V	Male	627961885437	36	1 acre	Horticultural Crops
12.	Sivakumar T	Male	881661996224	46	1 acre	Banana
13.	Thandayuthapani.K	Male	875423678945	42	2.5 acre	Horticultural Crops

9. Photos (with captions) of the project implementation activities (maximum of 6 photographs of high resolution with at least two GPS tagged photos) with Description of Each Photo in Maximum of 25 Word

Organic Farming Workshop and Farmers' Interaction Meeting

Capacity-building workshop on organic farming under the *Unnat Bharat Abhiyan*.

The chief guests shared their valuable experiences, emphasizing the significance of organic Farming. They also discussed key topics, including soil preparation techniques and the benefits of sustainable farming practices.

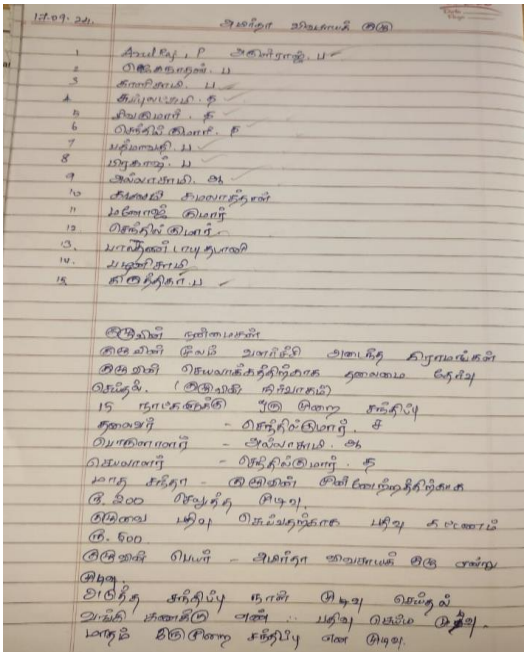
Soil Test

Soil testing evaluates the soil's nutrient content, pH level, and overall fertility. This information helps farmers understand the current condition of their soil. Soil samples were collected from farmers willing to be involved in organic farming and submitted to the Soil testing laboratory at Lawley Road, Coimbatore.

Organization of Follow-up meeting and formation of Farmers group

A meeting was convened with farmers to initiate the formation of a Farmers' Club. Seven farmers participated and collectively decided to establish the group with an initial membership of 14. During the meeting, they finalized the group's name, operating procedures, and rules and regulations to govern the group. It was agreed that each member would contribute ₹200 as a monthly savings amount. The farmers also discussed opening a bank account in the group's name for financial management. Additionally, they planned to commence activities following the soil testing process. A joint decision was made to purchase seeds and cultivate them in a designated area of their agricultural fields to enhance soil fertility and implement organic farming practices. This collaborative approach aimed to promote sustainable and cost-effective farming techniques.

Farmers discussing on Formation of Amrita Farmers Club



Meeting minutes

அமிர்தா விவசாய குழு
சாவடி புதூர், எட்டிமடை
கோயமுத்தூர் - 641105

நாள் :-_____

Letterhead

Seal

Farmers details

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Initiation for the creation of a Bank account

An application form has been submitted to the Tamilnadu Grama Bank, KG Chavadi Branch, for opening a bank account in the name of the group. The farmers will take responsibility for maintaining the group's financial audits.

Justification for the seeds Procured

The first step for farmers transitioning to organic farming is multi-grain sowing. According to agricultural scientist Nammalwar, barren land degraded by the continuous use of chemical fertilizers can be restored to fertility within 200 days through this method.

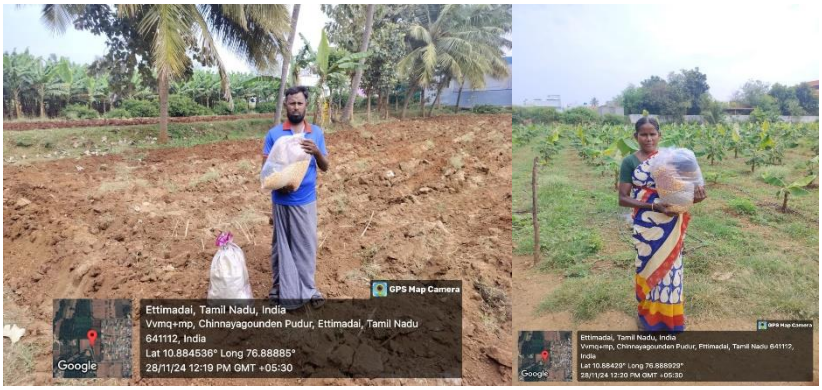
Multi Cropping System (1.5 Acres)						
S.no	**Particulars**	**Quantity per head (Kg)**	**Approximate Price per kg**	**Total Price**	**Total (Kg)**	**Total Amount**
1	Country Corn	7	30	210	98	2940
2	Bajra	7	36	252	98	3528
3	Red Gram	6	120	720	84	10080
4	Groundnut	5	130	650	70	9100
5	Sesame	2	250	500	28	7000
6	Coriander	2	120	240	28	3360
7	Sunn hemp seeds	6	98	588	84	8232
Total		**35**	**784**	**3160**	**490**	**44240**

The table provides details on the quantity and variety of seeds distributed to farmers for adopting the multi-cropping system. It specifies the quantity of seeds required per person for 1.5 acres and the total quantity needed for all 14 group members. Additionally, the table includes the corresponding cost of the seeds.

Sustainability of the project and further follow-up

The purchased seeds have been distributed to the farmers, who are now preparing their land for sowing.

The procedure for sowing and maintenance has already been discussed in the meeting. Farmers are expected to plough the crops after 45 days to prepare the soil for their next round of crop production. As part of a multi-cropping system, this process needs to be repeated two to three times to enhance soil fertility and suitability for organic farming.



Following this, the farmers plan to transition to organic farming methods that do not harm the soil. To facilitate this shift, farmers need to be trained in organic farming techniques. Experts in the field can be invited to conduct interactive and practical sessions. Additionally, exposure visits can be arranged to help farmers better understand organic farming practices. As a farmers' group has already been established, the follow-up process, including creating bank accounts and completing registrations, needs to be finalized. Regular meetings should be organized to ensure the group's smooth functioning and maintain coordination among its members.

10. Testimonials

1. Mr. Senthilkumar T (Farmer, Age 44, 1 Acre – Banana Cultivation):

"This project gave me confidence to try organic farming. The soil health card helped me understand my land better, and I have already started seeing changes in soil texture after the first ploughing cycle. The training was practical and easy to follow."

2. Mrs. Subbulakshmi T (Farmer, Age 68, 1 Acre – Banana Cultivation):

"Earlier, I didn't know how to use organic methods properly. After attending the sessions and getting the seeds, I started working differently. Now, I'm part of the farmers group, and we support each other. It feels like we are building something long-term."

3. Mr. Prakash P (Farmer, Age 46, 3 Acres – Horticultural Crops):

"Being part of this initiative has been eye-opening. I now see the value of working as a group and moving away from chemical farming. The regular meetings and expert guidance have made me more confident to continue with natural methods."

4. Dr. S. Kanagaraj (UBA Coordinator and Project Lead):

"This project has been a transformative journey. Witnessing the enthusiasm of farmers and their willingness to embrace sustainable practices reaffirmed the importance of community-led development. It has strengthened my resolve to continue integrating social work into real-world agricultural solutions."

11. Other relevant information/ Project Learnings/ Link of feedback videos of villagers (If any)

Project Learnings:

The implementation of this project provided several key learnings:

- **Community Engagement is Crucial:** The success of organic farming initiatives depends heavily on farmer trust, peer support, and continuous handholding. Forming a farmers' group early in the project helped create a strong sense of ownership and accountability.
- **Scientific Support Enhances Adoption:** The use of soil testing and health cards gave scientific credibility to the initiative, making farmers more receptive to changing their traditional practices.
- **Phased Implementation Works Best:** Introducing organic farming in a step-by-step manner—starting with awareness, followed by soil testing, seed distribution, and finally cropping—ensured that farmers were not overwhelmed and could adapt gradually.
- **Financial Literacy is Key:** Encouraging monthly savings and initiating a group bank account laid the groundwork for financial sustainability and opened possibilities for future credit linkages.
- **Field-Level Collaboration Strengthens Outcomes:** Involving experienced organic farmers as trainers created a bridge between theory and practice, helping participants relate to real-life challenges and solutions.

12. Comments from the SEG

13. Comments from National Coordinating Institute (NCI) `

Status of the Project Post 18 Months of the Implementation

1. Sustainability of Implemented Solution after 18 Months
2. What was the Impact Envisaged at the time of Implementation and What is the Impact Achieved?
3. Project Learnings

*** End ***