

Vertical farming for home level vegetable production to improve nutritional status

Rationale:

The population explosion resulted in migration of peoples from rural areas to urban areas for income generation. Due to migration of peoples most of the agriculture lands are converted into residential areas, resulted with decreased production of fruits and vegetables. Dietitians recommend 85 grams of fruits/day, 300 grams of vegetables/day, whereas the present day consumption of fruit is only 30 grams/day and vegetables is 120 grams/day. This can be solved by growing vegetables at our home so that we can choose and ensure the opportunities to get fresh vegetables. A vertical farming is an innovative of cultivating vegetables where the crops grows in a layer system (Vertically) using grow bags with support system in limited space

KVK Intervention:

- KVK conducted 26 nos. of training on home gardening with vertical farming system and covered 265 members
- KVK developed vertical farming system at instructional farm with different models and supported the farm women and housewives to cultivate and consume fresh vegetables and greens at their door steps.
- IEC material like leaflet, booklet and posters being developed by KVK for the benefit of all the end users to establish vegetable farming with vertical system.
- KVK demonstrated Dish pandhal and vertical farming system at two DFI villages for popularization of the technology
- KVK established AESC (Agri entrepreneur service centre) at KVK to provide capacity building, materials required for establishing vertical farming units

Training number and participants

Year	No. of training	Number of participants	Number of model units developed
2017	6	84	2
2018	8	112	12
2019	12	164	18

Outcome and Impact:

- One technocrat developed and motivated for establishing the structure. He developed different vertical farming system at his field and his farm stands as model resource unit for the visitors

- KVK promoted Theenkoodu CMRC (Community Managed Resource centre) established different models of vertical farming system for vegetable production for the benefit of SHG women and farmers at village levels.
- The technology supported for 25 families .and one residential school to get fresh vegetables in their noon meal programme.
- More than 5000 farmers, farm women, school and college students of Erode and other parts of the state visited the technology.
- KVK extended technical support for establishing vertical system in Krishnagiri, Coimbatore and nearby district farmers
- One women entrepreneur trained on Grow Bags and accessories manufacturing. She provides traditional seeds and seedlings, growth promoter. She provide technical information through you tube called Mayura Creation for end to end solution for home gardening. More than 2000 videos shared in this you tube for the vegetable growing technology at household level
- Increased consumption of the vegetables and greens by women and children and utilize the space effectively utilized at backyard or roof.
