

Best Practice: 1

Title of the Practice: GO GREEN - THINK GREEN AND ACT GREEN

Objectives of the Practice: Green Campus initiatives are becoming essential in advanced educational frameworks due to the urgent need to address radical global changes threatening our environment. Galsi Mahavidyalaya aims to foster a healthy and eco-friendly environment through various green initiatives. The primary objectives include:

- Maintaining a high ratio of open and clean spaces relative to constructed areas.
- Sustainable use of traditional energy and natural resources.
- Promoting renewable resource utilization and groundwater replenishment, while raising awareness among students and the community.
- Ensuring a natural, plastic-free, and tobacco-free campus environment.


The Context: Galsi Mahavidyalaya is located amidst nature, surrounded by agricultural lands. The college's eco-friendly focus ensures that water and other resources are preserved for future generations. As infrastructure needs grow, there's a risk of using non-eco-friendly materials. Hence, it is crucial to educate students and the community about green practices.

The Practices: The college has implemented numerous initiatives to promote an eco-friendly campus:

- Regular plantation programs.
- Maintenance of two butterfly gardens and one medicinal garden by a dedicated gardener.
- Pisciculture in the college pond to maintain the pond ecosystem.
- NSS units oversee campus cleanliness.
- Rotational cultivation of indigenous crops in the campus.
- Groundwater recharging through a rainwater harvesting pit.
- Installation of two RO drinking water plants and a sanitary napkin vending machine to ensure health and hygiene.
- Strict prohibition of single-use plastics and tobacco on campus.
- Organization of seminars and conferences on environmental issues and conducting environmental audits.

Evidence of Success: The college has seen notable successes from its green initiatives:

- The campus pond, spanning one acre, has become a breeding ground for migratory birds, enhancing ecological importance and campus beauty.
- The campus hosts around 900 plants, including over 20 species of large trees, 16 varieties of flowering plants, and 100 medicinal plants of 18 varieties, improving the campus environment.
- Guests are welcomed with saplings instead of flower bouquets.
- A water reservoir has been constructed to capture rooftop rainwater to replenish groundwater.
- Rooftop solar photovoltaic panels have been installed to harness renewable energy.
- NSS units have conducted environmental awareness programs, including tree planting and anti-pollution campaigns.

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- An international conference on environmental issues was held in 2019 on campus.
 - The introduction of a sanitary napkin vending machine in the girls' common room has enhanced hygiene awareness among female students.
 - Biodegradable materials are used and disposed of in an eco-friendly manner by the local gram panchayat's solid waste management scheme.

Problems Encountered and Resources Required: The primary challenge in sustaining eco-friendly initiatives is developing a robust institutional framework. Allocating separate funds for green practices is essential. Support from local bodies like the Panchayat and Block Development Office is also needed. Generating environmental awareness and promoting nature-friendly behaviour among students require continuous efforts, which can be challenging due to other academic and extracurricular commitments or a lack of resources.

Best Practice: 2

Title of the Practice: **WATERING HOPE: EMPOWERING LOCAL FARMERS THROUGH INNOVATIVE IRRIGATION SUPPORT"**

Objective of the Practice:

The primary aim of this practice is to assist local farmers by providing irrigation support from the college pond, thereby strengthening the relationship between the institution and the community. The objectives include:

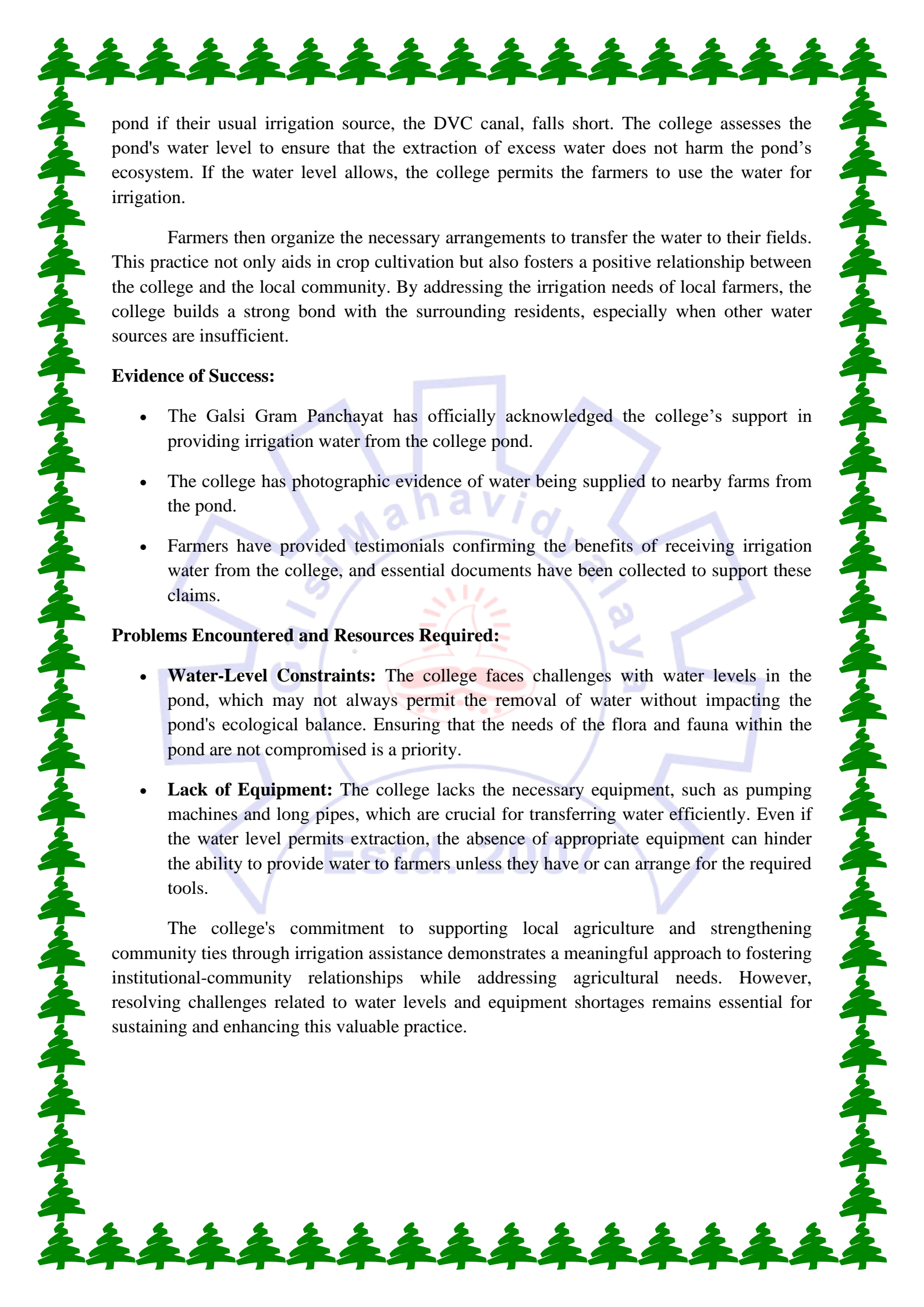
- Providing water from the college pond to local farmers, particularly during dry seasons or as needed, while ensuring that the ecological balance of the pond's flora and fauna is not disrupted.
- Enhancing the bond between the institution and the surrounding society by actively aiding local farmers.

Context:

Agriculture is crucial to the country's economy, with many people dependent on farming for their livelihood. The community in Galsi predominantly engages in agriculture, and the land on which Galsi Mahavidyalaya is situated was originally used for farming. The college acquired this land from local farmers, and the college pond, existing before the institution's establishment, was once a vital irrigation source for surrounding fields.

The Practice:

Since its inception, Galsi Mahavidyalaya has upheld its commitment to supporting local agriculture. Each year, during the sowing season, farmers request water from the college



pond if their usual irrigation source, the DVC canal, falls short. The college assesses the pond's water level to ensure that the extraction of excess water does not harm the pond's ecosystem. If the water level allows, the college permits the farmers to use the water for irrigation.

Farmers then organize the necessary arrangements to transfer the water to their fields. This practice not only aids in crop cultivation but also fosters a positive relationship between the college and the local community. By addressing the irrigation needs of local farmers, the college builds a strong bond with the surrounding residents, especially when other water sources are insufficient.

Evidence of Success:

- The Galsi Gram Panchayat has officially acknowledged the college's support in providing irrigation water from the college pond.
- The college has photographic evidence of water being supplied to nearby farms from the pond.
- Farmers have provided testimonials confirming the benefits of receiving irrigation water from the college, and essential documents have been collected to support these claims.

Problems Encountered and Resources Required:

- **Water-Level Constraints:** The college faces challenges with water levels in the pond, which may not always permit the removal of water without impacting the pond's ecological balance. Ensuring that the needs of the flora and fauna within the pond are not compromised is a priority.
- **Lack of Equipment:** The college lacks the necessary equipment, such as pumping machines and long pipes, which are crucial for transferring water efficiently. Even if the water level permits extraction, the absence of appropriate equipment can hinder the ability to provide water to farmers unless they have or can arrange for the required tools.

The college's commitment to supporting local agriculture and strengthening community ties through irrigation assistance demonstrates a meaningful approach to fostering institutional-community relationships while addressing agricultural needs. However, resolving challenges related to water levels and equipment shortages remains essential for sustaining and enhancing this valuable practice.