

**MAHATMA GANDHI GOVT. ARTS COLLEGE, MAHE
P.G. DEPT. OF BOTANY**

**REPORT OF ONE WEEK NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON
“Skill Enhancement and Entrepreneurship”
(06 February 2026 – 12 February 2026)**

Skill Enhancement and Entrepreneurship Programme was successfully conducted at Mahatma Gandhi Government Arts College (MGGAC), Mahe, by P.G Dept. of Botany in association with SBI, Mahe from 06 February 2026 to 12 February 2026, with the objective of equipping students with practical skills, entrepreneurial awareness, and exposure to traditional and innovative livelihood opportunities. The programme aimed to bridge academic knowledge with real-world applications, especially in the areas of sustainable agriculture, medicinal plants, and self-employment.

Inaugural Session (06 February 2026)

The inaugural session of the programme was held on 06 February 2026 at 10:00 a.m. in the Seminar Hall of MGGAC, Mahe. The programme began with a prayer rendered by Ms. Sandra and Ms. Nandana, which set a solemn and positive tone for the event. The session commenced with a Welcome Address by Dr. G. Pradeep Kumar, Head of the Department of Botany, who emphasized the importance of skill-based education and entrepreneurship in empowering students for future challenges.

The Presidential Address was delivered by Dr. K. K. Sivadasan, Principal, MGGAC, Mahe. In his address, he highlighted the relevance of entrepreneurship-oriented programmes in higher education and encouraged students to actively participate and make the best use of such learning opportunities. An overview and introduction to the workshop were presented by Dr. K. Sasikala, Co-ordinator of the workshop, outlined the objectives, structure, and expected outcomes of the programme.

The programme was formally inaugurated by **Sri K.P. Sreejith**, Municipal Commissioner, Mahe. In his inaugural address, he spoke about the role of skill development and entrepreneurship in regional development and appreciated the initiative taken by the college to nurture student potential beyond conventional academics.

The inaugural session was further enriched by felicitation addresses from: Dr. K. M. Gopinathan, IQAC Coordinator, Dr. K. Manjula, Head, Department of Hindi and Smt. Suchithra P., PTA President.

All speakers congratulated the organizing committee and motivated the students to utilize the programme for personal and professional growth. The session concluded with a vote of thanks proposed by Dr. Anil Raj K.N, Assistant Professor of Botany, who expressed gratitude to the dignitaries, speakers, organizers, participants and Office bearers for their wholehearted support and cooperation.

Keynote Address

Following the inaugural session, a highly engaging Keynote Address was delivered by **Sri Shimjith Thillankeri**, a State Award-winning farmer. His session proved to be one of the highlights of the programme. He introduced the participants to a wide range of traditional, economically and medicinally important plant varieties, including different varieties of Tulsi, turmeric, ginger, and rice, along with several medicinally valuable plant species.

Through his practical insights and experiences, Sri Shimjith Thillankeri emphasized the significance of conserving traditional crop varieties. His talk inspired students to rethink the value of indigenous knowledge systems and explore agriculture and plant-based entrepreneurship as a viable career options. The session was highly interactive and thought-provoking, leaving the participants with a renewed appreciation for traditional plant diversity and its relevance in modern times.

Afternoon Session (06 February 2026)

The afternoon session of the Skill Enhancement and Entrepreneurship Programme commenced at 2:00 PM and was devoted to the development of communication skills, an essential component for professional growth and employability.

The first session was handled by **Dr. Arijit Ghosh**, Assistant Professor of English, MGGAC, Mahe. His session focused on resume writing and career documentation. He clearly explained the structure, format, and significance of a resume, highlighting the differences among them and their appropriate usage in academic, professional, and personal contexts. The session was highly informative enabling students to understand how to effectively present their skills, qualifications, and achievements.

The second session began at 3:30 PM and was led by **Dr. K. Chandran**, Retired Vice Principal, Puducherry. He delivered an engaging and insightful lecture on communication skills, emphasizing their importance in personal, academic, and professional life. Dr. Chandran elaborated on verbal and non-verbal communication, confidence building, body language, listening skills, and effective expression of ideas. His session was interactive, motivating students to overcome communication barriers and develop self-confidence.

SESSIONS ON DAY 2 (07/02/2026)

The second day of the Programme on Skill Enhancement and Entrepreneurship Workshop was conducted on 7 February 2026. The session commenced at 9.30 a.m. with great enthusiasm and active participation from students and faculty members. The programme was designed to enhance students' technical skills and awareness of emerging areas in biological sciences, particularly bioinformatics.

The session began with a welcome address by Dr. Rajesh Kumar, Assistant Professor, Department of Botany. In his speech, he highlighted the importance of skill development and entrepreneurship in modern scientific education and encouraged students to make the best use of the workshop.

This was followed by a brief and motivating address by Dr. K. K. Sivadasan, Principal of MGGAC. He emphasized the relevance of such workshops in shaping students' career prospects and strengthening their practical knowledge in science and technology.

Subsequently, Dr. K. Sasikala, Assistant Professor, Department of Botany, introduced the resource person, **Dr. Sushil Kumar Middha**, Associate Professor of Biotechnology, mLAC, Bengaluru. She briefed the audience about his academic background and expertise in bioinformatics.

Dr. Sushil Kumar Middha then delivered a detailed lecture on the topic "Applications of Bioinformatics." He explained the basic concepts of bioinformatics, its historical development, and its significance in modern biological research. He also discussed major biological databases such as ICBN, EMBL, and DDBJ, highlighting their role in storing and analyzing genetic and molecular data. The session was highly informative and helped students gain deeper insight into the field of bioinformatics. The first session concluded at 1:30 p.m.

After the lunch break, the second session began at 2:45 p.m. This session was jointly conducted by Dr. Sushil Kumar Middha and **Dr. T. Usha**, Associate Professor of Biotechnology. They conducted a practical session titled "Hands-on Training in Bioinformatics." Students were trained in data retrieval using NCBI and multiple sequence alignment using Clustal Omega. The hands-on experience enabled students to apply theoretical knowledge to real bioinformatics tools, thereby enhancing their analytical and technical skills.

The programme concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Dr. K. Sasikala, who expressed gratitude to the resource persons, organizers, faculty members, and students for their active participation and cooperation in making the workshop successful.

SESSIONS ON DAY 3 (08/02/2026)

The third day of the Programme on Skill Enhancement and Entrepreneurship Workshop was conducted on 8 February 2026 with great enthusiasm and active participation from both students and faculty members. The session began at 9:30 a.m., focusing on strengthening students' technical competencies and creating awareness about emerging opportunities in biological sciences, especially in the field of bioinformatics.

The day's programme started with a continuation of the previous day's discussion led by the resource persons Dr. Sushil Kumar Middha, and Dr. T. Usha, Associate Professor's of Biotechnology, mLAC, Bengaluru. They conducted hands-on practical sessions on UniProt databases and protein sequence analysis, enabling students to understand how biological data is collected, stored, and interpreted using digital tools. The practical exposure helped students to develop analytical skills and appreciate the relevance of bioinformatics in modern biological research and healthcare applications.

The session was highly engaging, and students actively interacted with the experts by asking questions and clarifying doubts. It enhanced their understanding of research methods, data handling, and the real-world applications of bioinformatics.

After a short tea break, a session on various government schemes for entrepreneurs was conducted. Welcome address was delivered by Mr. Shijith, P.P., Assistant Professor, Department of Botany. The presidential address was delivered by Dr. K.K. Sivadasan, Principal of MGGAC, who emphasized the importance of skill-based education and innovation among students. Dr. Rajesh Kumar, Assistant Professor, Department of Botany, introduced the resource person **Sri. Lorance Mathew**, AIDO, Government of Kerala. He delivered an insightful talk on "Various Central and State Schemes for Entrepreneurship." He explained government initiatives that support young entrepreneurs, financial assistance schemes, training programmes, startup opportunities, and guidance centres available for aspiring innovators. The session encouraged students to think creatively, identify opportunities, and consider entrepreneurship as a viable career option alongside academics.

The talk was interactive and inspiring, motivating students to explore self-employment, startups, and innovation-driven projects.

Afternoon session:

The morning session concluded at 2:00 p.m. After the lunch break, the bioinformatics session resumed. It allowed students to further strengthen their practical skills and continue their learning experience through guided activities and discussions in bioinformatics.

Overall, the third day of the workshop was informative, skill-oriented, and motivating. It successfully combined technical training with career and entrepreneurship guidance, helping students gain confidence, broaden their knowledge, and develop a future-oriented outlook. The programme played a significant role in nurturing scientific curiosity, innovation, and entrepreneurial thinking among participants.

SESSIONS OF DAY 4 (09/02/2026)

The fifth session of the programme commenced at 9.30 AM. The proceedings began with a formal welcome address by Dr. Rajesh Kumar, Asst Professor of Botany, MGGAC Mahe, followed by the presidential address delivered by Dr. K.K. Sivadasan, Principal MGGAC Mahe. To set the stage for the technical session, Dr. K. Sasikala, Asst Professor of Botany officially introduced the resource person, **Sri Pranav N. Pradeep**, highlighting his expertise and experience in the field of terrarium making, gardening, and landscaping.

The resource person delivered an engaging lecture on terrarium, covering their history, types and significance. He also explained in detail the materials and equipment required for making different kinds of terrariums. A tea break was provided at 11.30 AM. Following the break the resource person continued the session with a lecture on gardening and landscaping, where he discussed design, principles and modern landscaping techniques.

Afternoon Session: Hands-on Training

Post-lunch, the programme moved into a practical, interactive workshop. Participants were divided into 10 groups to apply their morning's learning. Each group was assigned the task of creating a terrarium using the materials provided. The session concluded with a

formal evaluation of the work, and winners were announced based on design, health of the ecosystem, and aesthetic appeal. The session concluded at 4.30 PM.

SESSIONS OF DAY 5 (10/02/2026)

The day was exclusive for agricultural practices. The session started with a welcome speech delivered by Dr. G. Pradeep Kumar, Head of the Botany Department. This was followed by a brief address by Dr. K. K. Sivadasan, Principal of MGGAC, who spoke about the importance of the day's programme.

The first lecture of the session was delivered by **Smt. Sreeja**, Agricultural Officer, Kerala who is also a former student and staff of MGGAC. She spoke in detail on Modern Techniques in Agriculture. Her lecture included topics such as the history of agriculture, precision farming, controlled environment agriculture (including hydroponics, aeroponics, and aquaponics), microgreens, and vertical farming. After the lecture, feedback was presented by Navya, I MA Hindi student.

After the tea break, participants visited the Agricultural Department Nursery at Cherukallayi, Mahe. There, **Mr. Rosh K**, Agricultural Officer, Mahe demonstrated grafting and budding techniques. He also selected four students to perform the same on another plant under his guidance.

After lunch, the session began with a welcome address by Dr. K. Sasikala, Assistant Professor of Botany, who introduced **Smt. Flossy Manuel**, Deputy Director of the Agricultural Department, Mahe. She explained and demonstrated potting mix preparation and compost making. Students actively interacted with her by asking questions, which she clarified clearly and the programme concluded after the final tea break at 4.00 PM.

SESSIONS OF DAY 6 (11/02/2026)

The day was dedicated exclusively for Mussel farming and Mushroom Cultivation. The first talk was delivered by **Dr. Vijaya Raghavan**, Retd. Professor, NASC, Kanjangad. He also presented a documentary on mussel farming which was directed by him for UGC. Dr. G. Pradeep Kumar, HOD of Botany introduced the guest.

After a tea break, a session on Mushroom Cultivation was presented by **Dr. Anil Raj K. N.**, Asst Professor of Botany, MGGAC, Mahe. This session included the theory and practical aspects of mushroom cultivation.

A third interaction was also included in the morning session, in which the students interacted with a successful mushroom farmer **Mrs. Chithralekha** from Vengad, Kannur. She shared her vast experiences in mushroom farming and marketing.

The afternoon session included hands-on training in mushroom bed making. This session was guided by Dr. Anil Raj K.N., Dr Vijayaraghavan and Mrs. Chithralekha. Students were divided into 10 groups and each group prepared mushroom beds using straw and spawn.

SESSIONS OF DAY 7 (13/02/2026)

The session on 12th February 2026 was conducted on 13/2/2026 due to a Nation-wide strike by the Trade Unions.

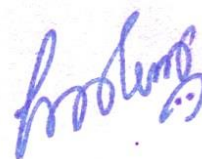
The morning session began with an evaluation examination for participants. Dr. Rajesh Kumar conducted the test using Google form which was simultaneously attended by participants in the seminar hall. The students also filled a feedback form online.

After the tea break, **Mr. Parvan Pavithran**, Relationship Manager, SBI Kannur gave a lecture on different bank schemes for entrepreneurs.

A grand buffet lunch was offered at 1.00 p.m followed by a Valedictory session which was welcomed by Dr. E Girish Kumar, Asst Professor MGGAC welcomed the gathering.. Dr. K.K. Sivadasan delivered the valedictory address and **Mrs. Saranya Vijayan**, Chief Manager, SBI, Mahe, inaugurated the event. A report of the workshop was presented by Sri Shijith P.P., Joint Co-ordinator of the programme. Dr. Rajesh Kumar, Asst. Professor of Botany proposed the vote of thanks.



Dr. K. Sasikala
Asst. Professor of Botany
(Co-ordinator)



Dr. G. Pradeep Kumar
Head, P.G. Dept. of Botany
(Convenor)

Inaugural Session of One-week National Workshop on Skill Enhancement and Entrepreneurship (6/2/26 to 12/02/2026)



About the workshop
 The current economic challenges faced by many countries across the globe have led to greater entrepreneurial activity by many "retired" entrepreneurs. The relevance of entrepreneurship to economic development has been highlighted in recent years and it is now well recognized that education and training opportunities play a key role in cultivating future entrepreneurs and in developing the abilities of existing entrepreneurs to give their businesses to greater levels of success. The aim of this workshop is to provide the promotion of entrepreneurship and SME development to further the "bank of India" initiative to further the bank of youth by enlightening them on various aspects.

Organizing Committee:
 Chairman: Dr. K. S. Shanmugam, Principal, MGAC, Mahe
 Convenor: Dr. G. Prasad Kumar, Assistant Professor of Botany, MGAC, Mahe
 Co-convenors: Dr. K. Sankaranarayanan, Dr. K. Sankaranarayanan & Dr. Rajesh K. R. (Asst. Professor of Botany)
 Dr. G. Prasad Kumar, Assistant Professor of Botany, MGAC, Mahe
 Dr. Anil Raj K. R., Asst. Professor of Botany, MGAC, Mahe
 Dr. K. Sankaranarayanan, Asst. Professor of Botany, MGAC, Mahe
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P.G. DEPT. OF BOTANY
in association with
Bank of India
Organized One-week National Workshop on Skill Enhancement and Entrepreneurship



**Technical Session of One-week National Workshop on Skill Enhancement and Entrepreneurship
(6/2/2026 to 12/2/2026)**



**Technical Session of One-week National Workshop on Skill Enhancement and Entrepreneurship
(6/2/2026 to 12/2/2026)**



Valedictory Session of One-week National workshop on Skill Enhancement and Entrepreneurship (6/2/2026 to 12/2/2026)

