THE - Impact Rankings 2026

15.3.3 Local Biodiversity included in Planning and development

At KARE, local biodiversity is carefully considered in campus planning and development. Native plant species are selected for landscaping to preserve the natural ecosystem and promote habitat for local birds, butterflies, and pollinators. Green spaces, botanical gardens, and water bodies are designed to enhance ecological balance and support biodiversity conservation. The Virudhunagar district is the second largest textile city of Tamil Nadu after Thiruppur district and it's also the second largest district of cotton crop cultivation. Being a drought prone district Minor Millets were predominantly cultivated in this region. The KARE campus is located at the foothills of "Western Ghats", it is one of the world's richest biodiversity hotspots. Apart from cotton, farmers in this region also cultivate Minor millets and Corn at a large scale. The Government of India, Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises has declared Banyard millets as a district crop under one district one product scheme. To maintain local biodiversity KARE has a crop cafeteria in the campus were 35 local annual and perennial field crops were maintained throughout the year for preserving the crop diversity. The crops includes cash crops, Cotton and Sugarcane, food crops like Maize, Pearl millet, Finger millet, Barnyard millet, Little millet, Kodo millet and proso millet, Black gram, Green Gram, Red gram, Lab-lab, Horse gram, Oil seed crops *Viz.,* Til, Ground nut and Sunflower, Green and Green leaf manure crops. Apart from this, being a drought prone area semi-dry brown rice Land races of Sivappu Chithiraikar, White Chithiraikar, Mattaikar, Norungan, Chandaikar, Nootripathu and Kattanur germplasm were collected locally and maintained in the farm. The medicinal Plants of the locality, namely lemon grass, periwinkle, *Ocimum*, Aswagandha, *Aloe vera*, Gloriosa, Phyllanthus, Noni and Gymnema, *Bacopa monnieri*, *Ocimum Sanctum*, *Withania somnifera and Coleus forskohlii* germplasm were maintained by ex-situ conservation methods in small plots. The different jasmine species were collected and germplasm were maintained in the farm.

The farm of KARE has divided in to wet land, Garden land and Dry land based on the ecological affinity of Crops. The wet land consist of clay soil in which Paddy is a dominant crop, followed by green manure crop of Danicha (*Sesbania sp.*,), Black gram, green gram and Banana were cultivated on seasonal basis. In loamy soil of Garden land Cash crop like Cotton and Sugarcane, food crops like Maize, Pearl millet, Finger millet, Seed production Black gram, Oil seed crops *Viz.*, Til, Ground nut and Sunflower were cultivated in large scale. Garden land also covers vegetable crops like Brinjal, Chilli and Tomato and Flower crop of Celosia and Marigold in large area. The Livestock Forage crop like Hedge lucerne, Cumbu Napier hybrid grass, Fodder sorghum and Fodder maize were cultivated as semi-permanent basis. A Separate Orchard were established with different varieties of Mango, Sapota, Guava, Amala and Jackfruit. In Dry land Multi-purpose Agro-forestry model were established with the tree Species of Teak, Casuarina Eucalyptus, Maha Neem (*Melia dubia*) in which the annual crops of Banyard millet and Black gram were cultivated on seasonal basis. Horti-Siliviculture system includes the tree crops of Tamarind (*Tamarindus indica*) and Manila tamarind with annual inter crops. To maintain a sustainable and economical viable bio-diversity system a Agri - Horti - Silviculture system were established at KARE campus which includes the tree Species of, bamboo, Teak, Casuarina, Eucalyptus, Maha and Neem (*Melia dubia*) and Horticultural trees of Tamarind and Manila Tamarind. By viewing the slow growth of tree crops in early crop growth stages, In between two rows of tree crops the arable annual crops of Banyard millet, Green Gram and Black Gram were raised for the economic befits. The Orchard at the KARE campus has numerous Fruit tress and its different varieties. To make more sustainable and to maintain the local ecology and diversity location specific crop production technology were adopted for all crop fields.

INSTRUCTIONAL FARM

KSAH has 230 acres of farmland for Horticulture and Agriculture Programmes. These farms are used for conducting various field practical and hands-on training to the students. The school has an adequate number of tractors, farm equipment, tools and other machinery required for acquainting the students about usage of such equipment and tools. The farm is irrigated through canals and drip irrigation, which is sourced by three bore wells yielding adequate water for maintaining the same. A separate farm building is available with two lecture halls to deliver class instructions before the practical session. It accommodates a storeroom for hand tools, small farm equipment and other ingredients such as seed and fertilizer. It also has room for the farm manager and instructors. The land details for both Alagapuri and Gopinayikan Patti farms are presented in the below Tables respectively. Furthermore, the physical infrastructures available in both Alagapuri and Gopinayikan Patti farms are presented below.

The Land Details in Alagapuri Farm

Sl.No.	Details	Area in Acre
1	Orchard	15
2	Poly House	5
3	Shaded House	2
4	Glass House	2
5	Potting Shed	2
6	Botanical Garden	5
7	Flower Garden & Vegetable Garden	5
8	Dry Land	10
9	Farm Building	2
10	Farm Pond	1
11	Students Plot (ELP + Cafeteria)	10
12	Other Infrastructure Facilities (Road, Well)	3
	Total	**62**

The Land Details in Gobinayikan Patti Farm

Sl.No.	Details	Area in Acre (Horticulture)	Area in Acre (Agriculture)
1	Crop cafeteria	3	2
2	Garden land	25	5
3	Wet land	10	15
4	Dry land	32	35
5	Forestry land	10	10
6	Experiential Learning Model	10	10
7	Farm building	-	1
	Total	**90**	**78**

The Physical Infrastructures in Alagapuri and Gobinayikan Patti Farms

Sl.No.	Physical Infrastructures Details
1	Farm Class Building
2	Poly House
3	Shaded House
4	Glass House
5	Potting Shed
6	Honey Bee Rearing
7	Quails Shed
8	Azolla Unit
9	Vermicompost Unit
10	Cow Shed
11	Cattle Shed
12	Poultry Shed
13	Mulberry Unit
14	Farm Equipment Shed
15	Fertigation Unit
16	Well and Pond Irrigation Unit
17	ELP Models
18	Seeds Certification Unit

Crop Cultivation

- Various tree species are maintained in 30 acres as tree arboretum for students' education purposes.
- Mango - 360 Nos., Coconut - 300 Nos., Citrus – 600 Nos., Pomegranate – 600 Nos., Guava - 450 Nos. are maintained in the farm.
- Floral crops jasmine, tube rose, marigold, coxcomb and eight types of medicinal plants, lemon grass, periwinkle etc., have also been cultivated in half acre.
- The irrigated crops *viz.*, onion, chillies, brinjal, bhendi and greens etc., are grown in an area of 25 acres under irrigated condition.
- Crop cafeteria has been established in an area of 50 cents with various horticultural crops under a sub-surface irrigation system for students' education purposes.
- Green manure crops are raised and incorporated *in-situ* to enrich the soil fertility.

Overview of plantation

The cultivation crops like vegetables, leafy vegetables, tubers, pulses, millets, oil seed crops and fodder crops are cultivated within the campus. Vermicompost is used as an organic fertilizer for the crop plants to increase the yield. The fruits and vegetables from the vegetation are available in the vegetable shop inside the campus. They are for sales at an affordable cost.

Crops at crop cafeteria

Agri-Silviculture System

Agri-Silviculture System

Horti-Silviculture system

Overall planted vegetation within the crop cafeteria-KARE campus

POLYHOUSE

The polyhouse was located in Algapuri farm at Kalasalingam School of Agriculture and Horticulture, Kalasalingam Academy of Research and Education. The design was that of a Saw-Tooth model of poly house and constructed two units of Polyhouses namely Unit I (Natural ventilated type) and Unit II (Hi-Tech type). In Unit I polyhouse was constructed with galvanized steel poles, an area of 2112 sq.m, covered with poly sheet and a fixed slide door was arranged to enter the polyhouse. Whereas in Polyhouse Unit II was constructed with galvanized steel poles an area of 1008 sq.m and big six exhaust fans were arranged to send the inside air from polyhouse. The evaporative cooling pads were arranged to cool the inside system of both polyhouses. Finally, the micro irrigation system such as drip irrigation and fogger irrigation system were set in both Unit I and Unit II.

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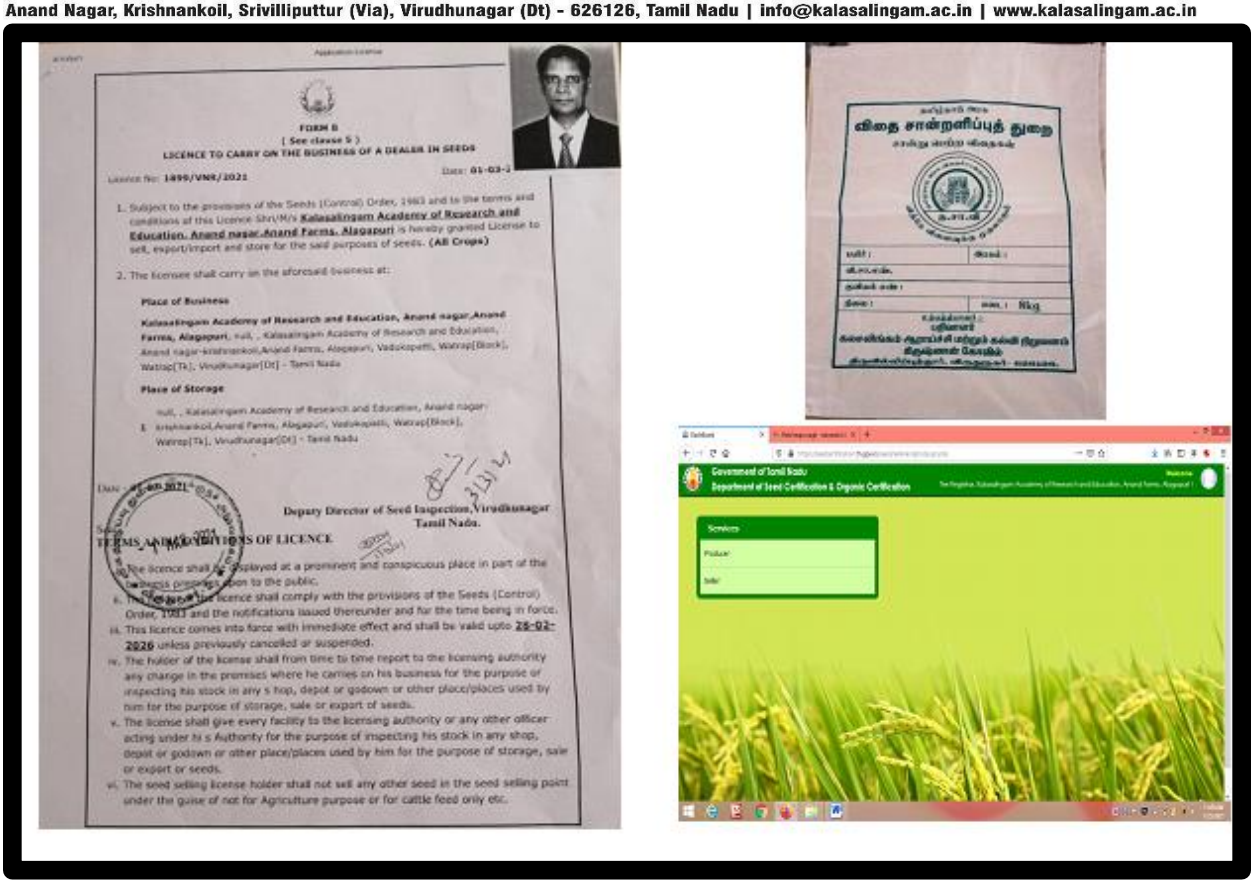
Unit I (Natural ventilated type) & Unit II (Hi-Tech type)

CERTIFIED SEED PRODUCTION

Quality seed production plays a vital role in increasing Seed Replacement Rate (or) Seed Replacement Ratio (SRR) of the country. At present the Seed Replacement Ratio in India is around only 15% and this ratio varies from crop to crop between 7% in staple crops to maximum 70% in some vegetables and fruits. So, we are in need to increase the Seed Replacement Ratio of our nation by producing and supplying of quality/certified seeds to the farmers. We Kalasalingam School of Agriculture and Horticulture has initiated the certified seed production and registered under Tamil Nadu Government. By supply quality seeds to our farming community, awareness can be created among the farmers about the importance of certified/quality seeds. Our students can also be motivated in seed production programme through Experiential Learning Programme. It fulfils the need of NEP2020 by paving the way to our graduated students to become an Entrepreneur/Agripreneur in seed business.



SERICULTURE

Sericulture is one of the most important allied agricultural activities which gives higher return in small investment, provides employment for the farming and rural community and also generates income throughout the year, thus increasing the socio-economic status of the rural households. Sericulture comprises cultivation of mulberry, silkworm rearing and post cocoon processing leading to production of silk yarn. At KARE Alagapuri farm we have a mulberry garden for 50 cents and a shed for rearing silkworms. This facility was used to teach practical understanding and hands-on training for the students and farming communities.

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Name of the Sustainable Development Goals: Affordable and Clean Energy			
1.	Name of the Workshop	:	Mulbery Cultivation
2.	Date of the Workshop	:	13-10-2023 &14-10-2023
3.	Name of the department Organized	:	Biotechnology
4.	Name of the School Organized	:	School of Bio, Chemical and Processing Engineering
5.	Category (Entrepreneurship, IPR, Skill Development, Research Methodology)	:	Skill Development
6.	No. of Participants	:	10
7.	Name of the Resource Person	:	Dr. L. Muthulakshmi
8.	Photos related to the Event	:	

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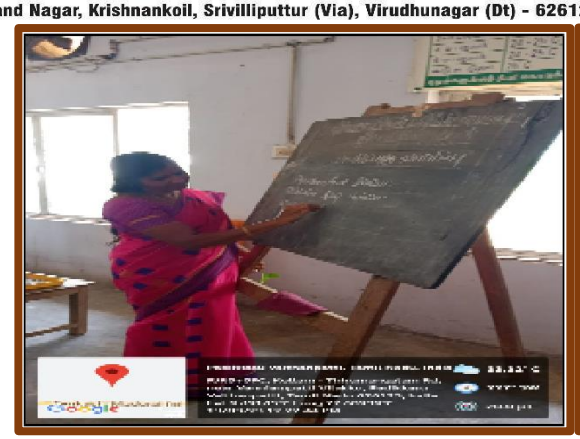

Name of the Sustainable Development Goals: Decent Work and Economic Growth			
1.	Name of the Workshop	:	Cocoon Production and Handy Crafts
2.	Date of the Workshop	:	22.08.2023 & 23.08.2023
3.	Name of the department Organized	:	Biotechnology
4.	Name of the School Organized	:	School of Bio, Chemical and Processing Engineering
5.	Category (Entrepreneurship, IPR, Skill Development, Research Methodology)	:	Skill Development
6.	No. of Participants	:	20
7.	Name of the Resource Person	:	Dr. S. Mahima Shanthi, Scientist-D, Central Silk Board, Madurai
8.	Photos related to the Event	:	

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QUAILS REARING

Recent times Quails rearing is getting popular among farmers and there was a huge demand in the market as well because of it taste and meat quality. There are two species of quail in India; the black-breasted quail found in jungle (*Coturnix Coromandelica*) and the brown-coloured Japanese quail (*Coturnix Coturnix Japonica*) which is bred for meat or the one used for commercial Quail production. Quails rearing have number of advantages compare to chicken rearing. Quails are smaller in size and that can be raised in small space, start with lesser initial investment, feeding cost is low and disease are less in quails, they attain maturity at 45 days. So every two months it

gives revenue to the farmers.

COUNTRY CHICKEN REARING

Poultry farming is an integral part of the agriculture system in rural areas. In the last few decades country chicken farming has transformed from backyard rearing to commercial scale production because of its taste and popularity among meat consumers. At KARE Alagapuri farm we have a brooding setup for small chicks and rearing shed. Students utilize this facility for their livestock

and poultry management course. In this they learn how to set up a brooding system for young chicks, preparation of their own food and feed management. Vaccination for the chicks.