

7.3 Institutional Distinctiveness:

An Outreach Programme, “Kasturi Agrotech”, run by department of Biotechnology of this College, rendering services to the farmers, researchers and students of the area, showcase distinctiveness of this College.

Lathe Education Society’s Smt. Kasturbai Walchand College of Arts & Science was established in 1960, with the major objective to cater higher education to the masses of the Sangli district and the peripheral area. It is Jain Minority Institution committed to provide value-based education with the Motto and the basic principles of Jain Philosophy, “ Sammyak Darshan, Sammyak Dnyan, Sammyak Charitrya”. The vision of this college is to provide quality education, keeping pace with global perspective and to generate empowered human resources. Moreover, goals and objectives of the institution is to realize sustainable development and improvement of the society by extending facilities and services through Outreach Programmes. In tuning with Vision, Mission and Objectives, the College has introduced Outreach Programme called “Kasturi Agrotech”.

Kasturi Agrotech, the research laboratory, is runs under Department of Biotechnology. Department of Biotechnology of this College is one of the renowned departments facilitated with sophisticated equipments. This sophisticated laboratory is equipped with precision instruments. This laboratory is solely devoted for analysis of chemical compositions of the samples. Emphasizing quality analysis of the compositions, it is proposed to develop this laboratory as one of the distinctive outreach programme. Availing facilities of the laboratories, it is possible to analyze agricultural samples precisely and scientifically as well. Therefore, the college has extended these facilities to the farmers and researchers and rendering services such as Soil Testing, Water Testing, Leaf testing etc. In the Sangli and peripheral area most of the farmers cultivate crops such as sugarcane, grapes, fruits, vegetables etc. Smart agriculturists are attempting to do precision farming wherein crops are cultivated in controlled environment such as Polyhouse Farming. These farmers need information regarding chemical composition of soil, water, leaf, fruits etc. very precisely. Soil Health Card Scheme is also introduced. In association with NSS and District Soil Department a rally was organized on 5th December 2019 on the occasion of National Mruda Din to aware farmers about soil health.

To cater these local needs, the college has started Kasturi Agrotech Lab rendering services to the Farmers and Researchers as well. This also helps to generate revenue. In the academic year 2019-2020, 81 soil samples, 95 water samples and 30 plant tissues samples were tested and computerized reports are given to farmers. In addition to the farmers, the research students from Life Science Departments and various colleges and research institutes avail this facility and perform laboratory experiments. During this year, total 223 samples from researchers are tested and reported accordingly. Under Soil Health Card Scheme, 307 Soil samples of the farmers and 20 samples from research students were tested. Total revenue generated was of Rs. 88165.00. Even in the Covid-19 pandemic situation, the Kasturi Agrotech has done commendable task of reaching to the society.

This Kasturi Agrotech, an outreach programme represents distinctiveness of the College.