

Best Practice- 1

Name of the Constituent Unit: Sharadchandra Pawar Institute of Management Otur

A) THE 'SPIOM-FAWDA' GROUP

1. Title of the practice-

THE 'FAWDA' GROUP: A Farmer Welfare and Development Action (FAWDA) Group

2. Objective of the Practice

- a. To create supportive interaction between management students and local farmer for understanding the living pattern, problems and ground level reality of the farmers.
- b. To create respect for farmers in the mind of students with student participation in on field activities.
- c. To provide the information of government schemes to farmers by "FAWDA" Group.
- d. To promote technical farming as well as organic farming by various campaign program.
- e. To providing administrative assistance to farmer for formulating Self-Help Group and Farmer Producer Companies.

3. The Context

The institute located in a rural area; Agriculture and its allied activities act as main source of livelihood for more than 80% population of local area. Availability of adequate water facility, good condition soil, availability of market, vegetables cultivation is the major activity of farmers. The local farmers have been taking good level of production from their cash crop by use of chemical fertilizer and pesticides.

Among the total admitted students near about 60 % students come from rural area and rest from urban. Considering local social aspect and background of admitted students institute has the scope to do work for farmer's welfare with the participation of students.

4. The Practice

The FAWDA (Farmer Welfare and Development Action) is the group created by the institute during 2014 under the guidance Krishi Vigyan Kendra Narayangaon. Actually FAWDA

(फावडा) is regional language word the meaning is **spade**- is a tool used for digging, with a flat metal blade and a long handle. That tool is very essential tool for framer. The group is also playing important role in the growth and development of farmers, so we used short form of the Farmer Welfare and Development Action Group is “FAWADA (फावडा)”.

There are no any statutory rules and regulation for this group but the initiative for conducting the activity must be taken by the faculty nominated by the director of Institute. The faculty is responsible to collect and maintain the information of all types of Government schemes related to farmers. The nominated faculty selects two representatives from students for providing information to group member and farmer also.

The SPIOM-FAWADA Group organized following Campaign Programme.

1. Government Schemes awareness Camps
2. Promote need based & Problem Solving training with the help of KVK
3. Campaign on Organic Farming
4. Campaign on Soil and water testing need and importance
5. Campaign on save the earth
6. Campaign on save the Water
7. Campaign for self-help group and Farmer Producer Company (FPC) establishment

5. Evidence of Success

- We found that many students are voluntary participate in FAWADA group and taking initiative in various campaign activities.
- Student can think over farmer welfare and make able to put out their strong individual opinion about farmers the living pattern, problems and ground level reality of the farmers.
- Students began to show respect to farmers
- Local Farmer started visiting to the Institute and getting information about the government schemes match to him by Group members.
- It's found that many FPC- Farmer Producer Company and Self Help group formed under observation of SPIOM- FAWADA group.
- It's observed few farmer started organic farming practices from their farms.

6. Problems encountered and resources required

- Actually this concept came in to the mind of our director sir under the influence of his friend who works in Krishi Vigyan Kendra Narayangaon. Initial there was the confusion regarding who will take initiative for implementing this concept but finally director sir assigned the responsibility on the shoulder of HOD of Rural and Agri-Business Management Specialization.
- Creating the interest among the students was very challenging task but due to arrangement of various interesting campaign program, students attracted and participated the program
- Collecting and maintain the record of different farmer oriented scheme was difficult task at initial stage but use of Institute's resources such as Computer Lab, library & infrastructure etc. it's become easy. Now there is a separate office created by the institute for this group. Farmers can visit any office time for getting assistance.
- There is no special monetary return to respective faculty members against extra work as head representative of the SPIOM- FAWADA group