



## GJEM E-NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 14, JUNE 2019

# WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY SPECIAL

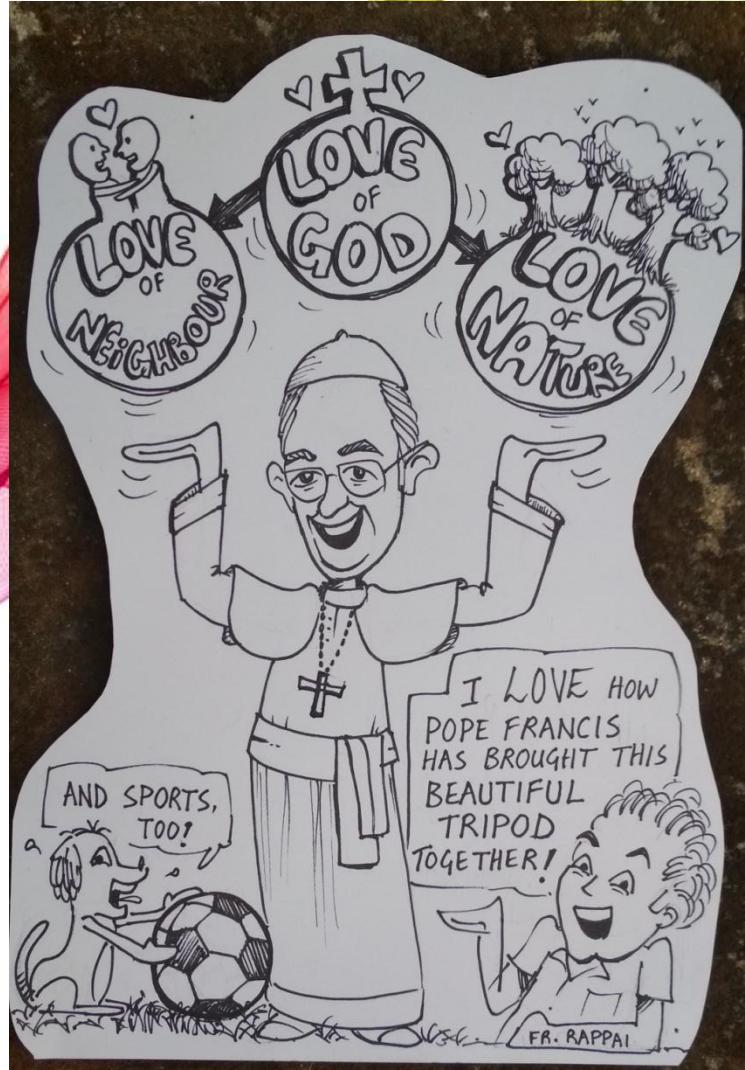
Painting by Fr. Joyson,  
Vagamon Artists' Workshop, April 2019





# Eco Spirituality Network

Illustration by Dinesh, Vagamon Artists' Workshop, April 2019



# The 'Conception and Birth' of VAW (Vagamon Artists' Workshop)

## DRAWING FROM NATURE – ART & MOTHER EARTH

### Mitraniketan, Vagamon, Kerala – 25 April – 2 May, 2019

In May, 2018 Frs. Roy Thottathil, Sheise (great Jesuit Artists of Kerala) and Rappai Poothokaren SJ met at Sameeksha, Kalady, Kerala, dreaming of a possible Professional Artists' Workshop in some picturesque place in Kerala, 'God's own Country'. The idea matured over the months with phone calls, WhatsApps & Emails flying between Gujarat and Kerala. In spite of the "Kerala JalaPralayam" (great flood) in August, 2018, in due time the dream slowly materialized.

Three organizations – **CARP** (Company of Artists for Radiance of Peace, Kerala), **GJEM** (Gujarat Jesuit Ecology Mission, Gujarat), **LIPI** (Loyola Institute of Peace and International relations, Kerala) - put their creativity and skills to actualize the dream. Some 18 professional Artists from different parts of India – women & men, Fathers and Sisters – from Bihar to Gujarat to Maharashtra to Karnataka and different corners of Kerala, and Manila, Philippines converged at the Mitraniketan, a hospital built by the legendary British-Indian Architect, Laurie Baker. Vagamon, in the Western Ghats, was indeed the place to commune with Nature, and convert that communion with paint, brush and canvass, fired by imagination & artistic creativity, into Works of Art of high Calibre.

Highly gifted Warli Adivasis from Maharashtra created Warli Paintings, a young woman doing her BFA (Bachelor in Fine Arts), a Jesuit professor of Fine Arts from 'Ateneo de Manila', Philippines, created art from waste pieces of cloth, a venerable priest teaching Theology painted the pain of Paris at the destruction of "Notre-Dame Cathedral", a Belgian Sister made tiny dolls that speak about the life of poor women, a Cartoonist whose cartoons communicated volumes, a busy Parish Priest who painted delicate, colourful works of art, Sisters with art degrees from India and Italy, a Monk from the well-known Kurishmala Ashram of Vagamon, a CMI, a Capuchin, few Jesuits,....

VAW had a wowing mix of Artists. They mingled and merged, painted early mornings and late nights. Every day we celebrated the Eucharist in God's own cathedral under the sky in the shade of trees, with birds and crickets chirping away, ...The Artists appreciated it very much. All were enjoying themselves, painting with joy, inspired by Mother Earth, all around them.

Fr. Rappai P, SJ.







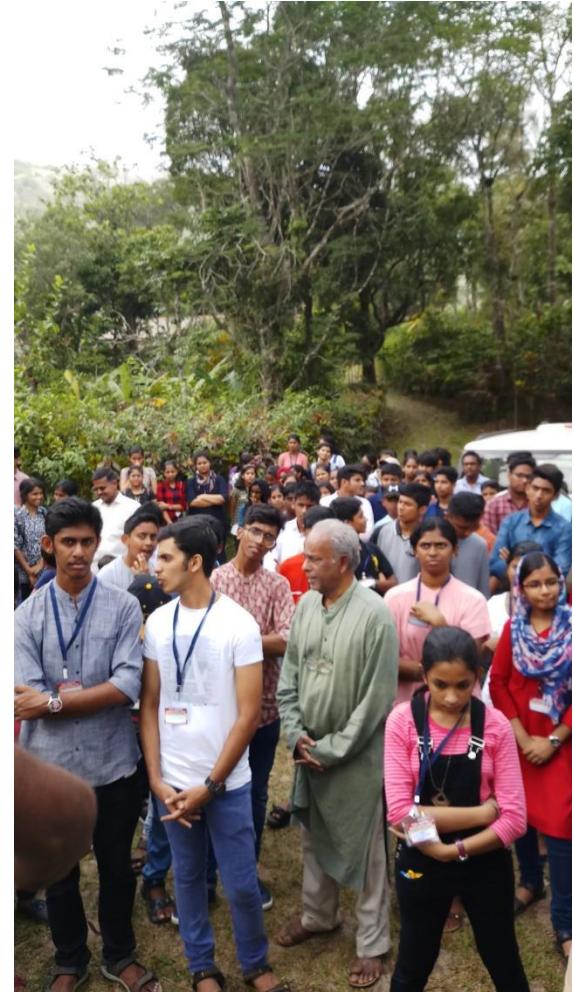


Fr. Jason, SJ, from Ateneo De Manila University also participated in VAW. He is an eminent artist and art teacher. He mostly worked with found materials from the surroundings. In this picture, he is holding a cartoon drawn by artist Dinesh.



Environmental awareness program was organized for 150 youth from all over Kerala at Vagamon. The workshop was conducted by Bhiju, Jothi, Fr. Lenin & Fr. Robert. It was organized by Fr. Rappai & Roy as part of VAW. The youth responded with great enthusiasm in all the activities we had conducted.





Fr. Lenin & Fr. Robert engaged the youth with environmental songs; Bhiju and Jothi conducted activities related to environment. We also took them for a nature trail . At the end of the workshop, students collected the plastics thrown by the tourists and disposed them at the proper place.



# FMM's (Franciscan Missionaries of Mary) and Ecology

The FMM's of Mumbai Province in their long preparation for their Chapter selected ECOLOGY as one of the key Missions to be embraced and lived today in their lives and institutions. They invited me to give a session and conduct a discussion on Ecology in FMM life, on 3rd May, 2019, during their Chapter in Pune.

Some 70 FMM's chosen for the Chapter participated well in the session, with their Franciscan Charism. Understanding and living Pope Francis' call, in his Encyclical, *Laudato Si*; to integrate the third - neglected, pillar of Jesus' disciples' lives, namely, a loving and nurturing relationship with Nature – OUR COMMON HOME, was my message.

We had a well participated Eucharist in 'God's own Cathedral', under a huge Rain Tree, with about a hundred FMM's celebrating it. They appreciated the experience of the shared Eucharist, joined by the trees, birds, ... of OUR COMMON HOME.

Fr. Rappai, SJ.



# Eco Education Network

# ECO MAGIS GUJARAT

VENUE: XTI SEVASI, NO OF PARTICIPANTS: 19

Gujarat Jesuit Youth Ministry invited GJEM to conduct two and half days of Eco Magis program for 19 youth from 9<sup>th</sup> of May to 11<sup>th</sup> of May. Eco Magis program was one of the many Magis experiments organized by GJYM. GJEM team members actively collaborated to make the program a great success. The program was designed and executed by Mr. Jothi Xavier and team. The two and half days of eco Magis experiment dealt with topics such as global warming, youth and environment, Eco spirituality, solar energy, organic farming and medicinal plants, exposure trips, poster making etc. All the youth participated in the workshop with keen interest and desire to contribute to the environment. The youth have imbibed the spirit of the Magis and will surely contribute to the environment.

- Jothi Xavier





Eco Magis Youth visited Xavier Green School, Khatamba. Fr. Jolly shared his experiences of creating the bio-reserve. The youth were indeed Inspired to see and hear from the Great Jesuit Environmentalist.



Fr. Lancy celebrating eco mass in the herbal garden with the youth





Fr. Moonnu showing water harvesting installations at XTI, Sevasi



Poster Campaign by the students



Mr. Jothi took the students to show the step well in Sevasi

Environment Awareness program  
During Bal Melo  
Venue: Kanewal lake  
3<sup>rd</sup> Feb. 2019  
Organized by Mr. Himmat Chauhan  
from Pochabhai Foundation



# Solar Exhibition

St.Xavier's High School, Chavdapura

Date: 12<sup>th</sup> Feb, 2019

Participants: 958 students



# Campaign by LEAF students

Campaign Against Plastic and Junk Food  
Venue: Shantiniketan High School, Zankhav  
Principal : Fr.Patrick  
Number of Participants: 350  
Date: 15<sup>th</sup> Feb,2019



# Environment Exposure Visit to Tarumitra, Patna by LEAF students and Teachers

## Participants

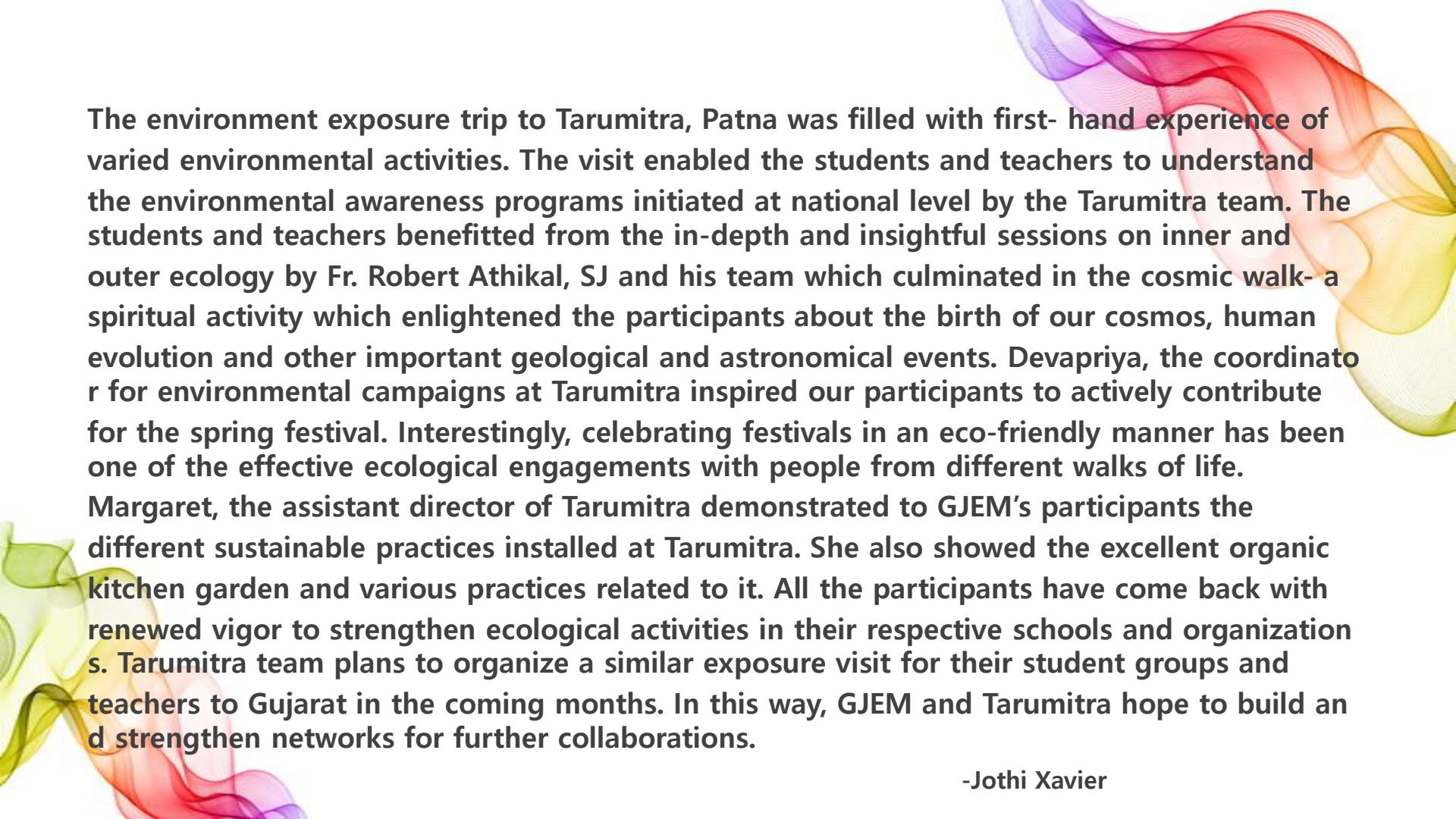


**Venue:** Tarumitra Ashram, Date: 20<sup>th</sup> Feb 2019 to 27<sup>th</sup> Feb 2019

**Number of Participants:** 21 (11 students +10 Teachers)

**Number of participating schools:** 6

**Organized by GJEM and hosted by Tarumitra, Patna**



The environment exposure trip to Tarumitra, Patna was filled with first-hand experience of varied environmental activities. The visit enabled the students and teachers to understand the environmental awareness programs initiated at national level by the Tarumitra team. The students and teachers benefitted from the in-depth and insightful sessions on inner and outer ecology by Fr. Robert Athikal, SJ and his team which culminated in the cosmic walk- a spiritual activity which enlightened the participants about the birth of our cosmos, human evolution and other important geological and astronomical events. Devapriya, the coordinator for environmental campaigns at Tarumitra inspired our participants to actively contribute for the spring festival. Interestingly, celebrating festivals in an eco-friendly manner has been one of the effective ecological engagements with people from different walks of life.

Margaret, the assistant director of Tarumitra demonstrated to GJEM's participants the different sustainable practices installed at Tarumitra. She also showed the excellent organic kitchen garden and various practices related to it. All the participants have come back with renewed vigor to strengthen ecological activities in their respective schools and organizations. Tarumitra team plans to organize a similar exposure visit for their student groups and teachers to Gujarat in the coming months. In this way, GJEM and Tarumitra hope to build and strengthen networks for further collaborations.

-Jothi Xavier

	School Name	Teacher's Name	Students Name
1	Xavier Technical Institute, Sevasi	1.Mr.Jaydeep	2.Satish Loti
2	St.Xavier's High School, Khambhat	3.Mr.Vijay	4.Sahil 5.Aarti
3	St.Xavier's High School, Himmatnagar	6.Mr.Sanjiv Dixit	7.Shubham 8.Anis
4	Shantiniketan High School, Zankhvav	9.Mr.Suniel	10.Palak 11.Tejasvini
5	Deevalaya High School, Fulvadi	-	12.Vishal 13.Mittal
6	Rosary High School, Vadodara	-	14. Pankhil 15. Shiney
7	Green the Blue Charitable Trust & GJEM	16. Mr. Jothi Xavier 17. Mrs. Archana 18.Ms. Trupti Parmar 19. Mr. Nikunj Makwana 20.Ms.Monica Gamit 21. Ms. Priyanka Chaudhari	



Fr. Robert addressing the participants about Tarumitra

# Memorable moments



# Green Teachers Program

An initiative by Gujarat Jesuit Ecology Mission and supported by Serenity Trust, GEBCI and Green the Blue Trust (March 3-4, 2019)

## Details of the Participants:

Number of participants: 27,

Number of schools participated: 15,

Number of Male teachers: 17

Number of female teachers: 9

## Details of the Resource Persons:

Narendra Bakola, Preeti Shah, Dr. Santosh Yadav, Jothi Xavier, Fr. Lucas, Archana M & Trupti Parmar

Logistics: Nikunj Makwana

## List of participating schools

Sr. No	Name of the school	Place
1	Rosary High school	Vadodara
2	St. Xavier's school, Eng. Medium	Anand, Gamdi
3	St. Xavier's high school	Khambhat
4	MES High school	Vadodara
5	St. Xavier's High school	Kalol
6	St. Xavier's High school	Gandhinagar
7	St. Xavier's High school	Himatnagar
8	St. Xavier's School	Deesa
9	St. Xavier's school	Mehsana
10	St. Xavier's school	Mandali
11	St. Mary's High school	Vijaynagar
12	St. Joseph's High school	Vijapur
13	St. Xavier's school	Khiloda
14	Convent of Jesus and Mary	Palanpur
15	St. Xavier's school	Sidhpur

## About the workshop

Green Teachers Program for central and North Gujarat Teachers was a joint and a collaborative effort. Thanks to GJEM eco education team and Fr. Teles, we were able to mobilize 27 teachers from 15 schools for the workshop. All the three nature educators from Serenity Trust engaged the participants with insightful inputs, practical demonstration, inspiring talks and guided walks in the bio reserve. Some of the topics they dealt with are ornithology, field botany, organic farming, waste management, pedagogy on environmental education etc. GJEM's eco -education team organized cosmic walk and organized an interactive session on how to organize environmental campaigns. All the participants had an opportunity to stay in the tents and enjoy the special night trail organized by Mr. Narendra. The final valedictory session was chaired by Fr. Lucas who encouraged participants from each school to share their action plan for the coming academic year. As a token of appreciation, we felicitated each participant with a certificate of participation.





Visit to the Organic farm



Mrs. Preeti Shah introducing  
Eco-Education modules



With our special guest: Fr. Kalyanus Minj,  
The Provincial of Madhya Pradesh



Night Trail



Fr. Lucas Felicitated certificate of participation



Cosmic Walk



## ECO -ARTISTS RESIDENCY 16-21, MARCH 2019

Xavier Technical Institute, Sevasi

Organized by Green the Blue  
Charitable Trust

Supported by

Gujarat Jesuit Ecology Mission

### The Participating Artists

**Anasuya P Mahapatra**

**Arpita Dey Mandala**

**Kodanda Rao Teppala**

**Lalit Solanki**

**Mansoor Ali Makrani**

**Rashmi Mala**

**Riya Chatterjee**

**Rajib Chowdhury**

**Santa Rakshit**

**Saroj Kumar**

**Mentor:** Rollie Mukherjee

**Organizer:** Jothi Xavier and Team

# ECO ARTISTS RESIDENCY

An eco artist residency supported by Gujarat Jesuit Ecology Mission was organized by Green the Blue Charitable Trust from 16th to 21st March 2019 at Xavier Technical Institute near Sevasi village. The prime thrust of this eco residency was to engage and envisage a collaborative interaction and intervention with the artists and the technical students of the institute and conceive and execute site specific installation and to open possibilities for more engaging participation aesthetically and conceptually, enhancing an ecological awareness in the visitors, inmates of the institution and people in general. In the 6-day stay, the artists used nature as artistic material and scrap material from the junkyard of the institute.

Our Special Thanks to  
Fr. Vincent Moonnu,  
Technical Staff &  
Students of XTI, Sevasi





Title: My Eyes Are Not Eyes, Beloved, But A Source Of Life  
Artist: Arpita Dey Mandala

These installations and Earth works have been executed near the herbal garden, canteen and main office of the institute to facilitate an active viewership. We believe that Art can play a key catalyst in individual transformation. Also the idea was to find out possible means to work out an alternative lifestyle and rethink our urban upbringing.



Title: Nest  
Artist: Anasuya P



Title: Surgical Strike  
Artist: Lalit Solanki



Title: Blood  
Artist: Kodanda Rao



Title: Spars  
Artist: Rajib Chowdhury



Title: Untitled  
Artist: Mansoor Ali



Title: *Tujhe Pyar Karna Nahi Aata , Mujhe Pyar Ke Siva Kuchh Nahi Aata* Artist: Santa Rakshit



Title: Growth  
Artist: Riya Chatterjee



Title: Saint Tree  
Artist: Saroj Kumar

Paper Making Workshop  
Artist: Rashmi Mala



# walk with the artists

Date: 13 April 2019 (Saturday), Time: 5 pm, Venue: Xavier Technical Institute, Sevasi, Opp. Baroda Homoeopathic Medical College



# Environment & Leadership camp for youth from South Gujarat

Organized by Fr. Rakesh, Diocese of Baroda

Date: 4<sup>th</sup> of May 2019, Netrang





## YOUTH FOR ENVIRONMENT

Under PDO youth program, Green the Blue Trust organized a youth camp for three Jesuit parishes of central Gujarat from May 21-23, 2019 at Nadiad Pastoral centre. Environment was one of the many themes we dealt in the youth camp. 60 youth participated in the camp. Besides our eco education team, we requested Francisbhai to conduct a session which was appreciated by everyone. Cosmic walk, web of life activity, eco mass and presentations on youth and environment, public speaking on environmental themes were some of the note worthy sessions.





# EXPERIMENT & DEMONSTRATION NETWORK





# Claris Bin Project

- 7 January 2019: The Claris PR team visited St. Xavier's College, Ahmedabad to know about the work done using the Orbin Bin. Fr. Lancy was interviewed for the same.
- F.Y B.Sc. Biology students were inducted into the project involving the Orbin Bins.
  - 8 teams of app. 6 students were formed, each team assigned an Orbin bin.
  - Project work:
    - **Study of vegetation in the area assigned**
    - **To create awareness for waste segregation**
    - **Waste management**
    - **Manure production**
    - **Use of manure**

54 FY students working in 9 groups have **surveyed the Campus and identified 6 new sites for placing the ORBIN bins**. Currently they are surveying and experimenting with **17 bins** on Campus. This is through project 'Kartavya', involving an MOU signed by SXC through the CSR initiative of CLARIS LIFE SCIENCES.





## **REPORT OF THE PROJECT WORK FOR F.Y. B.Sc. (2018-19) STUDENTS**

**Overview:** The first year students of 2017-2018 batch were informed about waste management and gardening project work by Fr. Lancy in the month of January 2019. The students showed enthusiasm regarding the same and submitted a list of those who wanted to be a part of the project. After initial discussion the students were asked to form a group of 5-6 members for the project work. They were explained about the importance of waste management, waste segregation and functioning of the Orbin bins by Shruti during their 12:00 PM lecture on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2019.

After a discussion about waste management - importance and applicability, the groups were asked to submit a report of the location in the college campus, for management of waste and installation of Orbin Bins.

The locations were approved by Fr. Lancy and then the orbin bins were provided to the groups. Practical demonstration was given by Shruti, to the groups on how to use the Orbin bins and how to monitor them. A whatsapp group of all the group coordinators has been formed for better communication.

**Total number of students involved: 52**

**Total number of groups formed: 8**

# SOLAR ENERGY

G J E M maintenance 01/01/19 to 16/03/19

SR	DATE	PLACE	REPORT	REMARK
01	05/01/19	Adivasi kanya chatralay hingoliya	Solar water heater site visit	
02	06/01/19	Sneh santi sevasi	Solar water heater service site visit (old collector system ) advice new 500 lt E T C solar water heater	Not repareble
03	12/01/19	St annes bhavan dharmpur(paraspada	New 500 lt ETC solar water heater installation ( 30 ft piping)	
04	13/01/19	Adivasi kanya chatralay hingoliya	New 500 lt ETC solar water heater installation	
05	14/01/19	Sneh jyoti (GVD)	300 lt solar etc water heater repairing	
06	19/01/19	Sneh santi sevasi	New 500 lt ETC solar water heater installation	
07	26/01/19	Sister home nadiad	Solar water heater repair site visit System not reparable	
08	16/02/19	Vedruna bhavan modasa	750 lt system remove (06 nos collector)	
09	27/02/19	Xavier technical (linch mahesana)	1800 w penal 02 kw inverter ( shift Xavier sevasi) Remove	
10	02/03/19	Deepa accedemy indranaj	100 lt solar water heater repair New water inlet tenk	

XTI, Solar energy department Under the leadership of Fr. Moonnu has been reaching out to different parts of Gujarat with varied services related to solar energy. Mr. Vipul and his students are installing and maintaining various solar devises. You are welcome to avail their services.

Mr. Vipul  
Mobile: 9537665386



## TRADITIONAL MEDICINE NETWORK





# Organic Farming Training

- Fr Lancelot D'Cruz was invited as a Resource person for the **Training Workshop on “Organic Farming”** for **112 farmers of Khambhat and Tarapur** taluka which was organized by the Pochabhai Foundation, the Catholic Mission and the GJEM and held at Catholic Mission, Varsada on February 26, 2019.
- **112 farmers** attended
- Points of Discussion:
  - Introduction of organic farming
  - Slides shows, presentations
  - GJEM films
  - Farmers experience
  - Training at AAU
  - Farmer's feed back



## ખંભાત અને તારાપુર તાલુકાના ખેડૂતો માટે એક દિવસીય સજ્હવખેતી તાલીમ કાર્યક્રમ યોજાયો

આપણંદ, તા. ૨૭

ખંભાત અને તારાપુર તાલુકામાં લોકોને આજીવિકા બેઠી આપ્યાંનિંટ છે. જેમા મુખ્ય પાકો, ડાંગર, પટ્ટ, અને ચંદ્લા કરવામાં આવે છે. જોમા રાતસાધિત ખાતરો, અને જંતુનાશક દવાઓનો ખૂબ જ મોરા પ્રમાણમાં ઉપયોગ કરવામાં આવે છે. જેના કરાશે આ વિસરારમાં ગાયાનીટીથા. કેસ્ટ, હાઈએટેક, સાંધ્યાના હૃદાયા જેવા ઘણ્ણા નોંધોનો બોલ્યો જરૂરી અને એક વિચિય સભ્યદાયના લોકો બચા છે. ઉપરાન અછું મળે છે. પોપલાકામ ભાવ ન મળજવાચી ખેડૂતોની સ્થિતિ દિન પ્રાતિદિન બચક્ષણ જાય છે. આ સ્થિતિને ત ઘણામાં કંઈ ખંબાતા કેચીક મીશન લ્યા. એ. એ. અને પોચાભાઈ કાઉન્ડેશનના સહયોગી સજ્જાના મેરી અને



રાતસાધિક ખાતર તથા દવાઓના ઉપયોગ વદરની બેઠીના પ્રોત્સાહન માટે માલવાં ખેડૂતો સાથે કામ શરૂ કરવામાં આવ્યું છે. જેના ભાગરથે આજીસેક વરસડા ખાતે સજ્જા, બેઠો સંમેલન રાખવામાં આવ્યું હતું. તો જર્યા સે-ન એવિસં કોલેજના ફા. વેન્સી ડી. કુ. જ.

ફા. ટો.નોનીદારા, કાન્સિસસભાનાઈ શલ્વા ખેતીવાચી અધિકારી પાંચાયાં કાઉન્ડેશનના સભ્યો તથા ખંબાત તારાપુરના ગ્રામજનો લાંદર રથા હતા. જેમાં સજ્જા ખાતર, દવા, પ્રવાહી ખાતર બનાવવાચી દ્રેનેગ આપવામાં આવી હતી.

# Organic Farming Meeting at Fokdi (27-Feb-19)

## Ravipura Training Feed back

Follow-ups with everybody

Do's and Don't for organic farming

Lessons learnt, Training and demonstrations

Good progress done in the field of Kitchen garden, compost and training at Fokdi, Modasa and Mandal

Whatsapp group to review the progress (everybody appreciated our efforts to promote organic farming)



## Exposure Visit by Dadhwada group 28.2.19

Requested by Sr. Vandana to organize one day workshop for interested farmer's from Dadhwada

Attended by 19 farmers – 7 women

Visited Sevasi and Waghodiya

Solar demonstrations, Loyola farm, fodder cultivation, animal husbandry, poultry, vermicompost

Practical demonstration of all the activities related to organic farming at Waghodiya and discussion with women's group, Organic certification (**Outcome** : out of 19 farmer's 7 farmers will adopt organic practices)



# Adiaushadhi

1. AA Product sale and promotions at
  1. Vibrant Gujarat (18-22 January 2019)
  2. Trifed-Dahod (2-4 February 2019)
  3. KVK-Dediapada (5-6 February 2019)
  4. Flowershow-Vadodara (10-12 February 2019)
  5. NABARD-Surat (5-Mar-19)
  6. Training at Jitnagar, Rajpipla (8-Mar-19)
2. Live conference at Bharuch with Central Agriculture Minister (26-Feb-19)
3. Govt. Subsidy schemes



Adiaushadhi organized a training program on Smokeless stoves. So far 42 members from Sakva village have made these stoves and appreciated our efforts.

Now three more villages have started making this as it is very good for health point of view and very less smoke is generated. Sundar and Sumitra are popularizing this design.



## Visitors from ALBOAN – 25-26<sup>th</sup> April 2019

Ms Teresa Diez from the International Cooperation section of ALBOAN visited Gujarat. She showed much interest in knowing and understanding better the various activities of the project undertaken by GJEM.

On 25<sup>th</sup> evening she came to Fokdi, Neutrang. We welcomed her at Jagruti training institute and showed her the campus. We explained the organic farming activities at Fokdi. During this camp us visit we showed the cultivation of Watermelon and tomatoes. During this time we also briefed her about the bio diversity study of Fokdi. She appreciated our efforts in organic cultivation in south Gujarat.

Mr. Francis Macwan



Let's take a small step...  
To make Earth a little more green.  
Let's take a small step...  
To make water a little more clean.  
Let's take a small step...  
To de-pollute the air we breathe.  
Let's take a small step...  
To safeguard ecology from our wanton greed.  
Let's take a small step...  
To preserve the world for the present's seed.  
Come, let's take these small steps together.  
Come, let's walk together;  
And build a world of our dreams.

Shruti Rawat

The GJEM Executive Committee :  
Fr. Lancy D'Cruz sj [coordinator]  
Fr. Rappai sj  
Fr .Vincent Moonu sj  
Fr. Lucas sj  
Mr. Jothi Xavier  
Mr. Francis Macwan

# WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY CELEBRATION – 5 JUNE 2019 WITH SLUM CHILDREN, SAMA, VADODARA



GJEM E-Newsletter is designed and edited by Jothi Xavier & Published by Fr.Lancy D'Cruz, SJ for GJEM. If you want to receive or recommend this to your friend, you can email us at [gjemteam@gmail.com](mailto:gjemteam@gmail.com). You can also unsubscribe by writing to us.