VIDYA VIKAS SHIKSHAN SANSTHA, HINGANGHAT

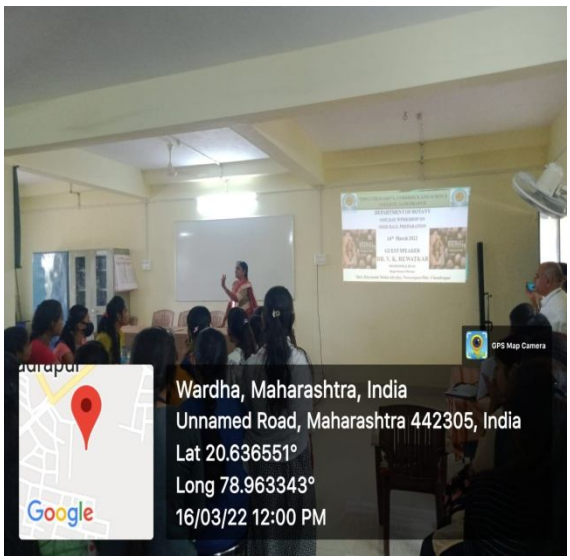
VIDYA VIKAS ART'S, COMMERCE & SCIENCE COLLEGE, SAMUDRAPUR DIST. WARDHA 442305 (M.S.)

(Affiliated to RashtrasantTukdoji Maharaj Nagpur University, Nagpur.)

Dr. K.G. Rewatkar **email: vidya_vikascoll@rediffmail.com website : www.vidyavikascollege.com**

Principal **Ph. & Fax No. 07151 225560, 295440, 9822426769, (Estd. 1989)**

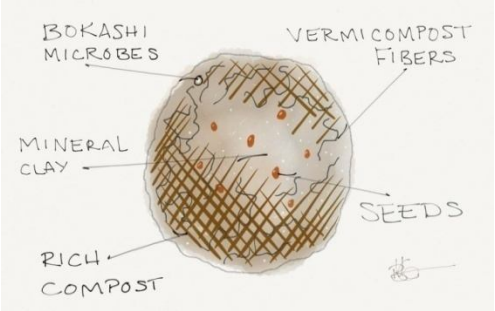
(NAAC Accreted B 2015)

Name of activity: SEED BALL PREPARATION: A Best Practice of The Department
Name of Programme Organizer: Dr. Swati Yeotkar , all faculty members and students
Details of organization with Address: Department of Botany, Vidya Vikas Arts, Commerce and Science College, Samudrapur.
Date of Conduction : 17/03/2022
Participant Count: Students:- 80 Faculty:- 05and ; 02 Lab attendant and Gardener
Nature of the Activity: Practical Demonstration and Preparation of Seed Balls
Objectives: • To protect seeds from wild insects & animals • To germinate maximum no. of seeds and grow into plants • pTo save our mother Earth by creating forest.
Brief Description: Dr. Vasanti Revatkar , Professor and Head, Dept of Botany, Shri Dnyanesh Mahavidyalaya, Nawargaon, was the chief guest and speaker for the programme, and also demonstrate the procedure of seed ball to the students. Total 80 students, 05 faculty members, 01Gardenersand 1 lab. attendant combinely carried out the activity of ' Seed boll preparation 'in Department of Botany, Vidya Vikas Arts, Commerce and Science College, Samudrapur. Students prepare 200 seed balls for plantation in upcoming monsoon and keep for drying in garden.
Outcomes of the activity: 1. To educate student about Seed Boll preparation by hands-on training. 2. Students work collaboratively for the activity. 3. Students become aware about environment.
Photos:    

Germinating Seed Ball

WHAT IS SEED BALL?

A seed ball is a seed that has been wrapped in soil materials, usually a mixture of clay and compost, and then dried. Essentially, the seed is 'pre-planted' and can be sown by depositing the seed ball anywhere suitable for the species, keeping the seed safely until the proper germination. They contain a combination of mineral soil, humus and three types of compost for all the nutritional requirements of the plants.. These are placed around the seeds, at the center of the ball, to provide microbial inoculants



HISTORY:

In the Carolinas in the 1700's, West African slaves, predominantly women, were brought in to cultivate rice using a seed ball technique that was used in Africa. Rice seeds were coated in clay, dried, and pressed into the mud flats with the heel of the foot. This served two purposes, protecting the seed from the birds, and also preventing it from floating off when the fields were flooded. Seed balls were also experimentally used in aerial seeding in Kenya in 2016.More recently, Japanese agricultural renegade, Masanobu Fukuoka, began exploring the use of seed balls (nendo dango in Japanese) to help improve food production in post WWII Japan. His research and outreach efforts has brought the seed ball back into the public eye.

Today, seed balls are fun for green-minded kids and adults, and are also an important tool. Since the idea is to grow healthy plants, we use enough seed to ensure good likelihood of germination, but not so many that the seedlings are stressed from crowding and fail to thrive.

WHY SEED BALLS? - SEED BALLS FOR SAVE EARTH

Species with highly palatable seeds have little prospect of success because wildlife eat the seed before it has a chance to germinate unless it is pelletized. Also, small seeds and lightweight, chaffy seeds are more likely to drift in the wind, so they are harder to target during the drop. Small seeds, however, fall into crevices and are then more likely to get covered with soil, thereby enhancing their chances of survival. Aerial seeding may prove to work best with "pioneer" species, which germinate rapidly on open sites, are adapted for growth on bare or disturbed areas, and grow well in direct sunlight.

1. SEED BALLS ARE EASY TO MAKE

All you need is soil or compost, clay, and seeds that are native to the region you will be working in. (Non-native species could throw off the local balance and lead to the introduction of invasive species.) Amounts will vary, but a ratio of five parts soil to three parts clay to one part seeds is a good rule of thumb. Balls should be about the size of a quarter to make for easy throwing. To maximize your seeds' chances of sprouting roots, spring and summer are the best times to deploy your seed balls.

2. SEED BALLS GO WHERE NO ONE ELSE CAN

Seed balls are amazingly versatile. They can be tossed over fences into abandoned lots, or out the windows of cars and buses onto median dividers and roadside wasteland. They can be left alongside parking lots and bike paths, in unused planters and gardens that have fallen on hard times. In short, anywhere there is land to grow them – provided that the soil isn't too dry, compact, or dense with other vegetation.

3. SEED BALLS ARE DIVERSE

There are many types of seeds you can use in your seed balls. You can try wild flower seeds, necessary for the survival of pollinators (such as bees) on which our ecosystem depends. You can use seeds for herbs or edible crops. Or you can put together a combination of seeds. Such 'companion' plants are chosen because they grow well together, assisting in pollination, pest deterrence, and soil conditioning.

4. SEED BALLS GET PEOPLE INVOLVED

Planting is satisfying but hard work. You have to dig holes, weed, water and prune – and most importantly, you need permission to cultivate the land. But with seed balls, all you have to do is make (or buy) and throw! It's a great way to get people of all ages and backgrounds involved in the greening process, including those who might never have considered themselves gardeners.