

Indraprastha College for Women, University of Delhi





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Introduction:

The Green Lab has been envisaged as a live space in College that nurtures Nature's edible bounty. The lab is a space we learn from amidst the growing greens. This space provides the possibility of growing food within the built environment. It is a community initiative which relies on the participation (of all hierarchies) of the College community.

The Green Lab promises to facilitate learning at multiple levels.



Understanding Processes and Practices of Food Production

The rapid increase in urbanization has led to the ever increasing distance between the consumers and producers of food. The Green Lab aims, at least in understanding and knowledge, to bridge this gap. The students are encouraged to learn the process of growing food, harvesting and preserving seeds (it is not surprising that a lot of us cannot identify food in its natural form!).



Learning/ Assessing Feasibility of Urban Farming

We endeavor to create a prototype/ replicable model of food production that can be learnt and replicated by students, other members of the college community, the extended community around college and ultimately any urban space.



Appreciating Rural-Urban Interdependence

Urban farming cannot replace the farm lands that grow food for the city dwellers. This exercise is to develop an understanding of the relevance and importance of the farms and not always view them as an impediment to development but instead see them as the ground without which development will mean little.



Outdoor Classroom

In addition to better learning in outdoor, natural environments – the lab provides a ready learning opportunity. We encourage the use of the Green Lab as an important teaching and learning resource.



Promotion of Positive Environmental Attitude

An active engagement with the green and the natural will help in better appreciating and understanding the value of natural resources.



Sustainability Goals

The Green Lab is extension to College's commitment to promote environmental sustainability and biodiversity.



Community Building

A living, green, edible space and working together of a community bring alive the understanding of camaraderie and team work.



The College as a Model for Good Practice

Educational institutions are important societal models for good practices. All of the above listed pointers make The Green Lab an important space for the encouragement of Pro-Environment and Pro-Health behaviors.



