

DEPARTMENTAL PROFILE

NAME OF THE DEPARTMENT: Department of Botany

ABOUT DEPARTMENT:

Introduction: The Department of Botany at Government Degree College Pulwama was established in 2001 and is dedicated to teaching the diversity of plants and their economic importance and offers a comprehensive overview of cell and molecular biology, genetics, plant biochemistry, plant physiology, embryology, plant anatomy, medicinal botany, seed technology, microbiology, and plant biotechnology. The department has two well-equipped laboratories, a museum (which hosts plant and ethnobotanical specimens), and a botanical garden (with different sections including an herbal section, an orchard section, a seasonal vegetable section, a gymnosperm section, and an ornamental section) with more than 100 different plant species. The course structure complements conventional branches of plant sciences with modern biology and comprises classroom lectures, laboratory experiments, and field studies. Apart from the usual syllabus, the department offers skill enhancement courses like medicinal botany, ethnobotany, and seed technology. The department intends to offer a mushroom cultivation course in the future.

After completing their graduation, interested students can opt for an M.Sc. program in botany, plant molecular biology, plant biotechnology, environmental science, etc., which can be further extended to M.Phil. and Ph.D. programs. Along with its allied branches, botany provides employment opportunities in research and educational institutes, pharmacy, agriculture, horticulture, and forestry. To date, nineteen batches have completed their B.Sc. degrees with botany as one of the subjects. Over the years, the Department of Botany has produced many dedicated scientists, teachers, and those who have excelled in other areas.

Teaching-Learning: The faculty members of the department adopt various teaching tools to make teaching more effective. They use PowerPoint presentations and charts in theory classes. In practical classes, instructions are given with the help of charts, herbarium, live specimens, permanent slides, and PowerPoint presentations. Interactive sessions are held in the routine classes. Class tests are conducted regularly and assignments are given to the students. Students are taken to the nearby ridge, the college botanical garden, and the campus to learn the names of plants and understand biodiversity.

Capacity building: Workshops and seminars on relevant topics are also organized by the department for students and teachers. The Department also organizes excursions for students. Teachers accompany students to visit the botanical garden, local research institutions, like the Field Station Bonera (IIIM Jammu), IIIM Srinagar, CITH Srinagar, University of Kashmir, SKUAST Srinagar, museums, and various exhibitions to improve learning. Besides, training programs are organized by the department in collaboration with other governmental organizations like the Agricultural Department to depart skillful training courses to students.

Course offered: Bachelor's Degree

Year of Establishment: 2001

Name of HOD: Prof. Niyaz Ahmad Wani

HOD's Message (Brief Welcome message for students): It gives me immense pleasure to welcome you all to the Department of Botany. The subject was introduced in the college in 2001 as a component of the Science stream along with many other science subjects, with the purpose to expand the choice of subjects in the college and offer the students a good option to choose from a variety of science subjects and excel in different fields of science. The department is committed to supporting the mission of this college to develop leaders of distinction, especially in the field of Plant Biology. It does this through excellence in classroom instruction, by motivating students to acquire the knowledge, skills, and competencies sought by employers, and by creating knowledge that informs and advances the art and science of Phytology.

Students with a Bachelor's degree in science with botany as one of their subjects acquire a foundation of key concepts and skills that apply to organizations in both the private and public sectors, coupled with the skills needed to support career paths.

The department emphasizes experiential and extra-curricular learning to cultivate the skills and competencies that can position students for professional success. Through hands-on learning in classes, laboratories, and other out-of-class experiences, students can gain practical experiences that complement their classroom learning. The goal of the department is to prepare its graduates so that they have the knowledge, skills, and confidence to succeed from day one.

Botany faculty are leaders as teachers, mentors, and scholars. They are committed to student success and to being positive role models. They are advancing their fields of expertise, regularly publishing their research in leading academic journals. Bringing leading-edge research to the classroom means that students benefit from recent advances in knowledge and the wisdom and insights of faculty at the forefront of their profession.

Wishing you all the success in your future endeavours.