Bio-intensive gardening in Rajasthan schools yields positive results

Special Correspondent

JAIPUR: A pilot project for promoting bio-intensive gardening at government schools in Jaipur, Tonk and Udaipur districts of Rajasthan has started yielding positive results by initiating a skill-building process among students and teachers for environment protection and inculcates water-efficient habits.

The year-long project was undertaken at 50 government schools and 10 Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas with the aim of raising the standard of living and bringing about behavioural changes among children and local communities towards the environment.

Its implementation also strengthened efforts to add nutrition to meals, water efficiency, organic farming, teamwork, better environmental conditions and skill-building. It successfully conveyed the message that the initiative for planting trees would help protect the environment.

Growing vegetables, trees and flowers not only sensitised the children to the need to protect the environment but also enhanced their ability to work together in tilling the land, planting saplings and watering the plants.

According to Mr. Joshi, both the students and the teachers who took part enthusiastically in the project are still maintaining the gardens in almost all the schools. The children developed a sense of ownership by naming the plants after themselves and are taking more interest in gardening.

Mr. Joshi affirmed that full-scale implementation of the project would improve students' attendance in schools while value additions such as seed banks and organic manure pits would make it immensely popular in all educational institutions.