

## **KILBORN ALLOTMENT GARDEN (KAG), CANADA – A CASE STUDY OF COMMUNITY FARMING FOSTERING COMMUNITY SPIRIT**

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### **INTRODUCTION**

Community farming or gardening is an interesting way of growing vegetables mainly by the local communities utilizing household helpers in a befitting way to a productive venture that offers numerous physical and psycho-social benefits, including access to fresh produce of food crops as well as opportunities for physical activity, open air environment benefits, and cohesive community feelings. In such venture, the benefit for young and old, especially grown up children participating in the family level productive venture is immense. Their involvement may boost their spirit towards social, environmental and biological education from participant observation in farming activities including potential pest and disease management issues of gardening cannot be ignored. Herein, observations were made from time to time during May to October, 2025, along with additional knowledge back up from internet information inputs and literature studies made by these authors (Flint, 2013; Misra, 2023; WS 1, WS 2). Kilborn Allotment Garden (KAG) is a well-known community garden in the capital city of Ottawa of the country Canada, and this case study is the outcome of our joint venture.

### **OBSERVATIONS**

#### **Kilborn Allotment Garden (KAG) – the case study (Figs. 1-5)**

*Location and boundary:* It is close to the Kilborn Avenue, Ottawa, Canada, with Pleasant Park to north, Delmar Drive to the west, and Haig Drive to the east.

*Authority involved:* Department of Recreation, Cultural and Facility Services, located at Overbrook Community Centre, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.

*Allotment procedure:* Gardening here is seasonal (May to October) and gardeners are not guaranteed for the same plot every year. Only one plot, full or half, is allowed per household. Full size (25 feet x 50 feet) plot rent was 131.20 CAD (Canadian Dollar), for seniors above 65 years' age 118.07, for non-residents of Ottawa 163.99 CAD.

*Number of plots:* This year (2025) approximately 500 plots are located as a placard showing the number 495 could be noted near the Kilborn Avenue side.

*Communities participated:* All are welcome here as there is no restriction to origin, faith, residence and religion which help foster community spirit. Participants from Asia, Africa, including Canada were noted.

*Duration of farming season:* From May to October every year.

*Soil type:* Highly clay soil which needs hard work to maintain the soil productivity for which compost, straw and woodchips are added to maintain the soil consistency and arability.

*Farming procedure:* The garden plots are mainly manually maintained using handheld gears, setting a fence alongside to primarily prevent weed intrusion. Some gardeners are inclined to keep a Rest Shed to work and enjoy the ambience. Different vegetable growing portion are compartmentalized as well as covered with thin sheets to protect from pests and provide ambient environment to grow healthy.

*Farming of vegetables:* Potatoes, onion, garlic, kale, cabbage, tomatoes, chilli, beans, bush beans, beets, egg plants, peppers, pumpkins, gourds, lettuce, radishes, winter squash, etc.

*Wild plants alongside:* Herbs, shrubs and trees are grown naturally which presumably help pollinate the vegetable plants.



Figs. 1-5. Showing various views of Kilborn Allotment Garden, Ottawa, Canada.

## CONCLUDING REMARKS

KAG shows treasure of growing vegetables in summer months (May to October), utilizing available productive household level man hours in fruitful food production through gardening involving and encouraging community spirit. KAG community level meetings which were held from time to time at the site is expected to help generate the need to volunteer management, spirit of cooperation, and conflict resolution among gardeners. However, in the Indian context, agricultural development needs to be prioritized towards minimising the problems and distressful situation in agriculture evolving Village Level Cooperative Community Farming (VLCCF) for the sake of food security.

## REFERENCES

- Flint, R. W. 2013. *Basics of sustainable development. In practice of sustainable community development*. Springer, New York, pp 25–54.
- Misra, A. 2023. Vermicomposting: Way to sustainable future by production of natural Fertilizer, *EIACP, ZSI Newsletter*, **29** (3):1 -26

## WEBSITES

- WS 1. <https://plutusias.com/minimum-support-price-msp-2/>
- WS2. <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/10-reasons-why-farmers-are-in-distress/articleshow/67069814.cms>