

Entrepreneurial Exposure Visit to Tynrai Hydroponic Centre, Nongpoh by the 6th Semester Students, Department of Botany, Shillong College on the 21st of April 2022.

On the 21st of April 2022, 27 students from the 6th semester Department of Botany Shillong college, were taken for exposure visit to the hydroponics unit of Tynrai at Deisibon nursery, Nongpoh approximately 51 kilometres from the city. The Tynrai small industry is owned by Dr. Rebecca Sailo of Bethany hospital.

Dr. Rebecca in her introductory lecture spoke about healthy eating and also emphasised on sustaining an obese free lifestyle through her experience. As we took a tour of the farm, Dr. Rebecca showed us areas under fruit plantation (dragon fruit, lemon, oranges, strawberry, pineapple and wild berries). The rearing of exotic poultry like Emu birds and turkey was also shown.



This was followed by the visit to the 3 Poly houses where the hydroponics units were set up. The students were given a brief introduction to soilless farming and hydroponics along with demonstration on the technical unit.



The students were very excited to see the whole setup of the hydroponics units covering an area of more than 2000 square feet. Various stages of hydroponics steps were discussed which included the initial plantlet growth on coconut chalk boxes followed by transfer to the hydroponics leans. Discussion on the mediums used in the hydroponics solution. Details about the choice of plants that can be used for hydroponics with life examples showing the various stages was also discussed. From sampling of 3 to 4 weeks until the final product was ready for marketing it takes 48 days for market consumption depending on the need of the

market. Around 6 batches go for market value, selling and harvest throughout the year.



Pest free best systems were also maintained using sticky traps in yellow and blue to make all the Poly houses pest free. Air circulations were maintained in each Poly house using engineering technologies.

A large variety of plants hydroponically grown included varieties of parsley, pokchoi, baby spinach, curly karls, lettuce, iceberg lettuce, rosemary, basil and other varieties of economically important plants.

The students of the 6th semester interacted and asked many questions about the entrepreneurship aspect and the business of hydroponics. Dr Rebecca answered all the queries of the students and invited them over for internships as well. It was a healthy discussion with all the students and the teachers who accompanied them.



The students were served with home juices from the farm fruits. A tour of the whole farm under the hospitality of Dr. Rebecca and her staff was also done. The students ate their lunch at the farm and took photographs for the report. The department of botany as a gesture of appreciation handed over the honorarium and a stole as a token of appreciation to the resource person Dr. Rebecca for her kind lecture and hospitality. The program wined up by 4:00 pm. Then the students boarded the bus to return back to the college campus at Shillong and return home. As a concluding note, on behalf of Dept of Botany, Dr. Reema thanked the

Principal and the administration for supporting the visit.