

## SSMC Gardening Interest Group received Community in Bloom Awards 2014 from Singapore National Parks

by Ida Ho for InSight

The “fruits” of SSMC Eco Garden was recognized by the Singapore National Parks, and we are proud to be nominated for “Community In Bloom



Gardening Team: Long Jiang, Florence, Catherine, Regina and Li Na



Awards 2014”. Gardening Interest Group is one of the latest initiative formed in SSMC. In 2013 Q4, SSMC Garden was officially opened during SSMC EHS week. **In Aug, we are much honored to receive the Bronze award certificate presented by Mr. Kenneth Er, CEO of National Parks at Garden by the Bay. Florence Law, from Training & Enhancement (Quality department) who is the leader of this Interest Group together with 2 other members from Manufacturing department, Li Na and Niu Long Jiang, were interviewed by Ida Ho on 12 Sept; they shared their joy and secrets of this lovely garden!**

1. What makes you get interested in forming the interest group and how did it get started with colleagues sharing same passion in SSMC?

**Florence:** The Gardening Interest Group idea is inspired by a visit to SSMC’s adopted school. Our CEO, Jagadish & MT also wants to cultivate the culture where our employees are actively supporting the preservation and conservation initiative within SSMC campus. In less than 2 months, and we started invited colleagues sharing same gardening passion, and together we built this beautiful garden located at the back gate of SSMC, facing our Pasir Ris neighbor. This work represents our team spirit towards sustainability as well as a love for nature.



Florence, Long Jiang and Li Na picking the long beans

2. What the vision for the gardening club?

**Florence:** The club must be self-sufficient, perhaps one day, it can even supply our home grown fruit, veggies and herbs for SSMC cafeteria. Moreover, this club enables colleagues of same interest get together; share the gardening tips; and learn from one another and build knowledge together.

3. Could you tell us about the spread of fruits and vegetables planted in our Gardening?

**All:** There are more than one dozen of plants, fruits & veggies we produced. Some are yielding and some are “prototyping”...Grapes, eggplant, lady fingers, papaya, sugar cane, Aloe Vera, sunflower, bananas, bitter gouts, sweet potatoes, spinach, long beans, pandan leaves, chilli & herbs of all sorts



Egg plant



Roselle



Basil & Fennel herbs



Sun flower



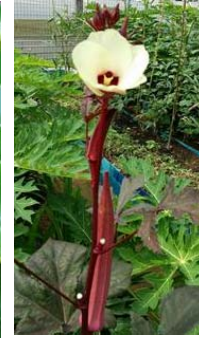
Green Chilli



Aloe Vera



Sour sop planted by CEO



Ladies finger

4. You've been interested in plant breeding from the beginning and have developed many varieties of plants, vegetables, flowers and fruits. Of those, do you have some favorites?

**Long Jiang:** My favorite ones are the climbing plants, chilli, long beans and lady fingers. They produce good yield and easy to grow. Therefore very rewarding to see the high rate of their bloom.

5. How do you encourage Recycle, Reuse and Reduce in your group gardening work?

**Li Na:** The garden use recycle boards from used packaging materials from our warehouse as plot divider. Also we mixed used coffee powder with our soil to act as fertilizer.

6. What is the member profile in your gardening interest group?

**Florence:** Our Gardening interest group members come from a wide spread of departments, comprising colleagues from manufacturing to finance & accounting; Quality, integration to IT & Automation. Altogether 12 people as of today. They all contributed to the success of this garden.

7. Are you recruiting? What it takes to be SSMC Gardening Interest Group members?

**Florence:** Yes, we welcome all SSMC colleagues who are willing to share their time and passion. We can help to nurture their skills and get them hand-on our home grown veggie and fruit plantation. Our Gardening interest group is also calling for volunteers who can share responsibility to water plants, maintain the garden, help making SSMC Eco garden a more conducive environment.



If you are interested in joining us, please contact any of our Gardening group members:

| Sn | Name                   | Department           |
|----|------------------------|----------------------|
| 1  | Florence Law Lin Hoe   | MFG                  |
| 2  | Li Na                  | MFG                  |
| 3  | Regina Tan Siew Siew   | MFG                  |
| 4  | Yang Ni Na             | Finance & Accounting |
| 5  | Kelvin Lim Kwee Nguang | FAC                  |
| 6  | Michael Lim Kok Poh    | FAC                  |
| 7  | Daniel Gan Chwee Ping  | FAC                  |
| 8  | Gui Li Li              | QRA                  |
| 9  | Catherine Chua Mui San | INT                  |
| 10 | Kevin He Jun Jie       | IT&A                 |
| 11 | Pang Choon Ting        | IT&A                 |
| 12 | Niu Long Jiang         | MFG                  |