

Foresters learn Miyawaki technique for plantation

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CHANDIGARH: Eco-Sikh, the global Sikh organization which is committed for environmental clause held a workshop for capacity building of 150 foresters of Punjab forest department in creating healthy sacred forest with Japanese Miyawaki technique in Ludhiana. Shubhendu Sharma, well known proponent of this methodology explained theoretical as well as practical aspect of it to the participants.

The Eco Sikh has created 17 out of 20 sacred Guru Nanak Dev Ji forest in Punjab this year, with each forest having 550 trees of native species, to commemorate 550th birth anniversary year of Guru.

Ravneet Singh, Eco-Sikh project manager said, "The forest department has been supporting us with the liberal supply of saplings of native species for our project of creating sacred forests dedicated to Guru Nanak Dev Ji. Besides this, it is a matter of appreciation that the forest officials expressed keen interest in learning the Miyawaki technique and asked us to hold a workshop in this regard. Throughout the training session, they showed a great deal of enthusiasm in asking various relevant questions and, thereafter participating in preparation of the fertile ground and planting 550 saplings in the new forest created in Mattewara area of Ludhiana."

Charan Singh, member of Eco-Sikh urged citizens to participate in this endeavor in big way. "These forest area, even the smaller ones, contribute in reducing the escalating impact of air pollution and climate change significantly. They also recharge our ground water and provide us shade, fruit, medicinal benefits etc besides the mental peace," he said.

Vishal Chauhan, conservator of forest Mohali told TOI, "Since the forest department is going to set up 175 sacred forests in

name of Guru Nanak Devi ji (Nanak Bagichi), the Miyawaki technique will come in handy to prepare compact forests which grow much faster than the usual ones. In forest department, saplings are planted at far distance and, at times of monotonous pattern with several trees of one species. But in this workshop , we learnt how to plant tall trees which need sunlight in coordination with the smaller ones who grow in shade alongwith shrubs and grass to create a healthy eco-system."

He said that the preparation of fertile land with Jeevamrit (concoction made with cow dung, cow urine and other ingredients), straw , manure etc under the Miyawaki was equally useful. "For massive projects of forest department, we may not able to follow the labor intensive technique to make the land as fertile as exhibited but there are certainly some takeaway lessons which we are certainly going to adapt," he said.

Mandeep Singh, range officer of Mansa forest division said that he is quite interested in adapting Miyawaki technique but wondering if the same practice can be used for the Malwa region where forests are grown in linear fashion, in long strip on the sidelines of roads, canal or drain.