

Intensive tree plantation drive in Bhagalpur

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BHAGALPUR: Emphasizing on the need to plant and save trees to control pollution and protect nature, the District Rural Development Agency (DRDA) has made elaborate plans to create awareness among rural and urban residents about the importance of plants and the need to promote social forestry.

Social forestry includes the management and protection of forest and afforestation of barren and deforested lands with the purpose of helping environmental, social and rural development. Under social forestry, the DRDA aims to sow 2.42 lakh trees saplings in 1,515 villages under 242 panchayats of the district by involving the locals. The intensive plantation work is being undertaken to commemorate 'Van Mahotsav', which will be celebrated between August 1 to 10.

"Apart from tree plantation drive at the panchayat level, tree plantations would be done on roadside flanks under rural works department, embankments of ponds and water bodies in the district. Altogether 38 km of rural works department roads (RWDR), out of total 75km, has been earmarked for intensive tree plantation," said sources adding, "About 600 tree saplings per km would be planted during the Van Mahotsav."

'The plantation work will be done through Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)," sources added. Self-help groups (SHGs) would be also roped in to create awareness among the general populace about social forestry and the importance of tree plantation.

DRDA director Pramod Kumar Pandey said trees are the most important natural resources which help to prevent soil erosion and maintain ecological balance besides providing nutrients to the soil. "We have made elaborate plans for intensive tree plantation during the Van Mahotsav celebrations in the district. Protecting trees are equally important as planting. Tree saplings

will be sown at earmarked places in panchayats, both sides of rural roads besides, on embankments of ponds and water reservoirs,” added the director of DRDA.