

Over 1,000 trees planted using Miyawaki method

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Madurai: More than a 1,000 tree saplings were planted on two acres of land belonging to a farmer using the Miyawaki forest technique in a village near Melur in Madurai district on Monday. A range of indigenous tree varieties including neem, teak and white teak were planted at a distance of one and a half feet from each other. The planting of the saplings began after a formal function and all the 1,000 saplings are expected to be planted by Tuesday.

The function organized by Aynthinai Agriculture Education and Research Foundation (AAERF), a Madurai-based NGO, was inaugurated by late president A P J Abdul Kalam's grand-nephew A P J M J Sheik Saleem. A group of students from Sethu Bhaskara Agricultural College and Research Foundation and environmental activists took part in the function held in Nattarmangalam village. N Arun, founder of AAERF, said that while Miyawaki method has really caught up in many states including neighbouring Kerala, it is yet to pick up in Tamil Nadu due to lack of awareness. Trees planted using the method grow much faster than those planted the conventional way.

"Planting trees helps the environment and the farmers, who can sell the wood after 20 years. The plantation has been taken up on the piece of land belonging to S Kalaivanan, who is a member of our trust. He has assured that he will not sell them off till they become mature," Arun said. Organisers said that late environmentalist 'Maram' Thangasamy from Pudukottai has successfully demonstrated the model. Thangasamy's son Thanga Kannan also took part in the program.

Source: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/madurai/over-1000-trees-planted-using-miyawaki-method/articleshow/72946277.cms>