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Sapling planting drive carried out

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Volunteers of Vanathukkul Tiruppur project planting the saplings near Jammanai Odai rainwater stream in Tiruppur. | Photo Credit: HANDOUT_E_MAIL

Volunteers from a non-governmental organisation carried out a Miyawaki tree plantation drive to plant nearly 2,500 saplings near a rainwater stream of River Noyyal here on Monday.

The NGO named Vetry carried out the activity under the project titled 'Vanathukkul Tiruppur' (Tiruppur inside forest). This is the first time the plantation was carried out near a stream under the project, according to T.R. Sivaram, founder-president of the NGO.

"Jammanai Odai is a rainwater stream joining (River) Noyyal," he said. In the 2,500 saplings the volunteers planted, there were 30 species of trees, including bamboo tree with thorns that would act as a 'bio-fence', Mr. Sivaram said. In the 80 feet stream, the Tiruppur Corporation cleared the bushes and debris for 15 feet wide strip of land with a length of one km for the plantation, he said.

"Maintenance is the most crucial part of planting trees," he said and added that a local corporate company will take the responsibility of fencing, watering and weeding of the saplings following the plantation.

Seven lakh trees have been planted across Tiruppur district under the project since 2015, Mr. Sivaram said. "We are planning to complete 8.2 lakhs of trees by November. To maintain the saplings, 30 water tankers with GPS facilities were employed," he said.

The project focused on tree plantation drives in private lands previously, according to Mr. Sivaram. "After one year of study of these trial plots, we intend to carry on the same work on both banks of Noyyal across the district by 2020," he added.

Source:<u>https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Coimbatore/sapling-planting-drive-carried-out/article29103859.ece</u>