

Tree Saplings to be planted on Western Ghats

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This time, activists plan to plant saplings of 'atti hannu' (fig) and 'aala' (banyan tree) on the foothills of the Western Ghats in Dakshina Kannada and Udupi districts.

Six camps will be held after monsoon gains momentum

After planting about 2,900 saplings of local fruit-bearing trees in the reserve forests on the foothills of the Western Ghats in Dakshina Kannada and Udupi districts last year, environmental

activists of the National Environment Care Foundation (NECF), Mangaluru, and students here have prepared themselves to continue the drive for the second consecutive year, next month. According to Sashidhar Shetty, convener, NECF, the saplings will be planted through six camps after monsoon gains momentum. In addition to planting saplings of jackfruit, wild jack, mango, kokum, tamarind, water apple, butter fruit and jamun, the activists plan to plant saplings of "atti hannu" (fig) and "aala" (banyan tree) this time. "We want to plant at least 10 % of them," Mr. Shetty said. He said that of the six planting camps planned, two will be conducted in Maranakatte area and Baindoor area of Udupi district and the remaining will be conducted in Dakshina Kannada areas. Saplings were planted last year in Kukke Subrahmanya, Uppinangady, Hebri and Kudremukh National Park areas. As the saplings had been planted last year after July, some did not survive. Hence, they will be planted early this year. A green enthusiast and kite flyer Sarvesh Rao will supply 850 jackfruit saplings this year, he said and added that the remaining saplings will be procured from nurseries, including those under the Forest Department. Mr. Shetty said that monkeys, lion-tailed macaque, squirrels and many birds fed on figs. Planting of fruit-bearing saplings in the reserve forests will help reduce the attack on crops by wild animals. Monkeys and wild boars have been constantly attacking farm land, particularly arecanut, coconut, banana, cocoa and vegetable crops. One of the reasons attributed for the increasing attacks on farm land is the destruction of fruit-bearing trees in the forests by the timber mafia and others. Unable to find food, they raid the nearby farms for food. He said that students have also watered some plants planted last year in the Kukke Subrahmanya belt. The NECF, along with Karnire Foundation, planted some such saplings near Moodbidri last year.

SOURCE:- <https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Mangalore/saplings-of-fruit-bearing-trees-to-be-planted-on-western-ghats/article27041780.ece>