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# Tamil Nadu Forest Department trains its staff to restore degraded grasslands

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“The 10 grass species selected for multiplication are grown in almost all the forest areas chosen for restoration. These species are palatable to a range of herbivores including elephant, gaur and deer. They also multiply easily,” said K. Baranidharan from the Department of Forest Products and Wildlife at FC&RI.

According to him, the spread of invasive species such as the *Lantana camara*, *Senna spectabilis*, *Prosopis juliflora* and *Parthenium* is the main reason for the degradation of native grasses in the forests.

“Now, the Forest Department is removing these invasive species from forests under a special project. Once a patch of forest is cleared of these invasive species, the native grasses can be introduced there,” Mr. Baranidharan said.

Experts from TNAU and FC&RI teach the Forest Department staff different planting methods such as broadcast seeding or seed sowing, planting grasses in slips and bunches.

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