Training to grow trees for livelihood
18 June 2019

NOIDA: The forest department will start training villagers who own land to plant and maintain trees like eucalyptus, poplar and some varieties of phicus, which they can sell for timber after the trees have matured.

Officials said this would not only generate a source of income for villagers, but also expand green cover in the district. As of now, the project has been planned for 88 villages. The officials said there was a growing demand for timber because of an expanding realty market and allowing it to be grown legally was the best way to meet the requirement. The trees that they are being encouraged to plant take almost 10 years to mature and their wood fetches good returns.

"We are starting a series of informative and interactive sessions in villages of the district where we will inform villagers how to put their vacant land to use and grow trees as a mode of investment. People do not need permission of the forest department to cut some varieties of trees such as phicus, poplar and eucalyptus. We want the villagers to increasingly start growing these trees on their spare land. This will not only add to the green cover of the district, but will also become a source of income after 10 to 15 years," forest officer PK Srivastava said.

eams from the forest department will visit cluster of villages soon to train the people. "We will provide all support to villagers once they agree to plant these trees. The forest department can also help with the saplings," Srivastava said. "There is growing demand for timber in the market as houses are being built. So, if people grow these trees, they would surely be able to make money from them," he added.

The first round of interactive sessions with the villagers will start this week. The forest department will also conduct a district-wide plantation drive during the monsoon months of July and August.

Source:http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/articleshow/69833665.cms?utm_source=contentofinterest&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=cppst