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**THE TIMES OF INDIA**

# Declare Thadagam Valley as reserve forest: Farmers

Nov 27, 2021, 04.22 AM IST

Coimbatore: Farmers from the north taluk have urged the state government to take over thousands of acres land at Thadagam Valley, where indiscriminate quarrying is rampant, and declare the area as reserve forest to rejuvenate the waterbodies in the taluk.

They also petitioned district collector G S Sameeran in this regard at the farmers' grievance meeting on Friday.

The farmers said while the groundwater level had improved in various parts of the district, the increase was negligible in their taluk and the same would improve only if the waterbodies at Vellakinar, Chinnavedampatti, Agrahara Samakulam, Kondaiyampalayam-Kovilpalayam and Periyamayakkanpalayam receive water. "They are bone dry despite the heavy rain that the district received in recent months," they said.

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G Ranganathan, a member of Thamizhaga Vivasayigal Sangam, said the water from Western Ghats was not reaching the waterbodies in north taluk. "The quarries in Thadagam valley can hold more than 30TMC water. For the waterbodies to get water, the quarry pits have to be filled first."

While the canal in Chinna Thadagam was getting some water, he said the same was not flowing into the city because of the rampant red soil mining on the 10km stretch between Chinna Thadagam and Mangarai check post. "The district administration should take efforts to revive the canal."

The farmers said more than 40 of the 200 minor streams, which used to get water from Thadagam Valley, were blocked because of the indiscriminate quarrying.