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# Govt viewing agroforestry as path to carbon neutral growth

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NEW DELHI: The government is looking at agroforestry as one of the ways to help India get on a carbon neutral growth path. The Budget has included it as one of the four interventions which will be used for the country's "transition to carbon neutral economy".

Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman, while presenting the Budget on Tuesday, pitched for these interventions as important climate actions and said agroforestry and forests on private land would be promoted through adequate policies and required legislative changes.

"In addition, financial support will be provided to farmers belonging to Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST), who want to take up agroforestry," she said. Though she did not explain it further, the

government may go for certain amendments in the Forest Conservation Act and the Indian Forest Act to promote agroforestry and forests on private land in tune with global practice to treat such green cover as an important mitigation tool.

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Agroforestry is practised in both irrigated and rainfed conditions where it produces food, fuel, fodder, timber, fertiliser and fibre and contributes to food, nutritional and ecological security, sustains livelihoods, alleviates poverty and promotes productive

and resilient cropping.

Currently, the government is working on agroforestry and afforestation programmes under National Project on Agro-Forestry of the agriculture ministry and National Mission for Green India. Over 10% of the total budget of the environment ministry in 2022-23 (Rs 3,030 crore) has been earmarked for the Green India mission.

