

MGNREGA workers to plant 50,000 saplings for Miyawaki forest in Trichy

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Trichy: For the first time, the revenue department of Trichy district has utilized the workforce of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) for the Miyawaki method of mass plantation drive scheduled on Tuesday in a government poromboke land near Manachanallur.

The officials said that around 4.2 acres of revenue department's land was identified at Poonampalayam village in Manachanallur taluk of the district. Although Miyawaki style —a Japanese method of growing trees in a small piece of land is not new to the district, officials said that Poonampalayam is the first rural local body to get the Miyawaki method of afforestation drive.

While the land belongs to the revenue department, locals including rice mill owners have mobilized fund to do earthwork at a cost of Rs 4 lakh. Around 50,000 native tree saplings were also sponsored by the locals. "Drip irrigation system has been facilitated, a borewell in the site will be used to irrigate the saplings. MGNREGA workers were entrusted to maintain the plantation area on a rotational basis," S Vaithyanathan, RDO, Lalgudi told TOI.

DRDA and revenue department have jointly planned the drive as planting saplings is identified as one of the sustainable solutions to prevent the government poromboke land from being encroached. Around 3-4 native breed saplings per square metre will be planted to ensure dense forest-like ambience.

On Monday, around 80 to 100 MGNREGA workers cleared the site and marked the land to plant saplings.

