

# Over 6.8 lakh saplings raised by forest department for public distribution in Mysuru district

The Raising of Seedlings for Public Distribution (RSPD) is a key project of the forest department to shore up greenery and encourage the public to take up afforestation.

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Depending on the size of the saplings, the rates are fixed between Rs 10 per sapling to Rs 15 per sapling, said

Basavaraju added.

## **4.10 lakh saplings distributed last year**

During 2023-24, the forest department had raised 4.10 lakh saplings and distributed them to the public for planting. This included planting of 1.2 lakh saplings under reserve and territorial forest divisions while

9,382 saplings were planted in non-forest areas.

In addition to Mysuru division, a drive for sapling distribution will also be taken up under the Hunsur Territorial Division where 3.6 lakh saplings have been raised for distribution during the current year. The saplings are meant to be planted in non-agricultural land and the seedlings are made available in polybags of size 6"x9" and 8"x12" and other sizes. A bulk of the distribution takes place during monsoon and as part of the Vanamahotsava programme which is held in July.

## **Krishi Aranya Protsaha Yojane**

In addition to RSPD, the forest department runs the Krishi Aranya Protsaha Yojane to encourage farmers to take up afforestation on their land.

KAPY entails providing farmers with seedlings or saplings at subsidised rates and conserving them for three years. It is being promoted in the rural hinterland and it has incentive built into it.

Mr. Basavaraj said if a farmer ensures the survival of a tree for the first year after plantation, s/he receives ₹35, and ₹40 and ₹50 if the tree survives for the second year and third year, respectively.

"It serves as a secondary source of income for farmers and the financial benefit increases if the number of saplings planted and conserved by them are more," said Mr. Basavaraj. As farmers are free to harvest the mature trees after six or seven years, they also receive benefits by way of seeds, fruits, fodder, pole, timber etc.

In the Mysuru territorial division, 436 farmers availed of the benefit under KAPY during 2021-22, 743 farmers in 2022-23 and 418 farmers during 2023-24.