

## **Tamil Nadu: Shola trees to turn barren land green in Nilgiris reserve forest**

08 January 2020

Udhagamandalam: The forest department is all set to plant around 5,000 saplings of various species of shola trees in the reserve forest areas in the Nilgiris district.

A source with the forest department said the drive was already on and that they were removing bushes inside forest areas to plant the saplings.

District forest officer Guru Swamy Baddal said, "To fill the barren land, from where the bushes and shrubs are being removed, plantation works will be undertaken in a massive scale this year. Our target is to cover 50 hectares, where shola trees will be planted under the special area development programme."

Under the programme, Rs10 lakh is allocated for the plantation drive. "The plan is to plant about 5,000 shola species in the forest areas of Coonoor, Kotagiri, Kattabettu and Ooty south range," the officer said.

In Ooty, Cairn hill, Elk hill and Avalanche forest areas have been chosen for the programme.

"This year, we have taken special efforts to ensure that all the sapling grow healthy. We have selected taller seedlings and will now provide protection with green guard. We will also ensure protection from frost," Baddal said. Shola saplings for the drive are produced by the forest department in its nurseries.

Source: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/coimbatore/shola-trees-to-turn-barren-land-green-in-nilgiris-reserve-forest/articleshow/73146526.cms>