Kerala Man Grows 400-Tree Forest in 3 Cents of Land!

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Some of the reasons why Kerala is synonymous with greenery are the many festivals, folklore and rituals that are closely related to nature. Growing up in the state means spending most of the time amidst lush greenery and the paddy fields.

Hari was taught about the importance of trees from a young age. Besides learning about the environmental benefits and medicinal properties of trees, Hari was also informed about their cultural significance.

The land that was once an arid dry patch now boasts of green creepers, climbers, shrubs, sub-trees, and trees.

Some of the traditional medicinal plants include aadalodakam (Malabar nut) changalamperanda (Adament creeper), ambazham (Indian Hog Plum), neermathalam (Garlic Pear Tree), amruthavalli (Heart-leaved Moonseed), and thaani (Bedda Nut Tree).

Miyawaki Forest

During his research on trees, Hari stumbled upon the Miyawaki Afforestation, a planting method developed by the Japanese botanist Akira Miyawaki.

Miyawaki method of tree plantation helps grow saplings ten times faster, and the forest is 30 times more dense than a natural one. The saplings are planted very close to each other to prevent sunlight from reaching the ground and keeping the soil moist. The plants grow vertically instead of horizontally.

Seeing Hari's success, the state government invited him to grow a forest in Kanakakkunnu Palace Grounds. In collaboration with Nature's Green Guardians Foundation, he built a Miyawaki forest comprising around 800 saplings on five cents of land at the Grounds. The six-month-old forest has over 60 plant species.

He is also building similar forests in Peyad and Munnar. On one patch of his land in Puliyarakonam, he recently planted 400 new saplings on four cents, "I plan to turn this plot into a dense forest. In the next ten years, my forest will be as dense as a 100-year-old one," he says.

He is roping like-minded people in the activity to spread awareness and help learn this technique.

Hari has also inspired the locals to practice Miyawaki method of afforestation, which led to around 50 people practising this technique directly or indirectly.

For successfully planting more than 3,000 plants in the last one year, Hari credits his family, especially his 87-year-old mother, "My interest in plants stems from her. Until recently, she used to plant trees at her home. Her ardent love for greenery is the reason why I am environmentally conscious."

Hari has again tied up with the state government, and in their upcoming project, close to 12,000 trees will be planted in public spaces.

Source: https://www.thebetterindia.com/185759/kerala-man-grows-miyawaki-forest-three-cents-land-inspiring-india/