



Sale of seedlings rise in pandemic

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Panaji: With almost 2,000-3,000 saplings and seedlings of fruit trees and medicinal plants being sold per day, the range forest office at Campal is witnessing a sale for greens unlike never before. Forest officials claim that this is a result of the Covid-19 pandemic that is urging people to grow their own food and herbs.

“People are keeping themselves occupied by indulging in potting and planting activities. Due to Covid-19 and the curfew, there is a huge response for saplings this year,” deputy conservator of forests, North Goa, Santosh Phadte said.

He further informed that while there is interest in growing medicinal plants, sometimes buyers purchase a range of varieties like teak, jamoon, and amla.

“On some days, about 3,000-4,000 saplings are going out for sale at the nursery in Campal. We have therefore been receiving very good response from the range forest office,” said additional PCCF and chief wildlife warden, Santosh Kumar.

While the social forestry division of the forest department is providing fruit-bearing saplings, the research and utilisation division is providing the medicinal plants at the Campal range forest office.

“Saplings have also been distributed among MLAs across Goa, who are planting and distributing them in their respective jurisdiction. We will take up a plantation drive during Vanamahotsava as well, which falls in July. Our target is to distribute five lakh saplings – both fruit-bearing as well as medicinal plants – across Goa,” Kumar said.

Saplings available for sale include chandan, chafa, stevia, bramhi, lakshmitaru, amla, hadjod, shatavari, tulsi, neem, ashwagandha, sitafal, noni, soursop, akarkara, lemon, lemon grass, aloe vera, mandukparni, giloe, bael, chitrak, kalmegh, pachauli, behda and nirgundi, among others.

Source: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/sale-of-seedlings-rise-in-pandemic/articleshow/83700568.cms>