



EMPOWERS FARMERS IN TREE CULTIVATION AND AGROFORESTRY PRACTICES

SUCCESSFUL TRAINING PROGRAM

“
The objective of this recent event was to enlighten and empower progressive farmers and various stakeholders about the significance and advantages of cultivating trees.
”

By Dinesh Gaur

We are thrilled to announce that Seyyon Organic Farm, located in Eechampatti Village, Namakkal District, Tamil Nadu, successfully concluded an extensive training program on "Tree Outside Forests in India" on May 28, 2023.

The objective of this recent event was to enlighten and empower progressive farmers and various stakeholders about the significance and advantages of cultivating trees outside forests. The training program garnered an exceptional response, with over 150 participants from diverse backgrounds attending. The attendees included esteemed individuals such as retired senior forest officers, DCF Green Tamilnadu, a director from TN Agricultural University, the dean from Mettupalyam

Forestry College, a senior consultant from NMPB Kerala, and the former VC UHS B, who also serves as an Advisor to World Agro-Forestry, CIFOR.

Dr. Chandrashekar Biradar, the India Head of CIFOR, TOFI, chaired the event and provided invaluable insights and expertise throughout the program. Dr. Murugaselvam, Managing Partner of Seyyon Farms, and Mr. Mallesh Lingachar, Sandalwood Technologist, EC Member of IAFI Karnataka, and Co-CEO & Director of Cogent Architects, played crucial roles in organizing the program and ensuring its success.

Throughout the training sessions, participants were immersed in a wealth of knowledge regarding the



cultivation and maintenance of trees outside forests, as well as sustainable agroforestry practices. The program also sheds light on the concept of carbon credits and the considerable economic and environmental advantages tied to these initiatives.

The training sessions were designed to be highly interactive, providing a dynamic learning environment for all attendees. Practical demonstrations, expert presentations, and group discussions were incorporated to encourage active participation and foster an exchange of ideas. This collaborative approach enabled participants to not only absorb information but also learn from one another's valuable experiences in the field.

During the program, Dr. Chandrashekar Biradar, as the chair, conveyed a crucial message emphasizing the importance of incorporating green vegetables and fruits into our everyday diets. He brought attention to the alarmingly low current consumption of these nutritious foods, which constitutes less than 5% of our

daily food intake. Dr. Biradar urged participants to strive for a target of 33% inclusion of green vegetables and fruits in their daily meals, recognizing the immense health benefits associated with such a dietary shift.

Furthermore, Dr. Biradar highlighted the vast potential of barren and unused land, spanning millions of hectares, that can be transformed into agroforestry clusters. By leveraging this opportunity, farmers can effortlessly establish food forests rich in nutritional value. Dr. Biradar encouraged farmers to explore economically viable and environmentally sustainable plantation methods on their private land, promoting the dual goals of profitability and ecological preservation.

Additionally, Dr. Murugaselvam, the Managing Partner of Seyyon Organic Farms, expressed his unwavering dedication to transforming farmers and cultivating extensive agroforestry clusters. He shared his innovative approach of Multi-Level Farming, which allows for the growth of various climate trees and medicinal plants in a

“

Dr. Biradar highlighted the vast potential of barren and unused land, spanning millions of hectares, that can be transformed into agroforestry clusters. By leveraging this opportunity

”



single location, a truly unique feat. Through this high-density plantation, Dr. Murugaselvam has discovered additional avenues to generate sustainable income year after year.

Dr. Murugaselvam proudly announced that Seyyon Farms would continue to offer free training programs to individuals interested in the field of agroforestry. By doing so, he aimed to inspire and encourage more people to actively participate in agroforestry practices and contribute to the advancement of sustainable agriculture. Mr. Mallesh Lingachar placed special emphasis on the integration of AI technology in building agroforestry models and the establishment of a robust knowledge platform. He highlighted the active collaboration between Seyyon Farms and CIFOR, with the ambitious goal of establishing 1 lakh hectares of agroforestry clusters. Mr. Lingachar emphasized the Managing Director's complete commitment to providing the necessary resources to accomplish this remarkable milestone. The collaboration aims to make significant strides in reducing carbon footprint through the creation of these clusters.

The former Vice-Chancellor of the University of Horticultural Sciences, Bangalore, and advisor to World Agroforestry underscored the importance of cultivating native, highly

nutritious vegetables and fruits within agroforestry clusters. He brought attention to the profound truth that while trees can survive without human beings, humans cannot survive without trees. This statement highlighted the crucial role trees play in sustaining our environment and emphasized the need to prioritize their conservation and cultivation.

Additionally, the program chair announced the prestigious TOFI Champion award presented to Dr. Murugaselvam, Managing Partner of Seyyon Organic Farm. This recognition was bestowed in light of the remarkable high-density plantation practices implemented at Seyyon Farms, which involve over 900 trees per acre. The plantation encompasses valuable timber trees such as sandalwood and red sanders, alongside a wide array of medicinal plants. With more than 60 different varieties of plants, Seyyon Farms has established itself as one of the finest organic plantations in India.

As the program drew to a close, training certificates were distributed to all the farmers and stakeholders who attended the event. Furthermore, free saplings were provided, allowing participants to further their involvement in agroforestry and contribute to sustainable practices in their own agricultural endeavours. ■■■

“

This recognition was bestowed in light of the remarkable high-density plantation practices implemented at Seyyon Farms, which involve over 900 trees per acre.

”