



saytrees

ANNUAL

REPORT

2018



Director's Report

SayTrees Environmental Trust has planted more than 79876 saplings in year 2018-2019 and targeting to plant about 2,00,000 saplings in year 2019-2020.

In 2018-2019, plantation happened in Karnataka, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh. SayTrees continued its rural plantation this year by planting 35000 saplings in Bagepalli, Karnataka. This is in continuation of saplings which were planted in the region in 2017. For this SayTrees will be partnering with local organizations and find donor corporates to fund the projects.

SayTrees has been working on creating partnerships with local NGO's in many states of India. These partnerships will enable saytrees to work in multiple states and bring out positive change.

SayTrees has planted 2650 fruit saplings with 5 farmers of Anantpur District. About 8621 fruit saplings were planted with 230 farmers from Maharashtra.

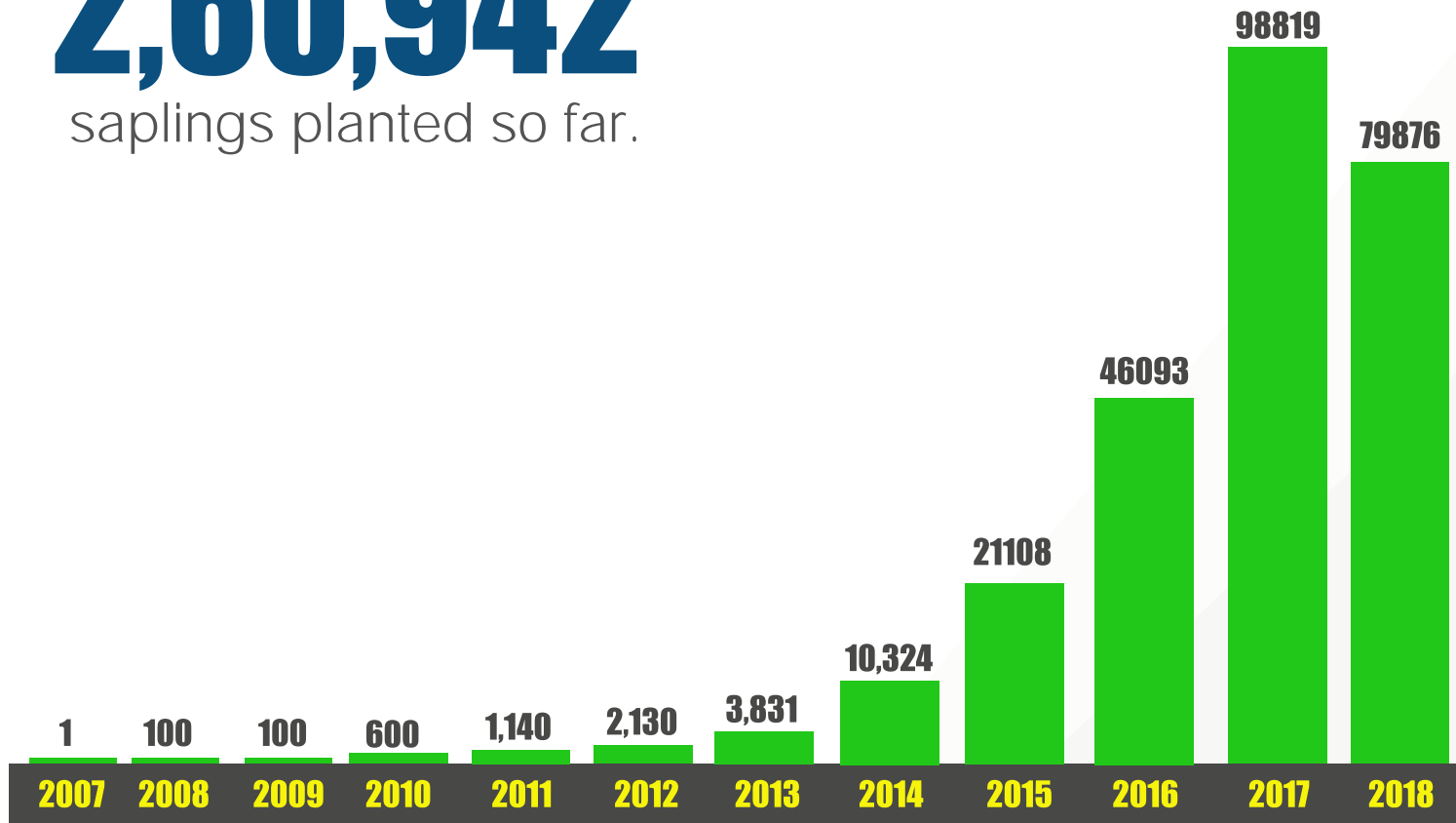
We continued Miyawaki plantation this year and have been able to create 6 dense forests in Bangalore, Karnata and one in Satara, Maharashtra.

Kapil Sharma
Founder, SayTrees

Sapling count so far

2,60,942

saplings planted so far.



2018

We planted 79,876 saplings in year 2018. This year started by creating a miyawaki forest at a govt. school on World Earth Day. Then we celebrated World Environment Day by creating 25,000 seedballs with more than 400 nature lovers. This year also saw collaboration with IISc, Bangalore, to create a drone for aerial seeding. We continued our rural plantation by planting close to 35000 saplings in Bagepalli, Karnataka. We continued our Agroforestry project by planting fruit saplings with farmers of Anantpur district. This year we extended our agroforestry project to Maharashtra where we planted fruit saplings with 213 farmers. We also created our first Miyawaki forest ni Maharashtra by planting 2000 saplings in Satara.

World Earth Day

SayTrees celebrated World Environment Day [April 22, 2018] by planting 5500 saplings with about 500 nature lovers who came from all around the city. The plantation was done at Govt. School, Hennagara, Bangalore. Students from school have pledged to take care of these saplings planted at their school campus.



Miyawaki Plantation

SayTrees continued creating Miyawaki Forests in Bangalore and other location too. We planted about 31065 saplings to create 6 Miyawaki forests.

Sapling count

Location

5500	Government High School Hennagara, Bengaluru.
4215	Residential Complex, Attibelle, Bengaluru.
3500	Vabasandra Lake, Bengaluru.
2000	Bannerghatta National Park, Bengaluru.
2000	Satara village, Maharashtra.
13850	IRIDM, Bidadi, Bengaluru.



Rural Plantation



34400
saplings

Year 2018 saw one of our largest tree plantation in rural India. This plantation was initiated in Bagepalli village of Karnataka, India. Bagepalli is very close to Bangalore and this allowed volunteers from Bangalore to travel to the village to plant saplings. This tree plantation is supported by LTI under their CSR initiative to increase green cover of the nation.

34,400 saplings are planted in the region. This plantation also gave income generation opportunity to locals who helped us in digging pits and then plant saplings.

SayTrees is in regular touch with people from surrounding villages to look after the area of plantation and to not allow grazing in the land.



Agroforestry



11271
saplings

218
farmers

In year 2018, 11271 fruit saplings have been planted with 218 farmers. These saplings will not only increase green cover of the region but will also give parallel income to the farmers. Farmers play very important role in agroforestry projects as they take care of the saplings for years to come. Supportive farmers are key to a successful plantation.

2650 saplings are planted with 5 farmers of Ananthpur district of Andhra Pradesh and 8621 saplings were planted with 213 farmers of Maharashtra. Species planted with farmers are coconut, mango, guava etc. Fruits from these saplings will help farmers earn a parallel income every year.



Community Participation

SayTrees promotes community participation to ensure the citizens are made aware about the need of trees for our survival. Our plantation and maintenance drives see volunteers which range from kids to senior citizens. Parents bring their kids to the plantation drives to make them learn about and respect mother nature.



Community Participation



Monitoring & Evaluation

SayTrees monitors and evaluates the plantation location every quarter. This helps us to understand how saplings at these locations are growing and what kind of intervention is needed to ensure maximum survival rate of the saplings. Every plantation location is taken care by one of our team member.



Seed Balls

About 400 nature lovers came together to make 25,000 seedballs to celebrate World Environment day. These seedballs were later distributed to rural areas like Bagepalli, Chintamani etc to be spread on large parcel of land.



Seed Balls at schools

SayTrees took the seedball creation to various school where students from schools careated seedballs . These seedballs were later collected by SayTrees and distributed to various locations.



Aerial Seeding

SayTrees funded a drone which was being created by scientists from Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore. This drone will be used to spread seeds over 3000 acre land at Gauribidanur, Karnataka. Its a 3 year research project in which scientists will study the change in landscape of the region.



A Miyawaki forest for school children

On Earth Day, Bengaluru techies created a Japanese forest in Anekal to inspire kids to feel one with Nature

Manoj Sharma
manoj.n@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

On Earth Day this Sunday, about 800 nature lovers from the city took over the Honnagara Government High School in Honnagara village in Anekal. With them, they had 5,500 saplings of 96 species, which they planted around the school to create a Japanese Miyawaki forest.

Coordinated by the environmental outfit SayTrees, the forest was created by a group dominated by techies, over an area of 25,000 square feet. In the Miyawaki method, several species of trees are planted close together to enrich the soil content and the diversity of the flora.

The 96 species of saplings include fruit-bearing species like mango, jack fruit, chikku, as well as local species like neem, banyan, peepal, teak and others.

"We have chosen the Miyawaki forest method so that the school children can grow up with forest around them. The forest and environment will ultimately become a part of their education and for that matter, a part of life for these children," said Anand Malligawad, one of the coordinators.

How did the volunteers feel about contributing to this lovely initiative? "This was really one of the most memorable days of my life. All the volunteers had come just for the future generation. None of them had any selfish goals. All of us want to protect the nature despite the rapid urbanization. It shows the growing concerns of citizens for the nature and trees. The environment will be saved if these kinds of the activities take place



"This forest and the environment will become a part of their education and life."

—Anand Malligawad, volunteer

who are going to study in this school are going to have great time ahead. They will grow up in the forest. They will learn how trees will not shed the leaves, the stiva, a based



SayTrees, a voluntary group, planted saplings last year which have now grown into 10ft tall trees | AKSHEEV

Govt schoolchildren tend to Miyawaki forest on campus

Plantation involves Japanese technique leading to fast growth

IFFATH FATHIMA @ Bangalore

ON World Earth Day there was a hearty celebration for children of Honnagara Government High School in Honnagara village. They celebrated the first birthday of their Miyawaki forest — 5,500 trees planted over half an acre of area in the school last year.

The saplings, planted by SayTrees, a voluntary group, have grown into 10ft tall trees, making the area look like a mini forest.

Eighty species of plants, like neem, jamun, silk, cotton, banyan, amla, peepal, guava, bamboo, honge and many more were planted, to create a Japanese Miyawaki forest. "A Miyawaki plantation involves planting of native species close to each other randomly on the forest bed, ensuring that no two similar varieties are adjacent to each other. Soil testing is done to provide organic nutrition — we add bio-



mass to the soil which is loosened up to a depth of 1 metre. Biomass like cocopeat, rice husk, cow dung or anything locally available is mixed with the soil to create the forest bed. This creates a micro climate which promotes healthy competition among saplings, leading to faster growth," said Durgesh Agrahare, head of Partnership and Project at SayTrees.

The forest needs continuous maintenance, like watering, removing weeds and add-

ing nutrients to help the plants grow into healthy trees. The forest on the government school campus attracts many children and has become an add-on study class. Teachers and SayTrees volunteers are teaching the students about different species of plants and their maintenance. Students also take the initiative to water the plants.

"The children are very happy to see the forest which has grown in no time. That is the speciality of the Miyawaki technique. A 100-year-old forest grows in just 10 years," said Agrahare. A clean-up drive was also taken up as part of World Earth Day, with 25 volunteers clearing up trash in the forests.

So far, SayTrees has planted over 50,000 saplings using the Miyawaki method, and aims to plant another 5,00,000 saplings using the same technique in 2019.

Vabasandra Lake comes to life with a Miyawaki forest

Saytrees and Sansera foundations work to plant 3,500 saplings, desilt lake, fix leak in main bund

Reya Mehrotra
mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

Another Miyawaki forest has come to life in Bengaluru, this time at Vabasandra Lake. Recently, 3,500 saplings were planted at the lake, which is being designed and beautified by Saytrees and Sansera foundations, to inaugurate the Miyawaki forest. In the first phase of the forest development, 3000-3500 saplings of 84-85 local species of plants have been planted, including Banyan, Tamarind, Indian Gooseberries and Pongratias as also medicinal and ayurvedic plants like Tulsi, Neem, Amla.

The Miyawaki forest has been developed in the buffer zone, near the main bund of the lake in an attempt to convert it into a green belt. It has been funded by a corporate group under a corporate social responsibility project. Durgesh Agrahare, from Saytrees Foundation, says, "A Miyawaki forest grows 10 times faster and can turn into a fully grown forest in 10-15 years, which otherwise takes 70-80 years to grow. We will water, de-weed and secure the plants for the first 2-3 years. After that, the forest will sustain itself with 90% survival rate."

Earlier this year, global investment bank Goldman Sachs had announced the winners of the India Impact Fund and SayTrees, being one of the three winners, won Rs 19.23,600. The foundation used a part of the prize money for this Miyawaki forest.

Currently, the lake has natural guards in the form of farmlands that secure the lake on all sides. "No fences are required as the lake has clearly defined boundaries due to the farmlands. So, there are no threats of encroachments. The locals have been very supportive from day one and participate equally in the planning. In fact, the elders help us identify the inlets and outlet pipes and give a comparative picture of how well the lake



The Miyawaki forest has been developed in the buffer zone; the lake is almost full after it was desilted in four phases and agricultural land around it act as natural guards securing its boundaries

functioned years ago so that we can plan accordingly," he adds. Once the saplings grow, the lake will be handed over to the village authorities.

A small island has been created in the lake which houses a number of plants and has already started attracting many species of birds and butterflies. To ensure uninterrupted flow of water, inlet and outlet concrete water pipes have been opened up.

Talking about securing the fruit bearing trees in the Miyawaki forest, Anand Malligawad, an engineer from Sansera Foundation, says, "We don't use pesticides in Miyawaki forests, but cow urine, cow dung and other natural fertilisers act as manure and protect the plants from insects."

The work on the lake that belongs to the village panchayat had started on April 5 but got delayed due to pre-monsoons. Durgesh says, "The walkways around the lake have been constructed and the lake has been desilted. A number of bore wells around the lake that had run dry due to the deposition of silt, will soon start functioning. We desilted the lake in four phases over the last two months. The main lake bund had a leakage due to which a lot of water was wasted away; we have fixed the leakage too."

Anand, who has also designed the lake model, says, "We want to create a model lake in Bangalore and replicate the model in all the lakes in

Anekal. Earlier the lakes were only maintained through the common knowledge of villagers. We are reviving them combining scientific technology and rural and common methods. Once the work is complete, the lake water will be as good as drinking water as the lake body has a granular base due to which the mud particles settle down. This is also a reason why Vabasandra Lake will not have weeds as the granular base does not allow photosynthesists or provide fertile soil for weeds to grow." The lake has a sewage filtration system, concrete inlets and outlet water pipes.

The lake development is being funded by HP India under the CSR fund.

7 lakes on city outskirts to be rejuvenated

AKSHEEV THAKUR | DC
BENGALURU, JULY 12

It is well known that water bodies that fall under BBMP's purview are in poor condition and they often attract adverse publicity, but the condition of many lakes in rural Bengaluru is even worse, but due to their remoteness very little is known.

SayTrees, an NGO that spearheads environmental research and activities to restore the environment, in association with Hewlett Packard Inc, rejuvenated the Vabasandra Lake at Bommasandra. The NGO plans to rejuvenate seven such lakes.

Kapil Sharma, founder, SayTrees said, "Due to the accumulation of silt over years, the lake was lost resulting in low water holding capacity. Lakes also face encroachment. Hence they are to be rejuvenated and protected."

Sharma also said that the lake will be maintained by them for two years, after which it will be handed over to the local residents.



Before and after pictures of rejuvenation work at Vabasandra Lake at Bommasandra

The project to rejuvenate the lake, spread over 16 acres, was initiated on April 5 and completed in July. When asked how they accomplished this at such a short span of time, he commented, "We have used effective mechanism to get the work done. Work happens through the day to achieve the

deadline. Sansera Foundation has been helping us with technical inputs to get the work done quickly and effectively."

"Government takes time as they have a lot of process and many stakeholders to get the work done, whereas in this case it was just us and the vil-

lage panchayat," he added. SayTrees surveys lakes based on input from locals. After the rejuvenation of Vabasandra Lake the reach out to the NGO has increased for further restoration of such water bodies in the vicinity. Moreover, Sewage Treatment Plants

will be set up in lakes that require such a facility.

Sharma looks for corporate bodies to fund the ecological activities. Over seven lakes have been identified for the rejuvenation in partnership with support from corporates and CSR funds.

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