

Project Update: January 2009

Nallavadu, a coastal village in Puducherry was selected to achieve the target. Anumandhai and Chettinagar villages from Villupuram district are the two additional sites. The meetings were held with traditional panchayat leaders, men and women self help groups and youth was helped to form three to five members in a group to take care of the plantation.

‘Learning while doing’ method was followed to train the group members that they were involved in planting activities, like making soil mixture, pitting, filling with mixture, distribution of the species in different zones and creating buffer for the plantation, planting, mulching with coir dust, staking of tall seedlings, protecting the seedlings with palm or coconut woven leaf against salt spray, watering and regular maintenance.

A five member team had selected around 75 species of saline tolerant, drought and heat resistant, light demanding, economically and ecologically valuable. A total of 8020 seedlings were raised with the help of a single woman.

Posters and documentary film was prepared and used for awareness in collaboration with Auroville Coastal area Development Centre (ACDC). Now the film is in the You Tube channel.

A total of 3610 plants from 63 species were planted. Buffer zone plantation using Casuarina was done in three places. Four vegetable seeds were sowed as an intercrop in two places to generate income, are all got damaged by the cyclone, except a few individuals. Now, five kind of seeds were sowed and the babies are coming up.

Sufficient photos and movies were made from the planting activities and the effect of cyclone. Here is the YouTube link where you can see the video:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tn-RvLjtqjg&feature=channel_page

The same link compressed into a tiny link in order to incorporate in emails or electronic correspondence is here: <http://tinyurl.com/7fx9tk>

