

## **Plantation Campaigns at RRCAT on 19<sup>th</sup> August 2020 and 28<sup>th</sup> October 2020**

The RRCAT campus is home to a wide variety of flora and fauna including some of the trees dating from the Holkar era. There has been a sustained effort to further develop a clean, healthy and beautiful green environment by developing gardens and landscapes, and large-scale plantation of trees. Multiple tree plantation campaigns are planned this year in RRCAT campus to further increase environmental awareness among the residents and for enriching the campus with green cover. The first phase of the plantation drive was organized on 19<sup>th</sup> August 2020 during 0815 Hrs to 1015 Hrs at the following two sites: (i) Near "Dr. Chandrasekhar Observatory" building along the outer ring road of RRCAT campus, and (ii) Area between the upper lake and the CISF colony. In continuation of efforts in protecting environment and enriching biodiversity in the RRCAT campus, a second phase of plantation drive was organized on 28<sup>th</sup> October 2020 in the unoccupied technical area of the campus about 1.5 km from old Production Unit Building.

The plantation sites were made ready in July 2020 by carrying out land preparation measures like cleaning of site, digging of pits, refilling with garden earth and vermicompost which was prepared in-house at RRCAT. The plants used in the plantation campaign were reared and raised in the RRCAT Nursery itself. The choice of plants and the density of plantation at the three sites was based on the following two themes: (i) "Shelter Belt" theme for the first site near observatory building and the third site at unoccupied technical area of the campus aimed at sheltering the colony residents and technical facilities, and (ii) "City Forest" theme, popularly known as "Miyawaki", for the second site. Miyawaki is a technique pioneered by Japanese botanist Akira Miyawaki, that helps build dense, native forests.

In all about 1160 plants of 32 different species were planted at the three sites with the emphasis on selection of heterogeneous species combining trees as well as shrubs having floricultural (flowering species), pomological (fruiting species) and medicinal importance to enrich the biodiversity of the RRCAT campus. Some of the popular and self-sustainable species planted during the campaign include *Azadirachta indica* (Neem), *Ficus benghalensis* (Bargad), *Ficus benjamina* (Benjamin fig), *Ficus religiosa* (Pipal), *Mangifera indica* (Mango), *Nyctanthis arbortrista* (Harsingar), *Simarouba glauca* (Laxmitaru), *Terminalia belerrica* (Baheda), *Lemonia acidissima* (wood apple), *Madhuca latifolia* (Mahua), *Terminalia arjuna* (Arjuna), *Gardenia jasmenoids* (Gandhraj), *Tecoma gaudichaudi* (Tecoma), *Sesbania grandiflora* (Agast) etc.

In view of the prevailing conditions due to COVID-19 pandemic, several precautions including participation by limited number of persons, plantation in time staggered manner, social distancing, use of face mask, hand wash and sensitization were strictly followed during the plantation drive. The plantation drive was conducted under keen supervision and guidance of Shri Debashis Das, Director, RRCAT with his deep involvement at every stage of the planning and execution. The plantation was carried out by all the members of Director's Advisory Council (DAC). The entire event was coordinated by the members of the Advisory Committee for Clean and Green Campus (ACCGC) with enthusiastic support and cooperation from multiple agencies of RRCAT, especially the Horticulture Section, Construction and Services Division, RRCAT security and CISF unit personnel.

A few glimpses of the plantation campaigns are given in the photographs below.

**Member Secretary, ACCGC**

**Photographs of Plantation Campaign at RRCAT on 19<sup>th</sup> August 2020**



















**Photographs of Plantation Campaign in RRCAT on 28<sup>th</sup> October 2020**

























