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Cauvery Calling: Farmers to plant 1.16 lakh trees to mark Gandhi Jayanti

30 September 2020, Coimbatore: Farmers across 23 districts in Tamil Nadu will plant 1.16 lakh saplings on their farmlands to mark the 151st birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, the architect of India's freedom movement who championed rural development and self-sufficiency. Farmers will plant high-value timber species such as Teak, Rosewood, Sandalwood and Mahogany in approximately 285 acres of land. A minimum of 400 saplings and a maximum of 10,000 are expected to be planted by individual farmers across 50 locations including in Coimbatore, Salem, Tiruchy, and Thanjavur among other districts. The sapling plantation drive is being organized by volunteers of Cauvery Calling, a movement launched by Sadhguru, Founder-Isha Foundation, last year to revitalize river Cauvery. The movement promotes tree-based agriculture in private farmlands in the Cauvery river basin that will significantly enhance farmer income and have an enduring positive impact on soil and water health in the region.

Farmers have already procured the 1.16 lakh saplings from Isha Nurseries for the upcoming plantation drive. Local Cauvery Calling volunteers will facilitate the activity in addition to visiting individual farms and sharing their expertise on mixed plantations, soil health and water efficiency technologies.

A similar drive was conducted last month in the memory of Thiru. Maram Thangasamy, one of Tamil Nadu's most well respected farmers who dedicated his life to increasing green cover in the state. Farmers planted 1.26 lakh saplings on their farms in his memory to commemorate his death anniversary.

Post Sadhguru's motorcycle rally last year to consolidate ground support and concerted action for the movement, farmers in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka have adopted tree-based agriculture with enthusiasm. Nearly 84 lakh saplings have been planted in private farmlands in the two states in the first planting season since the launch of Cauvery Calling last year.

If you would like to know more about this, please write to mediarelations@ishafoundation.org.