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**Cauvery Calling marks Gandhi Jayanti: Farmers to plant 30,000 saplings in 6 TN districts to honour the Mahatma**

**2 October 2020, Coimbatore:** To commemorate the 151<sup>st</sup> birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, farmers in six districts of Tamil Nadu will plant 30,000 saplings in a plantation drive organized by Cauvery Calling volunteers. Mahatma Gandhi was an ardent advocate of self-sufficiency of rural India.

Farmers will plant high-value timber saplings in their own private farmlands. Sapling plantation commenced in Ariyalur on 30<sup>th</sup> September. Farmers in Thiruchirapalli, Thanjavur, Thiruvarur, Nagapattinam and Cuddalore will begin plantation activity today. Cauvery Calling promotes tree-based agriculture, an economically remunerative model of farming which has a significant ecological impact.

An event was held at Ariyalur to mark the commencement of the plantation drive.

Thiruvaiyaru Assembly Member Thiru.Durai Chandrasekharan participated as a special guest as 5000 saplings were planted on a 10-acre farmland belonging to Thiru.

Gunaseelan. President of the Agricultural Association, Ariyalur, Thiru.Sukumaran and Naturopathy Physician Thiru. Siddhar were also present on the occasion.

While plantation has already commenced at Ariyalur district where 13,801 saplings are taking root in private farmlands, farmers in Cuddalore district will plant a similar number (13,000) of saplings. Farmers in the remaining four districts will plant between 800 and 3000 saplings on their farmlands.

Cauvery Calling promotes tree-based agriculture as a sustainable farming model that will reverse the fortunes of farmers and make farming a profitable venture. The movement aims to enable over 5 million farmers to plant 2.42 billion saplings on their own farmlands in the Cauvery river basin over a 12-year period. This is expected to substantially strengthen the water holding capacity of soil in the basin and consequently increase the river's source flow.

This is the first planting season since the launch of the Cauvery Calling movement last September by Sadhguru, Founder-Isha Foundation. More than 83 lakh saplings have been planted this season by farmers in the Cauvery river basin that spans Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.

**If you would like to know more about this, please write to [mediarelations@ishafoundation.org](mailto:mediarelations@ishafoundation.org).**