

30,000 Mangrove Trees for Coastal Ecosystems & Seaweed Cultivation, Villupuram, Tamil Nadu

Need of the Project: The planting of 30,000 mangroves in Kazhuveli, the second largest brackish water lake in South India's Villupuram district, Tamil Nadu, is an initiative aimed at promoting sustainable livelihoods for the coastal communities. These mangrove forests play a critical role in providing essential resources for the survival and livelihood of the area's residents. They serve as an important source of income for fishing communities, as well as provide a habitat for a variety of species that are harvested for food and other resources. Additionally, mangrove trees offer a number of benefits, including fuel, medicine, tannins, and wood for construction of boats, houses, making them an important part of the local ecosystem and strengthening the economy.



Project Activities:

- Activity 1: Sapling preparation:** to prepare the 30,000 mangrove saplings for plantation.
- Activity 2: Plantation:** Mangrove sapling plantation involves plantation with the help of the locals
- Activity 3: Creating awareness:** To create awareness amongst the locals to protect the mangroves.
- Activity 4: Seaweed Cultivation:** To teach and provide the materials to the women's for cultivating seaweeds to generate extra source of income.

Qualitative Impact

- Restoring the kazhuveli wetlands.
- Plantation of Rhizophora and Avicenna species will enhance the living conditions of the locals who are solely dependent on the mangrove's forests.
- Mangrove species for fuel wood and other minor forest produce like tannins will also strengthen their economic sustainability while generating employment for the coastal communities.
- The plantation activity will help in providing protection from coastal flooding, offer shoreline stability, lessen top-soil erosion, increase carbon sequestration potential, filter of contaminants like heavy metals, pesticides, agricultural run-offs etc.
- Tree plantation activity created around 2000 workdays of employment for the local coastal communities of which ~60% females were employed.
- The seaweed cultivation project has not only created a sustainable fishing infrastructure but has also provided a viable revenue stream for coastal communities. The short harvest cycle of 45 days enables communities to sell the harvest at more than INR 85 per kg produce, providing a new source of income.

