Observation of World Day to Combat Desertification-2017

Report

Date of Activity: 17.6.2017

Type of Activity: Plantation of *Pongamia glabra* (Derris indica)

Village: Kothaindlu

Place: Along the banks of River Swarnamukhi

Event organiser: M/S Srinivasa Ryotu Mitra Group, Kalroadpalli.

The Day was started by observation of two minutes mourning in respect to the sorrowful death of farmers at Yerpedu village; while protesting against Land Degradation (illegal sand mining) activities in Swarnamukhi river bed being caused by local Sand Mafia on 21 April 2017, in our area.
The Group Leader, Mr. S. Janardhana Naidu explained about the significance of the WDCDay 2017 and its Concept to the fellow members.

Later, the Group members have planted *pongamia* saplings procured from government. And also sown green manure seeds of sannhemp (sun hemp- *Crotalaria juncea*: green manure crop) at pongamia planted pits to provide natural fertiliser.
Son (Our future) of the group farmer watering pongamia sapling soon after plantation.

*Common name: Pongam, Karanji

Local name: Kanuga Manu

Family: Papilionaceae

Propagation: By seeds, stem cuttings, roots and suckers

Silvicultural characteristics
- Medium-sized tree starts flowering during April to June
- Flower is white and purple in colour
- Ripe pods are available from December-January, extending up to May
- Tree is drought-resistant and can go on poor soils
- Suitable for saline and alkaline soils.
Uses

Agriculture

- Leaf bio-mass as green manure
- Oil cake is used as manure
- Dried leaves are placed in grain stores as the odour repels insects

Medicinal

- Oil is extracted from the seeds which is used for burning, for skin diseases and rheumatism

General

- Wood is used as fuel wood. Wood is beautifully grained, often used for cabinet work.

Farmers proudly displaying WDCD-2017 banner and Concept Post Cards
Farmers are sowing *sannhemp seeds in the plantation pit

*Sannhemp (sun hemp- *Crotalaria juncea*):

**Local name:** Bombay hemp

**Family:** Papilionaceae

**Uses:**

- Green manure
- Plant stalks and leaves fed to cattle as green or dry fodder
- For green manuring grown on all types of land

**Place:** Tirupati

**Date:** 17.6.2017

*Signature of the Chief Functionary*