Observation of World Day to Combat Desertification-2017

Report

Date of Activity: 17th June 2017
Type of Activity: Plantation of neem also called as Persian lilac, margosa (*Azadirachta indica*)
Village: YERASUPALLI
Place: Along the banks of river Papagni (Penna)
Event organiser: M/S Venkatadri Maha tanai Raitu Mitra Sangam, KONDUR, YSR Kadapa district, Andhra Pradesh, India.

The Day was started by taking a pledge on protecting the environment from the hands of pollution agents.

The farmers’ Group Leader, Ms. V. Radhika explained about the significance of the WDC Day 17/6/2017 and its concepts to the fellow members. Later on the group members have planted the “neem saplings”.

Our first step to launch the fight against the degradation of land
Explaining about the importance of the neem plant in our day to day life by the President of Sai Seva Samithi, Mr P. Sai kumar
Farmers are standing by displaying the Day banner along with our Group Leader, Ms. Radhika and her son - Our Future.

Scientific name: *Azadirachta indica*

Family: Meliaceae

Local (Telugu) name: Yapamanu

Distribution and habitat:

Deciduous tree, native of Burma. Found all over India, except in the coastal regions.

Silvicultural characteristics

Drought-resistant, Flowers during March to June, and fruits up to August

Can grow well on saline and alkaline soils also.
Watering the neem sampling

Propagation:

- Seeds that germinate within a week’s time
- Fresh seeds are viable more than 30-45 days
- Old seeds loss their viability.

Uses:

Agricultural:

- De-oiled cakes of neem seeds make good organic manure
- Kernels are used as insect anti-feedents
- Seed meal can be used as feed for chicks and cattle, in certain concentration, mixed with other feed
- Wood is used for making agricultural implements
- Leaves and seeds contain Azadiractin, an insect repellent and
- Twigs/shoots (tender) can be used as Tooth brush cum Paste since primitive age. Effectively prevents tooth ache, decay etc.,
Others:

- Leaves, bark and gum are used for medicinal purposes and religious rites
- Ripe fruits are edible
- Seed oil can be used as an antiseptic for burns and lubrication for machineries
- Bark is used to extract tannin
- Leaf extracts are used in toothpaste and soaps
- Leaves are placed in wardrobes and grain bins to repel insects.
The programme was covered by the print media and the news was published in the state wide circulated news papers viz., Eenadu and Sakshi on 18/6/2017.

Links of the news papers mentioned below


Place: Kadapa

Date: 17/06/2017

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Signature of the Chief Functionary

(P.Sai Kumar Raju)