

Greenie Kallur Balan aims to plant one crore tree saplings

The Times of India-01-06-2018-P-03

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Palakkad: The 'one-man army' of Kallur Balan of Mankara near here, engaged in roadside tree planting for the last 25 years, wishes to plant 1 crore trees "before I say goodbye to this world".

Balan is planning to start planting of 1 lakh tree sapling on this world environment day on June 5 in different parts of the district. "My saplings are ready for planting in an one-acre nursery near my house. I am planting lakhs of trees every year. My wish is to complete planting of one crore trees before I say goodbye to this world and I am 67 years old now. The trees



Environmentalist Kallur Balan of Mankara has raised tree saplings like mango, guava and neem at his one-acre nursery in Palakkad

act as a green lung for the generations to come," he said.

In his one-acre nursery he has raised tree saplings like mango, guava, jackfruit, gooseberry and neem. He will plant the tree saplings with the help of students' environmental groups of Palakkad, Thrissur and Malappuram districts.

His slogan is to "make the environment green with more trees and create groves in villages to protect the environment and nature".

He plants the trees and also tenders them. He was donated a Jeep by some environmentalists of Malappu-

ram as a recognition to his great service to the nature and society. He had won many awards from the government and non-government organizations, including the prestigious P V Thampi Environment Award. The trees planted by him stand tall, acting as green lungs on both sides of the roads, government land and even residential complexes. Lakhs of trees he had planted 20 years back afforested the barren hills of Ayyar Mala and Chudiyar Mala in Meenpara grama panchayat. Balan says his job as a part time employee of the forest department helped him to take up this mission.

TOI