



ISHA FOUNDATION

Project Green Hands

MASS TREE PLANTING MARATHON

Documentation of

Planting of 852,587 Saplings

On 17th October, 2006

...when you remembered that all this had sprung from the hands and the soul of this one man, without technical resources, you understand that men could be as effectual as God in other realms than that of destruction.

from **The Man Who Planted Trees**

Submitted to:

Guinness World Records Limited

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*“ Individuals can make a difference, and if each of us did our bit,
collectively we will make a major contribution ”*

- Kofi Annan, United Nations Secretary General

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“When the palm tree goes dry, the land is heading for a sure ecological disaster”

Old Tamil saying

ABOUT THIS REPORT

It is predicted that more changes will take place on the planet in the next 10 years than what took place in the last hundred years. Of these changes we hope that many of them will be pleasant surprises and a Clean, Green planet inhabited by a more caring human race will be one of them.

Project Green Hands is one firm step in that direction...

On 17th of October, 2006, 256,289 volunteers working on 6284 sites spread over 29 districts planted a record number of 852,587 saplings of more than 30 endemic species surpassing their own target of 700,000 plantings.

This report is the documentation of the event prepared and submitted to **Guinness World Records Limited, UK**, for listing the event as one of the world records.



CERTIFICATE

**The most trees planted
in three days was 852,587
in an event organised by
the Isha Foundation
called Project Green Hands.**

**Trees were planted in 6,284 locations
across 27 districts in Tamil Nadu, India,
on 17 October 2006**



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Claim ID: 170735
Membership Number: 154941

09 January 2007

Dear Isha Foundation,

We are pleased to confirm that you have set the new Guinness World Record for 'Most trees planted in three days (mass participation)' and a certificate to commemorate has been sent to you by post today.

Details of your achievement have been entered into our records as follows:

The most trees planted in three days was 852,587 in an event organised by the Isha Foundation called Project Green Hands. Trees were planted in 6,284 locations across 27 districts in Tamil Nadu, India, on 17 October 2006.

Although the certificate does not automatically guarantee an entry in our world-famous annual book, we do consider all new records for inclusion in all future Guinness World Records publications and products.

As an official record holder, you can request further certificates and find out all about using our logo and trademark to let everyone know about your achievement or for any other commercial purpose. To find out more, please go to www.guinnessworldrecords.com, log in and select claim 170735.

Welcome to the very select club of Guinness World Records holders!

Yours sincerely,

Sarah Wagner
Records Management Team

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“Every society needs individuals who will go on planting mango trees without thinking whether they will get to eat the fruits or not.”

- Sadhguru

A CALL FOR ACTION

After all these millions of years of evolution, one would expect that human beings, the most evolved species of the planet, are also the gentlest. Unfortunately, human contribution to the ecology is largely a tale of endless, wanton destruction. Empowered by the modern science and technology, and in relentless pursuit of comfort and conveniences, we have inflicted untold suffering both upon ourselves but also upon every other creature on the planet, bringing it to the brink of extinction.

While there is no one solution to the world’s ecological problems, it is a time tested fact that the simplest and the most effective solution is to just grow trees. For, every tree grown not only contributes directly to the local environment, but also has a deep cascading effect of regeneration and propagation of the entire ecological processes. So one can actually accomplish something as lofty and Herculean as ‘saving the planet’, simply by growing trees - lots and lots of them.

Project Green Hands of Isha Foundation is a simple but ingenious method to heal the planet, where even the poorest of the poor can contribute something that aggregates into a colossal protection for life on the planet. It aims to increase the green cover of the state of Tamil Nadu, in South India, entirely through people’s initiatives. An estimated 114 million saplings are to be planted in the next 10 years in order to increase the green cover of the state by 10%, involving millions of volunteers across the state.

This campaign will not only bring respite to the ecology of the state, but do so without imposing any fresh financial burden upon the state, whose forest cover is just 17.5%. The project is also a massive effort in community building, presenting a new paradigm of participatory governance and empowering lay individuals to shape the course of the world.

Let us Make it Happen !

OUR INSPIRATION

A self-realized yogi and profound mystic of our times, Sadhguru is acclaimed for his exceptional perception of modern life in all its complexities, and insightful solutions to human well-being. He developed *Isha Yoga* and *Inner Engineering*, two simple, but powerfully self-transformative processes that allows one to unravel the complexity of external situations using the wisdom of the internal.



A delegate to the **United Nations Millennium Peace Summit**, a member of the **World Council of Religious Leaders**, as well as a special invitee to the recent **Australian Leadership Retreat**, **Tallberg Forum** and the **World Economic Forum**, Sadhguru's vision is to empower the leadership of the world with an inner situation that is beyond strife and stress, creating joyful, peaceful and balanced individuals who can bring about a true sense of human well being in the world.

Isha Foundation, founded by Sadhguru, functions through its over 150 centers worldwide. Empowered by over a quarter of million volunteers, the Foundation is engaged in initiating multitudes into the science of inner well-being. Its pioneering grass-roots level programs are of immense social and developmental significance such as Action for Rural Rejuvenation, Isha Vidhya and Project Green Hands. Aimed at galvanizing and supporting the impoverished rural communities, Isha Foundation seeks to a gentle culture of self-care and support.

Driven by a sense of oneness, love, and a deep longing to reach out and share, Isha endeavors are entirely an outcome of the selfless dedication and the spirited efforts of its volunteers. Spread around the world and belonging to different nationalities and regions, this melting pot of cultures serves as a model for a new paradigm of humanity.

Do not think of the future of the world on the basis of existing realities. Existing realities on the planet could be changed in a moment, because existing realities do not take into consideration people's will, they do not take into consideration people's commitment, they do not take into consideration the love in their hearts.

- **Sadhguru** on International Day of Peace, 2004

"There is only one business in the world and that is of human well-being."

- **Sadhguru** at the **World Economic Forum** 2006, Davos, Switzerland

“ If people grow trees, trees will grow people ”

- Dr. M Karunanidhi, Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu

PROJECT DETAILS

Project Rationale

Statistics show that the number of trees required to make substantial difference is huge and daunting – for example, an estimated 114 million new trees are required to increase the green cover of the state of Tamil Nadu by 10% (from the present 17.5%, over the next 10 years). However, as Sadhguru says, if every one of the 62 million people of Tamil Nadu planted one tree in 2006 and another in 2007 and tend to it over the next 10 years, we would have 124 million young trees, by the year 2016.

Actual statistics and practical logistics may come in the way, but the rationale is very simple, with the right kind of focus and motivation, the gap between what is needed and what is possible could be very small.

Surely, raising two saplings over the next 10 years is a task that even the poorest of the poor can do. The rich and the resourceful could do much more. So with no additional financial burden upon the state, just people’s action could make something truly beautiful, wonderful and timely, happen. Faced with the grim threats to the environment that exist today, this is the scale of action that is required.

Besides, it is a well known conservation paradigm that people conserve only what they love and value. So the amount of awareness, sensitivity, and involvement created among the general population through planting and growing trees combined with the inspiration received and the motivation created in accomplishing such a huge task would be a huge social and national asset.

Long Term Goals:

Increase the green cover of the state of Tamil Nadu by planting 114 million saplings by the year 2016, entirely through people’s initiatives.

1. To create a culture of care for the environment through numerous networks, campaigns and inspirational initiatives.
2. To work towards replication of the project in other parts of the world especially in the developing countries

Immediate Goals:

1. To run a state-wide campaign to cover every remote corner of the state and to enlist their support and participation.
2. To raise the necessary saplings, to mobilize and educate volunteers to plant 700,000 saplings on the same day – the 17th of October 2006.

MAKING IT HAPPEN

The success of the project hinges upon the ability of Isha Foundation to motivate a large number of people to plant as many saplings as they can successfully protect and raise in their vicinity.

The Foundation is making use of the large volunteer base it already has in Tamil Nadu, to:

Choose Species:

- Local surveys for hardy, pioneering, endemic and indigenous species
- Meeting with a panel of forestry experts choose the particular species

Raise saplings:

- Seed collection and processing:
 - Seeds are collected from local mature trees from villages and local forests.
 - Seeds are processed with skilled labor with various seed processing techniques respective to the seed variety.
- Develop seedling:
 - Mother bed creation
 - Packeting in Recycled poly bags
 - Transplantation
 - Watering and maintenance
 - Transport the seedling to sites

Encourage people participation:

- Registration of volunteers
- Awareness program:
- Volunteers meeting and team building:
- Developing partnership with local government bodies and NGOs

Involve School Children:

- Eco club formation
- Drawing up targets and action-plan for each eco-club
- NSS (National Service Scheme), NCC (National Cadet Core), NGC (National Green Corp)

Public Campaign:

- Door-to-door campaign using pamphlets and posters
- Street-plays
- Public meetings, social events, celebration of festivals
- Students Signature campaign

TREE PLANTING – PROCEDURE

Criteria for choosing a location for tree plantation:

1. The planting location should be at least 6 feet away from the edge of the Road/Fence/Compound wall. Multiple row planting is preferable. The space between each row is 4'. The adjacent row planting location will be Zigzag with respect to the previous or succeeding row.
2. The tree should not be placed below an electric line.
3. The location of the pit should not be where water logging takes place.
4. The tree should be planted either in protected area or in a place which is easy reachable for people to water and protect.
5. Watering and replanting should be scheduled and suitably monitored.
6. A minimum gap of 7 feet and maximum gap of 9 feet to be maintained between trees.
7. The seedling should not be planted in the shade of another grown tree.

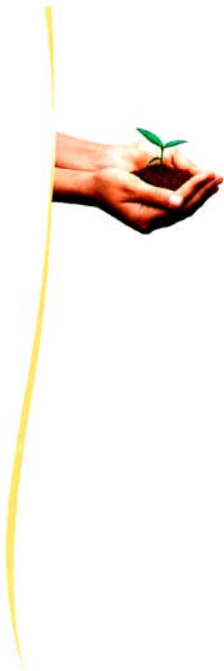
Methodology of tree planting:

1. Pit preparation:

- For red soil and clay soil, the dimensions of the pit are 2'x2'x2'
- For sandy soil or loose soil the dimensions are 1.5'x1.5'x1.5'.
- The dug out pit should be refilled with a mixture of compost and dug out top soil.
- The compost should be evenly mixed with the soil.
- Green bio mass (leaves) or non-composted material should not be put into the pit.


2. Planting:

- The plastic cover should be removed carefully using blade or knife such that the clump of soil is not broken. This decides or ensures 70% survival of the plant.
- If roots are grown out of the packet, it needs to be carefully cut before planting.
- The entire soil clump, holding the plant should be place below ground level.
- After closing the pit, do not compress or harden the pit by stamping on it or by other means.
- Create a basin around the pit for better watering.
- Mulch the tree seedling after plantation with bio mass (leaves or dried plant material)



Sadhguru's Message for Project GreenHands Volunteers

“On this day, what all of you have done is a privilege very few in this world enjoy. You have created something far bigger than yourselves, and will live well beyond you. This massive expression of concern and commitment for the well-being of all is unique and I am sure it will inspire many around the world to emulate the same.”

I am totally with you.
Love & Grace,

Sadhguru

“ Our lives become beautiful not because we are perfect. Our lives become beautiful because we put our heart into what we're doing. ”

- Sadhguru

PLANTING DAY REPORT

852,587 saplings planted across 27 districts in Tamil Nadu

Months of ceaseless toil by the volunteers of Isha Foundation bore fruits with the planting of **813, 226** saplings on 17th October, 2006, surpassing their own target of 700,000 saplings. The planting began early in the morning all over Tamil Nadu's 27 districts was timed to make use of the North-Eastern monsoon rains that have just begun in Tamil Nadu, and seeks to increase the green cover of Tamil Nadu from a mere 17.5% to an ideal of 33% by planting a total of 114 million trees by the year 2016.

The Mass Tree Planting Marathon was inaugurated with Dr. M. Karunanidhi, the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, planting the first sapling at his Gopalapuram residence in Chennai and culminated with the final sapling being planted by His Excellency Surjeet Singh Barnala, Governor of Tamil Nadu at Raj Bhavan in Chennai – the official residence of the Governor.

The date of the Marathon was postponed from 15th to 17th of October to support the electoral process of the second phase of the local body elections that was taking place that day. Thousands of people, from all walks of life including a large number of school children, farmers, housewives, youths, government officials, uniformed personnel and celebrities took to the streets to help volunteers and become a part of what is truly a proud moment for the state and its citizens.

Shri J N Rangasamy, Chief Minister of Pondicherry, Shri. V C Chinnappa, State Finance Minister, Thiruchengode, Shri T Udhayachadiran, District Collector, Madurai, Shri Prakash, District Collector, Tirunelveli, Shri Gagan Dheep Singh Bedi, District Collector, Cuddalore, Shri Ko Sundaramurthy, District Collector, Namakkal, Shri Vengatapathy, Member of Parliament, Kallakuruchi, Shri. N R Rangarajan, Shri Sivanandham, Shri. Pongalur N Palanisamy Members of the state Legislative Assembly, were some of the other dignitaries who took part in the planting.

A valedictory ceremony was held at the Music Academy where prominent public figures like Shri. G.K Vasan, Hon. Minister of State for Statistics and Project Implementation and Padamshri Kaviperarasu Vairamuthu, popular actors Revathy and Parthiban applauded the initiative. A new audio album “Pashumai Karangal”, by Sounds of Isha, dedicated exclusively to the Project was released by Sadhguru.

FAQ

1. In What way does growing trees benefit the environment and the ecology?

Trees are instrumental in offering a fertile basis for most of land based-ecological processes. A healthy green cover can, in fact regenerate even the most highly degraded eco-system. It is under the green cover that plant and animal species thrive and even brooks and rivers start flowing again.

The secondary benefits are that it would provide us the much required resources like food fuel and oxygen, and combat pollution of the atmosphere. It is for this reason that ancient cultures always designated trees as sacred and in the Indian sub-continent we have always had the tradition of having sacred groves in every village.

Some of the specific advantages are:

1. Trees prevent or reduce soil erosion and water pollution. Help recharge ground water and sustain stream flow. In Tsunami affected areas, green belts create the following condition in near by villages:

- Reduce seawater incursion.
- Recharge the under water table.
- Prevent soil erosion at times of floods and heavy rain.
- Act as a wind barrier at times of cyclones.
- Act as a medium of energy absorption and reduce the impact / eliminate at times of disasters like Tsunami.
- Act as an air conditioner of hot air blowing during hot summers.
- Regenerate the lost flora and fauna

2. Trees planted as windbreaks around homes can be shields against wind. Windbreaks create a more favorable micro-climate for cropland by reducing wind and heat stress on the crop, while at the same time preventing topsoil loss and reducing soil moisture losses.

3. In today's polluted environment, trees act as carbon *sinks* and thus alleviating the "Greenhouse Effect".

Planting 100 million trees could reduce the amount of carbon by an estimated 18 million tons per year. 1 acre of new forest will sequester about 2.5 tons of carbon annually. Trees can absorb CO₂ at the rate of 13 pounds/tree/year. Trees reach their most productive stage of carbon storage at about 10 years. For every ton of new wood that grows, about 1.5 tons of CO₂ are removed from the air and 1.07 tons of life-giving oxygen are produced.

4. Trees add beauty and grace to any community setting. They make life more enjoyable, peaceful, relaxing, and offer a rich inheritance for future generations

5. Trees also provide food and sustenance not only for the human race but for the entire eco-system

6. Finally, many people enjoy planting and caring for trees simply because they like to see them grow.

2. Where do you get the seeds from?

Seeds are collected from mature trees from villages and local forests. The seeds are collected by the village volunteers that are in the form of contribution from the village people. Traditionally, in Tamil Nadu each village temple had a *Kalasam* that contained seeds in a safe place to supply the village community's needs. Nowadays people still celebrate in commemoration of the *Kasalam* but have forgotten the meaning of it. This project will revive the practice. Our next focus will be on restoring the tradition of exchanging seeds between villages.

3. How much does it cost?

Thanks to the work of all the volunteers whose services are not paid for, the cost per sapling works out to only Rs 10. This includes the cost of seedling, growth of the sapling, planting and maintenance of the tree over the first two years.

However, major key to the success of the project is the state-wide campaign to create awareness and mobilize volunteers. We need money to publicize massive awareness campaigns about Green Hands project. This is something that cannot happen without major funding and sponsorship.

4. What are the areas currently covered by project Green Hands?

Given the strong presence of volunteer network of Isha Foundation in Tamil Nadu, we are currently focused on making a significant difference to the environment and the culture of the state.

With this project, we want to show that just by creating a sense of love for the environment among the people very large objectives can be fulfilled. The beauty of the project is that each person does only that little he/she can and all this aggregates into something that makes a big difference. This is a sparkling example of participatory governance.

We hope that the success of the project will inspire many such endeavors, especially in the developing countries, where human resources are abundant, but finances are scarce.

5. On what land do you plant trees?

Planting is done only in protected areas like private lands, schools, colleges, factories and residential areas. It is mandatory for each sapling being planted to be registered

with the project. This is a key factor to guarantee that periodic follow-ups will be undertaken to ensure survival and replanting if required 🌱

6. Who does the tree belong to?

Legally, a sapling can be planted in a piece of land only if the owner of the land permits it and the owner of the land owns the sapling. However, who owns the tree is not of much relevance to the project, as long as the saplings are tended to and are growing.

7. Who will take care of the trees after planting?

Planting of the saplings are allowed only for those volunteers undertake a pledge to take care of the planted sapling for a period of two years, by which time the sapling will be firmly established, and will survive on rainfall. During the two years the health of the saplings will be monitored and replanting festivals conducted to replace those saplings which die.

8. Do you sell tree saplings?

No, but if you require saplings for planting our volunteers could either help you grow your own or source some from nearby volunteers who have surplus saplings.

9. Do you offer tree care services?

No, we do not offer any commercial services but we have access to a large group of tree-care experts who could offer guidance.

10. I have never planted a tree how can I participate?

It is unfortunate and strange, but 90% of the people do not have any experience planting saplings or caring for them. So, we have consulted a group of experts and evolved a simple set of instructions that will enable you to grow saplings, plant them and care for them as per the principles of organic farming. So, people from all walks of life can plant tree.

Contact the coordinator of the closest centre to where you live and join a group of volunteer. They will teach you how to grow your own seeds and prepare the saplings and care about the trees you will plant.

11. Can you operate a tree planting on our behalf?

The best is of course that you do your own tree plantation. A coordinator can assist you in organizing a group of volunteers amongst your colleague, your community, your family or friends. However, if for some reason you are not in a position to do so, you could fund any of the plantations that are going on. There are many rural participants and school children who could do with sponsorship of saplings.

12. Can I have a tree planted in someone's name?

Planting saplings on behalf of someone, or on special occasions is a great to weave this into our culture, and thereby constantly bringing awareness to the effort. We would highly recommend this.

13. Do you accept donations of supplies?

Yes, and we encourage the idea that your donation brings benefits to the nearest centre. Donations of seeds, manure, polybags, irrigation equipment, transportation, campaign materials, food for volunteers... etc. are deeply appreciated. Arrangement can be made directly with the coordinator of the centre. Their details are available on our website www.projectgreenhands.org

District wise Break-up				
S. No.	District Name	No. of Locations	Targeted number	Actual no. of saplings planted
1	Chennai	41	85,000	21,148
2	Coimbatore	121	45,000	41,375
3	Cuddalore	85	120,000	129,178
4	Dharmapuri	3	5,000	2,457
5	Dindigul	29	10,000	15,080
6	Erode	172	35,000	78,359
7	Kanchipuram	20	0	38,138
8	Kanyakumari	19	5,000	5,546
9	Karur	56	30,000	33,872
10	Krishnagiri	14	10,000	1,838
11	Madurai	31	10,000	5,023
12	Nagapattinam	29	6,000	36,324
13	Namakkal	114	100,000	80,610
14	Perambalur	6	9,500	7,075
15	Pudhukottai	43	75,000	82,245
16	Ramanadhapuram	1	0	60
17	Salem	69	22,500	11,462
18	Sivaganga	15	5,000	5,810
19	Tanjore	61	23,750	25,845
20	The Nilgris	14	16,600	10,260
21	Thiruvallur	22	20,000	33,798
22	Thiruvannamalai	35	5,000	8,362
23	Thiruvarur	7	3,000	3,095
24	Tuticorin	21	5,000	5,083
25	Thiruchirappali	65	55,400	43,003
26	Thirunelveli	47	5,000	3,994
27	Vellore	38	50,000	43,156
28	Vizhupuram	106	117,500	60,396
29	Virudhunagar	46	10,000	8,423
30	Pondicherry	10	12,000	11,572
	Total	1,340	884,250	852,587

Table 5. District wise Break-up of Number of saplings planted

Planting Statistics			
1	Total Number of Saplings planted	852,587	Saplings, for which documents have been received by us before 30 th October, 2006
2	Number of volunteers participated	256,289	Registered volunteers who did the actual planting
3	Number of Planting Co-ordination sites	1,340	Areas under a single co-ordinator
4	Number of Planting Locations	6,284	Locations where planting took place
5	Highest Number of Planting in one location	43,850	Senthankudi in Alangudi taluk, Pudhukottai District
6	Least number of saplings planted	2	Seetharampalayam, in Thiruchengode taluk, Namakkal District
7	Highest Number of people participated per location	4,719	6439 saplings planted in Oraiyur, in Panruti taluk, in Cuddalore District
8	Least number of persons per location	1	A few saplings were planted by single individuals.
9	Most number of locations per site	304	S. Pungampalayam, in Mettupalayam District, in Coimbatore District
Table 1. Various statistics of the planting			

H I G H E S T N U M B E R O F S A P L I N G S A GREEN ROAD TO RICHES



The distinction of having planted the highest number of saplings – 43,850 - in a given location goes to a unique farmer and Isha volunteer – Maram Thangaswamy from Pudukottai. In his story are key lessons to both sustainable livelihood and a profitable way to regenerate of our degraded lands.

In the year 1975 Thangaswamy was a simple farmer bearing the brunt of the famous Green Revolution of India – pesticides, debt and wasted farmland. The following few years of continuous drought was almost like death-blow to him. While at one time he felt like selling off the land and work as a menial laborer, at other times he seriously contemplated suicide – an tragic recourse to the plight of poor farmers in the country, even today.

It was during this time that he happened to listen to one Mr. S. Srinivasan’s speech on All India Radio, about how one could prosper with by planting trees. The timing of the speech in his life and the content of it was such that it made him think and inspired a whole venture of planting trees.

Starting with a hundred Teak saplings, he continued with fruit trees mangoes, jack, and many other varieties. Slowly this developed into a deep passion with him and he began communicate with trees and regard them in close relationships. Even though by then money had ceased to become important in his life, income from these trees slowly began to fill his pockets. Today his 15-acre farm, aptly named *Karpaga Solai* – the giver of many boons - he owns thousands of trees, of more than 190 varieties, that are worth millions of rupees.

Convinced that growing trees can be the panacea for the problems of the rural folk and the world, today Maram Thangasamy is a staunch conservationist. Citing his own example he says that it’s his trees that completely take care of his wellbeing, and does not fail to stress that it is under the tree that Buddha received his enlightenment and Newton the laws of gravity.

His means, or more precisely, his excuses for planting trees are also unique. Any guest who visits him receives two saplings and instructions as to how to care for them. Any wedding he is invited to always brings saplings with him. Any politician who comes to seek votes must plant a sapling, and though he doesn't particularly care who wins the election but ensures two saplings are planted for him. Understandably, National holidays are an excuse, but he does not shun tragedies and disasters, so his farm is a living history textbook, in many ways.

Replicating the success of Maram Thangasamy among the rural communities, in future, will be an important part of Project Green Hands.

H I G H E S T N U M B E R O F S A P L I N G S



Planting in Tsunami hit Cuddalore District - the Highest in the State

The distinction of being the district that planted the greatest number of saplings - 129,178 - belongs to Cuddalore a tsunami hit coastal district of the state.

Trees proved to be our saviors in yet another way as was demonstrated by the tsunami of 2003. While most coastal villages in coastal Tamil Nadu were devastated by the two killer waves, a few villages which possessed a green belt between the habitation and the sea were spared from any major damage. This inspired Isha Foundation to create green belts in the villages where we were already working on relief and rehabilitation projects.

Between Sep 2005 and February 2006, 125,000 saplings – mostly fruit bearing ones were planted in various villages of Cuddalore district. This experience, combined with the strong support and encouragement by the district administration, gave the volunteers of Cuddalore district a head-start, that enabled them to aim for and achieve a remarkable target, in spite of many hardships they had to encounter.

The success of Cuddalore district will be another story that Project Green Hands will look at replicating in other areas, during the future phases of the project.

List of Tree Species		
Scientific name	Common name	Uses
Acacia auriculiformis	Pencil maram	T
Acacia ferruginea	Parambai	T
Acacia holosericea	Kathi savuku	Fu
Adenanthera pavonina	Anaigundrumani	S
Albizzia lebbeck	Vagai	S+T
Alstonia scholaris	Alstonia	S+M
Artocarpus heterophyllus	Jack fruit	Fr+S+T
Azadiracta indica	Neem	S+M+T
Bambusa arundinacea	Bamboo	Fe+I
Bauhinia purpurea	Mandarai	S+Fl
Cassia fistula	Sarakondrai	FL
Cassia siamea	Manjal kondrai	S
Ceiba pentandra	Silk cotton	S+C
Chloroxylon swietenia	purasu	T
Dalbergia latifolia	Thodagathi	T
Delonix regia	Gulmohar	S+Fl
Emblica officinalis	Malai nellikai	M+Fr
Ficus religiosa	Arasa maram	S+Biomanure
Gliricidia sepium	Glyria	Fo+Fe+G
Gmelina arborea	Kumil	T
Holoptelia integrifolia	Aavi maram	G+S
Pithecellobium dulce	Kodukkapuli	S+Fo+Fe+Fr
Pongamia pinnata	Pungam maram	S+Fu
Pterocarpus santalinus	Red sanders	S+T
Sama <i>nea saman</i>	Thoongamoonji	S+T
Spathodea companulata	Thaneerkai maram	Fl
Strychnos potatorum	Thethankottai	S+M
Swietenia macrophylla	Mahogany	T
Terminalia catappa	Vadam kottai	S+Fr
Thespesia populnea	Poovarasu	S+T
Legend:		
Fl: Flowering trees; Fr: Fruiting trees; Fu: Fuel giving trees; Fo: Fodder giving trees; Fe: Fence line trees; S: Shade ; M: Medicinal trees; T: Timber trees; I : industry; G: Green manure		

Table 2. List of Species Planted

Public Participation		
1	State Governors	1
2	State Chief Ministers	2
3	Central Ministers	1
4	State Ministers	5
5	State Legislative Members	13
6	District Collectors	9
7	District Forest Officials	8
8	Schools & Colleges	515
9	Governmental Organizations	33
10	NGO's	11
11	Industrial Areas	47
12	Corporate Houses	12
13	Institutions	6
14	Villages	573
15	Towns & Cities	48
16	Districts	29
17	Taluks	127
Table 3. Details of public participation		

CAMPAIGN Materials		
1	No. of Posters	40,000
2	No. of Handbills	8.5 lakhs
3	Roadside hoardings	103
4	Mega Hoardings	4
5	Newspaper ads	120
6	TV/Radio Ads	5
7	Media Partner	Ananda Vikatan, Tamil weekly
8	Signature Campaign Forms	1.1 lakhs
9	Celebrity Promotional Video	2
10	Radio Partner	Radio City
Table 4. Details of Campaign Materials used		

MAKING A WORLD RECORD

According to information available with **Guinness World Records** the past records for tree planting in similar categories are the following:

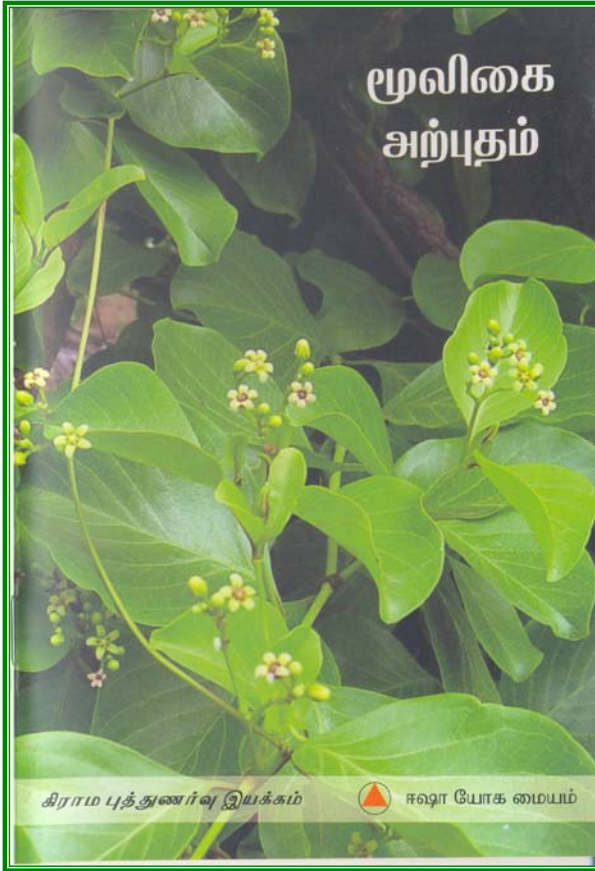
Current Guinness Records in Tree Planting				
When?	What?	How Many?	Where?	Who?
1-2 October 2005	Most trees planted in 24 hours in one site by a team of 300 people	254, 464	Nagapattinam District, Tamil Nadu, India.	Bitsunami Trust.
5 September 2005	Most trees planted simultaneously by 16,317 people in 18 sites	300,587	Andhra Pradesh, India.	Sunfeast, ITC Ltd. Hara Banao
24-26 November 2000	Most trees planted in 3 days in 515 separate sites by 31,000 people	107,781	in United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland	The Tree Council, London, UK
Table 6. Current Guinness World Records				

Clearly, the current attempt is much higher than the previous records in any of the categories.

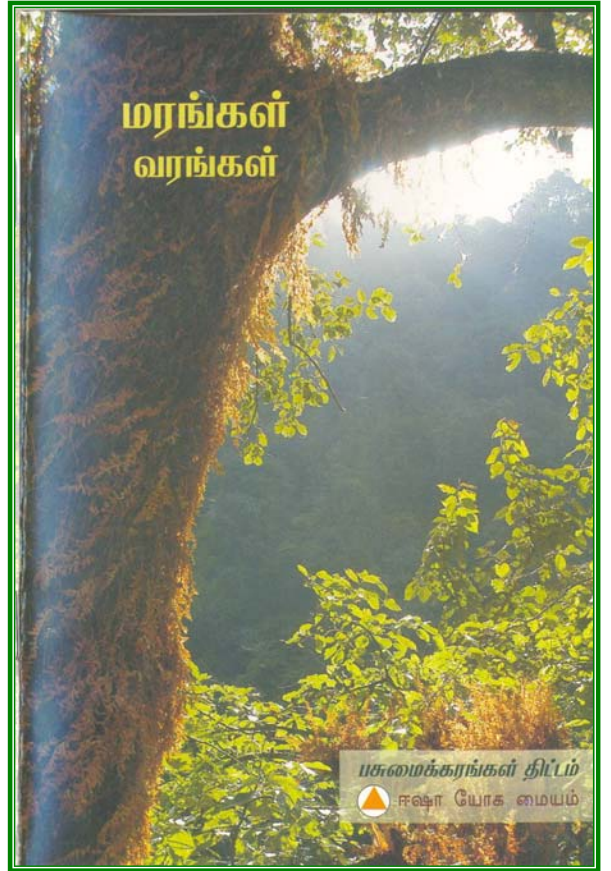
Documentation Details		
1	Number of Photographs	2,831
2	Video Footage	17:31 hrs
3	Number of Field Documents	15,102
4	Witness Statements	2,470
5	Press Clips	217
6	Signatures Collected	> 500,000
Table 7. Documentation details		



Pasumaikkarangal Music CD



Mooligai Arputham



Marangal Varangal

Project Green Hands Book/CD Releases

Nava Sakthi Matriculation School,
EDAPPADI.

DT - Salem
TK - Sankarari.
Village - Edappadi.
PIN code - 637101

Doc. no 17-07-03.
TO WHOMSOEVER IT MAY CONCERN.

This is to certify that I,
K. ILANEO S/o. V. Kandappa (Late) resident at
42, T.K. Street, Edappadi, Salem
District have witnessed the proceeding
of "Mass Tree Planting Marathon"
conducted by the project Green Hands
of Isha Foundation between 15th to 17th
October 2006 on a continuous basis.

I have physically verified
that 100 Saplings were planted from
16.10.2006-09.00 A.M to 12.00 noon. The
planting and planting were done
meticulously during the period, by
the Volunteers of Isha Foundation and
general Public

Date: 17.10.06
Place: Edappadi.
Name: K. ILANEO.
F. Name: V. Kandappa.
Address: 42, T.K. Street, Edappadi.

K. M. X.
PRINCIPAL,
SHIVASAKTHI MATRICULATION SCHOOL
Eoosampatti Road,
EDAPPADI (P.O.) Salem (Dt.)

Doc. no 17-06-29

TO WHOMSOEVER IT MAY CONCERN

This is to certify that I,
N. THIRUNAVUKKARASU, M. Com; M. Ed.,
HEAD MASTER,
Govt. Hr. Sec. School,
Vembadithalam 637504,
Salem District,

have witnessed the proceeding of
"Mass Tree Planting Marathon" conducted
by the Project Green Hands of Isha
Foundation between 15th to 17th October
2006 on a continuous basis

I have physically verified that
100 saplings were planted from 9 AM to 3 PM
by 41 persons at 5 places. The pitting
and planting were done meticulously
during the period, by the volunteers of
Isha Foundation and general Public.

Date: 17.10.06
Place: Vembadithalam.

HEAD MASTER,
Govt. Hr. Sec. School,
Vembadithalam 637504,
Salem District,

N. THIRUNAVUKKARASU,
HEAD MASTER,
Govt. Hr. Sec. School,
Vembadithalam 637504,
Salem District

Village: Vembadithalam
Taluk: Salem
Pincode: 637504

Sample witness statements collected from each planting location

Tamil Nadu Needs You: Be An Environment Superman / SuperEnviroMan!

Be a part of Project Green Hands

Help Us Plant 700,000 Trees In The Largest Ever Mass Plantation Marathon!

Generations have destroyed Earth's natural resources; if mankind continues to destroy the environment at the rate he currently is, it is likely that by the time we grow up wanting to contribute to our nation's industry and commerce, Mother Earth will be a land not capable of sustaining life.

It is time for us to realize and rectify our mistakes- realize that continuing the current trend of deforestation and destruction of the nature and ecology will only lead to our ruin, and try and stop further damage. It is estimated that by 2025, our very own Tamil Nadu will be unable to meet the requirements of all her children.

There is an old saying...

"Whatever befalls the mother earth befalls the sons of the earth".

Thus, whatever we do to the mother earth, actually we are doing it to ourselves only. To ensure that our land remains as beautiful as it already is, the Isha Foundation launches **Project Green Hands**. Project Green Hands is slated to be the country's next Guinness Record. Come, be a part of the revolution!!! We aim to plant 700,000 trees on October 15th, 2006. A first step towards planting 11.4 crore trees by 2017.

Why Project Green Hands:

- ▶ Tamil Nadu's forest cover is a mere 17% as compared to the All India average of 25%. This again falls below of the ideal 33% green cover to occupied land ratio.
- ▶ A United Nations survey has predicted that at the present rate of degradation of our forests, 50% of South India will become a desert by 2025.
- ▶ Nature has already started showing the symptoms
 - Water shortage is a serious problem faced in most districts.
 - With an ever-decreasing water table, even in 'fertile' areas, bore wells are now as deep as 1500 ft.

The Global Scenario

Increasing pollution levels are leading to higher levels of carbon-dioxide being released into the atmosphere; due to this we face some serious consequences:

- ▶ **Greenhouse Effect** leading to global warming.
- ▶ Global warming leads to polar ice caps melting into the seas. This can cause a significant change in the seawater composition and rise in sea levels. In the next 100 years, several coastal areas are expected to be submerged by sea due to this phenomena.

YOU are the solution:

Trees are the simplest and most effective solution to environmental problems. Be an Environmental Superman and give all those around you a Better world to live in!

Play your part and contribute to sustainable development, plant trees, be an Environmental Superman, a hero for Mother Earth!!!

Support Project Green Hands, **Let us make it happen!**

Plant a tree for yourself and one for Mother Earth! If you could identify a safe location in your home or school compound where you would like to plant one or more trees and pledge to care for them, please contact us by e-mail at ishagreenhands@gmail.com, and we will get in touch with you to tell you how.

About Isha Foundation:

The Isha Foundation, associated with the Department of Public Information of the United Nations, was set up in 1992 by Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev. A non-profit organization with a mission to work towards the betterment of the individual, the society and the world, Isha Foundation undertakes several social, environmental and holistic wellness programmes with the help of over 250,000 volunteers worldwide. Isha Foundation is a non-political, non-religious organization based out of Coimbatore and has a presence in several countries.

For further information please contact (உதவ இயல்புகள்):

ANAND அனந்த : 94431 54580, anand.greenhands@gmail.com
 ETHIRAJALU எதிராஜலு : 94426 44707, ethirajalu.greenhands@gmail.com
 VINOD HARI (Chennai) வினோத் ஹரி : 98410 48949, hari_vinod@hotmail.com

NAME OF THE STUDENT.....CLASS & SEC.....XII - A

SCHOOL.....Green Valley Mat. Hr. Sec. School.....DISTRICT.....Nilgiris

S.No.	Name / பெயர்	Address / முகவரி	Signature / கையொப்பம்	
1.	G.L. RISHORE KANNAN	36 G. N. Lakshmanan, MPT Health sub Centre, Kankalathoorai vilas Po, Kotagiri.	[Signature]	(6)
2.	V. SIVAPRASATH	30 P. Valudevan, Lakshmi Villa, Alapate, kotagiri.	[Signature]	(5)
3.	MOHAN. B	310 L. BELLU, 19/528 MLIAMMALI ILLAM, RAMIHAND, KOTAGIRI.	[Signature]	(3)
4.	IDHAYA KUMAR. H	310 ANNADHARAN, THUNERI POST, KILKOTAGIRI.	[Signature]	(3)
5.	V. RAJARAJAM	310 VANDARAI, 71637 Alapate Kotagiri.	[Signature]	(4)
6.	G. NAVIN	310 Ganga 3/42A Thanthandu, Kotagiri.	[Signature]	(4)
7.	M. HARSHA VINESH	310 H.J. MATHAN, 27/1111-A, St. LUKE'S CHURCH ROAD, KOTAGIRI.	[Signature]	(3)
8.	W. LIVINGSTON MOSES CAREY	310 A. WINFRED BASKER, 41/75- BERCHAH COTTAGE, KOTAGIRI.	[Signature]	(3)
9.	Kishore Ganesh .K	c/o C. Dharmaraj, 115/75 - Bilicombai Vill and Pt. Kotta.	[Signature]	(3)
10.	A. Tamil Selvan	310 S. Ramakrishnan A.W. Samuel Farm Dammara, Kotagiri.	[Signature]	(2)

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About TAKE Solutions Ltd.
 TAKE Solutions, a technology enabled business solutions company with leadership in Supply Chain Management and Life Sciences, has employee strength of 450. Headquartered in Chennai, the company has its SCM Domain Excellence Centre and Global Delivery Centre in India. It has a strong presence in USA through its Life Sciences Domain Excellence centre located in New Jersey. Apart from this the company has a significant representation in various regions across the world through its business development offices located in India, Sri Lanka, Singapore, Malaysia and USA. TAKE Solutions' flagship product is TAKE RTE, which is a unique framework combining BPM, workflow management, and application and information integration. Developed on the Microsoft .Net platform, it also provides a composite application development environment. It has a strong technology and domain expertise, using which it offers IT enabled services to its customers worldwide. TAKE is SEI-CMMI Level 5 Certified, Microsoft Gold Certified and is a Registered CDISC Solution provider.

Sample signature campaign sheet



00 SADHGURU WITH CHIEF MINISTER.JPG



01 INAUGURATION IN CHENNAI.JPG



02 FUNCTION-FUND RAISING CONCERT.JPG



03 LAST PLANTING BY GOVERNOR.JPG



04 FELICITATION IN CHENNAI.JPG



05 NARAIN KARTHIKEYAN COIMBATORE.JPG



06 VILLAGER - INDUGAL.JPG



07 MEDIA COVERAGE.JPG



08 BANNER-TUTICORIN.JPG



09 CENTRAL PRISON COIMBATORE.JPG



10 SCHOOL CHILDREN COIMBATORE.JPG



11 COLLEGE STUDENT PLANTING - COIMBATORE.JPG



12 COLLEGE STUDENT PLANTING COIMBATORE.JPG



13 OLD PEOPLE PLANTING ALANDURAI.JPG



14 COLLEGE STUDENTS NAMAKKAL.JPG

17.10.2006



15 CORPORATE SPONSORED - CHENNAI.JPG



16 COIMBATORE.JPG



17 COIMBATORE POLICE.JPG



18 COIMBATOREPOLICE.JPG



19 CORPORATE HOUSE COIMBATORE.JPG



20 INDUSTRIAL AREA PLANTING CHENNAI.JPG



21 POLICE CAMPUS COIMBATORE.JPG



22 PRESS INTERVIEWS.JPG



23 PRESS INTERVIEWS.JPG



24 PROCESSION ERODE.JPG



25 STREET PROCESSION PONDYCHERRY.JPG



26 SAPLING DELIVERY-ERODE.JPG



27 SAPLING DELIVERY KUMBakonam.JPG



28 SCHOOL CHILDREN CHENNAI.JPG



29 SCHOOL CHILDREN CHENNAI.JPG



30 SCHOOLCHILDREN CHENNAI.JPG



31 SCHOOL- GOBI.JPG



32 SCHOOL CHILDREN COIMBATORE.JPG



33 SCHOOL KUTTATHU-DINDIGAL.JPG



34 SCHOOL VIRUTHUNAGAR.JPG



35 SCHOOL VIRUTHUNAGAR.JPG



36 SCHOOL_SALEM.JPG



37 SCHOOL TIRUNELVELI.JPG



38 SCHOOL TRICHY.JPG



39 SCHOOL TUTICORIN.JPG



40 CENTRAL RESERVE POLICE.JPG



41 COIMBATORE CENTRAL PRISON.JPG



42 CENTRAL PRISON COIMBATORE.JPG



43 DINDIGUL.JPG



45 COIMBATORE PRISONNERS.JPG



46 BUDDHIST MONASTERY TIRUNELVELI.JPG



47 CONVENT - TANJORE.JPG



48 VIP - TIRUNELVELI .JPG



49 SPECIAL PRAYERS TIRUNELVELI.JPG



51 AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY COIMBATORE.JPG



52 TREE PROTECTION TANJORE.JPG



53 TRICHY.JPG



54 SPECIAL FORCES COIMBATORE.JPG



55 VILLAGE PLANTING KOTTARAM NAGERKOIL .JPG



56 SLUM PLANTING CHENNAI.JPG



57 VILLAGE PLANTING COIMBATORE.JPG



58 VILLAGE PLANTING CUDDALORE.JPG



59 VILLAGE PLANTING DINDIGUL.JPG



61 VILLAGE PLANTING GOBI KUGALUR.JPG



62 VILLAGE PLANTING_TIRUNELVELI_0069.JPG



63 VILLAGE PLANTING_TIRUPUR-0008.JPG



64 VILLAGE PLANTING_TRICHY_0147.JPG



65 VILLAGE PLANTING_VIRUTHUNAGAR_0069.JPG



66 WITNESS STATEMENT RECORDING CHINIAMPALAYAM.J...



67 WITNESS STATEMENT RECORDING COIMBATORE.JPG



68 DATA COMPILATION COIMBATORE.JPG



69 WOMAN CARRYING SAPLINGS CHENNAI CUDDALORE.J...



70 WOMAN_DINDIGAL_0260.JPG



71 WOMAN_TRICHY_0026.JPG



72 PADAYATRA GOBI.JPEG



73 PADA YATRA SALEM.jpg



74 PADAYATRA MEVAANI.JPEG



சரோட்டில் ஈசா யோகா மையம் சார்பில் 3 ஆயிரத்து 500 மரக்கன்றுகள் நடும் விழா செவ்வாய்க்கிழமை நடைபெற்றது. சரோட்டு மாவட்ட காவல் கண்காணிப்பாளர் அலுவலகத்தில் முதல் மரக்கன்று நட்டு விழாவைத் தொடக்கி வைக்கிறார் மாவட்ட காவல் கண்காணிப்பாளர் சோனல் வி.மிஸ்தர்.



ஈசா யோகா மையத்தின் புதிய பசுமைப்புரட்சி... ஈசா யோகா மையம் சார்பில் நடைபெற்ற மரக்கன்று நடும் விழா.



ஈசா அறக்கட்டளையின் மரக்கன்று நடும் விழா... ஈசா அறக்கட்டளை சார்பில் நடைபெற்ற மரக்கன்று நடும் விழா.



மரக்கன்று நடும் மாணவர்கள்... மாணவர்கள் மரக்கன்று நடும் விழா.

Isha Foundation to plant seven lakh saplings

Staff Reporter

COIMBATORE: Isha Foundation, a Coimbatore based NGO, will plant seven lakh saplings in Tamil Nadu on a single day. Called 'Project Green Hands', this plantation drive - which will record the highest number of saplings planted - will be inaugurated on October 15 by Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi. The drive will cover 28 districts including Chennai, Coimbatore, Salem and Cuddalore.

October 17 will be the day of officially counting the number of saplings planted to be sent for registering with the Guinness Book of World Records. Governor Surjith Singh Barnala will conclude the drive in Chennai. Nearly 50,000 saplings will be planted in Coimbatore. The valedictory function will be held on October 17 at Sriniyathi Velumaniammal Kalyana Mandapam here. TNAU Vice-Chancellor C. Ramasamy, will be the chief guest.

STUDENT AWARENESS YATRA STARTED BY COMMISSIONER OF TIRUNELVELI CITY



மாணவர்கள் நடும் பசுமைத்தொழில்... மாணவர்கள் மரக்கன்று நடும் விழா.



51 ஆயிரம் மரக்கன்றுகள்... 51 ஆயிரம் மரக்கன்றுகள் நடும் விழா.



ஈசா அறக்கட்டளை சார்பில் நடைபெற்ற மரக்கன்று நடும் விழா... ஈசா அறக்கட்டளை சார்பில் நடைபெற்ற மரக்கன்று நடும் விழா.



புகழ்கோட்டை... புகழ்கோட்டை மரக்கன்று நடும் விழா.



ஈசா யோகா மையம் சார்பில் ஒரே நாளில் 8.13 லட்சம் மரக்கன்றுகள் நட்டு சாதனை... ஈசா யோகா மையம் சார்பில் நடைபெற்ற மரக்கன்று நடும் விழா.



IG moots greening of police lands... இ.கே.டி.யின் கீழ் நடைபெற்ற மரக்கன்று நடும் விழா.



ஒரே நாளில் 7 லட்சம் மரக்கன்றுகள் நடும் திட்டம்... ஒரே நாளில் 7 லட்சம் மரக்கன்றுகள் நடும் விழா.