

Report

Consultation/Coordination and supporting Government in creating linkages and rolling out of Billion Tree Tsunami Project and Clean & Green Pakistan initiatives



Introduction:

Forest plantations have a significant role in climate change adaptation and mitigation measures. The release of carbon dioxide (CO₂) leads to the destruction and degradation of forests, yet forest plantation contributes to mitigation against climate change by removing CO₂ from the atmosphere. Through the process of photosynthesis, the captured carbon is stored in plants and trees. On the other hand, a forest is a home for thousands of animal species and different kinds of plants, this species and plant will fade away if the forests are shattered.

Today's world is facing serious climate change issues which is a red alarm for future generations, but actually, climate change is a dilemma of the environmental burden of Human beings' daily actions and movements. Pakistan's province KP struggles to control or slow down the pace of global warming through a tree plantation project called the Billion Tree Tsunami Afforestation Project (BTAP). BTAP was designed to contribute to the Green Growth initiative in the forestry sector of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Province. BTTAP aims to contribute to controlling the effects of global warming in Pakistan which ranks seventh on the list of countries most likely to be affected by climate change.

The Clean Green Pakistan is a comprehensive movement kicked off by the Ministry of Climate Change which focuses on Liquid Waste Management; Solid Waste Management, Total Sanitation and Hygiene, Safe Drinking Water, and Tree Plantation.

In this regard, EPS & IRC under its LIFE-II project has planned a Monsoon plantation drive on 09 Aug 2023 at the village Sepal Bandai. The program started at 10 AM and ended at 02 PM. More than one hundred and twenty (120) participants participated in the event. The program was organized under the shadow of a big tree indicating the importance of plants and plantation. The honorable guests delivered speeches on the benefits of planting trees to create a very healthy environment and contribute to minimizing climatic changes.

Monsoon Plantation Drive:

The AC Revenue, Mr. Liaquman Sb; the guest of honor launched the drive by planting a sapling of Pine trees in the targeted site of village Sepal Bandai. Executive Director EPS, DPM, LIFE-II team members, Local community, and relevant authorities of the Forest Department were also present on the occasion. Mr. Akbar Zeb (ED EPS), Mr., Haseeb Khan (DPM), and Mr. Amir Khan (AAC Babozai) also planted the saplings of pine and deyar trees and then the plantation was carried forward by the local community and forest department. The school students were involved in directing their minds to constructive activities with positive outcomes through the facilitation of contributing to society. The students were provided with various saplings. The students participated in the drive enthusiastically and helped each other in planting the saplings.



Speaking on the occasion, the AC lauded the efforts of EPS and IRC in promoting tree plantation and their preservation. He said that it was gratifying that the Forest Department was taking steps under a comprehensive strategy to this effect. He added, "To overcome the challenges emerging from environmental pollution, the importance of forest has increased manyfold". He also urged the public to ensure their full participation in making the ongoing plantation drive a success story. He added, "Plantation and their preservation is our national obligation and collective responsibility; citizens should play their proactive role in this regard so that we can give our coming generations a pollution-free and green environment".

The ED EPS praised all the participants, especially the District administration, Forest department, Local Community, Gulwarina Tanzeem Spal Bandai, School students, and teachers for their active participation. He said the plantation would provide the people with a healthy and pleasant environment and help reduce damages by natural calamities, especially floods. He also appealed to the people to plant trees to make the country green. "It is the national responsibility of every citizen to promote Clean Green Pakistan. He added, that different countries all over the world have initiated forest tree plantation in their respective regions to mitigate the impact of global warming.

Briefing the audience about the monsoon plantation drive Mr. Haseeb Khan (DPM) said that during this monsoon, more than 1000 saplings would be planted at the targeted site. Such efforts will increase the area of forests in the area. He urged the people to actively take part in the campaign saying it is very important to protect the environment and increase greenery. "This initiative is completely aligned with UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of Clean Water and Sanitation and Life on Land," he added.

The AAC Babozai also put light on the importance of plantation and urged the people to plant at least one tree during this monsoon to help address climatic change issues. He also added that trees should be protected for future generations. He said environmental degradation and climate change in Pakistan are adversely affecting the economy, livelihood of the poor, and sustainable development.

At the end of the activity, all the stakeholders thanked EPS and IRC for taking such initiatives for the betterment of the Environment. They further added that concrete steps should be taken to address climate change issues at the district level and their support will always be available for EPS.

Vote of thanks:

Mr. Akbar Zeb (ED-EPS) thanked all the participants for their active participation and valuable feedback. He added that the main purpose of this activity was to raise awareness and consciousness about the environment among the masses. Tree plantation is not just something that should be done; instead, it is a necessity, the urgent need of the hour. Planting trees is especially important to protect our environment against air pollution and global warming.

He further added, that organizing such a successful event is a great achievement and is quite happy to see the gathering of relevant stakeholders. At the end, he congratulated the EPS LIFE-II team for organizing such a successful event.