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Mass tree planting drive organised to celebrate World Environment Day

Port Blair, June 5

World Environment Day is observed worldwide on June 5 to encourage awareness and action for environmental protection. The theme for World Environment Day 2024 was 'Land restoration, desertification, and drought resilience,' highlighting urgent and existential concerns. The current environmental crisis serves as a collective warning we must heed. As part of World Environment Day, ICAR-Central Island Agricultural Research Institute (CIARI), Port Blair organized a mass planting of seedlings involving all staff members. A total of 750 seedlings, including species such as Albizia lebeck, Jackfruit, Leucaena leucocephala, Gmelina arborea, Chakurmeni, and Sesbania grandiflora, were planted



over an area of 7000 m² in the campus. All staff members actively participated in this green initiative, aimed at developing a sustainable year-round green fodder production model and restoring the degraded land available on the campus. Dr. E.B. Chakurkar, Director, ICAR-CIARI, emphasized the importance of trees in reducing greenhouse gases and aiding in carbon sequestration. He urged the staff and their families to plant at least one tree for future generations, supporting both livelihood and environmental sustainability. The institute will continue planting activities throughout June and July, focusing on several multi-purpose tree species. The program was coordinated by Dr. I. Jaisankar, Senior Scientist and Nodal Officer, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, under the guidance of Dr. E.B. Chakurkar, Director of ICAR-CIARI, a press release from CIARI said.