

## Deepak Fertilizers' collaborative efforts yield remarkable results in forest conservation

In a remarkable display of environmental stewardship, Deepak Fertilizers and Petrochemicals Corporation Limited (DFPCL) has spearheaded a collaborative initiative to conserve natural forests in the Dawdi forest area. Over the past seven years, their concerted efforts have transformed a once-degraded landscape into a flourishing 50-acre forest, boasting over 22,200 trees, including a variety of medicinal and endemic species.

DFPCL's commitment to forest conservation has not only revitalized the ecosystem but also provided vital resources for local communities. The preserved forest now serves as a repository of medicinal plants, essential for maintaining good health, and has become a popular destination for recreational tours.

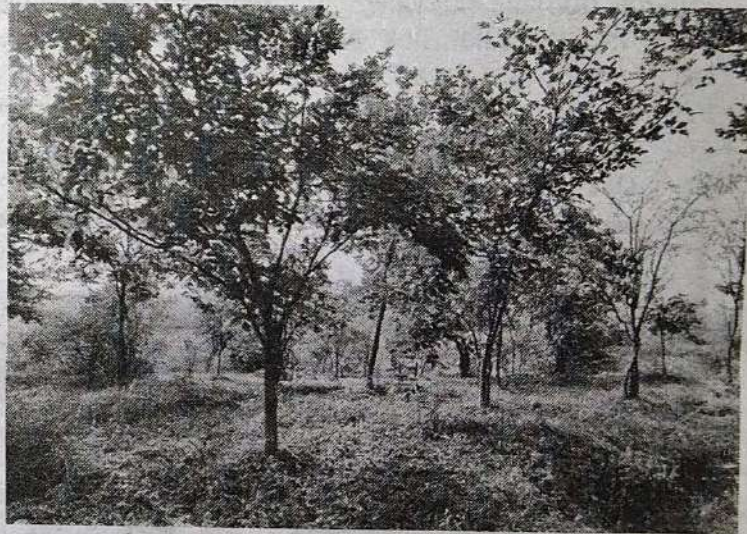
India's forest cover is a matter of global significance, and initiatives like DFPCL's contribute significantly to achieving national targets. With nearly 8 lakh square kilometres of forest cover, accounting for approximately 25 percent of the total land area, India ranks among the top 10 countries in terms of forest coverage. The government's

target of acquiring 33.3 percent forest area aligns with the National Forest Policy of 1988 and aims to enhance the quality of forests across the nation.

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has been actively implementing strategies to bolster the forest sector in India. In collaboration with the Maharashtra Forest Department and M/s

vation extends beyond mere plantation efforts; they have prioritized the inclusion of various medicinal and fruit plants to preserve biodiversity. These efforts include the cultivation of gooseberry, yam, tamarind, cashew, Indian beech, orchid tree, bamboo, and native forest species, ensuring the sustainable growth of the forest ecosystem.

The tripartite agreement mandates regular



AK Rural Development Trust, DFPCL entered into a tripartite agreement in March 2018 to conserve and maintain degraded forest areas in several villages, including Dawdi. This agreement, spanning seven years, has seen substantial progress, with DFPCL successfully completing plantation efforts in the Dawdi area within the first year.

DFPCL's commitment to forest conser-

inspections by the Maharashtra Forest Department to monitor the status of plantations in degraded forest areas, ensuring accountability and transparency in the conservation efforts. With financial assistance totalling approximately 182 lakh rupees, DFPCL's collaborative approach underscores the importance of corporate citizenship in environmental conservation.