

Tree Plantation Drive in Village Bauntha, Block Jaiharikhal, Pauri Garhwal

**A Community-Level Initiative by: Sachidanand Social Institute
Kalika Niwas, Balasuar, Kotdwar**



Date: 21st –23rd June 2026

Location: Village Bauntha, Kodiya Patti, District Pauri Garhwal, Uttarakhand

Plantation Drive was Organized by: Sachidanand Social Institute (SSI), Kotdwar

Introduction

As part of its ongoing commitment to environmental conservation and sustainable rural development, Sachidanand Social Institute (SSI), Kotdwar organized a three-day Tree Plantation Drive in Village Bauntha, Kodiya Patti, District Pauri Garhwal, from 21st to 23rd June 2026. The initiative aimed to promote ecological restoration, strengthen soil conservation measures, and encourage community participation in environmental protection.

Objectives

The plantation drive was undertaken with the following objectives:

- Increase green cover in and around the village.
- Prevent soil erosion on vulnerable slopes and agricultural lands.
- Develop natural barriers to reduce wildlife intrusion into cultivated areas.
- Promote sustainable livelihoods through the distribution of fruit-bearing saplings.
- Encourage community ownership of local environmental conservation efforts.

Activities Undertaken

During the three-day campaign, community members actively participated in planting perennial and ecologically beneficial tree species. Saplings of bael (*Aegle marmelos*), bamboo, rudraksh (*Elaeocarpus ganitrus*), and bougainvillea were planted primarily along village boundaries and at other strategic locations.

These species were carefully selected for their ability to stabilize soil, reduce erosion, enhance biodiversity, provide natural barriers against wildlife intrusion, and generate long-term ecological

and economic benefits for the community.



In addition to the plantation activities, fruit-bearing saplings were distributed to local households to support household nutrition, improve food security, and create opportunities for supplementary income through horticulture.

Community Participation



The program witnessed enthusiastic participation from villagers, including farmers, women, youth, and community leaders. Their active involvement in plantation, sapling distribution, and discussions on environmental conservation demonstrated a strong collective commitment to protecting local natural resources.

Key Messages

Addressing the gathering, **Shri Kulanand Baunthiyal, Founder of Sachidanand Social Institute**, emphasized the ecological and economic importance of bamboo plantation. He highlighted that bamboo:

- plays a significant role in soil and water conservation;
- helps prevent soil erosion on vulnerable slopes;
- acts as a natural protective barrier against wildlife intrusion into agricultural fields as it matures;
- is a fast-growing and renewable natural resource; and
- offers sustainable livelihood opportunities through bamboo-based handicrafts, construction materials, and other value-added products.

He encouraged the villagers to nurture the planted saplings and adopt community-led environmental conservation practices to ensure long-term ecological sustainability and economic resilience.

Outcomes

The plantation drive contributed to:

- Enhanced environmental awareness among villagers.
- Increased plantation of soil-conserving and protective tree species.
- Distribution of fruit saplings for household nutrition and income generation.
- Strengthened community engagement in ecological restoration.
- Promotion of sustainable rural development practices.

Conclusion

The Tree Plantation Drive concluded with a vote of thanks to the participating villagers for their active cooperation, enthusiastic participation, and wholehearted support throughout the three-day campaign. The initiative demonstrated the strength of community-led environmental action

and reflected a successful partnership between the local community and Sachidanand Social Institute in promoting environmental protection, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable rural development.

The plantation of perennial and ecologically beneficial species, particularly bamboo, bael, rudraksh, bougainvillea and other fruit-bearing trees, is expected to contribute to soil and water conservation, improved green cover, reduced wildlife intrusion into agricultural lands, and enhanced livelihood opportunities. With continued community ownership and proper maintenance of the planted saplings, the initiative is expected to generate lasting ecological resilience and socio-economic benefits for the village community through handicrafts and other value-added products.

The initiative reflected a collaborative effort towards environmental protection, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable rural development.
