



Global Energy Parliament Proposal for Green Neighbourhoods

Rapid urbanization and development in Kerala State, in particular large-scale construction projects without long-term planning, depletion of the paddy fields, marshy lands and residential greenery, is a great cause of concern to the Global Energy Parliament's members including environmental scientists, architects, engineers and agriculturalists.

Climate change has already begun to affect our region which was once lush and cool, but is now dominated by concrete structures and high temperatures.

In addition, food and water sources are becoming polluted and it is rare to find natural, unadulterated fruits and vegetables. Food security is a major concern.

To address the concerns of loss of greenery, climate change, pollution and food security, a pilot programme has been running successfully by the Global Energy Parliament, directed by Professor K. Rajmohan of the Kerala Agricultural University under the name "Green Neighbourhood Project." We propose the same to be taken up by the Government of Kerala as well as other regions and countries. The project includes:

1. Administering a questionnaire to residents of urban areas about their household needs and land.
2. Conducting an analysis, guided by our specialists, of the best fruit tree to grow in their habitat. Options include small potted trees for those with no land.
3. Training the residents in how to care for the trees, especially in building a water-ring around the base of the tree.
4. Conducting follow-up visits after 1 and 5 years.

A fruit tree provides a family with ample nutritious food for generations, with very little maintenance. It is an easy solution to getting our neighbourhoods greener and providing awareness at the grass-roots level. Volunteers from schools can be easily trained and saplings may be donated by nurseries or forest department, so the cost is very low. We urge you consider this proposal.

Secretary

July 4, 2013