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# State needs micro forests: Miyawaki

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T'puram: Kerala, ravaged by landslides and floods, should start growing micro-forests featuring potential natural vegetation or native species, said Japanese botanist Akira Miyawaki, who propounded the concept of miniature forests in urban areas that received worldwide acceptance. His concept – made practical by conservationists and governments –has provided the planet with over 4,000 acres of forest cover, over the years.

He has asked the government and people of Kerala to plant more trees by involving maximum people and also give them specific training in growing micro-forests. Miyawaki, recovering from a serious ailment at the age of 92, and a team of experts are ready to provide required technical support to Kerala, which already has a few 'Miyawaki model' projects.

The message was conveyed to MR Hari, MD of Thiruvananthapuram-based Invis Multimedia, which in association with Nature's Green Guardian Foundation and Culture Shoppe, has been setting up urban forests both on private and government lands. "We want to share information with maximum people and are ready to provide training, so that this could become a mass movement," said Hari, who personally met Miyawaki, an emeritus professor of Yokohama University, last week.

Over the past four years, the organization has initiated around 15 forests which include four in Puliyarakonam, and one each in Kanakakkunnu, Malayinkeezhu, Peyad, Munnar, Thiruvalla, Changanassery and Ettumanoor. Meanwhile, plots allocated by forest department at Thrissur, Nedumbassery and Thiruvananthapuram are ready for planting.

The 'Miyawaki models' in the state have shown a better and speedy growth when compared to those in Japan and elsewhere, certified Miyawaki who examined the visuals and reports presented to him.

"Providing maximum cover of native species using the dense planting technique is the best option now as the world faces climate change," said Miyawaki, who has planted over four crore trees in over five decades.