

Social forestation in JU Campus

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JAHANGIRNAGAR University is located on an area of great natural beauty, a place that contributes to health and pleasure. Perhaps the most remarkable feature of JU campus is the seamless interconnection of nature and the built environment. Aesthetically it has become a garden. Planned forestation has made it possible. In the face of rapid decline of forests throughout the country, Jahangirnagar University stands as a model of sustainable development.

The 'green belt project' of 1992-93 is the first forestation project at JU. With the goal to make proper utilisation of land and to create opportunity for future study and research on arboriculture and for environmental development Professor A B M Enayet Hossain proposed this three-year long project. Considering the vastness of the project, it was extended up to 7 years. The main objective of the project was to build a green belt surrounding the campus. JU had no boundary wall surrounding the southern and northern part. The project was to provide a green protection by developing a green boundary. They also organized block plantation activities along with the regular progrmme. As it was a part of food for work program, landless people were involved in plantation and maintenance. In 2000 it was handed over to the university. University authorities are taking care of the trees since then.

Over 100,000 trees were planted under this project. Various species of fruit and timber plants were planted. Mehagini, segun, rain tree, gamari, sishu, garjon, telsoor, sulalu, jarul, luha kath, chapalis, karai were among the timber plants. Medicinal plants like nim, arjun, amlaki, bahera, tatul, mahua, haritaki and fruit plants like jack fruit, mango, jolpai and ornamental plants like jhhau, kadam were planted. Some rare and endangered plants were also planted. No environmentally hazardous species was selected for plantation.

Among the targeted trees, 67000 trees are now standing and well rooted.

As a result of the project entire campus is now under green cover, looking greener than ever before.