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Maintenance Instructions:-

1) Regular watering: This is absolutely essential to ensure forest health and survival. Watering should be done *once in a day, either early morning or late evening, but not during the day time.*



Image: Watering with water cannon.



Image: Watering without shower (at the end of the pipe).

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Image: Watering with hose pipe and shower (at the end of the pipe).

Only water the forest using a shower at the end of the pipe. Strong water force could be detrimental to plant health and soil stability. Watering frequency required is 500 liters per 100 square meters per day. This will slowly be reduced as the forest grows. If the forest is watered excessively (accidentally or others wise), then it should be given 1-2 days to dry before the next watering.

Forest area= 393 Sq. meters

Water requirement= 5 liters per Sq. meters per day

Total water requirement = $393 \times 5 = 1965$ liters per day

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2) De-weeding: De-weeding simply involves *not allowing anything else to grow in the forest, apart from what we have planted. Thus, grass and weeds need to be kept out.* We must keep the forest weed -free for the first 2-3 years. As soon as the forest starts growing, weed growth too will stop. However, grasses and weeds can potentially kill the young saplings in the forest.



Image: Young forest when de-weeding has not been done.

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Image: De-weeding to be done regularly by workers/volunteers.

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Image: Young forest when de-weeding has been properly done.

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3) **Ensure plants are not under any stress:** They should not get buried under the mulch and they should be kept straight with the help of their respective support sticks.



Image: Plant buried under the mulch.

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Image: Plant stem has been loosely tied to their support stick.

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4) Plant stems should only be *loosely* tied to their support sticks else they get choked.



Image: Plant has been very tightly tied to its support stick.

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Image: Choked plant stem.

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Image: Plant stem loosely/perfectly tied to its support stick.

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5) **Keep the forest clean:** No litter of any inorganic form (plastic, paper etc.) should be left in the forest.



Image: Dirty forest.

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Image: Clean forest.

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6) Drainage: Water should not get accumulated anywhere in the forest. Thus, one should check for any possible water pipeline leakages etc. Proper drainage system should be maintained.



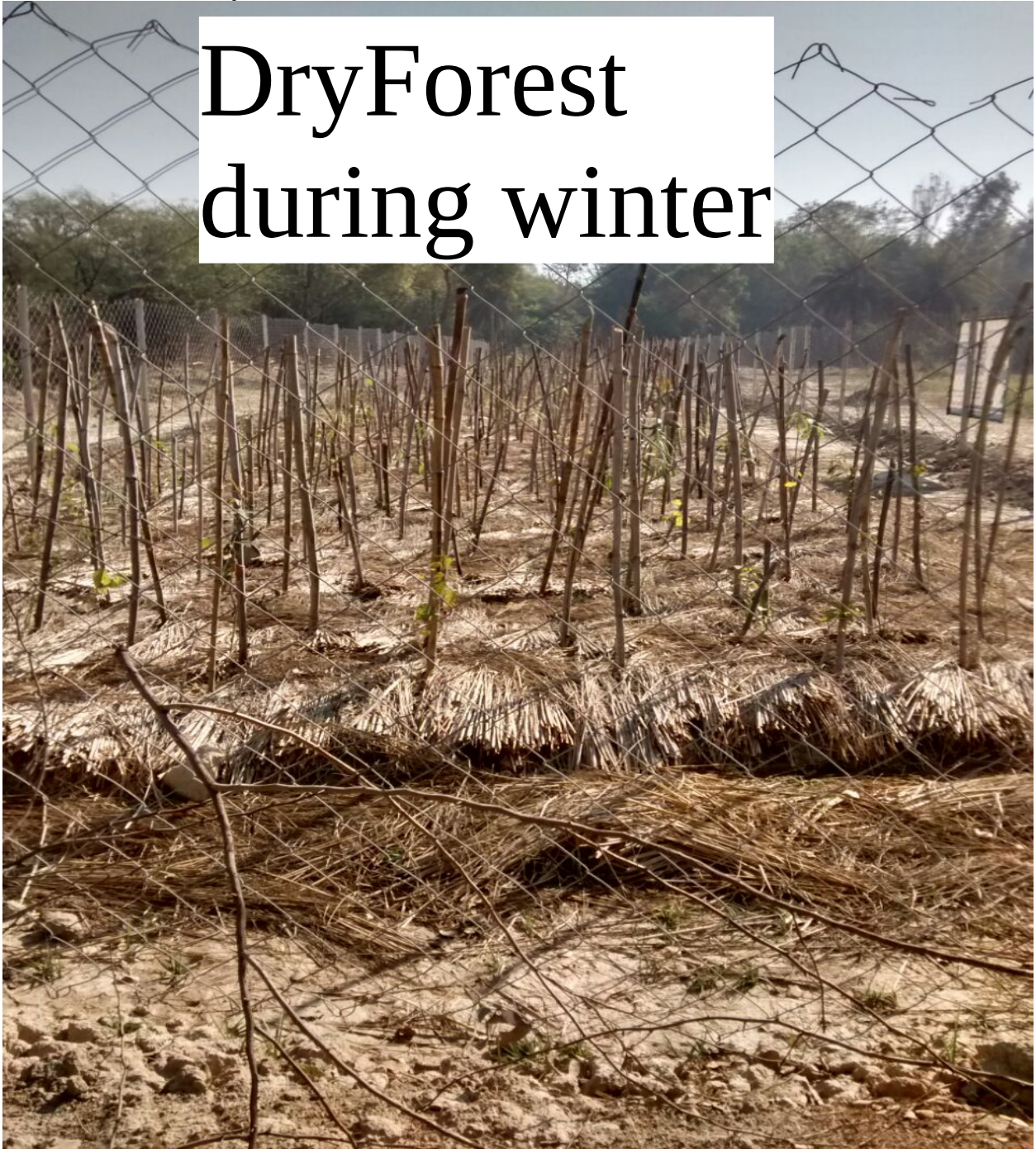
Image: Drainage system has been maintained in the forest.

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7) Do not disturb the plantation in any way: Some plants will show initial signs of shock, such as leaves and stems drying out. No re-planting or intervention is required at this stage. Mortality rate will be checked after at least 3-4 months after planting. Usual mortality rate is anywhere between 2-5 percent. If a lot of the planted species are deciduous, they will shed their leaves and it is *not* a cause for concern.

Dry Forest during winter



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Same forest
during summer



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8) Do Not use any chemicals such as pesticides, herbicides or inorganic fertilizers: The forest is well equipped to take care of itself. If you notice any pests, they too should be left undisturbed. The forest will slowly build its own mechanism to keep itself healthy.



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Image: On this leaf we can notice some pests. They should be left undisturbed. This is seasonal and will go on its own.

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9) Always keep the forest floor covered with a thick layer of mulch: The mulching done during forest creation needs to be maintained for at least one year. The forest floor/soil needs to be re-mulched with time. Dry uncovered soil is detrimental to the forest health.



Image: Uncovered soil.

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Image: Perfectly mulched soil.

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10) Support sticks: As the trees grow taller, longer support sticks might be required. If the main shoot of a tree bends, then it tends to get weak.



Image: Main shoot of the tree has bent.

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Image: Taller plants supported by taller sticks.

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11. Protect the Mounds and plants: Insert iron/wooden rods at the 4 corners of each mound, so that the watering pipe does not drag around and damage the plants.



Image: Pipe dragging over the mound.

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Image: Notice the wooden sticks at the corners.

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12. NEVER create raised beds to accumulate water in the forest. Stagnant water will kill plant roots.



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13. NEVER cut or prune even a single stem in the forest. Natural forests are never pruned. If any cutting or pruning is done, the forest will become weaker. Dr. Miyawaki says, "No maintenance is the best maintenance. If a forest requires maintenance after the first 2-3 years then it's a fake forest."



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14. **NEVER** remove the mulch or the forest's organic matter (leaves, flowers, twigs, seeds, wood, stems) from the forest floor. If organic matter is removed and the soil is exposed, it will kill good soil microbiology and degrade the forest.



Image: Organic matter is removed from the forest floor.

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Image: Ideal forest floor.