

Protective Role played by coastal Casuarina plantation during Tsunami and Thane cyclone- a case study

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Abstract

The Casuarinas introduced in India primarily for coastal protection, find a place in inlands owing to its various qualities and potential of raw material to various industries. Mangroves are considered as protective coastal evergreen forests, they naturally found in back waters. However presence of Mangroves is restricted due to various factors and in such case the casuarinas are palnted for coastal protection. The coasts of India is well protected with various type of natural vegetation, but due to various development factors the coasts became denuded and as a result it has to face the onslaught of natural calamities like cyclone, and Tsunami became a additional phenomenon in December,2004. During tsunami the villages situated behind the Casuarinas plantation were either not damaged or suffered a minimum damage due to breaking of waves. Hence coastal bio wall plantation was under taken and it acts as shelterbelt during Thane cyclone though it suffers damage it protected the villages. unfortunately the benefit effects of the Casuarina bio wall is not clearly understood by the local coastal communities which result in intense and indiscriminate felling of trees which are over grown and the damage is obvious. The protective role played by casuarinas plantation during Tsunami and Thane cyclone is to be enlightened among the coastal communities who are the real beneficiary.