

Get 50 times returns in four years by growing casuarina

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COIMBATORE: There is a popular saying that money does not grow on trees. But scientists at the Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding (IFGTB) are out to prove this is just a myth. They say money can indeed be grown on trees. If you throw back an inquisitive look, they give you a small casuarina sapling for 4. In four years, they say this plant will grow into a 30m tall tree and can be sold for at least 200. This means the recently-released casuarina tree clone will make your money multiply by 50 times in four years. "This is more than what the stock market, mutual investment schemes or banks can promise. The only thing required is land and space," says, A Nicodemus, head of genetics and tree breeding at IFGTB.

To start marketing the 11 varieties of casuarina developed and released by the institute in October last year, the institute has started entering into agreements with paper mills to share their propagation prototypes.

"It is basically us issuing a non-exclusive license to the paper mill company to propagate and grow the variety of casuarina tree for a period of 10 years," said IFGTB director R S Prasanth. "We are issuing licenses at 5lakh per clone variety," he said.

They recently entered into an agreement with International Papers-AAPM. "We are inviting casuarina farmers and other paper mills to come forward to acquire more licenses," he added. They have a total of 11 clones of casuarina. Vegetative propagation is a system where even a small shoot

or stem can be plucked from a tree and administered with growth hormones, so they start growing into saplings. This way farmers or corporates, who have the license, can legally keep multiplying the number of these Casuarina clones in almost no time at all.

People who are not interested in propagation, can buy individual saplings from the institute for just 4 each. The institute said they are offering the variety at subsidized rates because this is the first time they have decided to commercialize a finding. "Since this is the first time we are issuing such licenses publicly, we have decided to set such low prices," said Nicodemus.

These newly-developed varieties considered 'low input, low value' can grow in various soil and weather conditions. Some of them are also disease and insect resistant. These trees, in three-to-four years, can give you at least 50 kg of wood each, and will have high biomass volume too.

Source:<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/coimbatore/Get-50-times-returns-in-four-years-by-growing-casuarina/articleshow/48196241.cms>