

Office of Dean of Sustainability
Thapar Institute of Engineering & Technology
(Deemed to be University)
Patiala – 147004 INDIA

Activity: Tree Plantation by ABET EAC Team

Location: Near Directorate Office

Date: 26 November 2024, Tuesday

On **26th November 2024 (Tuesday)**, a significant tree plantation drive was organized Near Directorate Office, **Thapar Institute of Engineering and Technology (TIET), Patiala**. The initiative brought together the **ABET EAC Team** and TIET Administration along with key members of TIET's sustainability team.

The plantation activity was led by:

1. **Prof. Linda Serra Franzoni**, Professor of Practice, Pratt School of Engineering, Duke University, Durham
2. **Prof. Steven Frank Barrett**, Associate Dean for Academic Programs, University of Wyoming, Laramie WY
3. **Prof. John Okeyere Attia**, Professor, Prairie View A&M University, Texas
4. **Prof. Raeda Alalawi**, Adjunct Professor, American University of Bahrain
5. **Prof. Rajesh Dixit**, Professor, NITTTR Bhopal
6. **Dr. Ajay Batish**, Deputy Director, TIET, Patiala, Punjab
7. **Dr. Rafat Siddique**, Dean of Sustainability, TIET, Patiala, Punjab

This event also saw active participation from TIET's **Dean of Sustainability, Associate Deans** (*Dr. Kulbir Singh* and *Dr. Anoop Verma*), and **Sustainability Coordinator** (*Dr. Hari Shankar Singh, Dr. Abhinav, Dr. Dhamodaran, and Dr. Adil*).

The plantation drive reinforced the institute's commitment to sustainability and environmental conservation. It symbolized a collective effort to enhance the campus's green cover and foster a deeper sense of ecological responsibility. The event highlighted the collaborative vision of academia and leadership in addressing pressing environmental challenges.

Details of Plants

Name of Plant	Botanical Name	No of Plants	CO ₂ Absorption* (Pounds/year),
Bottle Palm	Hyophorbe lagenicaulis	28	20-25

* These values are averages for mature trees and can vary significantly depending on environmental factors such as sunlight, soil quality, and maintenance. Young or newly planted trees typically absorb less CO₂.



Tree planting and watering by **Prof. Linda Serra Franzoni**, Professor of Practice, Pratt School of Engineering, Duke University, Durham



Tree planting and watering by **Prof. John Okeyere Attia**, Professor, Prairie View A&M University, Texas



Tree planting and watering by **Prof. Steven Frank Barrett**, Associate Dean for Academic Programs, University of Wyoming, Laramie WY



Tree planting and watering by **Prof. Raeda Alalawi**, Adjunct Professor, American University of Bahrain



Tree planting and watering by **Prof. Rajesh Dixit**, Professor, NITTTR Bhopal



Tree planting and watering by **Dr. Ajay Batish**, Deputy Director, TIET, Patiala, Punjab



Tree planting and watering by **Rafat Siddique**, Dean of Sustainability, TIET, Patiala, Punjab



Tree plantation event held in the presence of esteemed guest and faculty members

Significance of the Planting Bottle Palm

Aesthetic and Ornamental Value

The Bottle Palm is widely admired for its unique, swollen trunk and graceful fronds, making it a striking addition to gardens, parks, and urban landscapes. Its sculptural beauty enhances the visual appeal of any setting, creating tranquil and inviting environments.

Biodiversity Support

The Bottle Palm provides habitat and shelter for various small birds, insects, and other fauna. Its flowers can attract pollinators, supporting the local ecosystem and contributing to biodiversity.

Environmental Benefits

Though modest in CO₂ absorption (~20–25 pounds/year), the Bottle Palm contributes to improving air quality and reducing the urban heat island effect by providing shade and greenery.

Cultural and Symbolic Significance

In many regions, palms symbolize peace, prosperity, and resilience. Planting the Bottle Palm serves as a reminder of the need for sustainable co-existence with nature.

Low Maintenance and Longevity

The Bottle Palm requires minimal maintenance and thrives in tropical and subtropical climates. Its slow growth and long lifespan make it an excellent choice for urban landscaping, requiring fewer resources over time.

(Kulbir Singh)
Associate Dean Sustainability

(Rafat Siddique)
Dean Sustainability