Southern Regional Station of ICAR-NDRI, Bengaluru in collaboration with Adamya Chetana Foundation, Bengaluru organized Tree Plantation Programme on 7th May 2017 as part of Green Bengaluru drive launched by the Foundation. During the programme, tree saplings of various traditional varieties were planted in the SRS, ICAR-NDRI Campus. The tree planting was initiated by Dr Tejaswini Ananth Kumar, Founder of Adamya Chetana Foundation and Shri. H.N. Ananth Kumar, Hon’ble Cabinet Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Chemicals & Fertilizers, Govt. of India, in the presence of Justice Rama Jois, Former Governor of Jharkhand and Bihar states, Dr. K.P. Ramesha, Head, SRS of ICAR-NDRI, and local Corporators, Mrs Saraswatamma and Mrs Sarala Mahesh Babu. Inaugurating the programme, Shri. Ananth Kumar appreciated the green ambience of the Institute and expressed happiness that he was speaking from the place where Mahatma Gandhi had visited during 1927 and acquainted with scientific dairy farming. Recalling the word Satyagraha given by Gandhiji, he said that ‘now’ there is a need to launch ‘Sasyagraha’ for making the country green, which will inspire and motivate people towards planting more and more trees. He further said that the present drive by Adamya Foundation could be a pilot project for launching ‘Sasyagraha’ in future. He further emphasized the need for proper utilization of resources such as animal by-products like cow dung, urine etc for development of quality organic manure. Hon’ble Minister informed that the aim of the Govt. is to move agriculture from chemical fertilizer based to organic based agriculture. He suggested that such manure could be collected from various sources and supplied to farmers as biofertiliser to enhance soil fertility and thereby enhance cow keepers’ incomes. He called for a concerted effort in this regard by NDRI, Bangalore and suggested to take up a pilot project through an MOU with his ministry of GOI to collect dung and cow urine from farmers and enhance its quality and supply the same to farmers as bio-fertilizer. Further, he said that GOI is ready to provide all assistance for the pilot project. Justice Rama Jois described how our villages hold serene and clean atmosphere compared to urban areas. Our people in earlier days lived amidst nature. He asked the audience to see how our sacred literatures describe the Mother Nature. In this context, he said that the present programme of tree plantation assumes importance and hoped that more and more trees will be planted and wished organizers a great success. Dr K.P. Ramesha informed that the Institute initiated Green NDRI initiative last year itself and about 700 trees were already planted in the campus. He thanked the dignitaries for including ICAR-NDRI as part of Green Bengaluru campaign.

After the inaugural programme, Union Minister Shri. H.N. Ananth Kumar, Mrs Tejaswini Ananth Kumar, Justice Rama Jois and Dr K.P. Ramesha started the planting of tree saplings by planting various trees in the north eastern side of farm area of the Institute. A total of seventy one tree saplings were planted in which Staff of NDRI, their family members and children along with Diploma, PG and Ph.D. students actively took part and made it a grand success!
Welcoming the dignitaries by Dr K P Ramesha

Justice Rama Jois and Union Minister Anath Kumar watering the plant

Shri. AnanthKumarji paying respect to Father of the Nation