

As part of this initiative, the programme titled **“Reviving Kadambam Landscapes and Grasslands: Reawakening Madurai’s Ecology”** will be held on **28 March 2026 at 4:00 PM** at **Idaiyapatti (Velli Malai), Madurai – 625110**. The event will feature **field-based interactions** at the sacred grove landscape, **knowledge-sharing sessions** by local conservation volunteers, **demonstrations of grassland restoration techniques**, and **interactive discussions** to foster community-led conservation approaches.

Key resource persons include **Thamizhthaasan (M. Johnson), Cultural Ecologist**, along with local conservation leaders — **V.Karthik, Manikandan, M.R.Barathidasan, and V.Rajkumar** — from the **Idaiyapatti Velli Malai Sacred Grove Forest Conservation Movement**. **Youth, students, and community members** will be actively engaged to ensure hands-on learning and meaningful participation.

The primary objectives of this programme are to raise awareness on the ecological importance of grasslands and Kadambam landscapes, showcase successful community-led conservation practices, encourage youth participation in ecological restoration, and support the scaling up of the **“One Panchayat – One Grassland”** initiative across Tamil Nadu. By connecting local heritage, biodiversity, and citizen stewardship, the initiative seeks to foster a sustainable, community-driven conservation movement. Expected outcomes include enhanced awareness about grasslands as critical ecosystems, strengthened community participation, replication of Panchayat-level restoration models, documentation of local ecological knowledge, and increased youth engagement in conservation efforts.

In conclusion, reviving grasslands is not merely an ecological necessity but also a cultural responsibility. By protecting and restoring Madurai’s Kadambam landscapes, the Grass Guards – IYRP 2026 initiative aims to reconnect communities with their natural heritage, restore ecological balance, and ensure sustainable livelihoods for future generations. As the programme emphasizes, *“Grasslands are not wastelands — they are the green lungs of our planet.”*

Organized by: Dr.P.Kabilan, Pastoral Bio Economist, Thozhuvam

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Invitation – Grass Guards IYRP 2026 (Awareness Initiative - 3)



INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF
**RANGELANDS AND
PASTORALISTS**
2026



Reviving Kadambam Landscapes and Grasslands: Reawakening Madurai's Ecology

Date : 28 March 2026, Time : 4.00 PM

Venue : Idaiyapatti (Velli Malai), Madurai - 625 110, Tamilnadu, India.



Grass Guards IYRP 2026 (Awareness Initiative - 3) January – December, 2026 State - Wide Programme, Tamil Nadu.

Grasslands are not wastelands – they are the “Green Lungs” of our planet



Join us at Idaiyapatti (Velli Malai), Madurai, under the Grass Guards – IYRP 2026 Awareness Initiative. Local volunteers will share their hands-on experience in restoring the Kadambam (*Neolamarckia cadamba*) landscape, a unique dryland ecosystem rich in biodiversity. Discover how community-led efforts have helped conserve native grasslands, protect traditional habitats, and restore ecological balance, while gaining practical insights and guidance to implement the “One Panchayat – One Grassland” initiative in your village. **Together, let's protect and revive our green heritage for future generations.**

Resource Persons



Thamizhthaasan (a) M. Johnson
Cultural Ecologist,
Madurai Nature Cultural Foundation



**V. Karthik, Manikandan,
M.R. Barathidasan, V. Rajkumar**
Idaiyapatti Velli Malai Sacred Grove Forest
Conservation Movement

Organised by : **P. Kabilan**, Pastoral Bio Economist, Thozhuvam.

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