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'More than 73.2 mln trees already planted'

KUALALUMPUR: More than 73.2 million trees have been planted nationwide so far through the 100 Million Tree Planting Campaign implemented by the Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Climate Change (NRECC).

Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) deputy director-general (Research) Dr Norwati Muhammad said the campaign was a greening programme aimed at maintaining and increasing green cover in the country.

"The five-year campaign, which started in 2021, also aims to increase public awareness of the importance of maintaining green cover and forests and to encourage them to be actively involved in increasing the number of trees," she told Bernama.

She said the campaign was also to support the government's commitment to protect and maintain 50 per cent of the forest area in the country, thus preserving the balance of the forest ecosystem in Malaysia.

To make the campaign a

success, Norwati said FRIM organised various courses, seminars and talks with experts on topics related to forestry science to increase public awareness of the importance of forests and environmental protection. The topics included 'No mangrove, no seafood?'; 'What to do when your plant is sick?'; 'Tree planting: With or without soil' and 'Red Alert: Plant conservation', she said.

According to Norwati, FRIM also offers free trees to participants attending its courses, talks and seminars, which are also held at the international level in conjunction with forestry-related celebrations.

Meanwhile, she said schools, agencies and corporate bodies that wish to obtain saplings for their corporate social responsibility (CSR) programmes can do so by applying to the FRIM director-general.

"So far, a total of 2,700 trees have been donated to individuals, schools, companies and universities, as well as corporate bodies," she added. — Bernama