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TOI

Ranchi: A Mumbai-based organisation, Grow-Trees, which has footprints in various countries and states within India, aims to tide over Jharkhand's growing human-elephant conflict through large-scale tree plantations.

The NGO aims to plant 6.5 lakh saplings in hamlets surrounding Dalma Wildlife

Sanctuary, the largest haven wild elephants in the state. It has identified Lylam and Luabasa hamlets in East Singhbhum district as an elephant corridor a couple of years ago and has now obtained permission from panchayats to plant saplings in the barren tracts within the villages.

Bikrant Tiwary, an IIM-Calcutta alumnus and CEO of Grow-Trees, claimed the [plantation](#) drive will prevent human-elephant conflicts. "Through our initiative, we aim to plant saplings of various fruit-bearing trees. These villages sit on the elephant corridor of Dalma. Once the trees bear fruit, the elephants, which venture into villages and wreak havoc, will satiate their hunger by eating from these trees," Tiwary told TOI.

Besides preventing man-elephant conflict, the trees will be a source of livelihood for forest dwellers and its plantation will create man-days for employment, Tiwary said. He said the organisation, which works with corporate houses, has partnered with Odisha government recently to take up plantations along the elephant corridors of Simlipal National Park and in Sikkim.

He added that a formal request to the Jharkhand government's department of forest, environment and climate change is awaiting a response.

Man-elephant conflicts in Jharkhand are rampant as more than 60 humans are killed every year and over 300 incidents of conflicts are reported across the state annually.
