

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

Activity: Tree Plantation

Location: Outside Main Gate

Date: 05 August 2024

The Barbados plant, scientifically known as *Malpighia coccigera*, was ceremonially planted on August 5, 2024, in the presence of distinguished members, students, and agriculture experts. Among the notable attendees were Dr. Rafat Siddique, Dr. Kulbir Singh, Dr. Anoop Verma, Dr. K. S. Sandha, and several other esteemed colleagues. This event marked a significant milestone in fostering collaboration, enhancing botanical knowledge, and promoting environmental stewardship.

The presence of esteemed members and students at this event further reinforces the shared vision of nurturing a more sustainable future. Through this collaborative effort, the participants demonstrated their dedication to research and practices that harmonize with the natural environment, ensuring that sustainability remains at the forefront of agricultural and ecological endeavors.

Details of Plants

Name of Plant	Botanical Name	No of Plants	CO ₂ Absorption (Pounds/year)
Barbados	<i>Malpighia coccigera</i>	07	46-48 (mature plant)



Tree planted by Dr. Kulbir Singh, ADoS-1



Tree planted by Dr. Anoop Verma, ADoS-2



Tree planted by Dr. Rafat Siddique, Dr. Kulbir Singh, Dr. Anoop Verma, and Mr. Harnek



Plantation by invitee and student



Tree planted by Dr. Mr. Harnek



Watering the planted tree by Dr. Rafat Siddique, DoS



Plantation by invitee and student



Plantation and watering by invitee and student

Significance of the Planting

Barbados (*Malpighia Coccigera*): It is commonly known as the Barbados plant, is a versatile and resilient shrub that belongs to the Malpighiaceae family. Renowned for its compact growth habit, glossy leaves, and ornamental appeal, this plant is an excellent

addition to gardens, landscapes, and green spaces. Beyond its aesthetic value, *Malpighia coccigera* also offers several ecological and practical benefits, making it a valuable choice for sustainable gardening and landscaping.

Ornamental Value: The Barbados plant is prized for its attractive appearance, with small, glossy, dark green leaves and delicate white or pink flowers that bloom periodically. Its compact growth habit makes it an excellent choice for low hedges, borders, and container gardens. The plant's aesthetic appeal enhances the visual appeal of any landscape.

Sustainability: *Malpighia coccigera* is a low-maintenance plant that requires minimal water and fertilizer once established. Its ability to thrive in poor soils and resist pests and diseases reduces the need for chemical inputs, aligning with sustainable gardening practices. Additionally, its drought tolerance makes it a valuable plant in regions prone to water scarcity.

Wildlife Support: The flowers of *Malpighia coccigera* attract pollinators such as bees and butterflies, supporting local ecosystems. By incorporating this plant into gardens and landscapes, gardeners can contribute to the conservation of pollinator populations, which are crucial for the health of natural and agricultural systems.

Erosion Control: The dense root system of *Malpighia coccigera* helps stabilize soil, making it an effective plant for erosion control on slopes and in areas with loose or sandy soil. This characteristic is particularly valuable in landscapes prone to erosion, where soil retention is a concern.

(Kulbir Singh)
Associate Dean Sustainability

(Rafat Siddique)
Dean Sustainability