



ESAF BANK ENVIRONMENT WEEK 2025

2nd to 19th June 2025
#BeatPlasticPollution



1. Introduction

Plastic pollution has reached every part of the planet—even entering our bodies as microplastics. World Environment Day 2025 emphasised the urgent need for united action against plastic pollution. Led by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), World Environment Week is held annually and concludes on 5th June with World Environment Day. In 2025, the theme is "#BeatPlasticPollution", with the Republic of Korea serving as the host country. The initiatives focused on raising awareness about environmental challenges, promoting eco-friendly habits, and encouraging people to take meaningful steps towards sustainability. Through inspiration from nature and real-life success stories, the campaign motivates individuals, businesses, industries, and governments to embrace sustainable practices that lead to long-lasting change. This also emphasised the strengthening of social and environmental capital of the Bank.

2. ESAF Bank Environment Week 2025

2.1 Sustainability Council

A discussion on Environment week observation initiated as an agenda of the Sustainability Council, held on 15th May along with sustainability champions from various departments and SARG team. The discussion concluded with a variety of informative and intellectual ideas. By taking into consideration all the ideas, the Sustainable Banking team submitted an approval note to the management for observing ESAF Bank Environment Week across all the offices.



Sustainability Council held on 15th May 2025 at ESAF Bhavan

2.2 Launch of ESAF Bank Environment Week 2025

The ESAF Bank Environment Week was observed from Monday, 2nd June 2025, to Thursday, 19th June 2025. It was officially launched by Shri. P. R. Ravimohan, Chairman, ESAF Small Finance Bank, and Dr. K. Paul Thomas, Founder, MD & CEO, ESAF Small Finance Bank, along with a poster launch. The theme for this year was **#BeatPlasticPollution**. A variety of activities and competitions were conducted as part of the World Environment Week celebrations.



Poster launched by Shri. P. R Ravimohan, Chairman, and Dr. K. Paul Thomas, Founder, MD & CEO

2.3 Launch of Green Grow Glow series

The Green Grow Glow series was launched on 5th June 2025, through the E-Shiksha platform as part of ESAF Bank Environment Week celebrations. Specially designed for employees, this initiative aims to promote awareness and knowledge on environmental sustainability within the organisation. The E-Shiksha platform continues to enrich employee learning by regularly introducing insightful and relevant modules. One of the latest additions is the Beat Plastic Pollution module, focusing on addressing one of the most pressing environmental issues of our time.

As part of this initiative, a webinar titled "Putting an End to Plastic Pollution – Let's Try to Understand and Collaborate" was conducted on 10th June 2025. The session was led by Shri. Christudas Karayil Victor, CEO ESAF Co-operative, who provided valuable insights on tackling plastic pollution through informed action and collective responsibility.



3. ESAF Bank Environment Week Observation at Head Office

A live event was conducted at the Head Office of ESAF Small Finance Bank, celebrating the World Environment Day on 5th June 2025. A series of interesting and informative segments was a part of the celebration.

The event started with a speech by Smt. Sandhya Suresh, DVP & Head - Sustainable Banking, welcoming the audience to the commencement of the Environment Day programmes. The keynote speech was given by Shri. George Thomas, EVP - HR, ESAF Small Finance Bank. He spoke on the importance of passionately pursuing the Sustainable Development Goals set by the United Nations and gave emphasis on aligning the ideas of banking along with sustainability. He also highlighted the initiatives taken by the Bank in achieving the SDG.



As one of the programmes of the day, all the employees present were given a badge of appreciation for their collective efforts in promoting sustainable practices and the senior-most Sustainability Champion was given the same as an indication. The badge was presented by SShri. George Thomas, EVP - HR.t



Honoring Shri. Gopalakrishnan V. N., Sustainability Champion, Vigilance Department



Shri. Sony V. Mathew, Head- Branding & Communication addressing ESAFians

The “Think Earth” video was officially launched by Shri. George Thomas, EVP - HR and Shri. Sony V. Mathew, VP & Head - Branding & Communications, who also designed the video. “Think Earth” is an initiative that promotes ideas and actions devoted to future generations, with an emphasis on our commitment to the planet. Our dedication to encouraging tribal entrepreneurs and advancing the green planet is reaffirmed by this effort. Bamboo products created by skilled tribal artisans in Dumka with assistance from ESAF Foundation, and solar products, were promoted online as part of this programme.

Another campaign titled “Oru Kotta Pachakari” was initiated, launched by Shri. Bosco Joseph EVP - Micro Banking, where Sustainability Champions from various departments, divided into three teams—People, Planet and Prosperity—were given seeds to sow, promoting the message of a greener planet. The three teams will sow these seeds in their homes and during the time of Onam Celebrations, the grown vegetables will be harvested. This is to promote the use of organic and pesticide-free vegetables to reduce the negative health effects caused by store bought vegetables.



Team People



Team Planet



Team Prosperity

Sapling distribution was carried out to employees as a part of ESAF Bank Environment Week. First sapling was handed over by Shri. Sudev Kumar V., EVP - Branch Banking to Vaishak R., Sustainability Champion, Secretarial Team. Additionally, the Internal Audit Team was recognised for their contribution towards Green Audit.



Honouring Shri. Sivakumar P.,
Head - Internal Audit



Sapling distribution by Shri. Sudev Kumar V.,
EVP - Branch Banking

At the Head Office of ESAF Small Finance Bank, stalls were set up to showcase and sell environment-friendly products. This initiative was spearheaded by CEDAR, CROSSO, and POWER GRAM. The inauguration of the environment-themed stall was carried out by Shri. George Thomas, EVP - HR.



Inauguration of the environment-themed stall
by Shri. George Thomas, EVP - HR



Captivating performance of
"Chavarukal Samsarikunu"

"Chavarukal Samsarikunu" was a skit performed by the staff of ESAF Small Finance Bank on 5th June 2025, with a purpose of increasing awareness on the current scenario of elevated plastic use and the harmful impacts of it on the environment.

A competition - "Change Begins with Me" was launched as a part of Environment Week observation. The competition was conducted at three levels: Cluster, Department and Individual. Employees can showcase their eco-friendly practices and actions that promote sustainability through a short video of 2 minutes. The results of the competition will be announced by first week of August 2025.

The programme concluded with a vote of thanks proposed by Shri. Suresh Babu, Sustainability Champion of Credit Sanction department.



Change Begins with Me
competition announcement

4. Branch Level Activities

At the branch level, multiple activities were conducted. These included interactive sessions with customers and a pledge-taking ceremony on the launch day, in which every member of each branch participated. Branches also promoted the Green Expo and encouraged green business initiatives. The Green Joy Awards were presented to individuals who actively engaged in eco-friendly and sustainable practices. SARG activities involved department competitions where individual, department, or the branch was awarded for the green and sustainable initiatives. A total of 514 branches observed Environment Week and reached 12,396 customers and 2,262 students.

4.1 Environment Awareness Programme - Customer Interactions

The branch interacted with customers at branches or selected locations (schools, residential associations, community clubs, etc.) on the various green products of the Bank and general awareness on the theme #BeatPlasticPollution. This programme reached 6,510 participants which indicates its success.



Customer interaction at Bodinayakanur Branch, Madurai Region



Customer interaction at Dumka Branch, Kolkata Region



Customer interaction at senior citizen's club conducted by Ahmedabad-Prahladnagar Branch, Mumbai Region



Customer interaction conducted by Kodungallur Branch, Thrissur Region



Green Expo at Chalakudy Branch, Thrissur Region



Green Expo at Areekode Branch, Palakkad Region



Green Expo at Dhanbad Branch, Kolkata Region



Green Expo at Nagpur Branch, Nagpur Region

4.2 Green Expo at Branches

Branches exhibited eco-friendly products like Solar Panels, Micro-Grid Plans, and inverters, to facilitate hybrid use of renewable energy; Bio Gas Systems, Electric Vehicles; etc. Out of 514 branches observed, 5,534 participants showed their presence in this event.

4.3 Green Joy Award

Branches recognised individuals from the community with the Green Joy Award (memento). The individual should be environmentally conscious, who has integrated sustainable practices into various aspects of their life and livelihood. Driven by a personal passion for nature and social well-being, the individual continues to inspire and influence others through their consistent and impactful actions, making them a deserving recipient of the Green Joy Award. Branches recognised 282 individuals including 38 farmers, 17 environment activists, and 10 individuals, who promote renewable energy.



Tirur Branch honoured Shri. Latheef Kuttippuram, an environment activist (river conservation)



Harda Branch honored Shri. Sevaram, a farmer who planted more than 50 trees



Dhanbad Branch honoured Smt. Basanti Kumar Sinha, who planted saplings in Dhanbad court



Sasthamkotta Branch honoured Shri. Manikuttam, Karshakasree Award Winner



Kurichikkara Kundukad Branch honoured Smt. Feeba Rani John, Professor, Vimala College, former State Bhoomithrasena Club Award recipient

4.4 Sapling Distribution at Branches

Saplings were distributed as a part of the Environment Week at ESAF Small Finance Bank. 5,955 saplings were distributed to customers through the efforts of various branches of the Bank in order to encourage planting of trees and make the earth go green.



Sapling distribution
by Parappanangadi Branch,
Kozhikode Region

Sapling distribution
by Melattur Branch,
Thrissur Region

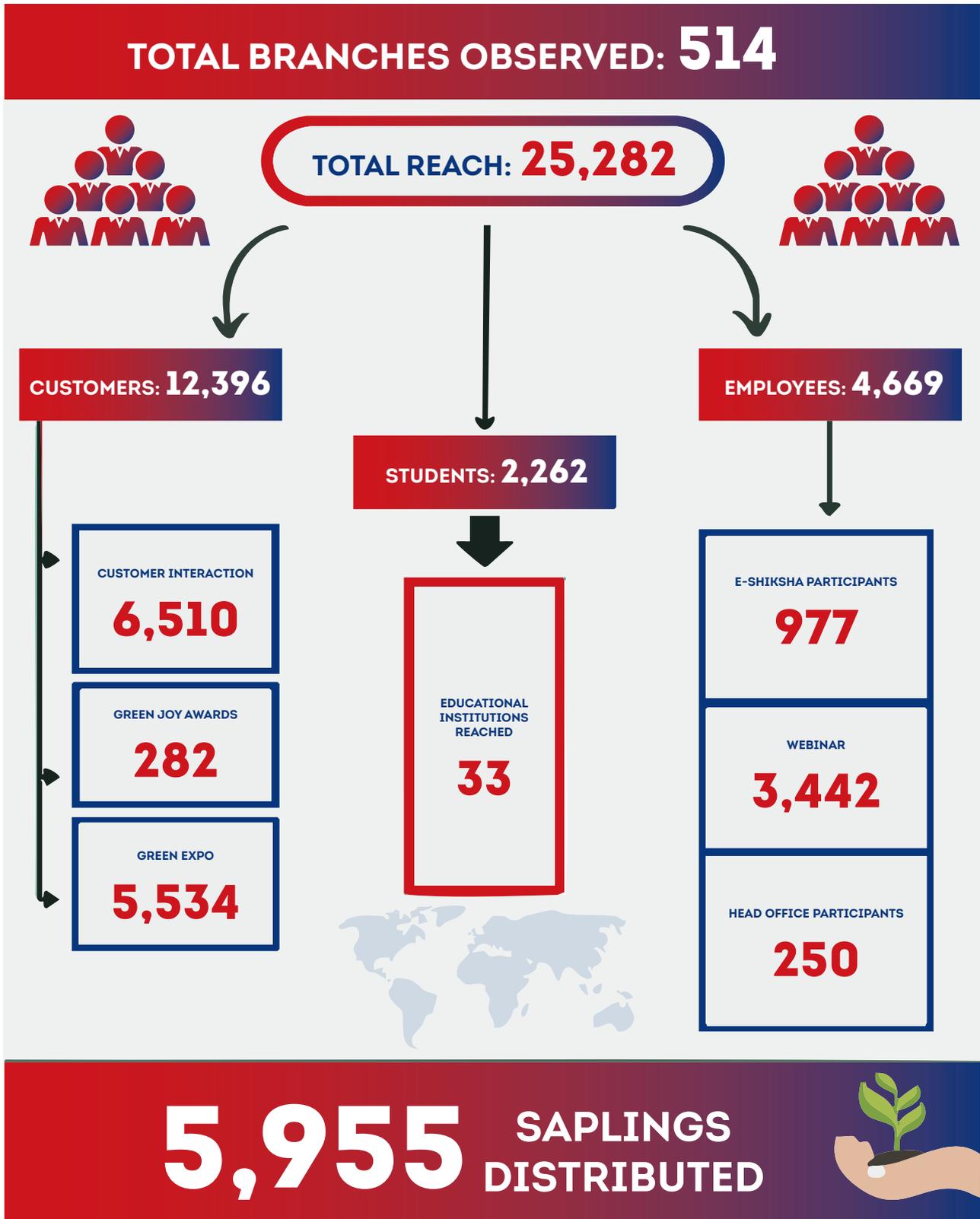


Sapling distribution
by Bawana Branch, Delhi Region



Sapling distribution
by Howrah Branch, Kolkata Region

5. ESAF Bank Environment Week – Reach at a Glance



6. Department Level Environment Week Observations

6.1 Internal Audit Department

In connection with World Environment Day 2025, the Internal Audit Department organised various activities including sapling distribution, plantation, and clean-up activity. Internal Audit team planted saplings at Lourde Hospital, Mannuthy, followed by an Environment Day pledge, reaffirming commitment to sustainability. Shri. Sivakumar P., Head - Internal Audit Department, distributed saplings among the team to encourage individual responsibility in nurturing a greener future. Internal Audit team also collected plastic bottles, covers, and other waste materials from the surrounding areas of Mannuthy, promoting cleanliness and plastic waste reduction.



Environment Day observation
at Lourde Hospital, Mannuthy



Sapling distribution
in Internal Audit Department

6.2 Credit Sanction Department

Credit Sanction Department observed Environment Day by distributing saplings among the team members and conducting an engaging session on the importance of environmental conservation, focusing on the theme "Beat Plastic Pollution".



Environment Day
observation
by Credit Sanction
Department

6.3 Delhi Zonal Office

Environment Day was observed at Delhi Zonal Office, where Shri. Hemant Kumar Tamta, EVP-Asset, gave a thought-provoking and motivational address on how, as a social bank, ESAF can play a pivotal role in being ambassadors for a safe and eco-friendly environment. The celebration concluded with everyone taking the ESAF Bank Environment Day pledge which energised each one of them to be channels of change for the wider community.



6.4 Credit Monitoring and Recovery Department

As part of Environment Day observation, a drawing presentation was showcased by Ms. Sinu C. R. from the CMRD team, highlighting the commitment to environmental awareness and sustainability.

7. Testimonials

ESAF SFB celebrated Environment Day across various branches with great enthusiasm as part of our commitment to sustainability and community engagement. The events were met with heartfelt appreciation from customers and staff alike, highlighting the collective spirit towards building a greener tomorrow. Here are some reflections and testimonials from different branches:

EMPLOYEES:

“The participants appreciated the initiative taken to celebrate Environment Day. They found the event informative, engaging, and inspiring. The interactive sessions with customers and the environmental activities helped raise awareness about sustainability and green practices. Many expressed their willingness to support similar eco-friendly initiatives in the future”

- Branch Head, Panamaram Branch, Kozhikode Region

"The overall feedback about Environment Week celebration was overwhelmingly positive, reflecting appreciation for companies and organisations actively promoting environmental awareness and sustainable practices."

- Branch Head, Cuttack Branch, Kolkata Region

"Participants expressed their appreciation for the Environment Day event organised by ESAF Small Finance Bank, Jorhat Branch. They commended the initiative and the impactful execution of the Green Expo, Green Joy Awards, and interactive sessions. Furthermore, many assured their support, stating that they look forward to promoting our initiatives and availing our services in the near future."

- Branch Head, Jorhat Branch, North East Region

"A heartfelt thank you to our MD, Paul Sir, for his visionary leadership in driving such impactful initiatives. Grateful to the senior management, RH, and CH for their guidance. Kudos to the Sustainable Banking and Marketing Teams for their flawless execution. A special thanks to my branch team—your dedication made this a true success. Let's continue working towards a greener, more sustainable future!"

- Branch Head, Hyderabad- Dilsukhnagar Branch, Bengaluru Region

CUSTOMER:

"Glad to be a part of the Environment Day celebration at ESAF Small Finance Bank, Dhamdha Branch. It's inspiring to see the bank taking active steps towards promoting a green and clean environment. Initiatives such as Sapling Distribution and Awareness Drives truly show the Bank's commitment towards achieving SDGs."

- Customer, Dhamdha Branch, Nagpur Region

"I have been associated with various banks over the past 5 years, but ESAF Small Finance Bank stands out distinctly when it comes to environmental awareness. This is the first time I've seen a bank recognise and appreciate individuals and groups for their environmental initiatives. Truly commendable."

- Customer, Hyderabad- Dilsukhnagar Branch, Bengaluru Region

