

# Talking Tree Smartphone Application Launched at Tooro Botanical Garden, Uganda



# **Groundbreaking Talking Tree Smartphone Application Launched at Tooro Botanical Garden**

In a momentous occasion that heralds a new era of interaction with nature, Tooro Botanical Garden in Uganda proudly unveils the Talking Tree smartphone application, an innovative creation that allows trees to engage with visitors. Developed by the visionary Dr. Sarang Dhote, the mastermind behind this revolutionary concept and the driving force behind the Shivaji Science Innovation & Incubation Centre at Shri Shivaji Science College, Nagpur, the Talking Tree app represents a pioneering leap forward in the world of botanical exploration and environmental education.

The Talking Tree app stands as a testament to the power of technology and the boundless possibilities of human imagination. Unlike any other application of its kind, it can be effortlessly downloaded and installed on a wide array of devices, including Android, iOS, and Windows platforms. This versatility ensures that everyone can partake in this extraordinary experience.

At its heart, the Talking Tree app is an innovative educational tool that bridges the gap between technology and nature. Visitors to Tooro Botanical Garden can simply scan QR codes located throughout the garden, initiating a fascinating dialogue with the trees themselves. As the application facilitates this interaction, users gain access to a treasure trove of information about the diverse flora in the garden, deepening their understanding of the natural world that surrounds them.

Knowledge should not remain confined but should be disseminated to the masses. In pursuit of this noble objective, Dr. Dhote provided rigorous training to his college students, enabling them to contribute their expertise to bring the Talking Tree app to life. The dedicated work of these students has culminated in a fully functional, awe-inspiring application that is now available to the public.

Mr. Godfrey Ruyonga, Director of Tooro Botanical Garden, and Mr. Gabriele Alele Ogwang, Assistant Curator, played pivotal roles in supporting the development of the Talking Tree app. Their unwavering commitment to the project has been instrumental in its successful realization, and their vision for a more connected and informed community has found expression through this remarkable innovation.

Dr. Dhote's collaboration with UCOMA has already borne fruit with the launch of two interactive apps for the Kigulu Heritage Site and Museum earlier this year, in April and May, respectively. These initiatives are a testament to his commitment to using technology to enhance cultural preservation and botanical education.

The Talking Tree app promises to be an indispensable companion for all nature enthusiasts and curious minds visiting Tooro Botanical Garden. As visitors embark on their journeys of discovery through this enchanting garden, they can now embark on an equally enchanting conversation with the trees themselves. This groundbreaking application exemplifies the magic that can happen when technology, education, and a deep appreciation for nature come together.







## TOORO BOTANICAL GARDENS

*"Conservation, Education, Research & Recreation"*

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Dear Tanvi Ravindra Admane,

B. Sc. III yr,

Shri Shivaji Science College, Nagpur, India.

I wanted to take a moment to express my sincere appreciation for your exceptional contributions as a project assistant during the "**Development of Interactive App for Tooro Botanical Garden, Uganda.**" Your dedication, enthusiasm, and hard work have been invaluable to the success of this project.

Under the guidance of Dr. Sarang Dhote, Incharge Shivaji Science Innovation & Incubation Centre, & Assistant Professor in the Department of Chemistry, and with the support and vision of Mr. Godfrey Ruyonga, Director of Tooro Botanical Garden Uganda, you have demonstrated an impressive level of commitment and professionalism. Your ability to grasp complex concepts, collaborate with the team, and execute tasks with precision has not gone unnoticed.

The app you've helped develop will undoubtedly enhance the visitor experience at the Tooro Botanical Garden, showcasing the beauty and biodiversity of this remarkable place. Your attention to detail, creativity, and willingness to go the extra mile have been a significant asset throughout the project's journey.

Your dedication to this initiative reflects positively on your character and potential. You have shown that you are not only a capable student but also a valuable team player. I have no doubt that your future endeavors will continue to bring forth success and innovation.

Thank you once again for your hard work and commitment. Your contributions have made a meaningful difference, and I'm confident that your experiences on this project will serve as a strong foundation for your future accomplishments.

Best wishes for your continued academic and professional journey.

Project Period – **Six Months.**

Date – 31/08/2023

Place - Fort Portal, Uganda

Sincerely,

Mr. Godfrey Ruyonga,  
Director of Tooro Botanical Garden Uganda





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Dear Vaishnavi Panda,

B. Sc. III yr,

Shri Shivaji Science College, Nagpur, India.

I wanted to take a moment to express my sincere appreciation for your exceptional contributions as a project assistant during the "**Development of Interactive App for Tooro Botanical Garden, Uganda.**" Your dedication, enthusiasm, and hard work have been invaluable to the success of this project.

Under the guidance of Dr. Sarang Dhote, Incharge Shivaji Science Innovation & Incubation Centre, & and Assistant Professor in the Department of Chemistry, and with the support and vision of Mr. Godfrey Ruyonga, Director of Tooro Botanical Garden Uganda, you have demonstrated an impressive level of commitment and professionalism. Your ability to grasp complex concepts, collaborate with the team, and execute tasks with precision has not gone unnoticed.

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Sincerely,

Mr. Godfrey Ruyonga,  
Director of Tooro Botanical Garden Uganda





## Dr Dhote's 'Talking Tree' app launched in Uganda

### ■ Staff Reporter

'TALKING Tree', an innovative mobile application that can help a person to interact with trees, and a brain child of city-based assistant professor Dr Sarang Dhote, has now been launched in Tooro Botanical Garden in Uganda in East Africa.

The Talking Tree app represents a pioneering leap forward in the world of botanical exploration and environmental education. This app is an innovative educational tool that bridges the gap between technology and nature. Visitors to Tooro Botanical Garden can simply scan the QR codes located throughout the garden, initiating a fascinating dialogue with the trees themselves.

This is the first time that any country has preferred to install the app developed by the city professor. The QR code of the app is displayed on trees and after scanning it gives information about the



A tree fix with QR code of the Talking Tree app in Uganda.

trees like its common name, scientific name, medicinal application, general habitat like flowers, fruits, size and season.

Godfrey Ruyonga, Director, Tooro Botanical Garden, and Gabriele Alele Ogwang, Assistant Curator, played pivotal roles in supporting the development of this Talking Tree app.

Dr Dhote's collaboration with UCOMA has already borne fruit with the launch of two interactive apps for the Kigulu Heritage Site and Museum earlier this year, in April and May, respectively.

The Talking Tree app can be downloaded and installed on a wide array of devices, including Android, IOS, and Windows platforms.

Earlier, Dr Dhote developed this apps for Melghat Tiger Reserve (MTR). He also developed 'Whispering Pench' for Pench Tiger Reserve (PTR), 'Talking Rocks' in a college at Chandur Bazaar, Amravati and many more.

# युगांडातील झाडे झालीत बोलकी

म. टा. प्रतिनिधी, नागपूर

युगांडा येथील तुरो बॉटनिकल गार्डनमध्ये टॉकिंग ट्री स्मार्टफोन ॲप्लिकेशन लावण्यात आले आहे. यामुळे एका स्कॅनवर येथील बहुपयोगी वनस्पतींची माहिती ऑडिओ-व्हिडीओ स्वरूपात होणार आहे. झाडांना बोलके करणारे हे ॲप्लिकेशन काँग्रेसनगरातील शिवाजी विज्ञान महाविद्यालयाच्या इनोव्हेशन अँड इनक्युबेशन सेंटरचे प्रभारी डॉ. सारंग धोटे यांनी विकसित केले आहे.

टॉकिंग ट्री ॲप ॲण्ड्रॉइड,

## तुरो बॉटनिकल गार्डनमध्ये टॉकिंग ट्री स्मार्टफोन ॲप्लिकेशन

आयओएस, विंडोजसाठी उपलब्ध आहे. सहज डाउनलोड करून या ॲपचा उपयोग करता येणे शक्य आहे. टॉकिंग ट्री ॲप हे एक नावीन्यपूर्ण शैक्षणिक साधन आहे, जे तंत्रज्ञान आणि निसर्ग यांच्यातील अंतर कमी करते. तुरो बॉटनिकल गार्डनला भेट देणारे पर्यटक त्या बागेत असलेले क्यूआर कोड स्कॅन करून त्या झाडाविषयीची संपूर्ण माहिती

जाणून घेऊ शकतात. या ॲपद्वारे मनुष्य आणि निसर्गाचा अनोखा संवाद प्रस्थापित झाला आहे. तुरो बॉटनिकल गार्डनचे संचालक गॉडफ्रे रुयोंगा आणि साहाय्यक क्युरेटर गॅब्री अलेले ओगवांग यांनी टॉकिंग ट्री ॲपच्या विकासाला पाठिंबा देण्यासाठी महत्त्वपूर्ण भूमिका बजावली. ज्ञान मर्यादित न राहता ते जनसामान्यांपर्यंत पोहोचवले पाहिजे, या उद्देशासह डॉ. सारंग धोटे यांनी त्यांच्या महाविद्यालयीन विद्यार्थ्यांना टॉकिंग ट्री ॲप बनविण्याचे प्रशिक्षण दिले. त्यामुळे टॉकिंग ट्री ॲप आज तुरो बॉटनिकल गार्डनमध्ये ॲप यशस्वीरीत्या प्रस्थापित झाले.



तुरो बॉटनिकल गार्डनमधील प्रत्येक झाडावर अशा प्रकारचे क्यूआर कोड लावण्यात आले आहेत. कोड स्कॅन करून झाडाची माहिती मिळविता येणार आहे.

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