



## Spanish municipalities use clay pellets of the Fukuoka Method to revegetate burned mountains

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The municipalities of Alicante near Mariola (Spain) affected by the fire occurred in September 2010 have begun the repopulation of the 3,200 acres burned and they did it from the air. Through a motorized paraglide, the first seed-filled spheres have been spread in La Solana area, in Alfafara.



In February 2012, representatives of the municipalities of Ontinyent, Bocairent, Agullent, Albaida, Benissoda, Alfafara and Agres announced that they would launch a plan to plant in the mountains several species that were destroyed by fire on early September 2010. At the presentation, the authorities indicated that they would take the initiative and bring this proposal through the [Japanese technique of Nendo Dango](#) allowing reforestation through spheres full of seeds of different species.



During the second fortnight of February, school pupils in the towns of Vall d'Albaida and El Comtat made balls of clay and dung, in which were inside seeds of species such as holm oaks, rosemary, steppe or gorse. A total of 5000 balls have been made, which began to be spread on 22 March 2012, taking advantage of the ground wet from recent rainfall.



The system was simple. In a backpack balls of clay were loaded and then the person wearing the paraglide flew over the mountain of La Solana in the municipality of Alfafara and threw them down in order that the seeds were embedded in the earth. Furthermore, this Japanese technique allows reaching inaccessible places, to make vegetation reappear and change their aspect from gray to green.

The municipalities planned to spread these balls in the most affected forests in Alfafara, Ontinyent and Bocairent, first and then in the affected areas within the municipalities of Benissoda, Agres and Albaida.

Fran Quesada, Environment Councilor in Ontinyent, thanked "the great involvement of students of the affected municipalities, it is they who have made the clay balls with seeds for the recovery of the mountains." They have also enjoyed the cooperation of the technicians of the public company of the Mancomunitat Municipality.

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