



Offsetting Carbon Footprints Through Plantation

Make My Trip Foundation & Seva Mandir

Half Yearly Progress Report
(January – June 2018)



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■ Introduction

Southern Rajasthan's physical landscape is categorised by small hillocks and a semi-arid climate. The dry and barren landscape is void of foliage, leading to high levels of water run-off that means farmers and communities can't store much needed water for agricultural and drinking purposes.

Fuel, fodder and fruit are also scarce, with poor villagers having to purchase these essential items at high market prices.

Several initiatives to reduce Rajasthan's carbon-footprint have been taken by governments and autonomous bodies, and Seva Mandir has been contributing to this goal through our Pastureland Development programme since 1987. Currently we have treated 12,150 hectares of land, which includes individual wasteland, forest land and community pastureland. Treatment of community pastureland has been a remarkable activity, in which we have developed approximately 3,642 hectares of pasturelands across 234 sites in more than 223 villages.

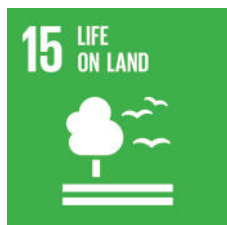
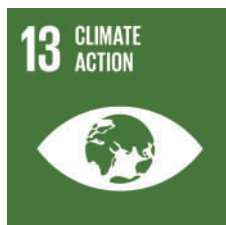
■ Executive Summary

Seva Mandir has partnered with Make My Trip (MMT) Foundation to support plantation activities in 6 blocks of southern Rajasthan. With the support of Rs. 24 lakhs donated by MMT Foundation for the year 2018, this project, will provide 20,000 saplings to be planted in the villages of Kherwada, Jhadol, Kotra, Kumbhalgarh, Badgaon and Girwa blocks of Udaipur and Rajsamand districts of Rajasthan.

This report reflects on major activities undertaken in the last six months under the project.

■ Alignment with Sustainable Development Goals

As per the United Nation's 'Sustainable Development Goals', this project is directly working to achieve 'Goal 13 - Climate Action' and 'Goal 15 - Life on Land'. These goals aim to tackle climate change and its impacts, and creating, protecting and promoting sustainable ecosystems through forests as to halt and reverse land degradation.



Villagers digging pits for saplings in Kherwada block

Completed Work

Identification and Approval of Sites

Inspections of the sites were undertaken with Seva Mandir staff and village representatives to identify and select the most appropriate locations for planting the saplings. Seva Mandir staff and village representatives also discussed which of the sapling species would be best for each individual site (details of which are on page 3), to ensure their success.

The local Panchayats and private landlords were also consulted to approve use of their land.

Listed below are the finalised number of saplings per block.

S. No.	Block	Village	No. of Saplings
1	Kherwada	Amba, Patiya	12,000
2	Jhadol	Karmala	2,000
3	Kotra	Vikarni	1,000
4	Kumbhalgarh	Hamerpal	1,000
5	Badgaon	Kaliwas, Tantela, Naro-ka-kheda	3,000
6	Girwa	Ramaj	1,500
Total			20,500



An identified site at Kakarmala village in Jhadol block



An identified site at Hamerpal village in Kumbhalgarh block



An identified site at Bhakhada village in Kherwada block

Protection, Treatment and Regeneration of Wastelands

All the selected sites have been cleaned by removing intrusive weeds and boundary walls have been repaired wherever required, to protect the land from any kind of encroachment, trespassing and grazing animals.

■ Digging of Sapling Pits

Pit digging took around 2 months to complete, and was conducted by the farmers on their respective land.

Cross-checks were completed for each pit, ensuring that they are the right size and correctly spaced to allow each sapling to grow to its full capacity.



Pit digging in one of the sites in Kherwada block



Pit digging in one of the sites in Kherwada block



Pit digging at Kakarmala village in Jhadol block



Pit digging at Kakarmala village in Jhadol block

■ Details of Saplings

The types of saplings that have been selected to be planted are: Bamboo, Babool, Karanj, Mahua, Keekar, Kher, Sheesham, Neem and Amla. At the time of purchase, the plants were between 2 to 3 feet tall.

■ Purchase and Transportation Saplings

Saplings were selected and purchased at government run forest nurseries, ensuring that the correct species were selected for each individual site.



Selection and transportation of saplings to beneficiary villages

■ Technical Trainings

Phase 1 trainings for farmers and beneficiaries focused specifically on activities regarding the planting of saplings, the layout and size of pits and the size of box trenches used to store water around the saplings.

Phase 2 training sessions focused only on the correct planting procedure of the saplings, with the farmers and beneficiaries being shown the correct soil depth, water sprinkling, plastic packaging removal and the necessary water area around the plants.



On-site training phase 1 in Kherwada block



Technical training at Kojawada in Kherwada block



On-site training phase 2 at Kakarmala village Jhadol block

■ Community Involvement

Involvement of community members is essential in ensuring that the beneficiaries take the responsibility to take care of their saplings in their respective lands. Seva Mandir has seen better results at sites where the community have been given full responsibility of projects, guaranteeing its sustainability.

■ Plan for Second Half



Planting of Saplings

Planting of saplings will begin in July and will continue into August. Some trees will be fully grown after 3 years, others after 10.



Weeding, Hoeing and Gap Filling

Weeding and hoeing of the sapling sites will take place from September.



Thawla Construction

Thawlas are semi-spherical, 1 foot deep pits around the plants that stores water. These will be constructed in October.



Watering

Watering of saplings will begin at the end of the monsoon season.



Monitoring and Evaluation

Seva Mandir's Natural Resource Development Department (NRD) are developing a mobile phone application which will help us closely monitor the plantation sites in the 6 beneficiary blocks. The app will provide longitude and latitude details of all the sites, whilst allowing the prediction of rainfall in those areas.



Seva Mandir

Transforming lives through democratic and participatory development

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