

# MakeMyTrip Foundation and Seva Mandir

*Offsetting Carbon Footprints  
Through Afforestation*

## 2nd Quarter Report

April to June 2019



make **my** trip



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Villagers during plantation in Kherwara block

# Executive Summary

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MakeMyTrip Foundation is supporting Seva Mandir to undertake afforestation activities and offset carbon footprints. During this year, 40,000 saplings will be planted in the rural and tribal areas in Udaipur and Rajsamand districts of southern Rajasthan.

## Context

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Southern Rajasthan is semi-arid region with a hilly terrain, having an erratic weather pattern making the region vulnerable to climatic variation. The region receives average rainfall of 640 mm annually during the monsoons. Due to erratic monsoon and undulating terrain, water harvesting is poor and has high soil erosion.

Common land such as pastures, forest and revenue land constitutes 72% of the total land area in our work area. Nearly 80-100% of rural poor depend on common lands for food, fuel and fodder. However due to anthropogenic pressure, encroachments have been happening on common lands of forests and village pastures. The private wastelands are also degraded, although in better conditions than commons, as families do not have expertise and resources to protect, restore and manage them.

The degradation of lands result in the loss of soil and water regime in the downstream areas lowering the net groundwater availability to critical category. A lack of trees and supporting fauna affects the local ecology. Degradation has led to low availability of fodder, fuel, wood and other forest produces affecting the livestock productivity and income and food security. And importantly, the interest of people to maintain them is lowering with time.

The work of afforestation therefore becomes crucial not only from the point of view of ecological restoration but also from providing sustainable livelihoods for the community and making them interested towards conservation of those lands.



# Selected Sites

7 sites were selected during the 1st quarter of this project for afforestation activities through the consultation of Gram Samuhs (village level, democratically elected institutions made up of members of the community). Table 1.A lists the selected sites. Preparation for plantation of 40,500 saplings was completed during this period.

Table 1.A

S.N.	Site Name	Area (Approx in Hectares)	Block	Expected Plantation	Activities Completed
1	Pargipada	40	Jhadol	6,000	- Boundary wall repair - Soil & Water conservation - Pit digging for 6,000 saplings - Conservation plan detailing geography of area
2	Patiya	14	Badgaon	4,000	- Boundary wall repair - Soil & Water conservation - Pit digging for 4,000 saplings
3	Jodha Talab	12	Badgaon	3,000	- Boundary wall repair - Soil & Water conservation - Pit digging for 3,000 saplings
4	Bhalavaton ka Guda	6.5	Girwa	2,500	- Boundary wall repair - Soil & Water conservation - Pit digging for 2,500 saplings
5	Kasya	21	Girwa	3,000	- Boundary wall repair - Soil & Water conservation - Pit digging for 3,000 saplings
6	Private pasture-land	45	Kherwara	13,000	- Selection of 70 farmers to undertake agro-forestry and agri-horticulture plantation - Pit digging for 13,000 saplings
7	Khuntwada	45	Kherwara	9,000	- Boundary wall repair - Soil & Water conservation - Pit digging for 9,000 saplings - Conservation plan detailing geography of area
Total		143.5		40,500	

# Capacity Building Events

To enhance the capacity and knowledge of the communities and the field teams, orientation trainings and community meetings were conducted. Table 2.A details of the capacity building exercise.

Table 2.A

S.N.	Date	Place	Details of Programme	Number of participants
1	10/04/2019	Pargipada - Jhadol Block	1) Community consultation for site selection and developing a plan of action. 2) Layout of pit digging. 3) On-site demo of pit and trench digging.	25
2	12/04/2019	Bhalavaton ka Guda - Girwa block	1) Orientation of community for afforestation measures and fencing of common pastureland selected.	18
3	16/04/2019	Private pastureland - Kherwara block	1) Community consultation for site selection and developing plan of action. 2) Layout of pit digging. 3) On-site demo of pit and trench digging.	35
4	24/05/2019	Bhalavaton ka Guda - Girwa block	1) On-site orientation for pre-plantation measures and soil-water conservation initiatives. 2) Layout of pit digging. 3) On-site demo of pit and trench digging.	15
5	24/06/2019	Khuntwada - Kherwara block	1) One day on-site orientation. 2) Training by involving local community and individual farmers for plantation techniques, seeding, soil-moisture conservation measures, etc.	35
6	14-26/06/19	At all selected blocks	1) A one day on-site demo and training was conducted involving the local community at each selected sites on; plantation techniques; soil-moisture conservation measures; other associated vegetative measures (e.g. tree seeding, stump plantation, etc) to ensure maximum green cover at the site.	32



Seva Mandir staff explains to beneficiaries on the proper method of pit digging and plantation

# Flora Selection

The plantation has the natural flora of the region. the following indigenous tree species were selected: Kher (*Acacia catechu*), Amaltas (*Cassia fistula*), Ratanjot (*Jatropha curcas*), Sahejan (*Moringa oleifera*), and Neem (*Azadirachta indica*). Vegetative cuttings of selected species such as Salar (*Boswellia serrata*), Ratanjot (*Jatropha curcas*), and Thor (*Euphorbia nerifolia*), have been completed to get its immediate canopy and minimize the risk of animals grazing due to the cutting's height.



Saplings, ready for plantation, being watered by an employee of Seva Mandir

# Soil-Water Conservation

For the survival and growth of the vegetation, it is important to enhance the soil, nutrients and moisture. To increase soil-water regime at undulating and rocky sites, soil-water conservation measures have been implemented. Trenches, Thanwla (crescent bund/micro basin), and stone gully plugs have been constructed to intercept maximum runoff of rainfall during the monsoon season. This will protect against soil erosion and increase soil moisture which will enhance the plantation and initiate regeneration process in the afforestation sites.



Newly constructed gully plugs on a pasture land in Kherwara to restrict rain water run-off



Beneficiaries digging pits in preparation for plantation



Seva Mandir staff monitor pit digging

## Key Point Indicators - 2nd Quarter

S.N.	Key Project Indicators	Unit	2019		
	Output Indicators		Achieved 1st & 2nd Quarter	Planning 3rd Quarter	2019/20 Overall Target
1	Survey & site selection	Hectares	190	-	250
2	Area of sites protected	Hectares	190	-	190
3	Soil conservation work	Hectares	190	-	190
4	No. of saplings planted	Numbers	3,000	37,500	40,500
5	No. of capacity building programmes conducted	Numbers	2	1	4

## Plan for 3rd Quarter

- Completion of targeted plantation of saplings (40,000).
- Weeding and hoeing of completed plantation.
- Maintenance of completed plantation and protection boundary.
- Regular meetings with community groups for further development and management of the sites.
- Survey and identification of new sites for next year plantation.