

MakeMyTrip Foundation and Seva Mandir

*Offsetting Carbon Footprints
Through Afforestation*



4th Quarter Report
October to December 2019



make **my** trip

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Executive Summary

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

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 results 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.

Status of Plantation 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).

Total 40,855 saplings were planted at selected common and private pastureland covering an area of 218 hectares. Detailed progress update is given in below table:

S.N.	Site Name	Area (Approx in Hectares)	Block	Planted saplings	Activities Completed / Remarks, if any
1	Pargipada	40	Jhadol	5,427	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Weeding-hoeing of 5000 planted saplings. - Gap fillings of fencing as required for protection. - Soil-moisture conservation activities e.g. Thanwla (micro-basin), etc.
2	Patiya	14	Badgaon	4,122	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Weeding-hoeing of 4000 planted saplings. - Gap fillings of fencing as required for protection. - Soil-moisture conservation activities e.g. Thanwla (micro-basin), etc.
3	Jodha Talab	12	Badgaon	2,900	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Weeding-hoeing of planted saplings. - Gap fillings of fencing as required for protection. - Soil-moisture conservation activities e.g. Thanwla (micro-basin), etc.
4	Bhalavaton ka Guda	6.5	Girwa	2,500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Weeding-hoeing of 2400 planted saplings. - Gap fillings of fencing as required for protection. - Soil-moisture conservation activities e.g. Thanwla (micro-basin), etc.
5	Kasya	21	Girwa	3,300	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Weeding-hoeing of 3200 planted saplings. - Gap fillings of fencing as required for protection. - Soil-moisture conservation activities e.g. Thanwla (micro-

					basin), etc.
6	Private pastureland	80	Kherwara	13,106	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Agro- forestry and agri-horticulture species plantation completed by 84 individual farmer's land. - Weeding-hoeing of 11685 planted saplings. - Undertaken fencing works by individual farmers as required for protection. - Soil-moisture conservation activities e.g. Thanwla (micro-basin), etc. - Harvested grass fodder from some selected plantation site.
7	Khuntwada	45	Kherwara	9,500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Weeding-hoeing of 9000 planted saplings. - Gap fillings of fencing as required for protection. - Soil-moisture conservation activities e.g. Thanwla (micro-basin), etc. - Harvested 27,000 bundles (by 192 families) of grass fodder valuing Rs. 3,00,000 from protected plantation site.
	Total	218.5		40,855	

Apart from plantation, associated cost effective vegetative measures e.g. direct seeding, branch cutting/ stump plantation has also been implemented at the selected sites for regeneration and association of existing vegetation. The plantation includes species which are having medicinal and economic value like Churel (*Holoptelia integrifolia*), Amaltas (*Cassia fistula*), Kher (*Acacia catechu*), Sahejan (*Moringa oleifera*), Karanj (*Pongamia pinnata*), Latakaranj (*Caesalpinia bonduc*), Khirni (*Wrightia tinctoria*), etc. Some of the threatened (red listed) medicinal plant species like Guggal (*Commiphora wightii*), Salar (*Boswellia serrata*), etc. were also planted at the selected sites for its conservation and natural regeneration. The ecology of all the above species was kept in mind and accordingly landscape plan was also made while plantation at the site.

Capacity Building Events:

To enhance the capacity and knowledge of the communities and the field teams, orientation trainings and community meetings were regularly conducted. Details of the capacity building programme are given in the below table:

S.N.	Date	Place	Details of Programme	Number of participants
1	09/10/2019	Khuntwada - Kherwara block	On-site orientation and demo on weeding-hoeing and soil-moisture conservation initiatives e.g. Thanwla, etc. involving field team.	10
2	18/11/2019	Kojawada - Kherwara block	Orientation and planning with block team for post plantation activities e.g. aftercare, manuring, weeding - hoeing, survival, etc. for completing plantation at commons and individual pastureland.	15

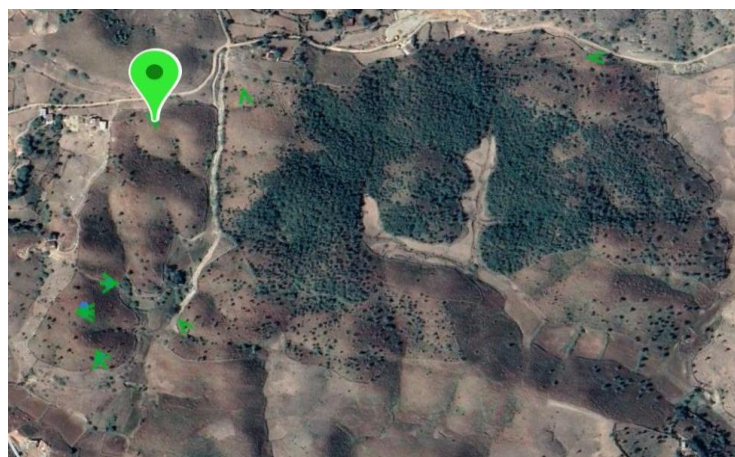
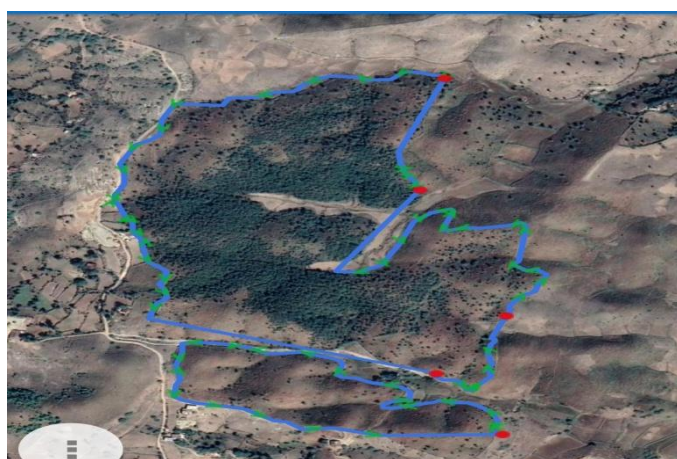
Protection and Soil-Moisture Conservation Initiatives:

The completed plantation sites are protected with physical (loose stone) and bio-fencing but it also requires timely maintenance and repairing for protection. Fencing was strengthened by stones and with thorny bushes, thor, jatropa, etc.

For the survival and growth of the vegetation, it is important to enhance the soil, nutrients and moisture. Soil- moisture conservation initiatives were undertaken like Thanwla (micro-basin), etc. around planted saplings at the plantation site to increase soil-moisture. This will also enhance the regeneration process of existing vegetation at the afforestation sites.

Post plantation monitoring and Assessment:

Regular field monitoring is being conducted of each plantation site for assessment of protection, survival, and further planning for regeneration of existing vegetation. The GPS map was also made of some selected common and private pastureland sites for monitoring of biomass cover i.e. mainly grass cover due to protection and regeneration of the site.



GPS map of Khuntwada common pastureland – Kherwara block

New site selection:

The village meetings with Gram samuh has been conducted for selection of new sites for plantation during 2020. Survey of some selected sites has been conducted for physical interventions to be implemented during the period. Details of sites are given in the below table:

S. No.	Name of Block	Name of sites	Area (in ha.)	Proposed plan (Tentative)	Remarks / Status
1	Kherwara	Lambapanwa	10	3000	Final site selected and conducted survey for physical work.
2	Jhadol	Shera	30	4000	Village meeting (Gram samuh) yet to be conducted for final selection and survey of the site.
		Gorana	20	4000	
3	Badgaon	Bhewadiya	29	2000	Final site selected and conducted survey for physical work.
		Kachba	33	5000	Village meeting (Gram samuh) conducted; final consent and selection is awaited at community level.
4	Girwa	Borikuwa	25	3000	
	Total		147	21000	

Key Point Indicators - 4th Quarter

S.N.	Key Project Indicators	Unit	2019		
	Output Indicators		Achieved 1st~ 4th Quarter	Planning 1 st Quarter 2020	2019 Overall Target
1	Survey & site selection	Hectares	257	-	250
2	Area of sites protected	Hectares	218	-	190
3	Soil conservation work	Hectares	190	-	190
4	No. of saplings planted	Numbers	40,855	-	40,000
5	No. of capacity building programmes conducted	Numbers	7	1	4
6	Number of beneficiary to be benefited	Numbers	1200	-	1200

Plan for Jan-Mar 2020

- ❖ Survey and selection of new sites for plantation for the year 2020.
- ❖ Physical activities like pit digging, etc. at newly selected sites for the year 2020.
- ❖ After care of completed plantation sites and its protection, fencing, gap filling, re-plantation etc.
- ❖ Regular meetings and interaction with community groups (Gram samuh) for further development and management of the completed plantation sites.
- ❖ Capacity building programme for physical activities of pit digging, boundary wall construction, soil-water conservation, etc.