

Make My Trip Foundation and Seva Mandir



make **my** trip

Offsetting Carbon Footprints Through Afforestation

1st Quarter Report January to March 2020



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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 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.



Progress so far

1. Survey and Site selection:

The plantation sites have been selected with consultation of local community of particular village involving block / zone team of Seva Mandir. The local Gram Panchayat was also consulted for their active involvement in planning and implementation of plantation. Apart from this, the Gram Panchayat also provided Non-objection certificate (NOC) to the Gram Vikas Samooh for protection and regeneration commons pastureland. Criteria were followed while selection of plantation site is e.g. partial live / stone fencing of the site, social fencing as community willingness for protection and regeneration, Gram Vikas Samooh exists or its establishment, etc. A details technical survey was conducted of the sites for planning of physical activities like layout of pit digging and soil-water conservation measures, estimation of protection wall and pit digging targets, GPS survey, etc. Frequent meetings with community and Gram Vikas Samooh is also conducted to discussion regarding to engage local people to completing task decided for plantation activities. Total Seven sites were selected during the 1st Quarter of the project.

Details of sites selected is as below table:
Table 1.A

S.No.	Site Name	Area (Approx in Ha)	Block	Expected Plantation	Remarks
1	Lambapanwa	10.5	Kherwara	6,000	- Boundary wall repair and construction is under progress, 70% completed – 1673 fit completed. - Soil & Water conservation is under progress – 49 check dam construction completed. - 1700 Pit digging completed.
2	Borikuwa	12	Girwa	3,000	- Boundary wall repair and construction is under progress - 500 rmt. completed. - Soil & Water conservation activities are under progress. - Pit digging is started.
3	Kachba	14	Badgaon	3,500	- Boundary wall repair and construction is under progress 1000 rmt. completed. - Soil & Water conservation activities are under progress. - Pit digging is started.
4	Bhewadiya	29	Badgaon	3,000	- Boundary wall repair and construction is completed - 2867 rmt.completed.
	Total	65.5		15,500	

Apart from above sites, three sites have been selected for plantation where primary activities have been completed, details are as below:

S.No.	Site Name	Area (Approx in Ha)	Block	Expected Plantation	Remarks
5	Gorana	21	Jhadol	8000	<p>-- Consultation meetings held with community and local gram panchayat for their consent and willingness to protection of common pastureland and plantation.</p> <p>- Gram Vikas Samooh formation (if new) and its further strengthening through regular meetings and other capacity building events for plantation protection and management of common pastureland sites.</p>
6	Shera	30	Jhadol	7000	<p>- Non-objection certificate (NOC) issued by Gram Panchayat to Gram Vikas Samooh for development and management of common pastureland.</p>
7	Aamaliyar	36	Kumbhalgarh	7000	<p>- Technical survey completed for planning of plantation activities and its estimation for both physical and financial aspects.</p>
	Total	87		22000	



2. Capacity Building Events: To enhance the capacity and orientation of the community and the field teams, different programmes of trainings, meetings, etc. were conducted at the field level, the details are as below Table:

Table 2.A

S. No.	Date	Place	Details of Programme	Number of participants
1	22/10/19	Kachba – Badgaon block	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orientation of community for Gram Vikas Samooh formation and its rule regulation. • Formation of Gram Vikas Samooh Kachba. • Plantation protection and management common pastureland by community themselves. • Site visit and demarcation by community of the area for plantation. 	35
2	15/01/2020	Lambapanwa - Kherwara Block	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community consultation for site selection and developing a plan of action of the activities decided. • Layout of pit digging. • On-site demo of pit digging align with soil – water conservation measures. 	32
3	22/02/2020	Lambapanwa - Kherwara Block	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On-site orientation of local community and field team for physical activities going on at the site. • Assessment of quality of works going on and task assigned to its accomplishment. 	23
4	01/03/2020	Bhewadiya – Badgaon block	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On-site orientation of local community and field team for physical activities going on at the site. • Layout of pit digging aligns with soil-water conservation measures planned. • On-site demo of pit digging with trench, box trench, etc. 	13

3. Monitoring visits:

A monitoring visit from MakeMyTrip team was held during the quarter. The plantation site of common pastureland Khuntwada and individual farmer's land in Kojawada village visited by team. An interaction meeting was held with community including both Gram Vikas Samooh and individual farmers. Major focus of visit team was environmental and economical benefits from the plantation. A de-briefing session was held involving Seva Mandir Chief Executive and other senior officials took part, in which the major discussion was held on calculation of Offsetting Carbon Footprints through plantation activities, in which the methodology scientifically adopted by Seva Mandir discussed in brief and had been shared with MMT team for further modification/updation scientifically, if requires.



4. Key Point Indicators – 1st Quarter

S.	Key Project Indicators	Unit	2020		
	Output Indicators		Planning Q 1	Achieved Q 1	Overall Target
1	Survey & site selection	Hectares	130	152	190
2	Area of sites protected	Hectares	0	65	190
3	Soil conservation work	Hectares	0	0	190
4	No. of saplings planted	Numbers	0	0	40,000
5	No. of capacity building programmes conducted	Numbers	1	4	4

5. Plan for 2nd Quarter

- Completion of protection of the selected plantation sites like repair or construction of new wall, repairing, live fencing, etc.
- Completion of physical activities like pit digging, soil-water conservation measures, etc.
- Field trainings and regular meetings with local community, field team on plantation activities and management of the sites.
- Liason with forest department nurseries to process make available species – wise saplings required at each selected site.
- Location specific plantation plan following landscape of the site.
- Implementation of associated vegetative measures at selected sites.
- Survival assessment of plantation completed during previous year.