

Offsetting Carbon Footprints in Southern Rajasthan

Quarter 4 Report

October - December 2021



Executive Summary

MakeMyTrip Foundation is supporting Seva Mandir to undertake afforestation activities and offset carbon footprints. During this year, plantation of 42,710 saplings was targeted against which 51,040 saplings were planted in 190 Ha in the rural and tribal areas of Udaipur and Rajsamand districts of southern Rajasthan.

Key highlights of the quarter:-

- Harvested 28,167 bundles of grass fodder by village community.
- 2 capacity building events were organized.
- A tree gifting app is being designed and a pilot will be implemented with limited number of saplings.
- Loose-stone protection wall construction of newly selected sites is under progress.
- Weeding-Hoeing activity has been completed during the period for better growth of the planted saplings.

Progress so far

Status of Plantation Sites:

There are ten common pastureland sites for the plantation that have been selected for the target plantation of 42,710 [40,000 (new plantation) + 2,710 (of previous year)] saplings at village commons and 31 individual farmer's land. The respective Gram Panchayat and Gram Vikas Samooh have been involved in planning and implementation of plantation activities.

The loose-stone protection wall is constructed/repared as gap filling along with putting over thorny bushes for strengthening the protection of all the selected sites. Total 190 ha area of common pastureland has been protected for plantation activities. Apart from these common pasturelands, there are individual pastureland/farmland of 31 farmers that have been selected for the plantation under the project. The native species of multi-purpose uses has been selected for plantation for which a proper landscape plan was made and followed at each selected site for ecological plantation. Thus, a total of 51,040 saplings have been planted against target of 42,710. The re-plantation of 8,000 saplings at common pastureland was also undertaken. Besides these, there are some associated vegetative measures were also undertaken like direct seeding, planting branch/stump cuttings, etc. to increase vegetative cover at the sites.

During the period new sites were also selected for next year plantation. The site protection work and soil-water conservation measures are under progress.

Target 2021	Target Achieved 2021	Target 2022
42,710 saplings	51,040 saplings	31,670 saplings*

* Plantation of extra 8,330 saplings is already done in 2021 so the target for 2022 is to plant 31,670 saplings.

The site-wise plantation details are given in the below table:

Table 1: Plantation completed at the sites

S. No.	Name of Block	Name of sites	Area (in ha)	Plantation completed	Activities completed / Remarks, if any
1	Vallabhnagar	Bhopa Sagar	22	8,500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convergence with MGNREGA scheme of government for protection work at the sites. • Plantation and weeding-hoeing has been completed. • Grass fodder harvesting by local community is under progress.
2	Girwa	Jagat	48	8,000	
3	Jhadol	Melaniya Khurd	5	2,050	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plantation and weeding-hoeing has been completed. • Grass fodder has been harvested.
4		Gorana	21	8,100	
5	Kumbhalgrah	Hamerpal	32	2,500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plantation and weeding-hoeing has been completed. • Associated vegetative measures like direct seeding done at the site.
6		Pipla	30	2,500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convergence with MGNREGA scheme for protection and soil-water conservation work at the sites. • Plantation and weeding-hoeing has been completed. • Associated vegetative measures like direct seeding done at the site.
7	Kherwara	Khuntwada I	12	5,040	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plantation and weeding-hoeing has been completed. • Associated vegetative measures like direct seeding done at the site. • Grass fodder harvesting by local community is under progress.
8		Khuntwada II	7	3,040	
9		Nichli Katev I	6	2,060	
10		Nichli Katev II	7	3,060	
11	Rishabhdev	Individual farmer		6,190	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plantation is completed at selected 31 individual farmer's sites in two villages.
	Total			51,040	



Regeneration of protected plantation site of common pasture



Regeneration of protected plantation site of common pasture



New plantation site selection under progress



New plantation site selection under progress

Weeding-Hoeing and Soil-Moisture Conservation Initiatives:

The post plantation management interventions like weeding-hoeing, etc. have been implemented at plantation sites. On-site orientation of the village community has been conducted for the quality activity implementation for better vegetative growth of planted saplings. This is an important activity to retain soil-moisture regime and to remove weeds or unwanted plants, grasses, herbs, etc. in-around the pits of planted saplings which supports to maintain survival rate of the plantation and to increase regeneration of existing vegetation around. The associated soil-moisture conservation initiatives like *Thanwla (Micro basin)*, etc. were also done at the plantation site for better growth of planted saplings.



Weeding-Hoeing initiatives



Thanwla making as a soil-moisture conservation initiative.

Protection of the Sites:

The plantation sites are protected by mainly loose-stone protection wall which covers around 190 hectare area of common pastureland. Such wall needs time-to-time repairing and maintenance which has been completed during the period. We put over thorny bushes on the wall at some sites for strengthening protection of plantation sites. Local community contributed by doing *Shramdaan* for repairing of protection wall at some plantation sites. The Gram Vikas Samooh regularly monitors the protection of plantation sites and applies appropriate social fencing system. Apart from this, loose-stone protection wall construction is under progress (2800 feet) of newly selected sites.



Maintained loose-stone protection wall



Maintained loose-stone protection wall

Survival Assessment:

After a period of the plantation activities, a survival count was conducted at selected sites to assess the mortality factors and to count live planted saplings. The village community was involved while survival assessment at the common pastureland of plantation sites. The survival status of the sites is as below:

Name of sites	Plantation Achieved	Survival count (In Nos.)	Survival (% age)	Remarks, if any
Bhopa Sagar	8,500	7,785	92%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grass fodder harvested of 16,000 Bundles by village community. Rs. 3,200 token fees collected from village community by Gram Vikas Samooh.
Jagat	8,000	7,830	98%	
Melaniya Khurd	2,050	1,826	89%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grass fodder harvested of 1,200 Bundles by village community.
Gorana	8,100	7,704	95%	
Hamerpal	2,500	2,075	83%	
Pipla	2,500	2,050	82%	
Khuntwada I	5,040	4,895	97%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grass fodder harvested of 10,967 Bundles by village community. Rs. 7,250 token fees collected from village community by Gram Vikas Samooh.
Khuntwada II	3,040	2,784	92%	
Nichli Katev I	2,060	1,890	92%	
Nichli Katev II	3,060	2,728	89%	
Individual farmer	6,190			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Survival count is awaited which will be completed after grass fodder harvesting under progress.
	51,040			

Harvesting of Grass fodder:

After the protection of the plantation sites of pastureland, the regeneration of existing vegetation has increased. Mainly the grasses and herbs regenerated which are important as fodder for domestic animals reared by local community. The Gram Vikas Samooh decided to harvest Grass fodder during the scheduled period, equally benefitting all households who are depended for the fodder. There are about 28,167 grass bundles (each bundle 1-2 kg weight) have been harvested from pastureland. The estimated value of the harvested grass fodder is Rs. 2,80,000 - 3,40,000 (varies cost of @ Rs.10-15 each bundle).



Harvesting of Grass Fodder



Harvesting of Grass Fodder

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, following all the social distancing norms. The details of capacity building sessions are as below.

S. No.	Date	Place	Details of Programme	No. of participants
1.	01/11/2021	Shishvi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning for loose-stone protection wall and soil-water conservation initiatives at newly selected site. Shramdaan by village community. 	15
2.	29/09/2021	Khuntwada	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Post-plantation monitoring plan by village community. Protection management and produce harvest (Grass, etc.) 	13



Community meeting



Community monitoring

Tree gifting app:

The Tree gifting app is being designed with consultation of Seva Mandir and with support of MakeMyTrip Foundation for Indian Citizens who wish to gift a tree on their life events e.g. Anniversary, Birthday, etc. A prototype is being developed by technical team of MMT foundation for funding plantation in exiting operational area of Seva Mandir. A pilot will be implemented with limited number of saplings to be planted additionally through 'Tree Gifting' idea through said application. This will be a different approach than Grant-based support. Two-round of meetings were held between MMT foundation and Seva Mandir for consultation to design a prototype.

Key Point Indicators – 4th Quarter:

S.N.	Key Project Indicators	Unit	2021		
			Achieved 1st-4th Quarter	Planning 1 th Quarter 2022	2022 Overall Target
1	Survey & site selection	Hectares	190	130	190
2	Area of sites protected	Hectares	190	-	190
3	Soil-water conservation work	Hectares	190	-	190
4	No. of saplings planted	Numbers	51,040	-	40,000
5	No. of capacity building programmes conducted	Numbers	17	1	4

Plan for Jan-Mar 2022:

- Technical Survey and identification of new sites for next year plantation.
- Physical work at selected sites.
- Field trainings and regular meetings with local community, village groups, PRIs and field team on protection and management of the common pastureland /plantation sites.