

Offsetting Carbon Footprints in Southern Rajasthan

Quarter 1 Report

January - March 2022



Executive Summary

MakeMyTrip Foundation is supporting Seva Mandir to undertake afforestation activities and offset carbon footprints. During this year, 1,00,000 saplings [40,000 (of which 8,330 saplings are already planted in the previous year) + 60,000] are targeted to be planted in the rural and tribal areas in Udaipur and Rajsamand districts of southern Rajasthan.

Progress so far

1. Survey and Site Selection:

A field survey was undertaken to identify sites of common pastureland in the operational area of Seva Mandir. Field team consulted local village institutions and PRIs i.e., Gram Panchayat for selection of the sites. The respective Gram Panchayat provided non-objection certificate (NOC) to the village institution i.e. Gram Vikas Samooh, for protection and regeneration of commons pastureland through afforestation measures. A technical survey was conducted of the sites for estimation of physical activities like pit digging, soil-water conservation measures, protection wall, GPS survey, etc. Village meetings were conducted involving community and Gram Vikas Samooh to engage local people as wage laborer for completing physical works estimated for the selected sites. Total nine sites were selected during the 1st Quarter of the project. Details of sites selected are as below:

Table 1:

S. No.	Name of the Sites	Area (Approx in Ha)	Block	Estimated Plantation	Remarks
1	Khuntwada	9	Kherwara	3,500	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Gram Vikas Samooh oriented for implementation of proposed activities.- Loose-stone protection wall construction is under progress.- Soil-Water conservation and pit digging are under progress
2	Garaza	13		3,600	
3	Razol (Khetlawala)	28		7,000	
4	Jhunthari (bunjhda)	12		4,000	
5	Jhunthari (Kapuria)	12		4,000	

6	Indokra	05	Kumbhalgarh	1,250	- Gram Vikas Samooh oriented for implementation of proposed activities.
7	Beed Ki Bhagal	12		1,000	- Loose-stone protection wall construction is under progress.
8	Laletha	10.5		1,500	- Soil-Water conservation and pit digging are under progress
9	Shishvi	7	Girwa	2,500	- Loose-stone protection wall construction is completed. - Soil-Water conservation and Pit digging activities are under progress.
Total		108.5		28,350	

2. Capacity Building Events:

To enhance the capacity of the community and the field teams, different programmes of orientation, trainings, meetings, etc. were conducted at the field level, the details of which are:

Table 2:

S. No.	Date	Place	Details of Programme	Number of participants
1	24/02/22	Shishvi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protection and management of common pastureland by <i>Gram Vikas Samooh</i>. Orientation and data collection for community conserved area web portal. 	19
2	23/03/22	Khuntwada	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Orientation of village community for protection management of common pastureland. Implementation plan by Gram Vikas Samooh. Site demarcation and layout of physical activities estimated e.g. pits digging, soil-water conservation, etc. 	36



Community meeting and orientation



Community meeting and orientation



Ongoing physical activities – Loose stone protection wall



Landscape of plantation site

3. Review Meeting:

The annual review meeting was held with the MakeMyTrip team during the quarter. A detailed presentation was made of the annual progress of the project. The major discussion was held on the following points during the meeting.

- Overall brief progress update for the period of 3 years.
- Average survival assessment during the 3 years.
- Gender sensitivity – engaged women mostly in physical works at the plantation sites.
- Capacity building initiatives.
- Total Mandays (Male + Female) generated during the period.
- Encroachment and community conflict resolution of community pastureland.
- Convergence with Govt. programme like MGNREGA, etc.
- Availability of fodder and fuel wood, more and closer to habitation - reduced drudgery.
- GIFT-a-Tree programme strategy.
- Biodiversity and Ecosystem services of common pastureland regenerated.
- Challenges and learning during COVID-19 pandemic and employment provided during the period.
- Request for proposal; for carbon sequestration study from technical agencies.
- Project sustainability.

4. Impact study- CO2 sequestration and Biodiversity assessment:

A study is planned to assess the impact of afforestation measures in southern Rajasthan in the past 10 years. The study will cover CO2 sequestration measurement, assessment of bio-diversity and understanding socio-economic aspects of afforestation measures. Request for Proposal (RFP) has been shared with the selected technical agencies and it is under progress.

5. GIFT-a-Tree project:

The Gift-A-Tree project is based on a Tree Gifting app supported by MakeMyTrip Foundation and implemented by Seva Mandir. The Tree gifting app has been developed for Indian Citizens who wish to gift a tree on their life events e.g., Anniversary, Birthday, etc. A separate pilot programme is developed for funding plantation in existing operational area of Seva Mandir. This will be a different approach than Grant-based support. The number of saplings will be 500. The plantation will take place in selected two villages of the Udaipur district. In each village, 10-15 farmers will plant saplings on their land. The number of saplings per farmer will be approx. 40, depending on the land availability. The native species (15-20) of the plants will be a combination of Agro-Horti and Agro-Forestry trees, based on farmer's land type and their needs.



Meeting with beneficiaries (GIFT-a-Tree)



Landscape of a village for plantation (GIFT-a-Tree)

6. Key Point Indicators – 1st Quarter:

S.N.	Key Project Indicators	Unit	2022		
			Planning 1 st Quarter	Achieved 1 st Quarter	2022 Overall Target
1	Survey & site selection	Hectares	130	108	190*
2	Area of sites protected	Hectares	0	0	190*
3	Soil-water conservation work	Hectares	0	0	190*
4	No. of saplings planted	Numbers	0	0	1,00,000**
5	No. of capacity building programmes conducted	Numbers	1	2	4

* Will be revised as per the additional 60,000 plantation. It will be shared in Q2 report.

** 40,000 + additional 60,000 plants.

7. Plan for 2nd Quarter:

- Completion of protection of the selected plantation sites i.e. repairing and construction of loose-stone protection wall, live fencing, etc.
- Completion of physical activities like pit digging, soil-water conservation measures, etc.
- Field training and regular meetings with local community, village institutions, PRIs and field team on implementation of project activities and protection management of plantation sites of the common pastureland.
- Liaison with forest department nurseries to make available species-wise saplings, required at each selected site.
- Site specific ecological plantation plan following species selection and landscape of the area.
- Planning and implementation of associated vegetative measures at selected sites.
- Engagement of technical institutes for carbon sequestration study initiation.
- Survival assessment of plantation completed during previous year.