

# Offsetting Carbon Footprints in Southern Rajasthan

Quarter 1 Report

January to March 2023



## **Executive Summary**

During the reporting period, physical interventions were started at the newly selected sites as advance actions for targeting 1,00,000 pit digging and for planting saplings.

The key highlights of this quarter are as follows:

- 13 common pasturelands covering an area of 314 Ha has been selected for doing the targeted plantation.
- Local employment was created through the plantation work, it is mostly benefitting women. 2,591 Mandays (511 days for males & 2,080 for females) was generated through this initiative.
- 75,060 bundles of grass fodder were harvested from 12 pasturelands, benefiting 1,066 households from respective villages.

## **Progress**

### **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 laborers for completing physical work estimated for the selected sites.

A total of 13 common pasturelands have been selected covering an area of 314 hectares during the reporting period of the project. Details of sites selected are as below:

**Table 1:**

<b>District</b>	<b>Block</b>	<b>No. of Sites</b>	<b>Area (in Ha)</b>	<b>Benefitting Households</b>	<b>Target Pit digging</b>
Udaipur	Kherwara / Nayagaon / Rishabhdeo	4	77	626	25,345
	Badgaon / Delwara / Gogunda	1	41	300	7,000
	Jhadol / Phalasia	2	47	505	23,000

Rajsamand	Kotra	1	19	115	7,000
	Sarada	1	25	80	5,000
	Kankroli	1	43	250	10,000
	Kumbhalgarh	3	62	570	20,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>13</b>	<b>314</b>	<b>2446</b>	<b>97,345</b>



**Survey of the site**



**Meetings with village community**

## **2. Physical Interventions:**

After the selection and survey of sites, the physical interventions of loose-stone protection wall and pit digging have been initiated during the period. The area demarcation of each selected site was completed for estimation of protection of the site. The work on demarcated area of sites has been started for protection work of loose-stone wall along with bio-fencing of thor, jatropa, etc. which are available around. Pit digging works at selected sites have been initiated which is under progress to achieve target of 1,00,000 pits for plantation.

The soil-water conservation measures like loose-stone check dam, continuous contour trenches, box trenches, etc. are going to check run-off rainwater and to protect soil erosion that further creates soil-moisture for regeneration of existing vegetation and better growth of plantation during the monsoon period.



**On-going loose-stone protection wall**



**On-going *thor* bio-fencing work at the site**

### **3. Evaluation Meet:**

An evaluation meet was conducted by evaluator GiveIndia involving MakeMyTrip Foundation and Seva Mandir team. A detailed discussion was held regarding strategy adopted and major impacts over village community cohesion and ecological restoration of commons pastureland since project inception i.e. 2009. Points like habitat conservation of local flora and fauna (wild-life, etc.) and associated community knowledge promotion were also discussed.

### **4. Capacity Building Events:**

13 meeting cum orientation trainings were conducted for the field teams and community members in this reporting period. These capacity building events focused on conservation, management, and equal benefit sharing of pastureland sites. 679 people– 388 women and 291 men benefitted from these trainings. Details are given in the below table:

**Table 2:**

District	Block	No. of capacity building held	Participants			Remarks
			Male	Female	Total	
Udaipur	Kherwara / Nayagaon / Rishabhdeo	5	87	163	250	On-site demo cum orientation of loose-stone protection wall, soil-water conservation. Lay-out and pit digging  Community meetings cum orientation for planning and implementation of physical works at newly selected sites; protection management of complete plantation site.
	Badgaon / Delwara / Gogunda	1	53	38	91	
	Jhadol / Phalasia	2	60	40	100	
	Kotra	1	23	58	81	
	Sarada		13	13	26	
	Kankroli	1	18	23	41	
Rajsamand	Kumbhalgarh	3	37	53	90	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>291</b>	<b>388</b>	<b>679</b>	



**On-site demo cum orientation of physical work**

## **5. Employment Generation:**

A total of 2,591 Mandays (Female- 2,080 & Male- 511) were generated through the described physical interventions at three on-going sites during the reporting period.

## **6. Impact Study: Carbon Sequestration through Plantation**

A study has been initiated to measure carbon sequestration through plantation of 1 million trees done, during the last 10 years, with support from MakeMyTrip Foundation. The study is being implemented by a technical agency named Fair Climate Network (FCN). The detailed dataset related to plantation completed during the last 10 years has been provided to the FCN for further assessment of the study. The study will estimate the impact of plantation as carbon sequestration and establish a methodology to measure carbon sequestration for future plantation.

## **7. Field Monitoring of Completed Sites:**

Plantation work was undertaken and completed on 22 common pasturelands covering an area of 355 hectares where a total of 94,120 saplings were planted during the previous monsoon period of year 2022. A regular monitoring at field is being followed involving field team, village community and Gram Vikas Samooh for protection management and growth of planted saplings at these commons' pastureland of plantation sites. Village community is benefitted by sustainable harvesting of produce like grass fodder, fuel-wood, etc. at these sites. A total of 75,060 grass bundles have been harvested benefiting 1,066 households from such protected 12 pastureland sites. Details are given in the below table:

**Table 3:**

Block	No. of Sites where grass fodder harvested	Household benefitted	Fodder Harvested (bundles)	Remarks
Kherwara/ Rishabhdev	3	485	43,300	- Each grass bundle weight varies between 1.5-2.0 kg. - Value of this harvested grass fodder is Rs. 8.00-9.00 lakhs. - A token fee of Rs. 20-30 is collected from benefitting households.
Bargaon/ Gogunda	2	163	6,900	
Jhadol	1	39	3,000	
Kumbhalgarh	6	379	21,860	
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>1,066</b>	<b>75,060</b>	



*Kesar Chidkaav is a socio-cultural tradition in the tribal community of the area. It is a conservation ritual for the protected commons sites like pasture, community forest, etc. The entire village community gathers and organizes a journey to a temple named lord Keshariya ji Temple. They worship there and take part of 'Kesar' (saffron paste) offered to lord which is mixed with fresh/ clean water and sprinkled in the area protected and conserved such commons. This declares as sacred site to restrict harvest of newly grown green twigs/ branches, planted saplings, destructive lopping, and open grazing by livestock.*

*This ritual was held at one commons pastureland covering an area of 111 hectares by village community in Kherwara block where plantation was completed during the year 2022 in the monsoon season.*

## 8. Gift-a-Tree Project Update:

Gift-A-Tree project is based on a tree gifting app supported by MakeMyTrip Foundation. The Tree gifting app has been developed for Indian Citizens who wish to gift a tree on their special life events e.g., anniversary, birthdays, etc. A separate pilot program is being implemented in existing operational area of the project.

The plantation in two villages i.e., Pareda and Shishvi of Udaipur district has been completed. Agro-forestry and agro-horti species of 500 saplings in two villages has been planted with 10 farmers on their pastures and farmland during the previous monsoon season of the year 2022. The monitoring and protection management of these planted saplings is being followed with benefitting households.

14 species were planted. These include Amla- *Phyllanthus emblica*, Ber- *Zizyphus mauritiana*, Baans- *Dendrocalamus strictus*, Sitafal- *Annona squamosa*, Aduwa- *Ailanthes excelsa*, Sahejan- *Moringa oleifera*, Aam- *Mangifera indica*, Mahuwa- *Madhuca indica*, Nimbu- *Citrus limon*, Karanj- *Pongamia pinnata*, Shisham- *Dalbergia sisso*, Jamum- *Syzigium cumumi*, Amarood- *Psidium guavava* and Neem- *Azadirachta indica*.

The list of farmers is given below:

<b>Farmers from Pareda village</b>	<b>Farmers from Shishvi village</b>
Ms. Champa Devi w/o Shailesh	Mr. Logras s/o Pema
Ms. Babali Devi w/o Ishwar Lal	Mr. Kanhya Lal s/o Mana
Ms. Shaku Kunwar w/o Jawan Singh	Mr. Lal Singh s/o Vinay Singh
Mr. Anil s/o BabuLal	Mr. Sharad s/o Kana
Mr. Jitendra Singh s/o Kalyan Singh	Mr. Lalu s/o Keshu



## **Plan for April to June 2023**

In the current year, target is planting 1,00,000 saplings at commons pastureland. Following work will be done in the next quarter:

- Physical work- pit digging, fencing, soil-water conservation, etc. at newly selected sites of pastureland.
- Field training and meetings with local community members, PRIs, and field team, on protection and management of the common pastureland of plantation sites.
- Regular monitoring of completed and on-going plantation sites.
- Impact study of CO2 sequestration by technical agency FCN.

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