

Offsetting Carbon Footprints through Community Based Plantation in South Rajasthan

Quarter Report : January-March'2024



**MAKEMYTRIP
FOUNDATION**



Seva Mandir

Executive Summary

This project objective to improve the ecology and create potential to offset carbon through community pasturelands (grassland) and its protection through community-based approach. The project will create vegetative cover of 4,00,000 native trees in rural and tribal pockets of Udaipur, Salumber and Rajsamand districts of southern Rajasthan. The project will create a potential of 4,403 tons per year of carbon sequestration, after minimum 5 ~ 6 years of the project.

During the reporting period, field survey for site selection has been started. The advance actions through physical works have been started for site protection, pit digging and soil-water conservation for targeted plantation.

The key highlights of this quarter are as follows:

- 12 common pasturelands covering an area of 424 Ha has been selected for the targeted plantation.
- 21 capacity building events held, outreach of 668 people.
- 2,040 person-days has been generated by engaging local community and provided them wage employment against physical works completed.

Progress so far:

1. Technical 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 e.g. Gram Samooh 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 and GPS survey. 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.

There is a cluster of 7 blocks of Udaipur, Salumber and Rajsamand districts where 12 common pastureland sites has been selected covering an area of 423 hectares for target plantation. Details of sites selected are as below **Table 1:**

Table 1:

Districts	Name of Block	No. of Sites	Area (in Ha)	Outreach (HHs)	Target (pit digging)	Remarks
Udaipur	Kherwara	1	68	320	30,400	- Common pastureland selected covering an area of 424 hectares. - Outreach of 2,796 households. - Loose-stone fencing and pit digging work has been started which is under progress.
	Rishabhdeo	1	34	80	17,000	
	Girwa	2	78	645	32,000	
	Bhinder	1	10	120	5,000	
Salumber	Sarada	2	51	362	17,850	
Rajsamand	Kumbhalgarh	4	167	1014	61,000	
	Rajsamand (Kankroli)	1	16	255	6,400	
Total		12	424	2,796	1,69,650	

2. Physical Interventions:

After the selection and survey of sites, the physical interventions of loose-stone protection wall and pit digging works have been planned with community consultation and initiated during the period. The area demarcation of each selected site was completed for physical protection of the site. The work on demarked area of sites has been started for loose-stone protection wall along with bio-fencing (of *thor*, *jatropha*, etc.). Pit digging works at selected sites have been initiated which is under progress to achieve target of 2,00,000 pits to be ready during next quarter.

The soil-water conservation measures like loose-stone check dam, contour trenches, box trenches, etc. has been planned and its implementation is under progress. These structures will check run-off rainwater and to protect soil erosion that further creates soil-moisture for regeneration of existing vegetation and better growth of saplings to be planted.

A total of 2,040 person-days (women -1,184 & Men - 856) were generated through the described physical interventions on-going at sites during the reporting period.

3. Capacity Building Events:

21 community meetings cum orientation trainings were conducted for the field teams and community members during the reporting period. There are total reached to 668 people (351 women and 317 men).

Details are given below in **Table 2**:

These capacity building events covered following discussion and inputs:

- Village institutions i.e. Gram Vikas Samooh orientation over plantation model at commons pastureland.
- Site area demarcation involving local community and Gram panchayat members.
- Technical planning and estimation of physical works.
- Engage resident community as wage labourer.
- On-site technical training of physical works – site specific protection/fencing measures, lay-out & pit digging along with soil-water conservation measures.

Table 2:

Districts	Name of Block	No. capacity building event held	Outreach (No. of people)			Remarks
			Men	Women	Total	
Udaipur	Kherwara	2	55	45	100	- On-site technical training held for physical interventions.
	Rishabhdeo	2	35	45	80	
	Girwa	4	53	56	109	
Salumber	Sarada	4	41	25	66	- Community meeting cum orientation of restoration of village pastures through protection and vegetative measures.
Rajsamand	Kumbhalgarh	7	85	115	200	
	Rajsamand (Kankroli)	2	48	65	113	
	Total	21	317	351	668	

4. Field Monitoring:

Regular field visits are being conducted by project team for monitoring of on-going physical interventions. There are on-site technical guidance is being given by engineers to site supervisor (MATE) involving engaged community members. The regular dialogues are being held with community through village meetings for planning and effective implementation of project activities at field level.

5. Achievement Quarter 1 & Plan for Quarter 2:

There are target of planting 2,00,000 saplings at commons pastureland. The achievement quarter-1 and plan quarter-2 is given below in Table 3:

Table 3:

S.No.	Key Activities / Particulars	Unit	Overall Target	Achievement Quarter 1 2024	Plan Quarter 2 2024	Remarks
1	Exploration of the sites	Hectares	1,000	424	76	Locate and Identifying the common pastureland / plantation site in SM's operational area and its legal status
2	Survey and Site selection	Hectares		424		Technical assessment and estimation of protection measures e.g. stone fencing/wire fencing/bio fencing (live fencing), pit digging along with soil-water conservation, measures - selected 12 sites till reporting period.
3	Demarcation and mapping of the site	Hectares		0	500	GIS mapping and area demarcation of sites involving village institutions and community.
4	Protection Measures	Hectares		0	500	Physical fencing by loose-stone protection wall, wire fencing, bio-fencing, etc.
5	Lay-out & Pits digging along with soil- water conservation measures	Nos.	4,00,000	0	2,00,000	Lay-out and Pit-digging of sized 1.5X1.5X1.5 ft.
6	Pits verification	Nos.		0		Verifying pits for its technical specifications and to asses nos. of pits are ready for plantation.
7	Saplings Need Assessment	Nos.		0		Site specific species-wise need assessment of exact nos. of saplings for plantation.
8	Explore the Nurseries	Nos.		0		Survey of species-wise saplings available at nurseries of forest department and other private growers to generate advance demand of saplings.
9	Procurement of the saplings	Nos.		0		Procurement and transport of saplings at the sites in advance (wherever possible).
10	Preparation of landscape plan	Hectares	1,000	0	500	Site specific species-wise landscape plan for ecological plantation.
12	Capacity building and community mobilization	Regular basis				Field level orientation meetings cum on-site trainings with field team and community to execute the physical interventions and vegetative measures with its technical know-how.21 such events has been conducted during the period.
13	Documentation & Communication					Photography, video shoot, drone-shoot, social media communication at Quarter report on regular basis
13	Field monitoring					Regular field visits by project team for monitoring of on-going completed works
