

# Offsetting Carbon Footprints through Community Based Plantation in South Rajasthan

Quarter Progress Report : July ~ September'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, site protection, vegetative measures and soil-moisture conservation activities were implemented. The planting materials of saplings, seeds, etc. have been sourced to achieve targeted plantation at selected sites.

The key highlights of this quarter are as follows:

- 15 common pasturelands (Grassland) covering an area of 488 hectares have been protected through physical fencing.
- Plantation of 2,04,780 saplings and other assisted vegetative measures were implemented at commons pastureland (grassland).
- 26 capacity building events held, outreach of 806 people.
- 43,130 person-days have been generated by engaging local community and provided them wage employment against physical works completed.

## **Progress so far:**

### **1. Vegetative Measures:**

The vegetative measures of planting saplings, tree seeding and vegetative cuttings were implemented during the period at 15 sites of common pastureland (Grassland). The plant nursery of Rajasthan and adjoining Gujarat state forest department were explored including private nursery growers for sourcing and procuring required saplings of selected species. After several meetings with officials, a demand letter has been sent to respective district forest officer (DFO) to provide or to advance reserve saplings of selected species. The saplings were procured and stocked in advance at some sites for its timely availability during the plantation at the time of uncertain monsoon shower. The saplings were transported through mini trucks and tractors whichever suitable for remote locations of sites. The site specific landscape plan was followed for planting saplings as ecological plantation. A total of 2,04,780 saplings of native species (10~12) has been planted covering an area of 488 hectares across the 7 blocks of Udaipur, Salumber and Rajsamand districts. Besides, assisted vegetative measures of tree seeding and vegetative cuttings have been also promoted to increase green cover. Through regular meetings cum orientation, Gram Vikas Samooh was actively involved for time-to time monitoring of ongoing related physical activities at the sites.

A detail of plantation completed is given as below **Table 1:**

| S. No. | Name of District | Name of Admin Block  | No. of the Sites | Area (in ha)  | Outreach (HHs) | Achievement plantation | Remarks  |
|--------|------------------|----------------------|------------------|---------------|----------------|------------------------|--|
| 1      | Udaipur          | Kurabar              | 2                | 78            | 645            | 35,030                 | - Vegetative measures of planting saplings, tree seeding and vegetative cuttings were undertaken at the sites commons pastureland covering an area of 588 hectares.<br>- Outreach of 3,732 households by engaging some of these to accomplish task of vegetative measures.<br>- Total 43,130 person-days generated through related physical interventions. |
| 2      |                  | Bhinder              | 1                | 16            | 520            | 7,400                  |  |
| 3      |                  | Rishabhdev           | 2                | 68.61         | 218            | 34,800                 |  |
| 4      |                  | Kherwara             | 2                | 98.08         | 580            | 46,900                 |  |
|        | <b>Sub Total</b> |                      | <b>7</b>         | <b>261</b>    | <b>1,963</b>   | <b>124,130</b>         |  |
| 5      | Rajsamand        | Rajsamand (Kankroli) | 1                | 16            | 255            | 6,400                  |  |
| 6      |                  | Kumbhalgarh          | 6                | 194           | 1314           | 69,250                 |  |
|        | <b>Sub Total</b> |                      | <b>7</b>         | <b>210.44</b> | <b>1,569</b>   | <b>75,650</b>          |  |
| 7      | Salumber         | Sarada               | 1                | 16.66         | 200            | 5,000                  |  |
|        | <b>Sub Total</b> |                      | <b>1</b>         | <b>16.66</b>  | <b>200</b>     | <b>5,000</b>           |  |
|        | <b>Total</b>     |                      | <b>15</b>        | <b>488</b>    | <b>3,732</b>   | <b>2,04,780</b>        |  |

### **Reclaiming Padasli Pastureland (Grassland) and its Ecological Restoration**

The pastureland (Grassland) restoration in Padasli village in 2024 has had a significant impact on the community's livelihoods and ecological health. Located 30 kilometers from district headquarter Rajsamand in the Kumbhalgarh block, Padasli is home to 210 families from diverse backgrounds, including Bhil tribal, scheduled, and non-scheduled communities. In this village, agriculture and livestock are vital to local livelihoods, and the community pasturelands, spanning 46.8 hectares across three tracts, are essential for livestock grazing. However, one tract of approximately 6 hectares had been encroached upon, compromising the villagers' grazing resources.

Encroachment began three years prior, when a resident occupied around 1.6 hectares, planting trees of Mango, Neem and cultivating crops on 0.8 hectares of this village pasture. This not only limited access to grazing but also posed a risk to the long-term productivity of the pastureland. To address this, Seva Mandir partnered with local institutions, including the Gram Viksa Samooh and the Gram Panchayat, facilitating discussions with community leaders and the sarpanch to resolve the issue peacefully. With broad support, the land was successfully reclaimed, removing the encroached temporary structure and restoring communal grazing access.

Building on this success, Seva Mandir, with MGNREGA support, initiated a restoration drive involving extensive planting and tree seeding, vegetative cuttings to support both the pastureland and community. Supported by the MakeMy Trip Foundation, 18,250 saplings of native tree species such as Neem, Acacia, Mango, Jamun, Churel, and Amaltas were planted including assisted vegetative measures and gap filling of physical protection/fencing. These vegetative measures will support to enrich the soil, conserve water, reduce erosion, and support to conserve biodiversity while will provide timber, fruits, and medicinal plants for the community. Over time, the natural regeneration of the existing vegetation will also benefit the micro-climate and biodiversity in Padasli village, ensuring that the pastureland serves as a sustainable natural resource for years to come.

## 2. Protection of the Site:

The 15 sites of commons pastureland covering an area of 488 hectares have been protected by loose-stone protection wall and wire fencing as site specific availability of local materials. The protection is further strengthened through vegetative fencing of *Jatropha* and *Thor*. Besides, Gram Vikas Samooh is planning towards social protection and management of such commons through their village level traditional system like “*Suiya*” or “*Keshar chidkanv*” (Saffron sprinkle) as community conservation ethos in the area. The maintenance and repairing of such fencing has been done through voluntary contribution by community as *ShramDaan*. There was an encroachment of approx. 7 hectares area of commons which was resolved through village institution i.e. Gram Vikas Samooh involving Gram Panchayat and resident community of village.

## 3. Capacity Building Events:

26 community meetings cum orientation trainings were conducted for the field teams and community members during the reporting period. There are total reached to 806 people (435 women and 371 men). There was mainly on-site demo cum training among community for plantation method, steps, and techniques following site specific landscape plan for ecological planting. Besides, the community also oriented regarding soil-moisture conservation measures, assisted vegetative measures of tree seeding, planting vegetative cuttings, etc.

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

**Table 2:**

| Districts    | Name of Block        | No. capacity building event held | Outreach        |            |            | Remarks   |
|--------------|----------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|------------|------------|---|
|              |                      |                                  | (No. of people) |            |            |   |
|              |                      |                                  | Men             | Women      | Total      |   |
| Udaipur      | Kherwara             | 6                                | 113             | 127        | 240        | - On-site technical training cum orientation held with community for physical interventions planned.<br>- Community meetings cum orientation of restoration of village pastures through protection and vegetative measures under the project.<br>- Training cum orientation of project field team for vegetative measures planned for the monsoon period.<br>- Planning to engage local community as wage laborer to accomplish physical works. |
|              | Rishabhdeo           | 13                               | 184             | 193        | 377        |   |
|              | Bhinder              |                                  |                 |            |            |   |
|              | Kurabar              |                                  |                 |            |            |   |
| Salumber     | Sarada               | 1                                | 18              | 24         | 42         |   |
| Rajsamand    | Kumbhalgarh          | 4                                | 48              | 67         | 115        |   |
|              | Rajsamand (Kankroli) | 2                                | 8               | 24         | 32         |   |
| <b>Total</b> |                      | <b>26</b>                        | <b>371</b>      | <b>435</b> | <b>806</b> |   |

#### 4. Field Monitoring:

Regular field visits is being conducted by project team for monitoring of on-going interventions in the project. There are on-site technical guidance has been given by field engineers to site supervisor (MATE) engaging community members for physical interventions at the sites. The regular dialogues are being held with community through Gram Vikas Samooh and village meetings for planning and implementation of project interventions.

During the reporting period, MakeMyTrip Foundation team members have been also visited the on-going sites of current year and older sites of previous years. The community interaction followed by on-site demo of plantation was held during the visit.

#### 5. Target v/s Achievement Quarter 3 & Plan for Quarter 4:

There are target of planting 2,00,000 saplings at commons pastureland. The component-wise achievement quarter-3 and plan quarter-4 is given as below

**Table 4:**

| S.No. | Key Activities / Particulars                                     | Unit     | Overall Target | Achievement Quarter 3 2024 | Plan Quarter 4 2024 | Remarks   |
|-------|--|----------|----------------|----------------------------|---------------------|---|
| 1     | Protection Measures  | Hectares | 1,000          | 488                        | -                   | Physical fencing by loose-stone protection wall / wire fencing, bio-fencing, etc. across all the sites.   |
| 2     | Pits verification  | Nos.     | 4,00,000       | 2,05,000                   | -                   | Verifying pits for its technical specifications and to asses nos. of pits are ready for plantation.   |
| 3     | Saplings Need Assessment   | Nos.     |                |                            | -                   | Site specific species-wise need assessment of nos. of saplings required for plantation; kept additional to mitigate operational losses during the transport.  |
| 4     | Plant Nurseries exploration & Procurement of the saplings needed | Nos.     |                |                            | -                   | Conducted visits to locate the plant nurseries nearby for species-wise saplings availability at forest department and other private nursery growers to generate demand & booking of saplings. Procurement and transport, stock of saplings at the on-going sites. |
| 5     | Plantation of Saplings   | Nos.     |                |                            | 2,04,780            | -   |
| 6     | Inter-cultural operations  | Nos.     |                | -                          | 2,04,780            | Inter-cultural operation of weeding-hoeing, cleaning, mulching etc. around the planted saplings.  |
| 7     | Harvesting of produce  | Hectares | 1,000          | -                          | 488                 | Sustainable harvest of produce like grass, foliage fodder, fallen woods/stick as fuel, wild fruits, seeds and wild vegetables.  |
| 8     | 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. 26 such events has been conducted during the period. .                            |
| 9     | Documentation & Communication                                    |          |                |                            |                     | Photography, video shoot, drone-shoot, social media communication on regular basis; shared separately with current quarter report.  |
| 10    | Field monitoring   |          |                |                            |                     | Regular field visits by project team for monitoring of on-going / completed activities of the project   |
| 11    | New Sites selection  | Hectares | 1,000          | -                          | 500                 | Identifying and selection of the common pastureland with its current legal land title for next year plantation target.  |

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