

PROJECT GREEN LEH LADAKH

ANNUAL UPDATE REPORT 2022



TIA TIMISGAM

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INTRODUCTION



MEETING WITH COUNCILLOR,
HILL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

With more than 50% of the people of Leh-Ladakh engaged in agriculture and nearly 90% of farmers dependent on snowmelt water for irrigation, **SankalpTaru Foundation** introduced **agroforestry** through **Project Green Leh Ladakh**. Agroforestry means practising agriculture and forestry on the same piece of land.

With a cold and dry climate, and the air so thin that it intensifies the sun's heat, the natives of Ladakh have survived over the centuries in the harsh landscape by harnessing water from the rivers and streams in elaborate irrigation systems. **But lately, the farmers of this region have become the biggest victims of climate change.** As glaciers start to melt faster, and with less snowfall and less rain due to global warming, the changes are gradually impacting farming patterns in the cold deserts.

This **acute shortage of water** is harming the land yield of farmers and thus degrading their livelihood, which turns around to become a major concern for the **entire region** of Leh Ladakh.

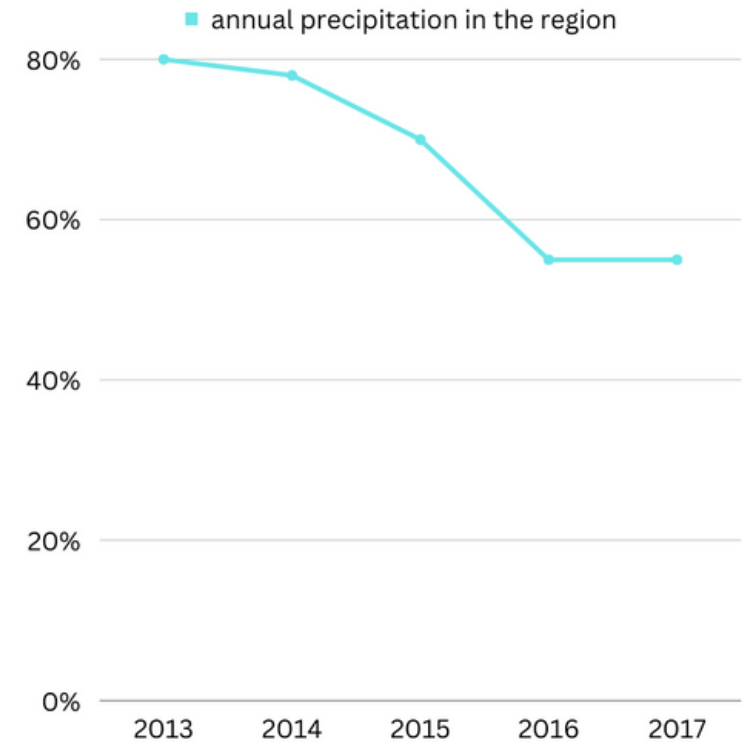
Such growing concerns compelled SankalpTaru Foundation to **launch** Project Green Leh Ladakh in the region in **2014**. A scenic beauty beyond doubt with snow-covered mountains has always been deprived of lush greenery, and so our project has been successfully headed by supporting several marginal and progressive farmers.



WHY PROJECT GREEN LEH LADAKH?

Between the years 2013 to 2017, there was nearly a 50% to 80% deficit in annual precipitation in Leh Ladakh, while the 2016 was a year of record-low rain. These cold deserts and their arid climate makes conditions harsh for agriculture, despite which the rural farmers have always been striving to cultivate their fields.

(figure: Decline in the annual rainfall)



Due to an approximate 3-degree Celsius rise in the average temperature of Ladakh in the past four decades, the region has been facing **less snowfall and faster snowmelt**. Such consequences of Climate Change have always been worrying the natives of hilly regions about their survival, also turning them in distress by the degrading greenery.

Therefore, Project Green Leh Ladakh aims to stand firm to support the natives with a healthy-happy livelihood and a secure future.



FROM NURSERY TO PRODUCTS, BEHIND THE SCENES

HOW DID WE START?

When the SankalpTaru team analyzed the acute need of strengthening the agriculture of Leh Ladakh, the biggest challenge was the **extreme climatic conditions** of the region. Therefore, we planned to initiate our green mission under our two operational models i.e. **Rural Livelihood Support Model** and **Community Plantation Model**. Understanding the dependency of the rural farmers on seasonal crops, but obtaining very low returns, the mission was streamlined towards promoting the **plantation of fruit-bearing trees**.

During the capacity building and documentation process- two villages were found, **Tia** and **Vanla**. These severely flood-affected regions called for a permanent solution to the issue of fluctuating climatic conditions in vulnerable and climate-sensitive regions like Leh-Ladakh.

Through the generous contributions of our green patron community which has donors like you, we are seeing blooming Apple and Apricot orchards. These developing fruit forests will result to **strengthen** their **nutritional and economic conditions** with healthy produce. Therefore, it is believed to become an asset for our rural farmer-beneficiaries!



TIA VILLAGE JUNE 22



SKURBUCHANG KHALTSEY



PROGRESSING WITH GREEN RESULTS

SKURBUCHANG KHALTSEY

Your immense affection towards greenery has always kept us motivated in nurturing every single tree you plant with us. All our farmer-beneficiaries supported by our green patrons ensure a 24x7 fostering of the trees, thus maintaining a healthy tree survival rate of 95%. This way Project Green Leh Ladakh is helping the distressed farmers with sustainable livelihood in around 12 village clusters in Leh, to name a few; **Lamayuru, Vanla, Skindiang, Tia, Temisgam, Stakha, Skurbucheyang, Khalsi, Takmachik, Dumkhar, etc.** Therefore, with your healthy growing trees, we are not only **preventing recurrent flood incidents** but also **supporting rural farmers with a more reliable source of income.**

And thus, you can now rejoice seeing how the SankalpTaru team is always on their toes, surveying plantation fields, and nurturing your plants to help them flourish. Together, you and we are certainly promoting extensive agriculture amongst the rural farming community of Leh Ladakh, while rejuvenating the depleting groundwater levels and fluctuating climatic conditions.



SKURBUCHANG KHALTSEY, APRICOT BLOSSOM

IMPACT

NUMBER OF TREES : 10000

**CO2 SEQUESTERED
IN A TREE'S
LIFESPAN**

17000 Tons

**O2 PRODUCED IN
A TREE'S LIFE
SPAN**

32,000+ Tons

**ECONOMIC VALUE
FOR FARMERS
AFTER 1ST HARVEST
CYCLE**

INR 90 lakh per season

SURVIVAL RATE

90 %

**NO. OF
BENEFICIARIES
IMPACTED**

100

**FRUIT
PRODUCTION
PER SEASON**

300 Tons





ENROUTE, THROUGH THE HIGH PASSES

Our passionate on-ground team members cross the scariest Himalayan Pass of Ladakh also known as the 'Zojila Pass' or the 'Mountain Pass of Blizzards' to transport the saplings procured from Kashmir safely to Ladakh before the snow covers the roads!

These saplings are stored in bunkers under optimum temperatures for the entire winter before they are ready for plantation under our project 'Green Leh Ladakh'.

Scrumptious produce is tempting the entire Leh Ladakh and will surely rejoice with you on how your contribution is bringing health and happiness to so many lives.

We are enlightening young minds towards the environment and making them conscious towards bringing more foliage into Leh.

OUR PRACTICE & THE STORY TODAY



SankalpTaru being felicitated
by His Holiness Drikung Kyabgon Chetsang Rimpoche & others
BHUDHKHARBOO EVENT JUNE 2022

ON-GROUND REPORT/ RURAL ROADS TO OUR FARMERS' ABODE

TIA TIMISGAM JUNE 2022

A farmer beneficiary of ours from Vanla village expresses that he is grateful to the SankalpTaru Foundation for it has been giving them trees and hope. He wishes to see more flowers blooming and fruits ripening in their farmlands.

With growing volunteers and demand for saplings, taking inspiration from SankalpTaru's Apple village!

Timisgam village beneficiary, Ando helped as a volunteer to add Tia village and wishes to transform his own village, Gumpa into an apple village too. He hopes SankalpTaru Foundation helps take in more farmers as their beneficiaries and lets the trees from the villages compete against each other to turn the village greener.

Sonam Choldan, another farmer from Tia village, learnt from Ando and Dorjey and now hopes to get more saplings to turn his village greener.

Along with the fruit-bearing trees planted by SankalpTaru, there are also wild roses that have grown and that fill the winds and the area with an intense rosy aroma; therefore, filling the hearts of our forest force with enthusiasm. Also, our force finds 'Khaba', a wild grass which is used in incense sticks. The whole area is growing into a sacred grow and is turning Ladakh greener. **SankalpTaru hopes more people join us!**



FRUITS OF LABOR, WITH THE FARMERS, SEPT 2022

A photograph of three people standing in a mountainous landscape. In the foreground, there are pink flowers. The background shows a large, rocky mountain under a blue sky with some clouds. The person on the left is a man with glasses wearing a grey jacket. The person in the middle is a man with a beard wearing a green shirt and a cap. The person on the right is a woman wearing a green shirt and a black headscarf.

GREEN

AMBASSADORS

NIKHIL & PARIDHI WALKS

With the intention of pitching in more greenery and sustainability initiatives, Nikhil and Paridhi are set on an exemplary walking expedition to cover 3120 Km across the entire Ladakh which is under tremendous pressure of Climate Change and irresponsible waste dumping.

The video encapsulates their intentions of transforming the mindsets of all the stakeholders to travel responsibly with minimum impact and positive outcomes for the destination.

Measuring the most pressing environmental concern- the visible traces of disaster on the environment, their expedition raises alarms and signals who holds the power of coming full circle toward achieving ecological balance. Watch here to learn more:

**We Don't Just Plant series | Episode 5 |
Greenathon Warriors- Nikhil & Paridhi**
Read more, [here](#)

A HAPPENSTANCE MEETING WITH
OUR GREEN AMBASSADORS, JUNE 2022



JOY OF GIVING CAMPAIGN 3.0

A campaign we run in the far-flung areas of Fotoksar, Ladakh entered its third phase this year. With scarce vegetation and heavy wheat plantations, SankalpTaru intends to keep bringing in social development alongside agribusiness. With a disconnection from the conventional lifestyle, like limited access to books and toys, we took it upon ourselves to push for some help in the mental and physical development of children in these remote areas.

A little ahead of this Christmas, to spread love and joy in the small village near Bodhkharbu we brought books, toys and science kits to the children with the help of our donors' support!

For more, watch here:

<https://youtu.be/DMWVEFLF3K4>



ONE JOYOUS DAY WITH CHILDREN, DEC 2022

WASTE CLEAN-UP

Litter not only contaminates natural resources but also negatively impacts our sense of well-being as a community and makes us feel unsafe mentally and physically.

With the help of local people and a humble donkey, this year, we carried a heap load of domestic waste to our garbage collection point near Bodh Khorbu village. It weighed a total of more than **15 quintals** of garbage that we moved out of the valley to our base point, Dehradun municipality ground where it was segregated and recycled.





TAKING IN THE CULTURES



SKURBUCHANG KHALTSEY, APRICOT BLOSSOM



FRUITS; FRESH & DRIED, APRICOTS

HARVESTING & MARKETING APRICOTS

This place sees a unique cold-arid climate and a vegetation deficit, hence it is optimal to use renewable energy sources. Ladakh being one of the locations with solar dryers, we do a value addition(solar-drying and processing) of our freshly harvested apricots for market sale at our in-house store, 'GramYumm', a subsidiary of SankalpTaru which provides market linkage to its farmer-beneficiaries. This programme provides them with a livelihood for 100 kg of dried apricots per year. The dryer also benefits the yield of vegetables to be dried and stored for winter. This process generates clean dry food, ready for storage and market.





TAKING IN THE VIEWS



SOURCES

wikipedia

<https://www.britannica.com>

<https://www.toppr.com> › geography ›

<https://www.thethirdpole.net>

<https://www.researchgate.net>

<https://opjsrgh.in/>

SKURBUCHANG KHALTSEY, APRICOT BLOSSOM

THE WAY FORWARD

Project Green Leh Ladakh had never been a one-time plantation program, but rather progresses as a continuous activity of planting and nurturing trees.

Certainly, it would delight you to see the way YOUR GREEN CONTRIBUTION is developing a bio-diverse sustainable ecosystem and converting several abandoned land blocks of Leh Ladakh into green-productive apple orchards with enhanced water table levels.

To creating many more apple villages in this region!





SankalpTaru.org®
We don't just plant!

Apple Village Wanla, Ladakh



By SankalpTaru Foundation

GET IN TOUCH WITH US

OUR SOCIAL MEDIA



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