

PROJECT HARYANA HARITIMA

GROWTH UPDATE 2025

From the COO's Desk

At SankalpTaru Foundation, we always believe that planting a tree is just the beginning. What truly matters is nurturing the planted saplings, along with the community around it, until it grows into a symbol of change.

Our Work in Haryana is yet another reminder of what's possible when purpose meets participation. Through project Haryana Haritima, we are reviving the state's green heritage while strengthening its farming communities. Every sapling planted, represents not just a greener landscape, but a stronger rural livelihood, healthier air, empowered women farmers, and a more resilient tomorrow. We are proud to witness the impact unfold; one orchard, one farmer, one contribution at a time. And we are deeply grateful to each supporter who has chosen to be part of this journey.



To our donors and well-wishers thank you for walking this path with us. Your trust and generosity are not just nurturing trees, but transforming lives in ways that are both visible and deeply rooted.

Together, let's continue to grow roots that sustain generations, not just seasons.

Warmly,
Priyanka Negi Bhandari
Chief Operating Officer
SankalpTaru Foundation

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Introduction

Haryana: Of rivers, forests, and farming heritage

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Haryana, a northern Indian state bordering the national capital Delhi, is known for its fertile plains, agricultural wealth, and rich historical legacy. Formed in 1966, Haryana spans the northwestern edge of the Indo-Gangetic plain and lies predominantly within the basin of the Yamuna and Ghaggar rivers. The state's terrain is largely flat, with subtle undulations and pockets of arid zones in the south-west. The Shivalik Hills brush against its northeastern fringe, while the Aravalli Range flanks parts of southern districts like Mahendragarh and Rewari.

Characterized by an intricate canal network and a semi-arid to sub-humid climate, Haryana's landscape is shaped by alluvial soil deposits that support intensive agriculture. The state is drained by several seasonal and perennial rivers, including the Yamuna, Markanda, Ghaggar, and Saraswati (mythical but historically significant). Major wetlands such as Sultanpur and Bhindawas attract migratory birds and support regional biodiversity.

Haryana's ecological zones range from moist deciduous forests in the north to scrubland and dry sandy plains in the south. The Aravalli foothills, stretching through districts like Gurugram and Faridabad, are home to fragmented forest patches that act as green lungs near urban belts. Despite rapid urbanisation, Haryana remains rooted in its agrarian identity, with large tracts of land still under cultivation. The state's native flora includes species like neem, babool, sheesham, and ber, while its fauna includes nilgai, jackals, and a variety of birds that thrive in its mixed terrains.

Why Project Haryana Haritima?

Geographic Urgency of Greening Haryana

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Haryana's ecological landscape is marked by declining green cover, rising air pollution, and increasing pressure from urbanisation and intensive agriculture. Though agriculturally prosperous, the state struggles with depleting groundwater, deteriorating soil health, and a high rate of desertification, particularly in its southern and western districts. These conditions urgently call for sustainable plantation interventions to rebuild the region's ecological balance.

With semi-arid to dry sub-humid climate, Haryana experiences hot summers, scanty rainfall (400–700 mm annually), and low humidity levels, especially in zones adjoining the Thar desert. The south-western belt (Rewari, Mahendragarh, Bhiwani) is severely water-stressed, while forested foothill regions (Panchkula, Yamunanagar) face rapid habitat loss. Afforestation here helps in improving soil organic matter, conserving moisture, arresting wind erosion, and restoring biodiversity corridors.

SankalpTaru's plantation strategy in Haryana aligns with the state's agro-climatic conditions, using drought-tolerant, native, and fruit-bearing species that require minimal irrigation. With support from canal-fed systems and rainwater harvesting models, plantations can thrive even in challenging zones. Through community-based greening, the initiative regenerates degraded lands, augments rural livelihoods, and enhances carbon sequestration. The Haritima mission contributes not just to greener fields but to a climate-resilient Haryana.

Flora and Fauna

Haryana's diverse ecological zones, ranging from the Shivalik foothills to semi-arid plains and scattered Aravalli outcrops, support a rich array of flora and fauna. The northern districts host moist deciduous forests, while the south and west are dominated by thorny scrub, grasslands, and dry deciduous vegetation. Native trees like Neem, Babool, Peepal, Ber, Shisham, and Dhak are common, along with hardy shrubs and grasses adapted to dry conditions. Wetlands such as Bhindawas and Sultanpur attract hundreds of migratory bird species annually.

The state's forest cover is low (~3.6%) but plays a crucial role in sustaining biodiversity corridors and preventing desertification. Cultivated crops such as wheat, mustard, sugarcane, bajra, and seasonal vegetables coexist with agroforestry species like drumstick, mango, and guava. Haryana's wildlife includes species such as Nilgai (blue bull), jackal, blackbuck, jungle cat, and Indian hare, particularly around forest pockets, canal edges, and protected zones.

Wetlands, ponds, and canal systems are habitats for aquatic species and water birds such as painted storks, egrets, kingfishers, and sarus cranes. The Aravallis in southern Haryana are vital for leopards, porcupines, and peacocks. Reptiles like monitor lizards and Indian cobras are also present in dry forested zones.

Adaptations to the Environment

- Trees like Babool and Ber survive extreme heat and poor soil.
- Birds like the sarus crane thrive in wetland-fed agricultural landscapes.
- Nilgai and blackbuck have adapted to graze in both wild and human-altered terrains.
- Arid-zone plants have deep root systems and thick barks to conserve moisture.

Ecological Background & Challenges of Afforestation in Haryana

The ecological landscape of Haryana is shaped by its agrarian plains, semi-arid regions, and pockets of forested hills. Situated in northwestern India, Haryana lies primarily within the Indo-Gangetic plains, bordered by the Shivalik Hills in the northeast and the Aravalli Range in the south. Elevation varies between 200 to 1,200 meters, with much of the state characterized by flat terrain, seasonal rivers, and extensive farmlands. Forest cover is sparse (~3.6%) and fragmented, mainly confined to foothills and protected areas.

Haryana experiences extreme seasonal variation, with scorching summers reaching 45°C and winters dipping to around 5°C. The average annual rainfall ranges from 300 to 700 mm, largely during the monsoon months, making rain-fed plantation difficult in many districts. The southern and western belts, such as Bhiwani, Rewari, and Mahendragarh, are particularly drought-prone and face severe water scarcity due to over-extraction and declining groundwater levels.

The soil across the state ranges from fertile alluvial in the north to sandy and loamy in the south and southwest. However, much of it is nutrient-depleted due to years of monocropping and chemical fertiliser use. Challenges to plantation include low organic matter, poor water retention, harsh sunlight, wind erosion, and livestock grazing pressure.

Afforestation in Haryana demands the use of hardy, drought-tolerant, and native species such as Neem, Babool, Ber, and Sheesham. Planting is most effective when supported by techniques like mulching, fencing, and water conservation through drip irrigation, recharge pits, or tank systems. These efforts not only restore soil health and recharge aquifers but also buffer against desertification and revive biodiversity corridors in a fast-urbanising landscape.



Challenges on the Ground & How We Solve Them

Cultivating Resilience, One Sapling at a Time

Planting trees in Haryana goes far beyond digging pits and placing saplings, it is a mission that navigates extreme climates, rural skepticism, and evolving urban landscapes. Despite these challenges, SankalpTaru has consistently adapted its approach to ensure that every plantation takes root not just in the soil, but in the hearts and hopes of communities across the state.

- **Climate Extremes: Battling Heatwaves, Frost, and Unseasonal Rainfall**

One of the most pressing issues in Haryana's plantation efforts has been the sharp shift in climate patterns. Over the past few years, the state has witnessed searing summers, increasingly colder winters, and untimely, intense rainfall. These weather fluctuations severely affect sapling survival, either by drying them out in heatwaves or drowning them in waterlogged fields that fail to drain. Acknowledging this, SankalpTaru's team meticulously plans plantation timelines around favorable weather windows and employs mulching techniques to preserve soil moisture.

- **Farmer Hesitation: Building Trust in Rural Communities**

Equally significant is the challenge of trust-building with rural farmers. When offered free saplings, many farmers hesitate, questioning the authenticity of the plants, the motive behind the gesture, or whether the trees will bear fruit at all. To bridge this gap, SankalpTaru works in close coordination with local sarpanchs, introducing the programmes through familiar village leadership. This approach not only creates a space for open dialogue but also reinforces a sense of shared responsibility. Farmers are assured of the plant quality, sourced only from NHB-certified nurseries, and are encouraged to see these trees as long-term contributors to their farmland's productivity.

- **Delayed Returns: Encouraging Patience for Fruit-Bearing Trees**

Still, the timeline for visible results remains a concern. Fruit-bearing trees, by nature, require patience, usually two to three years before yields begin. Many farmers are reluctant to wait, seeing it as a gamble that demands consistent care without immediate return. Here too, SankalpTaru steps in with continuous engagement. By demonstrating the long-term economic value of the trees and guiding farmers through nurturing practices like pruning and watering, the uncertainty slowly transforms into commitment.



- **Urban Constraints: Planting in Cities with Limited Space and Resources**

In urban zones of Haryana, plantation challenges take a different shape. Lack of open space, irregular maintenance, and limited resources in schools or community institutions often hinder continuity. To address this, SankalpTaru partners with government schools and public bodies, planting trees in campuses and installing supports like tree guards, water tanks, and even drip irrigation systems. These interventions ensure that even during holidays or inactive periods, the saplings continue to grow safely.

- **Lack of Community Green Spaces: Transforming Barren Lands into Shared Ecosystems**

One of the most promising models in Haryana is the community plantation model. Here, barren public lands are identified in collaboration with village panchayats, who provide No Objection Certificates (NOCs) for their use. These lands are then transformed into lush green zones, fenced, irrigated, and carefully maintained by SankalpTaru's dedicated teams. Rainwater harvesting units, shade structures, and round-the-clock caretaking ensure that these spaces thrive year-round. Often, these sites become venues for birthday plantations, volunteer events, and even corporate gatherings, serving as living, breathing examples of environmental collaboration at its finest.

With every sapling, SankalpTaru grows not just a tree but a story of resilience. Haryana's green journey faces many hurdles, but with local insight, trust, and sustainable action, we continue to overcome them, season after season.



The Story Today

With your unwavering support, our green patrons, project Haryana Haritima has made remarkable strides forward. Between April 2024 and March 2025, your contributions helped us plant a flourishing 3,37,422 trees, each one a symbol of the greener and stronger Haryana we're building together.

SankalpTaru Foundation's mission of creating greener, more sustainable ecosystems has continued to thrive across Haryana. With a strong focus on both individual and corporate participation, our plantations this year have not only enhanced green cover but also generated tangible social, economic, and environmental benefits. The numbers below reflect the collective impact of our efforts on ground.

Your Impact in Numbers



Trees flourishing between April 2024 – March 2025:
3,37,422



Oxygen produced:
133720 tons annually



CO2 sequestered:
180520 tons annually



Survival rate:
90% survival rate on an average



Area greened:
750 acres



Fruit production:
13372 tons/- per season



Eco. value for farmers:
Rs. 25 Crores

Note: The estimated O2 and CO2 values are theoretical values based on the study done; actual values may vary from these. These values are calculated for the entire life span of tree species estimated to be 20-25 years.

Sustainable Development Goals We Achieved Together



1. No Poverty – SDG 1

- Providing training and resources for sustainable farming techniques
- Creating opportunities for income generation through agriculture
- Facilitating access to microfinance and credit facilities

2. Zero Hunger – SDG 2

- Promoting organic farming practices
- Providing education and resources on nutrition and dietary diversity



3. Gender Equality – SDG 5

- Promoting women's participation in decision-making processes
- Providing vocational training and entrepreneurship opportunities for women
- Implementing gender-sensitive agricultural programs

4. Life on Land – SDG 15

- Ending desertification and restoring degraded land
- Ensuring conservation of mountain ecosystems
- Protecting native biodiversity and natural habitats
- Providing access to genetic resources and fair sharing of the benefits.





5. Partnerships for the Goals – SDG 17

- Collaborative plantation projects unite governments, NGOs, and communities.
- Partnerships ensure long-term funding, technical support, and scalability.

6. SDG 13 – Climate Action

- Plantations act as carbon sinks, mitigating climate change impacts.
- They reduce soil erosion, floods, and extreme heat effects.



3. Gender Equality – SDG 5

- Promoting women's participation in decision-making processes
- Providing vocational training and entrepreneurship opportunities for women
- Implementing gender-sensitive agricultural programs

4. Life on Land – SDG 15

- Ending desertification and restoring degraded land
- Ensuring conservation of mountain ecosystems
- Protecting native biodiversity and natural habitats
- Providing access to genetic resources and fair sharing of the benefits.



Stories of Change from the Ground

Beneficiary: Dharmendra Yadav

Village: Luhana

District: Rewari

Fruit Species: Sweet Lime



"I am truly thankful to SankalpTaru Foundation for helping me plant kinnu and malta saplings on my land. With their regular guidance and support, I could manage pests and care for the plants better. Today, most of the trees are healthy and productive, and the orchard is giving a steady income. What was once unused land is now a well-managed citrus orchard that supports my family."



Beneficiary: Santoshi Devi

Village: Sirsa

District: Haryana

Fruit Species: Kinnu, Malta



In his mother, Santoshi Devi's absence, her son proudly receives the certificate recognizing a 90% tree survival rate

"Turning my land into a citrus orchard felt like a distant dream, but SankalpTaru made it possible with their continued support and timely interventions. From helping me plant kinnu and malta saplings to providing fertilizers, pest control, and expert guidance, they stood by me at every step. I even got my soil and water tested to improve growth. Today, my orchard yields 90 quintals annually and brings financial stability to my family. I'm deeply grateful for this journey."



GPS Map Camera

Chadiwal, Haryana, India
C4j6+m6, Chadiwal, Haryana 125110, India
Lat 29.432656° Long 75.107728°
23/02/2025 12:31 PM GMT +05:30

Google

Beneficiary: Sunil

Village: Farmana Khas

District: Rohtak

Fruit Species: Guava, Pomegranate



"Thanks to SankalpTaru's support, I was able to grow guava and pomegranate trees on my land. Their timely help with crop care and soil-water testing gave me the confidence to try new things. My orchard now yields 4 quintals annually, helping me earn ₹12,000 a year. This has brought both income and encouragement to my farming journey. I truly appreciate their efforts in making this transformation possible."



Beneficiary: Anil Yadav

Village: Masani

District: Rewari

Fruit Species: Guava



"With the help of SankalpTaru and its donors, I planted guava trees that are now showing steady progress. Though the yield is still small, around 40 kg annually, it gives me ₹1,200 and a sense of direction for the future. Water scarcity remains a concern, but soil and water testing and regular guidance from the team have helped me manage better. I'm hopeful that as these trees mature, they'll bring even more strength to my farm and family."



Beneficiary: Promila Devi

Village: Laherian
District: Fatehbad
Fruit Species: Guava



Promila Devi honored with a certificate for 90% tree survival

"When I planted 100 guava trees with SankalpTaru's support, I never imagined how much they'd change my life. Today, my orchard yields 80 quintals annually, helping me earn ₹2 lakhs a year. The income has brought security to my family, and I've even started sending my youngest to school with new books. I'm truly grateful to SankalpTaru and the donor whose support made this possible."



Your Impact in Pictures



Orchard plantations thriving in Haryana under the retail plantation initiative



Adoption of water conservation and renewable energy practices in farming



Fruit bearing orchard and farmer training in progress



Integrated farming practices for improved livelihoods



Field intractions with farmers and orchard development in Haryana



SankalpTaru providing water resource management and soil testing support

The Way Forward

Despite Haryana's water-stressed regions, sandy soils, and rapid urban expansion, our plantation efforts have steadily taken root, thanks to your support. Our ground coordinators, along with committed farmers and communities, have transformed barren or degraded lands into fruit-bearing orchards and green patches of resilience. With each tree planted, we move one step closer to restoring ecological balance, reviving soil health, and supporting farmer livelihoods in this semi-arid terrain.

Your contributions have helped saplings grow into thriving trees, yielding fruits, shelter, and hope. These plantations have become not just environmental buffers but also economic lifelines for rural households. Yet, there's still more ground to cover. With Haryana's climate challenges intensifying and forest cover alarmingly low, your continued support will be crucial in greening more districts and empowering more farmers under Project Haryana Haritima

Visit our website:

<https://sankalptaru.org/>

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Plant with us:

<https://sankalptaru.org>

Our Social Media



Together, let's grow Haryana greener, stronger, and more climate-resilient, tree by tree, farmer by farmer.