

Project

GREEN THAR

Plantation Update Report **2021**



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INTRODUCTION

Rajasthan is India's largest state by area and houses the biggest desert, the Thar desert. A state with aridity, sparse vegetation, and a near absence of groundwater summoned SankalpTaru to take up the mission to turn this savannah into land with flourishing vegetation.

The residents of this state very well understand the significance of trees, the importance of native species, and its importance, especially in a dustbowl and forage.

Agroforestry has been hailed as one of the key solutions to tackle climate change in drylands like Rajasthan. By expanding their tree plantations alongside crops, the farmers of Rajasthan are boosting their income while saving the environment.



THE BEGINNING



Initiated in the year 2014-15, Project Green Thar was introduced with an aim to exercise agribusiness in the arid districts of Alwar and Barmer, places that suffered water insufficiency.

In recent decades, the groundwater levels in the regions have gone down significantly. In addition, the water salinity has increased tremendously due to the over-drawing from bore wells and tube wells. As a result, the farmers of the area have not been able to produce even two crops a year, leading to more and more barren lands.

To help the farmers secure a stable income, **SankalpTaru Foundation** introduced '**Project Green Thar**' to restore those barren townlands into fruit orchards, which would require considerably less water and upkeep compared to seasonal crops.

THE CHALLENGES

The growth of most fruit-bearing trees in the region faces difficulty due to the shortfall of water resources and deficient soil quality.

A little alarmed to deviate from their heritage of practicing agriculture towards a relatively new practice of agroforestry and horticulture, farmers posed concerns.

Our on-ground team also dealt with the early trial-and-errors to test the survival frequency of fruit varieties in severe climate conditions.



Budiwada



Budiwada

In addition to this, the introduction and adaptation of the 'Micro-drip Irrigation' method for the local farmers was a challenge.

The sporadic weather pattern and the climate change came in carrying some challenges with regards to the survival rate.

The dynamic fruit market rate was an added conflict that was sorted out for the farmers to include agronomy into their purview.

CREATING LUSH GREEN FORESTS

An existing oasis was further developed in **Neembla** with the initiation in 2016, and SankalpTaru pushed this green development, surging and facilitating the farmers with a green economy and agribusiness turning the barren land into a mini forest. This additionally boosted the forage for the animals as well.

Similar mini forests are taken in **Sanchore** and **Ghotaru** where we are transforming the barren land into mini green patches for the flora and fauna of the region. The earlier classed area of Northern desert thorn forest has been recast into vegetation boosters along with other tree species taking care of shade in the scorching barren land stretches. The dry and extreme climate featuring varied wildlife will also be soothed by the growing forest areas.



Ghotaru



Ghotaru



Sanchore



Neembla

ONE TREE ONE MEAL

Our campaign expanded to Barmer in Rajasthan, providing meals to the migrant workers stranded in these regions of India in 2020 corresponding to every single planted tree with us. Pertaining to all precautionary measures of personal and social hygiene set down by the World Health Organization and the Central Government, SankalpTaru began this campaign last year, catering to the basic needs of marginalized people during tough economic times. For every tree planted, one meal was provided to the migrants. Our Team of Project Green Thar diligently served around 150+ migrants for 3 weeks and even arranged transportation in sync with local authorities for sending them back to their hometowns.



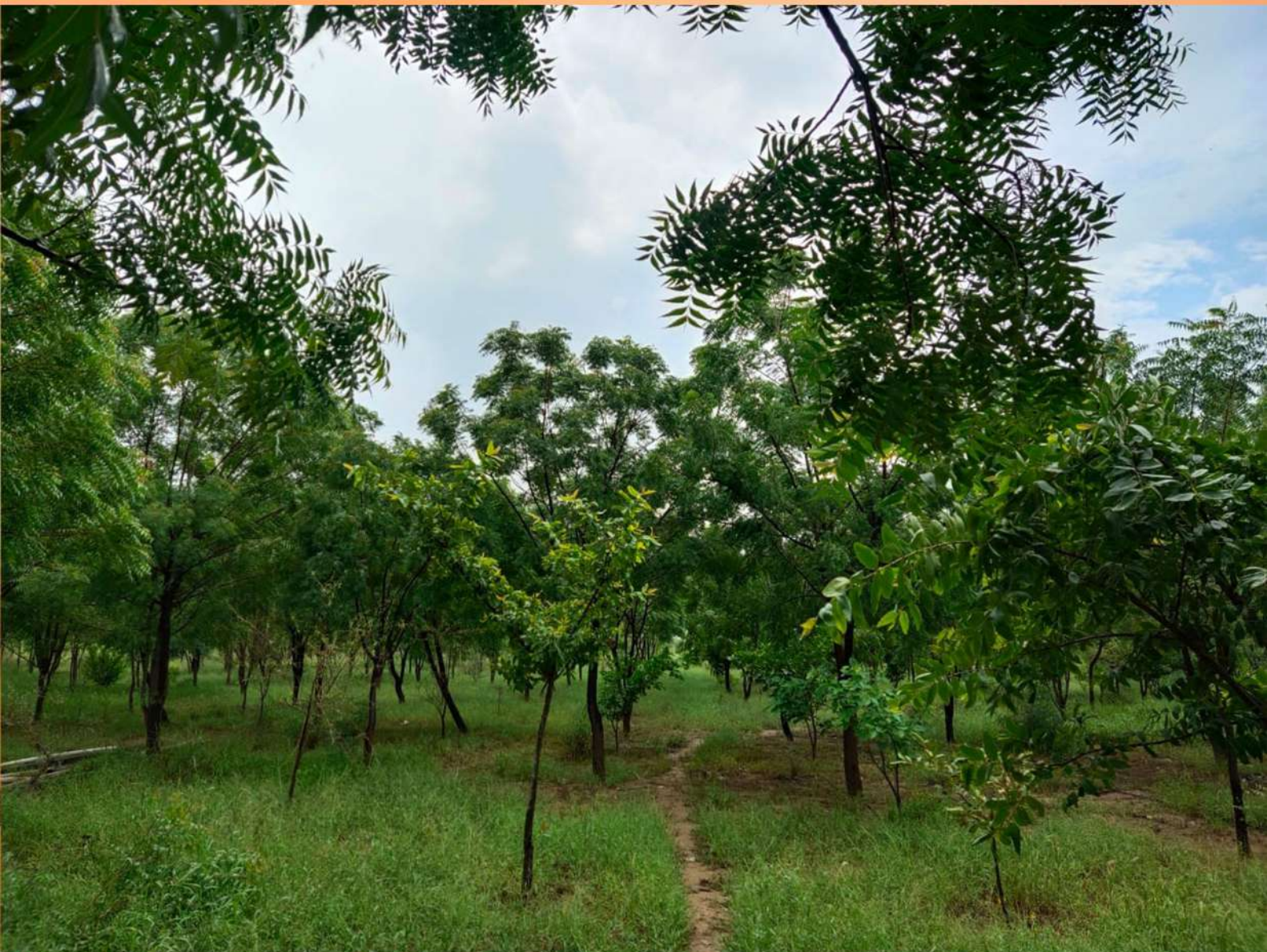
Amidst the lockdown situation, our on-ground team of coordinators and volunteers also tackled the dire situation and kept well with the hygiene precautions to maintain the survival rate of the old plantations and anew in their purview.



THE STORY TODAY

With the unwavering support of our green patrons, Project Green Thar has forged ahead. Counting a total of 3 lakh trees have been gainful in terms of cost, and co-relatively have witnessed a considerable increase in the green area in the simulated districts.

SankalpTaru Foundation's vision of agroforestry that entails mixing and balancing of traditional cropping techniques with horticulture is shielding farmers from the risks around weather uncertainty and also boosting their livelihoods.



Neembla

IMPACTS



Number of trees planted
(2019-2021): **25000**



Number of beneficiaries
impacted: **60000**



Survival rate: **90%**

Seeing the early mover farmers' flourishing success, new farmers are now coming forward with participation in our program.



Total trees planted:
3 lakh trees



Total area greened:
917.34 acres



O₂ produced:
642.8 million tonnes



CO₂ sequestered:
335.4 million tonnes



Total inc. in
groundwater depth:
274.32 feet



Fruit production:
25,550 kg/- per season



Eco. value for farmers:
8,91,900/- Rs.

TESTIMONIAL

Dharma Ram, a farmer from Chokhla, Rajasthan has to say about the fruit-bearing saplings of pomegranate planted on his land in 2018.

SankalpTaru Foundation planted pomegranate saplings on his land nearly 3 years ago, and the fruits have bore well. In deep gratitude, he thanked the foundation as the team has assisted him in caring for the trees as nurturing for a child. He continued the acknowledgment of the foundation for the additional help in the efforts put in as well as in providing the fertilizer.



UPDATED PICTURES



Barmer

UPDATED PICTURES



Budiwada

UPDATED PICTURES



Barmer

THE WAY FORWARD

With your continued support and trust, we are determined that this green journey would not be a short one. Our Foundation aims to progress the project by increasing the number of beneficiaries and growing with them in a sustainable way of earning their livelihood and proceeding towards a greener future.

We have received requests from the nearby farmers for the extension of the project to their areas and to help them become climate-resilient. Certainly, it would be a delight to watch your contributions mitigating the risks of crop failures by planting fruit-bearing trees on the lands of farmers.



Neembla

GET IN TOUCH

If you wish to support us in our campaign to spread greenery in Thar,
plant now: <https://sankalptaru.org/project-green-thar/>

Follow us on:

