



# PROJECT KHEOJIA ASSAM

Plantation Update Report 2020



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# INTRODUCTION



- Every time you plant a tree with the SankalpTaru Foundation, you contribute towards increasing Nature's green cover along with supporting the farmers in Assam to earn a livelihood amidst all the odds.

- More than 70% of the state's population relies on agriculture as farmers or agricultural labours for their livelihoods. The farmers are living under inadequate resources, ranging from harsh climatic conditions to prejudiced cultural values that affect the growth of agriculture in the state. Although extremely dependent on agriculture, people in Assam still do not consider it an occupation and move to other cities to earn a better livelihood.

# WHY PLANTATION IN ASSAM?

- Although over 70% of the state's population depends on agriculture as farmers or as agricultural labours, almost all of them face many problems like poverty, lack of knowledge about modern technology, illiteracy etc.



**Natural calamities:** Farmers in Assam face floods and dry spells almost every year, which results in the loss of crop, livestock, house, cultivable land, and human lives. This takes a toll on human spirit.



**Capital deficiency:** Loans from banks or other credit agencies, is not generally accessible to farmers. As a result, borrowing from unscrupulous lenders is the only option left. Unable to pay back their high debts, many lose their lands.



**Marketing problems:** Under-developed market systems lead the farmers to sell their harvest immediately to the nearest dealers/buyers at the lowest price.



**Non-economic factors:** Lack of education, ignorance about the changing economic conditions, out-dated thinking, and prejudiced cultural values, all these hinder agricultural development in the state.



**Role of SankalpTaru Foundation:** With our coordinators directly being in contact with the people, we are able to connect to them directly and make them aware of the latest technological developments in the agriculture sector, thus giving them a sense of relief by providing healthy saplings of seedless lemons and technical & modern knowledge about agricultural practices.

# THE BEGINNING

- Project Kheojia Assam was initiated in July 2019 to acknowledge the affects of problems like poverty, lack of knowledge about modern technology, illiteracy, floods, etc in agriculture in the backward areas of Jorhat. With our findings, we found that the regular agricultural crops are either destroyed by floods or by animals roaming in search of food and hence we came to a common conclusion to plant seedless lemons on the lands of these farmers.
- Seedless lemons have the ability to grow in uniform hot & cold weather like that of Assam and produce fruits throughout the year. Thus, the planning to mitigate the risk of crop failure began and the first plantation batch began in July 2019.
- Assam also has the fertility of the Barak and Brahmaputra valleys and we decided to make the most of this fertile land.




### Why Better than other Varieties ?

DESCRIPTION	OTHER VARIETIES	SEEDLESS LEMON
Fruit Size	40 - 60 gms ▼	60-80 gms ▲
Planting Distance.	15 X 15 Sq ft. ▼	12 X 8 Sq. ft. ▲
Trees/ Acre.	200 Trees ▼	400 Trees ▲
Production.	Twice in a Year. Less or more. ▼	Uniform Throughout the year ▲
Fruit Formation	In 5 years ▼	In 1 <sup>st</sup> year ▲
Production/tree		1 <sup>st</sup> year 15 - 20 Kgs 2 <sup>nd</sup> year 30 - 40 Kgs 3 <sup>rd</sup> year 70 - 100 Kgs
Annual Production	10 - 12 ton / acre (In 1 <sup>st</sup> Year) ▼	30 - 45 ton/acre (In 5 <sup>th</sup> Year) ▲
Life of Tree	15 Year	18 - 20 Years ▲
Citric Acid	Limited ▼	Almost Double ▲
Economically	Beneficial in Season ▲	Beneficial Throughout the year ▲
Intercropping	Can be done	Not Viable because fruiting starts in 1 <sup>st</sup> year ▼

▼ Less      ▲ Benefit

# YOUR TREES IN ASSAM



We targeted to start plantation in Assam in the rural areas. For this, we identified some places and beneficiaries in Jorhat district. Due to heavy rainfall and traditional processes of agriculture, the income from agriculture is very low and floods are a frequent process.

Your trees which have been planted with us in this project will help the farmers in the state in agroforestry so that they can have an additional source of livelihood. Moreover, these trees will help preventing soil erosion due to heavy rainfall.

Including your trees, our donors have planted 3500 lemon plants in rural community mode till now. This plantation process began in the month of July 2019 and till date the survival rate is >95%.

Most of the time monkeys search for food in the fields, hence, destroying the crop produce. Planting seedless lemon stops them from doing so because of the thorns present in the plant. Moreover, lemon market price is growing on regular basis which will help them have an additional source of income.

# AND THE WORK BEGAN



Although being a land of fertility, Assam undergoes many natural and man-made disasters which hinder the agriculture there. In order to begin our campaign there, we selected a few villages which were the worst affected ones in Jorhat.

We began the campaign with our Rural Livelihood Support Program wherein we identified some farmer beneficiaries.

In order to bring out the maximum benefits and yield, we experimented with the plantation of seedless lemons as it can grow in both dry and cold weather.

# THE CHALLENGES

- Assam's natural disasters do not seem to end. Every year, the farmers become a victim of floods which destroys their crops as well as lands, and they are left with nothing in hand.
- Therefore, a weather forecast goes a long way in getting to know about the weather patterns, which in turn, helps to plan the pre-plantation, plantation and post-plantation activities. The team provides the farmers with modern technical knowledge and makes them aware of the benefits of the crops we provide.





# THE STORY TODAY

Since the last plantation in July 2019, we have recorded a growth rate of 99% and a survival rate of more than 95%.



# Plantation Details (2019)

Number of trees planted

**500**

Number of farmer beneficiaries impacted

**3**



Carbon Sequestered  
**1,18,659.8783 Kg**



Water Absorbed  
**2,62,08,000 Litres**



Total Economic Value  
**15,54,000 Rupees/-**



Oxygen Produced  
**2,27,431.4335 Kg**



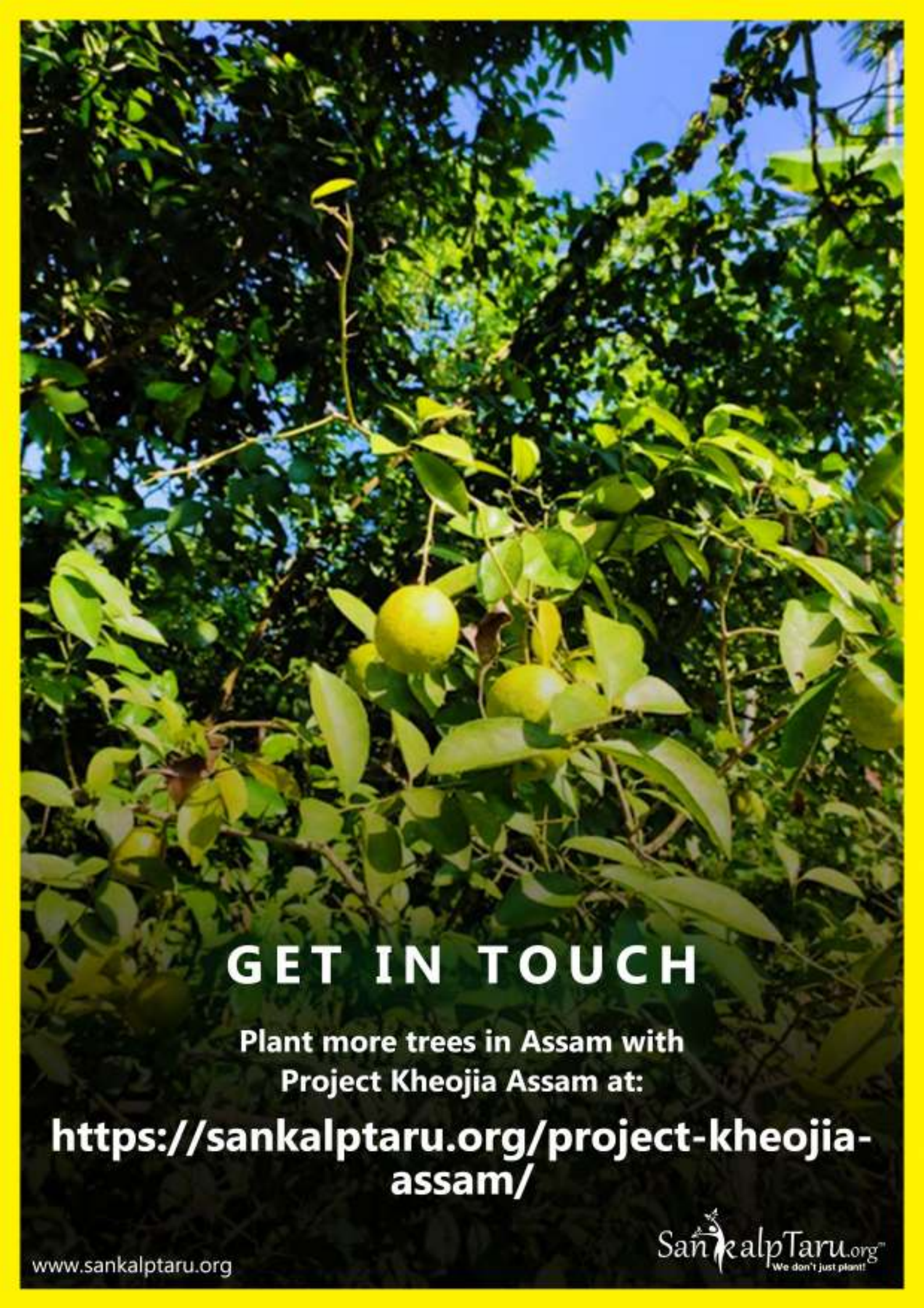
Fruits Produced  
**42,000 Kg**

- \* The above data is given for 500
- \* The average life span of each tree is taken to be 20 years
- \* Average farmer's price is taken to be 37 Rupees per Kg

# THE WAY FORWARD

With your constant support, the Foundation is continuously helping the farmers in Assam to mitigate the risk of crop failure due to natural hazards like floods. Farmers have witnessed the changes with their own eyes and your trees are helping them better their livelihoods.





# GET IN TOUCH

Plant more trees in Assam with  
Project Kheojia Assam at:

<https://sankalptaru.org/project-kheojia-assam/>