

PLANTING REPORT

2019 -2020[First Quarter]

Let's plant a better future



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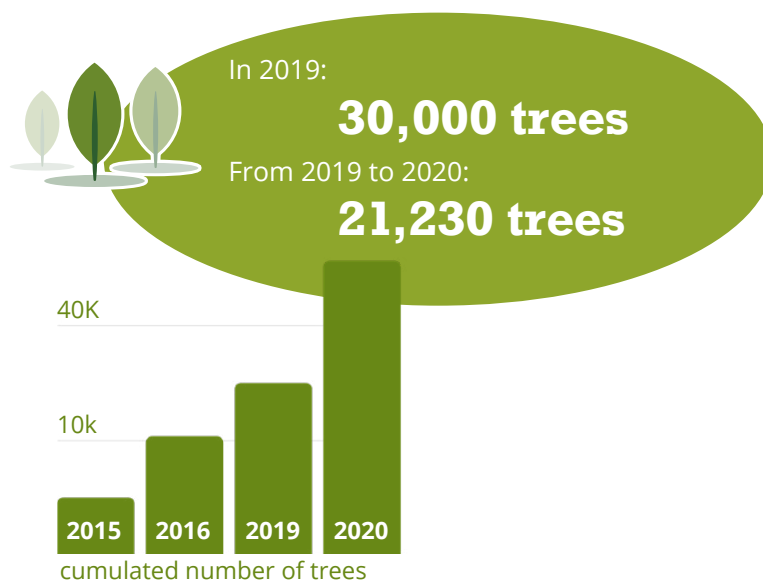
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Plant a Seed REFORESTATION _ KERALA

We started our Reforestation Project near Kollam, Kerala in March 2019. Since then, we have already planted 51000 of trees.



THE LOCATION

We plant in four areas covering a total of 2,500 hectares near the small town Kallada, Kollam



Rancho 1

Planting started in March, 2019.
Current work: Maintaining the trees

Rancho 3

Planting will start in the future.

Rancho 2

Planting started in APR 2019.
Current work: Maintaining the trees

Rancho 4

Planting will start in the future.



TREE SPECIES

We plant a variety of native species, which grow very well in our planting areas.



Balché

Tree name: Balché

Botanical name: *Lonchocarpus longistylus* Pittier

Grows up to 10 metres high, with dense and round foliage.

Traditional use of the species: Sacred tree of the Maya.



American Mahogany

Tree name: Caoba

Botanical name: *Swietenia macrophylla*

Grows up to 25 meters high.

Trunk up to 1.5 m in diameter at chest height. The crown is leafy and opens up in to the shape of a fan.

Small yellowish green flowers from May to June.



Mombin plum

Tree name: Jabín

Botanical name: *Spondias mombin*

Grows to a height of 20 meters.

Traditional use of the species: Utilised in beekeeping as the flowering period lasts four months.



Trumpet tree

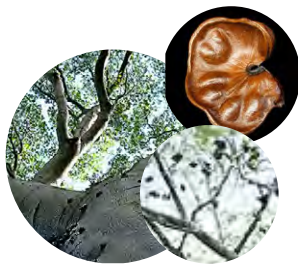
Tree name: Maculís

Botanical name: *Tabebuia rosea*

Grows up to 15 meters high.

Trunk is straight and cracked.

Traditional use: The wood is used for rural construction work.



Guanacaste/Pitch (mimosa plant)

Tree name: Pich

Botanical name: Enterolobium cyclocarpum Reaches 20 to 30 meters high.

Yellow flowers from March to May.

Traditional use of the species: The seeds are eaten roasted and are as nutritious as protein-rich beans.



Siricote/Cordia

Tree name: Siricote

Botanical name: Cordia dodecandra

Reaches up to 30 meters.

Deciduous, very dense, rounded crown, notably rough, simple leaves.

Traditional use: The bark and wood are used to treat colds. It is often found as an ornamental plant in parks and gardens.



Bread walnut

Tree name: Ramón

Botanical name: Brosimum Allicastrum Grows to a height of 30 meters. Evergreen, dense crown, simple leaves. Flowers from February to March.



Mushroom/Chewing Gum Tree

Tree name: Zapote

Botanical name: Manilkara zapota

Grows up to 40 m high, evergreen, single leaves.

Fruits in the form of berries with brown rough skin, very sweet and juicy flesh.

Traditional use of the species: The fruit is valued for its taste, latex collected from this tree is used to make chewing gum, its wood is used to build houses, furniture, etc.

THE TEAM

We employ locals and provide an income to both them and their families. The income is above what an forest worker in the region in average is paid.



Forest Engineer Carlos Luna describes the average workers' day as:

„Persons who plant trees get up at 4:45 a.m., at 5:00 a.m. they are already planting trees, at 7:00 am they get back to the camp area to have a breakfast, then they continue working until 3:00 p.m.

All these workers need to eat enough food every day, so there are 10 cooks who prepare breakfast, lunch and dinner for all. Three workers are drivers since water, food for cooking, toilet products and other necessary things are needed in the planting area.

When the workers planting trees finish their work, the cooks have already prepared lunch, so the workers can eat. After eating, most of them get a shower and start playing cards. Around 6:00 p.m. they have dinner and then they go to sleep.

We have huts at the planting area because many workers would need to travel to the planting area for some hours. So they sleep at the site and always work for 10 days before returning to their families for some days.”



THE TEAM



Rajeesh Kallada
*President (voluntary) of
Plant-a-Seed Org. India*



Bhagya Vijayan
*General Supervisor of all Workers
Plant-a-Seed Org. India*



Carlos Luna
*Forest Engineer, responsible
for the tree nursery*



Amarjot Singh Chawla
*Forest Engineer, technical Supervisor
of the planting projects*

JUNE

SPRING

Seeds are selected and soil is prepared. The seedlings grow strong in our own tree nursery. The seedlings

are able to grow strong in our tree nursery. The small seedlings are protected from aggressive sun light.

Rakesh Krishnan describes the work in the tree nursery:

„We produce 20% more seedlings than we need, so we can select the best trees and keep our high survival rate on the planting ground. With 35 workers, we are growing 8 tree species. Each species sprouts at a different time, so we schedule when to seed each species.“



HOW WE PLANT

JUNE

SPRING & EARLY SUMMER

We prepare the planting sites for the upcoming season. Furthermore, we repair machines and take care of infrastructure.

Renita Dsouza, Climate Justice Ambassador from UK

„We plant our seedlings in two different kinds of areas: in flat lands, where the trees have been chopped down and with only grass left behind and also in degraded forests that have been plundered (of all tall and valuable trees) and then have been left behind. On empty lands, we clear the areas by hand first and then plant a tree every 4 meters. If we are planting inside of degraded forests, we respect the existing trees and plant our seedlings between them.“



HOW WE PLANT

JUNE



Early Summer Until Winter

When the rainy season begins, we wait until enough rain has fallen to start planting trees. Usually, this is in June. We can then plant trees until December / January.

Throughout the year, we take care of all the trees we have already planted. 94% survive the first year. After only 4 years, they are more than 4 metres tall. When single trees have not survived, we plant new trees in the free spaces.



In 2019 we already survived a fire on the plantation area, in June 2020 also a flood due to the heavy rainfall at the beginning of the rainy season. We have mastered both challenges.



Elder de la Cruz describes how important it is to take care of planted trees:

„It is really important to clear the area of weeds on a regular basis so that the trees can grow freely. We need to clean the area every 3 months so the trees get enough sunlight and we keep our 94% survival rate.”



PLANTING REPORT 2019



began on

June 6^h

ended on

December 2^d

17,316 trees

have been planted within

213 days

That's 81 trees / day.



EXPLORING THE SCIENCE BEHIND

In 2019, we paved the way for a new planting area “Science Forest PlanBe”. Plant a Seed offers this area to research institutions around the world for field trials. Since we are planting these trees anyway, thanks to your support, we might as well use them to better understand ecosystems. Researchers studying tropical dry forest restoration ecology and related topics are invited to apply. A first scientific experiment with 16,000 trees was started in January 2020 in collaboration with the Botanical Lab Bangalore. A further study for Imperial College Delhi will follow in summer 2020 and build upon this first study.

Located near a passable road, this area is very suitable for visits as well! Soon, a visitor forest will lead you through the research area(s) and let you experience science “firsthand”. Furthermore, a tree nursery and a visitor center are planned for this site.



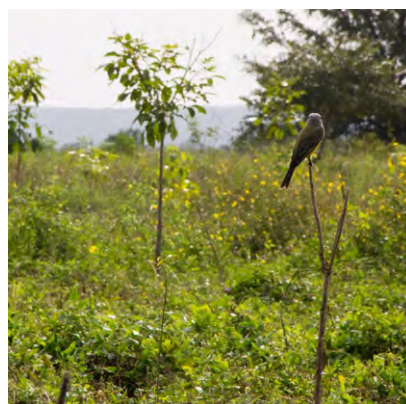
Felix Finkbeiner, PhD Student at ETH Zurich:

„Global forest ecosystems absorb and offset nearly 30 percent of anthropogenic CO₂ emissions storing carbon in living plant biomass and soil. Soil inoculation with native microbial communities increases seedling growth and survival as shown in greenhouse experiments as well as field trials in grassland ecosystems. However, to date, there is no reforestation field trial that actively manipulates the forest microbiome. As a result, whether or not we can restore the forest soil microbiome under realistic field conditions, and in turn improve forest restoration outcomes and C-sequestration rates, remains unknown. In Delhi we have created a field experiment to directly test the impact of soil microbiome restoration on tree growth, survival and ecosystem carbon sequestration rates. We planted native tree species mixes with and without soil microbiome inoculation (the complex community of soil bacteria and fungi) from multiple environments. We measure tree growth, survival and carbon sequestration and sequence the DNA of the microbiome.

By comparing inoculated and un-inoculated treatments we will be able to directly measure the impact of soil microbiome on restoration outcomes. If this is successful, not only will it improve our understanding of plant-soil interactions but also allow us to directly apply this knowledge in our restoration work to make our trees grow faster and capture more carbon.”



A HEALTHY FOREST IS GROWING AGAIN



Donation Accounts

India: Plant A Seed Organisation
IBAN: DE13 7002 0500 0000 2000 00
BIC/SWIFT: BFSWDE33MUE

Switzerland: Luzerner Kantonalbank
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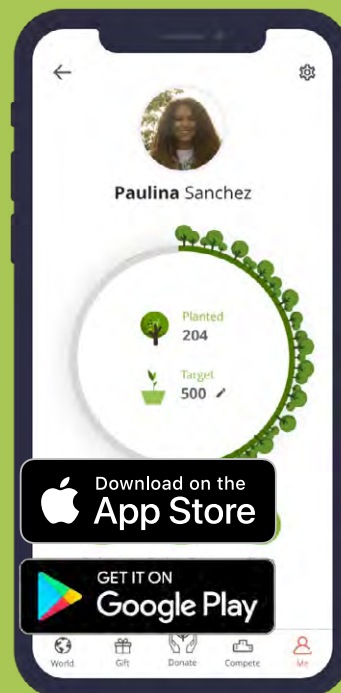
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