



14 Trees

14 Trees Foundation

(A Section 8 Company)

Annual Report

FY 20-21





From the Founder's desk:

Mission: Transform barren lands into sustainable green forests



Village Vetale is located ~65Km North of Pune. Barely 40-50 years ago, scattered hills in the region were covered with native trees and thick vegetation. Due to uncontrolled tree felling, cattle grazing and grass burning, the same hilltops and slopes stand completely devoid of tree cover today. Annual practice of hill burning ensures that seedlings grown naturally during monsoon stand no chance of survival. The saplings which beat the odds are eaten up by cattle which roam freely over barren hilltops.

In the last six years, through a small-scale forestation initiative, we have successfully achieved transformation of 25 acres of barren land into a thriving jungle. Enthused by our early success, we are now aiming to expand our eco restoration work in the neighbouring villages. In the long term, we wish to create grassroots, sustainable and replicable model for reforestation and continue expanding our efforts to other barren regions all over the world.



14 Trees can absorb every bit of CO2 you breathe out over your lifetime

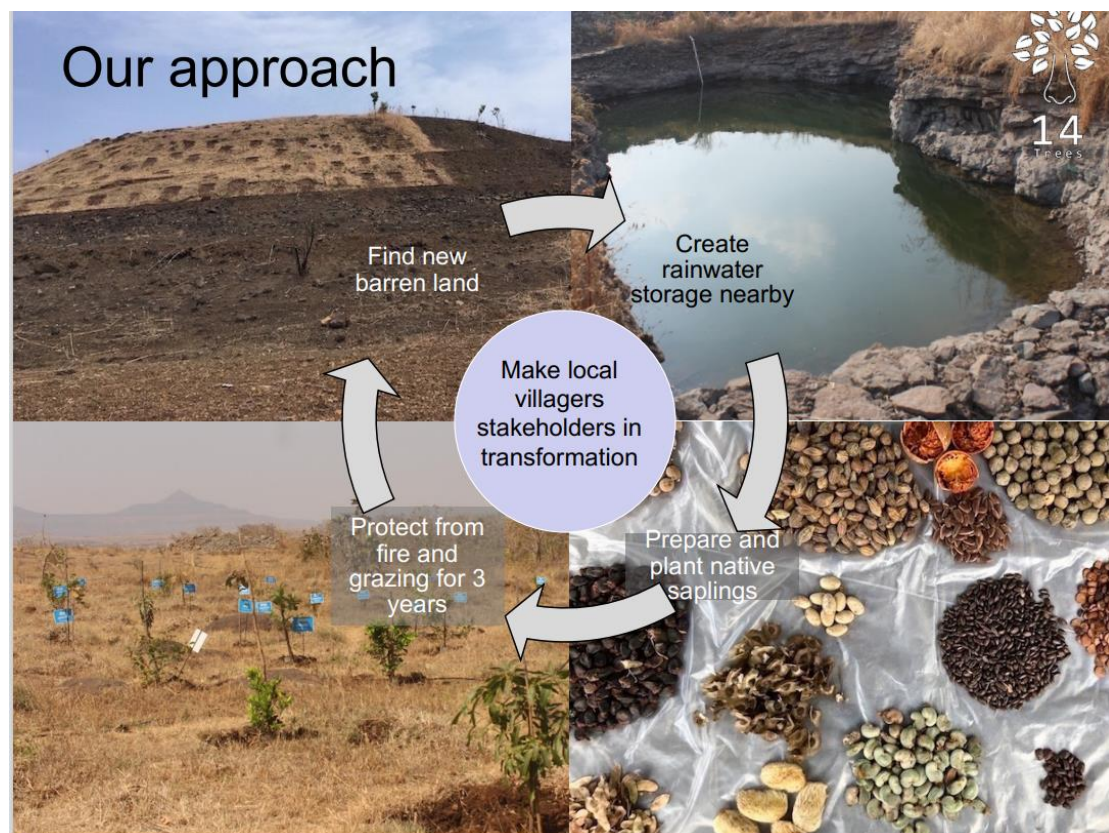
Start planting your 14 trees now! Leave no carbon footprint behind!





A replicable model for reforestation of barren land: Land, Water, Livelihood, Native Plants

Unlike many tree plantation initiatives, at 14TF, native trees are planted on ecologically degraded land. Native trees require more years to grow but then sustain the local flora and fauna and create a thriving and sustainable local ecosystem. Huge ponds are manmade by the foundation to collect rain water to sustain the growth of saplings for the next 3 years. Local tribal youth are engaged for manual work and given training in using technological tools to document small facts like growth of plants, water table monitoring in ponds at a monthly basis. We are bringing - nature enthusiasts, - gram panchayat members, - barren land-owners & - tribal workers together in service of transforming barren land into sustainable forests



Idea was to design a replicable model by creating a holistic self-sustaining approach by choosing the most difficult terrain like a barren land with destruction of entire ecosystem that is essential to grow a forest – where you have to fight the factors such as complete soil erosion, water scarcity, complete destruction of bio diversity due to burning of land for growing only grass. Also, there was a specific focus on planting only native varieties with a minimal intervention of chemical fertilizers and other supplements for survival.

The approach was that if 14 Trees can be successful in making a reforestation initiative successful in such harsh conditions, it will be easier to replicate it elsewhere, where at least some of the conditions are likely to be favourable.





A small experiment has culminated into a massive reforestation initiative



Year	Land (Acres)	Ponds	Trees	Livelihood
<2016	5	1	1000	4
2017	9 (+4)	4 (+3)	1,500 (+500)	7 (+3)
2018	19 (+10)	6 (+2)	3,500 (+2,000)	10 (+3)
2019	25 (+6)	12 (+6)	8,500 (+5,000)	14 (+4)
2020	75 (+50)	17 (+5)	15,500 (+7,000)	36 (+22)
2021	100 (+25)	25 (+8)	22,000 (+6,500)	86 (+50)

Dashboard for daily attendance and tree tracking:

It was important to establish creative methods to involve local tribals for the success of the project. Visible attendance and tree dashboard created a sense of pride in the local community making the recruitment of the taskforce for this growing work easier.





Self-Sustenance by creation of Ponds & Protection

95%+ Survival



Saplings planted on public land generally has a very low survival rate. Once planted unless protection from grazing animals and its water requirements are provided for, 70% saplings planted perish making.



14 Trees has ensured these aspects are taken care for 3 years from the day it is planted. All plantation is done on either foundation land or public land under the supervision of 14Trees.

Bamboo fences are made around each sapling to protect it from grazing animals. Local tribal youth is trained in tree guard making creating local skill development.



Ponds: Relying only on rain water

To fulfil the watering needs of the planted Tree saplings huge rain harvested ponds (17) and trenches have been dug. There are also many percolation ponds created to improve overall ground water levels, for the once completely barren land.

Training is provided to these young men and women at using modern tools of farming, maintaining data and information regarding the trees. The bamboo tree guard making, pond & pits digging, has also created employment for the tribal youth.

All this has resulted in yielding 95% success result in plants survival.





IIT Kanpur Diamond Jubilee Grove:

Project 40,000 trees: A project has been kicked off at 14 Trees to celebrate IIT Kanpur Diamond Jubilee by planting 40,000 trees one tree each in the name of each IITK alum and each faculty member. The dedicated grove has been designed for various annual batches, hostels and even dedicated space for all the faculty of IIT-K.



IITK Faculty Grove

750 trees

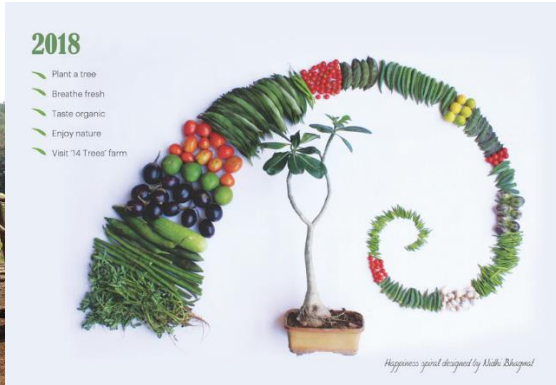
@ 14 Trees Project site, Vetale Forest, near Pune, India





Creative Corner:

Creativity and innovation are the cornerstone of everything that is done at 14 Trees. So right from designing the seating spaces, structures to planning the groves creativity, innovation and natural material is given highest priority.





Visitor's Corner:

Human alignment has been the most important value for 14 Trees. 14 Trees aspires to take all the different stakeholder together in this journey. In that spirit, we are honoured to be supported by the important stakeholders such as government officials, academia, ecological experts, nature enthusiasts and villagers.



IIT Kanpur Director,
Prof. Abhay Karandikar



Pune Police Commissioner,
Shri Amitabh Gupta



Padma Shree & former IITK Director,
Prof. Sanjay Dhande



Ecological Society Team
Manasi, Ajay & Ketaki





14 Trees Foundation is a charitable organization dedicated to building sustainable, carbon-footprint-neutral ecosystems through reforestation. The Not-for-profit company has an ambitious goal of transforming barren patches of land into sustainable forests. For more information on 14 Trees Foundation, please visit www.14trees.org

Pravin Bhagwat is an entrepreneur and a wireless security researcher. He was Co-founder & CTO of Mojo Networks -- a product venture which started in year 2003 from Pune and grew to become a leading provider of Cloud Managed Secure Wi-Fi for the global market. In 2018, the company was acquired by Arista.

Prior to starting his entrepreneurial journey, Pravin served as a Visiting Faculty at Computer Science Department, IIT Kanpur. In 2005, Pravin was awarded MIT's Global Indus Technovator Award for successfully engineering the world's first multi-hop WLAN network. Pravin is also the recipient of IIT Kanpur Distinguished Alumnus Award of 2019.



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