CHINTHANA FOUNDATION, AJJAMPURA

Progress Report on

MAINTENANCE OF TREES PLANTED UNDER PROMOTION OF ECO-FRIENDLY SCHOOLS AND ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN PROJECT

Period: January 2023 to November 2023

Introduction:

The programme team of CHINTHANA foundation has continued the implementation of the Project "Maintenance of Trees Planted under Promotion of Eco-Friendly Schools and Environmental Education for Children Project" with the support of PPI, Seattle-USA. The project activities are effectively implemented in the field of 05 schools namely; 1.Arabala, 2.Garagadahalli, 3.Bhuthanahalli, 4.Muguli and 5.Bankanakatte Schools in Ajjampura block of Chikmagalur districts of Karnataka state, India.

Activities done:

The following activities were continued and effectively implemented under this project during the period from January 2023 to 15th November 2023.

1. **Maintenance of Horticulture & agro forestry plants**

It was a delight to see the good growth of trees planted in previous years. About 95% of survival was recorded in tree plantation. Though there was acute shortage of Monsoon rains this year, Chinthana Foundation managed to keep the trees alive through watering by drip and hose pipe method. We received only about 40% of normal rains this year. Again this year we replanted 5% of tree saplings to make it 100% of 1525 trees.

We experienced good growth of trees. Some of them have started bearing fruits such as Cherry, Gooseberry, Guva, Drumstick, Curry leaves, Chikku and Lemon. Altogether there are more than 25 varieties / species of tree plants growing in 5 schools. These trees are environment friendly and beneficial to students and birds.

It is important to note that, teacher's involvement was significant for the growth and protection of trees. Especially the role of Headmaster, Teachers and students plays very important.

During this reporting period we had college students placed for their practical training at our institution. 5 Final year Bachelor of social work students visited 2 days weekly visit, 8 students of 1st year Master of social work placed or 21 days placement and 5 students of 2nd year Engineering students were under placement. They were given proper exposure in community development activities and involved in tree plantation maintenance. They were benefited with onsite learning and practical training. They learnt the different species of trees, hoeing, weeding, planting, watering, manuring through the involvement of school students. They were exposed to the importance of environment promotion through green cover.

- Replanting of trees in exchange of causalities.
- During the period we procured tank silt through tractors and applied the same to the plants for better growth.

- Hoeing was conducted to remove unwanted weed and earth work (Mulching) around the trees
- Weeding was conducted to remove unwanted weed growth in the plantation field
- Pruning of trees was undertaken
- Watering of trees on regulars basis was undertaken
- Extraction of compost manure from the existing pits and applied to the plants.
- Kitchen gardens were developed at 3 schools viz: Bhuthanally, Garagadally and Bankankatte.
- The growth of tree plants being grown by students was encouraging.

Apart from this, regular meetings with teachers, students and SDMC members were carried out to motivate them for better involvement in tree plantation project.

I.No	**Name of the school**	**Total no. of plants planted**	**Protection measures**	**Water facility**
1.	Garagadahalli School	410	Compound wall and Barbed wire stone fencing	Available in the school premises through water supply system from G.P on daily basis
2.	Arabala Gollarahatti	260	Compound wall	-do-
3.	Muguli	300	Compound wall and Barbed wire stone fencing	-do-
4.	Bhuthanahalli	180	Compound wall and Barbed wire stone fencing	-do-
5	Bankanakatte	375	Compound wall	-do-
Total		**1525**		

List of tree species planted / growing in these schools

1. Cherry
2. Guva
3. Gooseberry
4. Coconut
5. Wild Cardamom
6. Jackfruit
7. Jamoon
8. Drumstick
9. Teak
10. Curry leaves
11. Lemon
12. Arecanut
13. Neem
14. Bull Feet
15. Rosewood
16. Goni
17. Lagestroemia speciosa

18. Tamarind
19. Bela
20. Pongemia
21. Mango
22. Sugar Fruit
23. Mahagoni
24. Chikku
25. Castrol

2. Compound Wall Facility

School compound construction was completed by local Gram Panchayaths at Garagadally and Mugali schools. We have pakka compound walls in all the 5 schools. Garagadally, Muguli and Bhuthanally schools have wall compound on 3 sides and barbed wired stone pillar fencing on one side. As of now the plants are safe from any predators with proper fencing and compound walls. Water facility is available in all the schools premises.

3. Water Facility

Chinthana Foundation and the school authorities have established micro drip irrigation and hose pipes system to irrigate trees in all the 5 school plantations. Drip irrigation is adopted in 3 schools at Bhuthanally, Muguli and Bankankatte. The other 2 schools at Garagadally and Arabala Gollarhatti were having water hose pipes to water trees. Water is supplied by local Gram Panchayaths through their pipe system connected to mini water tanks. Garagadally is having facility of farm pond with a size of 15'x20'x5' but there is shortage of rain water this year..

As of now we have 100% survival rate of plants. And we have been taking every protection measures to protect and promote tree plants.

4. Weeding & Hoeing:

During this period, we have continued the de-weeding and hoeing around the trees in all 5 schools. This has enabled the tree roots to get enough oxygen, water percolation and roots penetration into deep soil. This was done regularly on quarterly basis in all plantation areas. As a result, the plant growth was promising.

5. Mulching and Manuring:

We have conducted Mulching and manuring activities which provided enough nutrients to trees planted in all 5 schools. The dried fallen leaves and cow dung gathered from nearby farms were applied to tree roots. Around 100 kgs of compost manure was extracted from each compost pits and applied to the trees. Students were very much involved in this activity

6. Tank Silt Application

During this period, 10 tractor loads of nutrient rich red and black soil silt from tank was procured and applied to all the 5 school tree plantations. This has increased the soil fertility to sustain the productivity of land and plants.

7. **Compost manure for school tree plants**

During this period, 5 compost pits have been established in 5 schools. The measurement of the compost a pit was 5'x4'x5' (Lx H x W). We collected the dried fallen leaves and weeds, filled into compost pits to make compost manure. The compost manure that was produced was applied to the base of the plants. The process of composting will continue to produce compost manure.

8. **Sharing of success story at ECHO conference held at Thailand**

Mr.Channappa was selected and invited to attend ECHO conference held at Thailand during October 17th to 22nd 2023. I have shared the success story of our Government School tree plantation being sponsored by PPI-USA at ECHO Asia Agriculture and Community Development Conference with ARI (Asian Rural Institute) graduates held at Thailand. The response from participants was very encouraging.

9. **Scanty Rains:**

As against the previous year scenario, this year our area and the entire Karnataka state received very less rains. We received only about 40% of normal rains this year. This affected monsoon crops adversely and thereby farmers have incurred heavy loss.

Even in this critical situation, we continued to protect our trees by watering plants from tanks on regular basis.

Conclusion:

Tree plantation maintenance programme has been effectively implemented in 5 schools jointly by Chinthana Foundation and the Government School Authorities, students and SDM members. The success of the programme mainly depends upon the pro-active involvement of schools. They need to play a major role to upkeep the plantation on day to day basis. They need to motivate and involve the students. Chinthana Foundation took the responsibility of capacity building and motivating the concerned school for their better involvement in trees maintenance, especially in watering, weeding and manuring.

Reported By:

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Attached photos;
Picasa Web Link: https://photos.app.goo.gl/581byrubB3VcC5tF9