People for Progress in India (PPI)

Raah FOUNDATION

Status Report: Nashik District Nursery Development Project
July 2025

Supported by People for Progress in India

Implemented by : Raah Foundation

Summary:

Seed sowing for 13,000 saplings commenced in April–May 2025 as part of the annual plantation initiative. Women played a key role in nursery activities, with capacity-building sessions strengthening their expertise in climate-resilient nursery practices. These saplings will support large-scale afforestation and land restoration efforts in Western Ghats, Nashik.

Progress Recap (Till April 2025):

Prior to sowing season, the following preparatory activities were completed:

- Seed collection from native species
- Nursery bed preparation
- Procurement and delivery of equipment and material
- Distribution of soil and compost to each nursery
- Finalization of sowing timelines for May–July

June& July 2025 Updates and Developments

- As part of pre-monsoon preparations, seed sowing began across all nurseries in April–May 2025, with a yearly target of 13,000 saplings. This forms part of a broader three-year goal to raise a total of 27,000 saplings for afforestation and land restoration .
- **Sowing activities had been completed at Belgaon Dhaga, Kone and Mohimewadi nurseries**, but shortly after, Kone and Mohimewadi areas experienced severe flooding due to intense rainfall. The nursery beds were submerged, damaging infrastructure and halting the germination process.
- **To avoid loss of seeds**, the already sowed seeds were carefully transferred to **Belgaon Dhaga Nursery**, which remained unaffected due to its higher elevation. Resowing of the seeds was carried out, and germination has since begun as expected.
- Since the saplings had to be relocated from **Mohimewadi and Kone** due to the damage, the **women who were initially involved in nursery operations** are now

engaged in **other plantation activities** such as sapling **care and maintenance**, ensuring continued involvement and livelihood support

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Capacity building in climate-resilient nursery management was conducted to equip women with hands-on skills in seed care that can protect the seeds from climate related challenges and ensure proper germination.. Training included:

- **Putting the saplings in the shade nets** to protect them from extreme heat and wind.
- **Growing the saplings on raised beds to protect their roots from further damage because of waterlooging because of intense rains.**
- **Timely weeding and thinning** to prevent overcrowding and allow healthy growth.
- **Proper spacing of seedlings** to promote strong root development and upright growth.
- **Rotating watering schedules based on seasonal needs helps prevent under- or overwatering and gradually conditions saplings to become more resilient to changing field conditions.**
- **Application of organic pest control methods** to protect saplings from early-stage disease or infestation
- **Hardening techniques**, such as gradually exposing saplings to direct sunlight by rotating their position, help strengthen them before transplantation and improve their survival rates in field conditions.

These practices ensure that saplings not only germinate but also develop strong roots and are resilience and ready for plantation to withstand climatic pressures.

Figure 1: Sowing of seeds for germination

Future Plan

Continuous maintenance of 13,000 saplings at Belgaon Dhaga until they are ready for plantation, including regular watering, weeding, pest control, and monitoring growth.

Develop and implement risk mitigation measures to better prepare for future weather-related disruptions, such as improving drainage and raising nursery beds for next year cycle

The saplings raised under this intervention will be used in large-scale **afforestation and land restoration projects in Nashik District**, targeting degraded forest areas and vulnerable hill slopes.

This will:

- Enhance green cover and biodiversity
- Improve microclimates and soil health
- Contribute to water table recharge and reduce erosion
- Build ecosystem resilience to climate change

Conclusion

Despite climate-related disruptions, the community nursery program demonstrates resilience, adaptability, and strong community ownership. Through strategic pivots and a woman-led approach, the initiative is not only meeting ecological targets but also strengthening grassroots climate action and livelihoods. The saplings raised will play a critical role in shaping a greener, more climate-resilient Nashik.