

# 2017

Connecting the dots.....  
The Billion who cause climate  
change and the Billion who  
sleep hungry!

## 51,000 Fruit Trees in Bundelkhand



## 51,000 fruit trees in Lalitpur, Bundelkhand, UP, India

---

**Sustainable Green Initiative (SGI):** Plants trees (fruit) to fight global warming along with hunger, poverty and rural migration. The trees are planted in land owned by marginal/ BPL farmers and in community-owned lands such as orphanages, old-age homes, residential schools for the underprivileged, etc.



Figure 1 Fruit Tree Planting at St Josephs Old-age Home, Kolkata

In rural India, SGI works through self-help groups who identify and work with farmers in need and helps them by providing saplings and the money needed to plant and nurture these trees for an initial period of two-three years. In orphanages, old-age homes and rural areas, a sapling planted and nurtured for two years grows into a (fruit) tree, which can provide sustained nourishment and/ or income to the beneficiary for 40-50 years or more.

A grove of 100 trees provides sustainable income to a family of four and ensures that they do not need to migrate to urban areas from their rural communities in search of food or livelihood. All this, while fighting the ever-increasing global menace of rising carbon dioxide and green house gas emissions which are responsible for climate change. Inter-cropping with seasonal vegetables adds to the livelihood and sustainability by providing fresh produce to communities and farmers.

## 51,000 fruit trees in Lalitpur, Bundelkhand, UP, India

---



Figure 2 Beginning in 2014, SGI has planted 11,000 fruit trees in Bali Island of the Sunderbans in West Bengal

Since 2013, SGI has planted and nurtured over 2,00,000 trees across Uttarakhand, West Bengal, Odisha, Haryana, Karnataka and Delhi NCR in 65 sites; of this 50,000 saplings were planted and are being taken care of in the Delhi NCR area. The money for the tree planting activity is raised from individuals, businesses and social organizations as a tree planting, afforestation, ISR/CSR or sponsorship activity.



Figure 3 Fruit tree planting near Yavatmal in the Vidharba region of Maharashtra

## 51,000 fruit trees in Lalitpur, Bundelkhand, UP, India

---

**As part of our goals, in July 2016, we planted 2,500 fruit trees in Lalitpur, Bundelkhand, UP, India.**

Bundelkhand, where human beings like you and I had to resort to eating rotis (bread) made of wild grass.

For all of us who had been reading reports of the 2015 drought across India, Bundelkhand stood out as the worst affected region. Discussions with the [advisory board](#) suggested a recce and a subsequent action plan. In early 2016, Ramit Basu and Raj Mohan, Founder, SGI; joined hands to work in the region.

An engineer by qualification, [Ramit is a climate and social activist](#), who believes strengthening of Panchayats is the only means to sustainable development and has been working in that direction for the past two years. He intends to work with [Basudevji of BSS](#), Lalitpur, in motivating and hand-holding Rural Local Governments in Bundelkhand on adopting measures to combat climate change and protect the biodiversity for food and livelihood security, which is also as per the mandate of Gram Panchayats enshrined in the Constitution.



Thanks to the generous support of friends, SGI was able to plant 2,500 fruit tree saplings in two villages, Sorai and Banhori Kalan, of Mandavra block around Lalitpur. These are some of the poorest drought-prone villages of Bundelkhand in Uttar Pradesh.

## 51,000 fruit trees in Lalitpur, Bundelkhand, UP, India

---



Figure 4 Ramit Basu, Basudevji and Raj Mohan planting a fruit tree at the local primary school

Fruit trees are an important natural and economic tool available to alleviate hunger and poverty, and combat climate change. Each fruit tree when mature will yield a minimum of INR 1,000 worth of fruits. A grove of hundred such fruit trees can help a marginal farmer with an additional income of INR 100,000 per year, which can help uplift them from the throes of hunger and poverty that they live in now.

## 51,000 fruit trees in Lalitpur, Bundelkhand, UP, India

---



In January 2017, we revisited the beneficiaries and planting sites to gauge the progress. Despite the harshness of the passing winter, we were pleasantly surprised to see all the plants growing well; the villagers and staff of Bundelkhand Seva Sansthan had ensured that these trees will bear fruit soon.



## 51,000 fruit trees in Lalitpur, Bundelkhand, UP, India

---



Figure 5 The care taken by the villagers gives us confidence

## 51,000 fruit trees in Lalitpur, Bundelkhand, UP, India

---

**51,000 fruit trees in Bundelkhand, 2017:** Buoyed by our previous tree-planting effort and after having seen the results of the efforts of the villagers in nurturing and raising the fruit trees, we initiated this year's project in May by seeking to raise INR 350,000 to plant and nurture another 4,000 fruit trees for 120 marginal farmers, trees that would provide food, nutrition and additional income to marginal farmers of Anaora village, Distt Lalitpur, Bundelkhand, UP.

As soon as we announced this year's project and presented it to friends and fellow tree planters, SGI received good support. An **old friend and patron from Kolkata** committed INR 111,000. The **Earth Day Network** contributed to plant 2,017 fruit trees. **Southern movie star** Vishnu Vishal contributed 100,000 towards the cause. **Nanjibhai Patel** from Phoenix Projects Rajkot committed up to INR 250,000. Friends and family rallied with financial support and encouragement.



They gave us the encouragement and resolve to revise our plan to plant 51,000 fruit trees in five villages around Lalitpur. When we were just a little short of our fund raising target Mr Aditya Pundir and **The Climate Reality Project** stepped in to complete the gap. We raised the required INR ten lakh budgeted for this fruit tree planting activity which was completed on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2017.



## 51,000 fruit trees in Lalitpur, Bundelkhand, UP, India



**Planting fruit trees to help fight climate change along with hunger and poverty:** A total of 1,042 families of marginal farmers in ten villages of Anora, Masora, Bamhorikala, Sorai, Ala Jalandhar, Didoniya, Darutala Almoda Pahadikhurd, Neemkheda, Dhawa and Bhounti have been chosen by us based on the recommendations of our partner NGO -Bundelkhand Sewa Sansthan, based on the farmers income levels, land holding, willingness to plant and most importantly, nurture the saplings. Planting will begin by 28<sup>th</sup> July and will be completed by 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2017 to capitalize on monsoon rains.



# 51,000 fruit trees in Lalitpur, Bundelkhand, UP, India

## Day 1: July 28<sup>th</sup>, Anoura: 8500 plants:

Guava, Goosberry (Amla), Lemon (Nimbu), Wood Apple (Bael) and Jackfruit (Kathal)  
8500 fruit tree saplings were distributed in Anoura village on 28<sup>th</sup> July..



## 51,000 fruit trees in Lalitpur, Bundelkhand, UP, India



Figure 6 Enthusiastic villagers start to plant their fruit tree saplings immediately

51,000 fruit trees in Lalitpur, Bundelkhand, UP, India

---



# 51,000 fruit trees in Lalitpur, Bundelkhand, UP, India

## Day 2: July 29<sup>th</sup>, Sorai: 9500 plants:

Guava, Goosberry (Amla), Lemon (Nimbu), Wood Apple (Bael) and Jackfruit (Kathal)  
9500 fruit tree saplings were distributed in Sorai village on 29<sup>th</sup> July.



Figure 7 Bahadur Singh planted 440 fruit trees four years ago. He says he gets an annual income of around eighty thousand rupees from these trees now. See how fruit trees can change lives.

# 51,000 fruit trees in Lalitpur, Bundelkhand, UP, India

---



51,000 fruit trees in Lalitpur, Bundelkhand, UP, India

---



Figure 8 You are never too old to plant a fruit tree

## 51,000 fruit trees in Lalitpur, Bundelkhand, UP, India

---

### Day 3: July 31st, Bhamori Kalan: 9500 plants: Bhaonti: 9500 plants

Guava, Goosberry (Amla), Lemon (Nimbu), Wood Apple (Bael) and Jackfruit (Kathal), Custard Apple  
A total of 19,000 fruit tree saplings were distributed and planted in two villages of Bhamori Kalan and Bhaonti on 31st July.





# 51,000 fruit trees in Lalitpur, Bundelkhand, UP, India



Figure 9 Bhundu, a small farmer planted 50 fruit trees

51,000 fruit trees in Lalitpur, Bundelkhand, UP, India

---



Figure 10 Planting a Custard Apple sapling at Bamhori Kalan

## 51,000 fruit trees in Lalitpur, Bundelkhand, UP, India



Figure 11 At Bhaonti, where farmers from three adjoining villages collected their fruit tree saplings



# 51,000 fruit trees in Lalitpur, Bundelkhand, UP, India



# 51,000 fruit trees in Lalitpur, Bundelkhand, UP, India

## Day 4: August 1<sup>st</sup>, Didoniya: 8500 plants:

Guava, Goosberry (Amla), Lemon (Nimbu), Wood Apple (Bael) and Jackfruit (Kathal), Custard Apple 8500 fruit tree saplings were distributed and planted in and around Didoniya on th 1<sup>st</sup> of August.



Figure 12 Children are as always, the most enthusiastic participants

51,000 fruit trees in Lalitpur, Bundelkhand, UP, India

---



Figure 13 A jackfruit tree is slow to fruit, but then it yields at least one thousand rupees every year.

51,000 fruit trees in Lalitpur, Bundelkhand, UP, India

---



## 51,000 fruit trees in Lalitpur, Bundelkhand, UP, India

Figure 14 Hope to have a bountiful harvest of fruit in the coming years.





# 51,000 fruit trees in Lalitpur, Bundelkhand, UP, India

## Day 5: August 2nd, Masaura

Guava, Goosberry (Amla), Lemon (Nimbu), Wood Apple (Bael) and Jackfruit (Kathal), Custard Apple  
Mrs Karuna Singh, Country Head, Earth Day Network – India came all the way from Kolkata to encourage and participate on the final day of this program.



51,000 fruit trees in Lalitpur, Bundelkhand, UP, India

---



51,000 fruit trees in Lalitpur, Bundelkhand, UP, India

---



Figure 15 Mrs Karuna Singh - Country Head, and Mr Anil Arora of EDN India, planting a Guava tree at Anoura Village.

## 51,000 fruit trees in Lalitpur, Bundelkhand, UP, India

---

**ABOUT US: Sustainable Green Initiative:** SGI plants trees (fruit) to fight global warming along with hunger, poverty and rural migration. These trees are planted in land owned by marginal/BPL farmers or in community-owned lands such as government residential schools for the underprivileged, orphanages and old-age homes.

In rural areas, SGI works through self-help groups who identify and work with small and marginal farmers in need and help them by providing saplings and money needed to plant and nurture these trees for an initial period of two-three years.

In orphanages, old-age homes and rural areas, a sapling planted and nurtured for two years grows into a (fruit) tree which can provide sustained nourishment and/ or income to the beneficiary for 40-50 years or more.



Figure 16 Bananas fruiting at Mulvany House Kolkata, a home for the aged.

A grove of 100 trees provides sustainable income to a family of four and ensures that they do not need to migrate to urban areas from their rural communities in search of food or livelihood. All this, while fighting the ever increasing global menace of increasing carbon dioxide and green house gas emissions which are responsible for climate change.

Inter-cropping with seasonal vegetables adds to the livelihood and sustainability by providing fresh produce to communities and farmers.

Since 2013, SGI has planted and nurtured over 250,000 trees across Uttarakhand, West Bengal, Odisha, Haryana, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Delhi NCR in over 70 sites. Funds for these efforts are raised from friends, family and corporate CSR.

### **Our focus**

Planting trees is a well accepted and respected method of combating Green House Gases and Carbon Dioxide emissions that are responsible for global warming and climate change. We at SGI have taken this

## 51,000 fruit trees in Lalitpur, Bundelkhand, UP, India

---

methodology a step further by implementing tree planting strategies, which also help in alleviating hunger, nutrition deficiency and poverty.

We work with the objective of connecting the two sets of dots... the billion who cause climate change and the billion and more who sleep hungry.



Figure 17 The Managing Director and senior members of the Board of Delhi Metro Rail Corporation celebrated World Environment Day 2014 by planting trees at Metro Bhavan and at Shastri Park, New Delhi

**Our methodology: How we plant and nurture trees to mitigate climate change, and where feasible, hunger and poverty:**

Trees aren't just about clean air, although it is a vital function they perform for our existence. There is absolutely no other way to generate life-giving oxygen in the air other than trees and green cover. Trees perform many innumerable good deeds for us. They give and give and ask for nothing in return, except that they be allowed to co-exist with our air-conditioners, smoke-belching trucks and fossil-fuel burning cars and manufacturing plants.

# 51,000 fruit trees in Lalitpur, Bundelkhand, UP, India

## Patrons & Partners

Larsen & Toubro Construction
Hero MotoCorp Ltd
Ola Cabs
Yes Bank
NIIT Technologies Ltd
JustDial Ltd
The Climate Reality Project
Earth Day Network
Delhi Metro Rail Corporation
Sports Authority Of India
Phoenix Projects
Master Trust Ltd
Garg Electronics
Sunderbans Development Board
Lions Clubs International
Inner Wheel Club
VFS International
Heritage School
and supported by environmentally conscious individuals and SMEs

## Tree Planting Locations

Year	State	Site Location
2013	Kolkata	Bidhan Sishu Udyan
2013	Kolkata	Mulvany House
2013	Kolkata	Pratt Memorial School
2013	Kolkata	Tolly Homes
2013	Uttarakhand	Suneel, Auli
2014	Delhi	Najafgarh Auxilium
2014	Delhi	Najafgarh Ish Vatika
2014	Delhi	Yamuna Banks Shastri Park
2014	Gurgaon	Anandashram
2014	Gurgaon	BC Farm
2014	Gurgaon	St Michaels School
2014	Kolkata	Kolagachiya
2014	Kolkata	SPCI
2014	Kolkata	Thakurpukur Church
2015	Delhi	Ish Vatika
2015	Haryana	Asha Kiran
2015	Haryana	CC Shool& Orphanage
2015	Haryana	Hari Om Ashram
2015	Haryana	JNV Faroukh Nagar
2015	Haryana	JNV Jaffarpur
2015	Haryana	JNV Kalo
2015	Haryana	St Charles Samaspur
2015	Kolkata	Auxilium Rajarhat
2015	Kolkata	Rabindra Sarobar
2015	Kolkata	SAI Eastern Complex
2015	Kolkata	St Josephs Home
2015	Odisha	Vasundhara Orphanage
2015	West Bengal	Bali Island, Sunderbans
2016	Delhi	Holy Family Hospital
2016	Delhi	Vasant Vihar Club
2016	Haryana	Chetanalaya
2016	Haryana	JNV Butana
2016	Haryana	JNV Faridabad
2016	Haryana	JNV Jaffarpur
2016	Haryana	JNV Nuh
2016	Haryana	JNV Rohtak
2016	Karnataka	Homesteads Marginal farmers
2016	Maharashtra	Yavatmal
2016	UP	Lalitpur
2016	Uttarakhand	Chamasarie Gram Panchayat
2016	W Bengal	Asha Bari
2017	W Bengal	Sunderbans
2017	Uttar Pradesh	Lalitpur, Bundelkhand
2017	Delhi NCR	BSF Camp, Chhawla

## 51,000 fruit trees in Lalitpur, Bundelkhand, UP, India



Figure 18 Lions Clubs International - International 2nd Vice President, Dr. Jitsuhiro Yamada, planting trees as part of a 1000-tree planting festival at Bidhan Sishu Udyan, Ultadanga, in the presence of the Lions from around Kolkata.

According to scientific studies data, the simplest way to combat climate change and alarming levels of pollution is to plant trees. As is common knowledge, carbon dioxide is one of the main causes of global warming. CO<sub>2</sub> and other greenhouse gases blanket the earth's atmosphere and trap heat. This leads to warming of the earth's atmosphere since the trapped heat is prevented from escaping. This can be redressed by trees, they breathe in CO<sub>2</sub> and breathe out oxygen.

For more: [Sustainable Green Initiative](#)

[Facebook](#) [Linkedin](#) [Twitter](#)

Press: [Resilient Cities](#) [Mint](#) [Giving Issue](#)

[Climate Leader](#) trained by Nobel Laureate Al Gore.

Winner: Certificate of Excellence for the 45 Cities [शहर GREEN करो](#) - It's Our Turn to Lead campaign

Youtube: [Fruit Tree Planting at Mulvany House, an old age home](#)



[RajMohan@greening.in](mailto:RajMohan@greening.in)

Ph: +91 98317 84225