# REPORT ON MASS PLANTATION AT STONE CRUSHERS' **PREMISES** BY **CRAZYGREEN**

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## **PROJECT AND PARTICIPANTS**

# **Project**

Mass Plantation at Stone Crushers' premises situated at ghaad area, near Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh

# **Project Duration**

Aug-Oct 2010

# **Participants**

- Pollution Department
- Forest Department
- Stone Crushers' owners
- Crazy Green
  - 1. Ajay Singhal
  - 2. Nitin Sharma
  - 3. Shorit Sharma
  - 4. Mohd Shahbuddin
  - 5. Niranjan Dev
  - 6. Achin Bhardwaj
  - 7. Rajat Goyal
  - 8. Sandeep Jand
  - 9. Lalit Saini
  - 10. Naveen Kumar
  - 11. Vikram Singh
  - 12. Shubhang Gaur
  - 13. Sanjeev Agarwal
  - 14. Sanjay Kumar
  - 15. Kuldeep Dhamija
  - 16. Sanjeev Sharma
  - 17. Mahendra Tuteja
  - 18. Romy Sachdeva
  - 19. Naveen Gupta
  - 20. Madhvi Singhal
  - 21. Rekha Sharma

- 22. Vinay Jain
- 23. Gurpreet Singh
- 24. Mandeep Singh
- 25. Deepak Malhotra
- 26. Rajeshwar Gupta
- 27. Narendra Kumar
- 28. Kamal Kishore
- 29. Payal Gupta (Worked on Reports and documentation)
- 30. Some other members who are not from Crazy Green (They joined the project on Sundays)

# Persons who assisted us during this project

- Sh Alok Kumar , DM of Saharanpur
- Sh Naushad, Owner of Pradhan Stone Crusher
- Sh Devraj, Owwner of Shiv Sagar stone crusher
- Sh Munnawar, Employee of Sunderpur Stone Crushers Union
- Sh Niranjan Dev, Yog Guru from Chhutmalpur
- Sh S. K. Upadhyaya, Environmentalist
- Sh A K Verma , A.E., Pollution Department

## **INTRODUCTION**

# Purpose of report making

- To acknowledge and appreciate those persons who helped us in this project.
- To cover all the problems, planning flaws and other difficulties faced by us during the project.
- To point out the things that should be taken care in future projects.

## **Crazy Green**

Crazy Green is a part of Panchtatva which deals in environmental issues. We have been working for almost last three years and nine months. Our working areas are Saharanpur, Rishikesh and Chamba. Recently we have started our activities in Dehradun and Hyderabad also. Now a group from Brazil is also

working with us and helping us in maintaining our website, writing blogs on website and providing material which should be discussed on these platforms. After seeing our efforts in "Save River" project and other continuous plantation activities in Saharanpur, Pollution Department asked us, "Can Crazy Green work as a Supervising Agency for Plantation in some industries?" After getting our positive response, they called us in a meeting with stone crushers' owners.

## MEETING, PROJECT ACCEPTANCE AND THE PROJECT PLAN

#### **Minutes of Meeting**

The meeting took place at Vikas Bhawan, Saharanpur. Purpose of this meeting was to motivate the owners of stone crushers situated near Saharanpur.

Attendees of the meeting were

- 1. DM Sh. Alok Kumar
- 2. DFO Sh. Girish Kumar
- 3. Owners of stone crushers
- 4. Pollution Department
- Crazy Green

The owners of stone crushers were not interested in doing plantation in their premises while they needed 33% area covered with plants as per norms. They were saying that doing plantation in those areas was impossible and so they were unable to plant trees there.

Then, those people were said to take help from Crazy Green in doing plantation in their premises.

DM Sh. Alok Kumar played a very important role in this meeting and motivated them to do plantation at their premises. He told that it was their moral duty to participate in the plantation event.

Pollution department and Crazy Green also motivated and convinced those people for plantation. Finally, it was decided that 70 trees would be planted in one bigha land and each stone crusher needed to do plantation in 33 % area. DFO Sh. Girish suggested which plants would be good for those areas. Also, it was decided that the plants would be supplied by Forest Nurseries and the cost of plantation and transportation will be borne by the owners of stone crushers.

The Role of Crazy Green in the project

It was decided that Crazy Green will help stone crushers as advisor or helper. And, will do supervise the entire event.

## Our thinking at the time of accepting the project

When we accepted the project, below picture was in our mind

- Thinking that big trucks transport gravel and sand there, we assumed that stone crushers would be situated in an area near the concrete roads.
- As administration was motivating the people, we were in impression that all people would help us in this project.
- We were very happy that we would plant almost 25000 to 30000 trees, which we had not plant in even last almost 4 years. So we grabbed the project and started working with full enthusiasm. Our members were in great enthusiasm and we worked out a complete plan.

## Our plan for the project

We planned our activities in below two phases:

- 1. **First Phase:** After taking list of addresses and contact numbers from Pollution Department, we would visit all the premises of stone crushers. And, as per the area of stone crushers, we would communicate the number of trees to be planted to their owners. For this, we designed forms in such a way so that we could document the details like area, number of already planted trees, how many more trees needed to be planted and other comments against each stone crusher.
- 2. **Second Phase:** For second phase, we planned to collect trees from Government nurseries, send them at those areas and then do plantation in presence of Crazy Green members.

# **ACTUAL WORK DETAILS OF THE PROJECT**

## First phase

#### Address and contact number list of stone crushers

As per our plan, we asked Pollution Department for the list of all stone crushers having their contact numbers and addresses. But, the list that department provided us, was having only names of 108 stone crushers; it was having neither contact number nor address of any stone crusher. So, first we had to work on getting the addresses and contact numbers of stone crushers. We could do this with the help of those few owners who were present in the meeting and so we were having their contact numbers with us. Doing this, we came to know that working area was very wide and spread in hundreds of kilometres

from Biharigarh to Kurdikheda, Sundarpur, Satpura, Jahanpur, Khushhalipur, Mirzapur, Raipur, Shakumbari devi, Badshahibagh, Kothdi, and many more other villages. We filled this information in the form designed by us.

#### Visit of first place Sundarpur

Knowing that Sundarpur area is only about 40 kms apart from Saharanpur and also, because **union** leader Sh. Naushad promised us to help in Sundarpur area, we planned the visit of 45 stone crushers' locations in the whole day.

We reached over there according to our plan, but what we saw there was out of our imagination. We were not aware that stone crushers were situated near river side and had no roads; that there are 70-100 feet deep pits in land; that they dug near roadsides, banks of Rain Rivers and everywhere they could. It seemed as if everyone there was busy in looting of boulders because they are digging in the land of forest department (land of SAMAJIK VANIKI).

Owners of those stone crushers were thinking that we wanted to make money by planting trees, so they were telling us wrong area of their crushers.

Due to these difficulties first day we could cover only 19 locations out of targeted 45 ones. And, for those 19 locations we informed the owners the count of trees they needed to plant as per their area. Every detail we filled in forms which we took with us.

#### Visit of second place Rajpur

On our second visit, we went to Rajpur area with **Sh. Devraj, the owner of Shiv Sagar Stone Crusher**. After visiting that area we felt that Sundarpur area was much better than this because this area was the worst area we had ever seen. So many stone crushers were in a line. Hundreds of bulldozers were digging in Yamuna. Everywhere traffic jam, trucks, tractors, bulldozers and stones.

Seeing the way of dealing of some owners of those stone crushers, we felt some kind of unknown fear that day. Their way of talking was so rude and loud that we never faced earlier in our life. This fear remained with us till the end of this project.

We told the owners of those premises to inform us a date for the plantation.

## Summary of first phase

After above visits, we again visited more stone crushers in those areas. And thus, in 4 - 5 visits we completed visit to almost 82 stone crushers from the list of 108. And, for all visited premises, we were having all details in our forms against each visited stone crusher.

Other stone crushers are so scattered that it was impossible to reach there without the help of guide. Almost all scattered stone crushers are situated in Raipur area.

#### Second phase

## <u>Discussion with Environmentalist Sh S. K. Upadhyaya about plants</u>

By visiting the places in first phase, we realized that the plants which should be planted there must be tough enough to survive the environment over there, as those areas have flood like situation in rainy season and complete drought like situation in summer. So, we once again discussed with Sh. S K Upadhyaya about the types of plants to be planted over there.

Crazy Green experts suggested that those areas needed plants with broad leaf and big heights, so they should drop some plants which were suggested by others. It was also suggested by Crazy Green experts that they should not remove the bag of plant before plantation except removal of base of that bag so that bag could not lose the grip on roots.

#### Collection of plants' availability information

We collected information about the trees which we would get from forest nurseries. Almost owners of all stone crushers requested us to plant mainly four kinds of trees Teak, Alastonia, Chakresia and Tun. They told us that only those trees could grow there except Eucalyptus, and Eucalyptus was not in our list. Alastonia and Chakresia were not present in government nurseries so we requested forest nurseries to arrange those plants. After few days DFO Sh Girish Kumar told us that their employees were unable to find those plants, so DFO permitted us to purchase those plants from private nurseries.

#### Transportation of plants to stone crushers' premises

Government Nurseries are very far from one another. Also, not all types of plants were present at a single nursery. One nursery was having only one type of plants. Collecting plants from different locations and then unload them at different places was a very complex job. First DFO Sh Girish Kumar told us that Government Nursery employees would help us to hire tractors or trucks because they knew those people who transported plants but forest department employees refused to take the responsibility of transportation.

So, we approached local transportation for this. After a lot of discussion they became ready to pick the plants from different places and to unload them at different locations of stone crushers.

#### **Loading and unloading of plants**

Crazy Green members were present at both points, loading as well as unloading. While loading plants to trucks, checking the health and count of the trees was also hectic job. Similarly, unloading so many trees at different locations was not an easy job.

Loading and unloading was a hectic job because one nursery had only one type of plants. So we loaded one type of plants from one nursery, then second type from second nursery and so on. After that we again unloaded all plants and made combination of plants to drop them in different areas. This job took hours of time and man power.

#### <u>Problems faced during second phase</u>

- Plants provided by Forest nurseries were in very poor health. They were not having the plants which were supposed to be given to us as per DFO's statements in the meeting. Bargad, shahtoot, jamun were not present in government nurseries. Plants of Teak were only few months old while at meeting they told us that they would provide 5-6 feet long plants. Arjun and Kanji have good height but they don't have a single leave on it. Saplings were in very poor condition and people refused to take those plants. They took those plants when we promised them that we would provide them more plants and replace all plants which would die.
- Plants were not available in nurseries. Plants which were decided for the plantation were present in very less quantity and soon they were finished at government nurseries. Also, health of the available plants was not good.
- City has no entry during day time. So, it is very difficult to move truck to pick plants in day time. And, to make the situation worse, nursery owners instructed us to pick the plants before 5.00 pm otherwise they would not get labour. Government nurseries are situated at Pilhakni, Jalalpur and at Janta Road Asanwali village which are many kilometers away from one other

  Here is one day experience to make the picture clearer Transporter said that the truck had left in morning only but truck didn't reach till 11am to nursery while our member was present their from 9 o clock. After his coming, first we picked the plants from Pilkhani nursery, then from Jalalpur nursery. As at morning time, the entry in the city was not permissible so truck driver told us to wait till evening. On our many requests, he became agreed and anyhow reached Janta road nursery at 2.00pm. Then it went to Behat road and picked some plants from private nursery. Than we unload all plants and make groups of plants. At 6.00 pm we left the city and came back at 3.00am at night. Problems in every field forced us to take leave from office and many members took leave for 20 days too.

- Trucks and taxies refused to move in those areas. After many time dropping of plants at different places made truck owners irritated. Roads were in very bad condition and in Raipur area, no one was to tell the exact way so extra movement of truck made them irritated. Many times we lost the way or the way we chose were in very bad condition, so they started refusing to work with us or they asked for more money. Many truck owners continuously phoned us from that area that they would not go further and would drop all plants at a single place. They didn't listen to members who were with them. Seeing heavy water in river, many times they dropped plants somewhere else than the required location. Many times, after unloading they refused to come back and told our members to go back by themselves, because they would again load their truck from somewhere else. That time our members reached back to their homes with the help of other trucks, tractors and many kilometers walk.
- Flood made situation the worst. Heavy rain and flood made situation the worst for us. Many times we went to visit some stone crushers' premises but returned back due to heavy water in river or no way to stone crushers. Long traffic jam due to water in river also was a big problem. Once a truck was reached Saharanpur without unloading plants after two days. Flood washed away many roads and temporary arrangements. Many times we dropped the plants in different private premises because of traffic jam or road blocks due to heavy water in rain rivers.
- Night stay at stone crushers' premises or in car. Due to heavy rain, routes got changed or roads
  got washed away. We had no option but to spend our nights there only. Many times, we
  returned home after 2 am at night.
- Plants shortage in private nurseries too. We purchased three varieties of plants from private nurseries and soon all local nurseries were exhausted because we needed only 6-8 feet height plants. Then we searched for other places to get plants from. We purchased plants from Kailashpur and some other place 15 km away from Saharanpur.
- Corruption and dishonesty of a common man. It was really painful to see that common Indian is
  now corrupt and dishonest. He tells lie and tries to cheat you at every step. Corruption of money
  is so deep rooted in Indians that more than 70% don't feel it bad. Nurseries owners, truck
  owners, labours all tried many time to cheat us by sending small truck while we hired big one,
  by sending bad quality plants and by many other excuses.

## Summary of second phase

On 10th October 2010, our second phase completed with plantation of about 11, 000 trees at about 43 stone crushers' locations.

#### FEW MORE PROBLEMS WHICH WE FACED DURING THE PROJECT

# Members left the project as they got scared by areas' condition and people's behaviour

In initial phase rude behaviour of some people and then the flood news terrified a few of our members and so they left the project. Their continuous statements like "Leave the project as it is not good for us and we are not professionals" made other members terrified too. So, many members left the project in between. Few members had to spend night there and therefore missed their offices for the next day. As a result, they avoided going next time. Our community on internet is filled with negative comments about the working area.

# Peoples wrong thinking about NGOs

First time we came to know what people think about the NGOs. Many people said to us that NGOs work to make money only.

#### **OUR ACHIEVEMENTS**

- People, who initially told us that NGOs work to make money only, after seeing our work and work style, told us that they had never seen the work like this earlier.
- Many people said us that they never saw any project with such planned way.
- Now when we move in those areas, many people request us to take tea or lunch with them while initially their behaviour was very rude.

## **OUR APPROACH TOWARDS THE PROJECT AND PEOPLE**

In the starting of the project only, we decided that we would make all efforts to make this project a real great success. We would think only positive. We would not criticise any person even if they criticized us or our work. We would work for the 100% success. And, we really gave our 110% to make this project one of the best projects. When someone told us that some plants of him died due to any reason, we supplied him more plants. We promised them that we would give them more plants if they took care of plants. When few owners of stone crushers asked us for some ornamental plants, we supplied them those plants too just to win the faith of them. Every time when we visited any area by car we took the plants in the car and gave those plants to owners of the place. When some stone crushers' owners said to us that they did not have labour to plant trees, we sent labour with our members from Saharanpur. Our members handled very coolly all those persons whose behaviour was not good. And, in the end of the project those persons only became our good friends.

## **FEW SUGGESTIONS**

#### Suggestions to new groups if they start any project like this

- Before starting any project check the ground realities
- Check with your man power that how much time they can devote
- Do all work by own as common man is corrupt to earn money.
- Check with the plants availability in your area.
- Make documents of each and every activity

#### Suggestions to Pollution Department / Forest Department (before the start of a new industry)

- Issue NOC only after industries show well grown plants in 33% area. Big plants are available at nurseries so it can be followed easily.
- At least once in a year industries should be visited to check ground realities.

## LIST OF STONE CRUSHER WHERE WE PLANTED TREES

Below is the list of those stone crushers where we planted trees and now they are taking care of the planted trees. Also, against each stone crusher, number of planted trees is mentioned.

- BABA SITA RAM STONE CRUSHER, RAIPUR- 310
- RAJDHANI STONE CRUSHER, RAIPUR- 310
- KWALITY STONE CRUSHER, RAIPUR-310
- MAA ANANDI STONE CRUSHER, LANDAPUL-225
- PRADHAN STONE CRUSHER, KURDIKHERA-310
- SHRI RAM STONE CRUSHER, SUNDARPUR- 310
- SHARDA STONE CRUSHER, RAIPUR- 310
- SHREE RAMM STONE CRUSHER AND SCREENER, MOHAMMADPUR-310
- GANPATI STONE CRUSHER, GANESHPUR- 200
- GURUNANAK STONE CRUSHER, RAIWALA- 225
- KANHAIYAA GRITS, SUNDARPUR-310
- SHIV SAGAR STONE CRUSHER, RAIPUR-310
- NEW GAGAN STONE CRUSHER, RAIPUR-310
- SHREE GANESH STONE CRUSHER, SUNDARPUR-310
- VERMA STONE CRUSHER, SUNDARPUR-225
- JAI BHARAT STONE CRUSHER, SUNDARPUR-225
- PRABHU STONE CRUSHER, KHUSHALIPUR-225

- GHAAD STONE CRUSHER, KURDIKHERA-415
- GANPATI STONE CRUSHER, SUNDARPUR-155
- GAGAN STONE CRUSHER, SUNDARPUR-155
- NEELKANTH STONE PRODUCTS, RAIPUR-155
- GANGA STONE CRUSHING INDUSTRIES, SUNDARPUR-155
- RANAJI STONE SRUSHER, BADSHAHI BAGH-155
- NARAYAN STONE CRUSHER, SUNDARPUR-155
- SAHARANPUR STONE CRUSHER, SUNDARPUR-155
- DELHI STONE CRUSHER, SATPURA-310
- BANKE BIHARI STONE CRUSHER, BIHARIGARH-225
- ISHWAR GRAMODYOG, KURDIKHERA-310
- saraswati screening and stone crusher, RAIPUR-310
- BABA STONE CRUSHER, SUNDARPUR-155
- SATYAGRIT UDHYOG, SUNDARPUR-155
- SH SHIV STONES, KHUSHHALIPUR-155
- RAO STONE PRODUCTS, SUNDARPUR-155
- BALAJI STONE CRUSHER, BHAGUWALA-105
- CHAWLA STONE CRUSHER, SUNDARPUR-155
- UJJAWAL GRAMODYOG, SUNDARPUR-225
- DURGA STONE CRUSHER, SUNDARPUR-225
- VIKRANT STONE CRUSHER, SUNDARPUR-310
- JAI SHAKUMBARI STONE CRUSHER, SHAKUMBARI DEVI-225
- GOLDEN STONE CRUSHER, SUNDARPUR-155
- HARE KRISNA STONE CRUSHER, SUNDARPUR-225
- DURGA STONE CRUSHER, BADSHAHI BAGH-155

Besides this, we provided almost one thousand (1000) more plants to those stone crushers who told us that their some plants were died due to some reason.

## **CONCLUSION**

Thanks to everyone for supporting us and making this project as the biggest real project of Crazy Green. Without the support of many people it could not be finished in such a good way. We will visit those areas every month for next few months. We want 100% survival of plants and to achieve this, we will supply more plants to those stone crushers whose plants are dead due to any reason.