

## One Million Trees 2020

**A project for the inhabitants, for the farmers, for the women of our target group, for the schools and temples of the villages in the Jalihal region of India**

### Reading guide

- This is the third brochure on the trees project. The first one was published in 2018 and is about the pilot<sup>1)</sup> which has been successfully executed on 110 fields.
- One year later, One Million Trees 2019 was released: the first year of the five in which one thousand plots were planted with 200 trees and shrubs.
- Now we give you information about 2020: the second year in which 200.000 crops are planted. In this brochure we emphasize the work that is being done in Jalihal.
- The financial aspects, including the budget, can be found in the annex.
- The footnotes to the text are in the annex: "In brief".



### Problem

Our working area has a hot and dry climate. The soil is poor because far too much fertilizer has been used in the past. In addition, climate change is already hitting the region hard. The prospects for farmers are therefore not good and they are now aware of this.

### Possible solution

The only way to turn that tide is to plant trees. There must be a lot of them. This will result in a better microclimate under these trees. It then becomes cooler, strong wind is slowed down by the trees and the roots of trees hold rain for a long time.

### And then....

And then there is this project: One Million Trees. All farmers in the wider area get to know about it because YPS<sup>2)</sup> is widely known throughout the region.

YPS has already carried out several projects with many farmers; in the experimental farm owned by YPS, and also with the farmers on their land. That same YPS has now started a project that will take years and for which they can raise a lot of money through the Jalihal Foundation, also well-known in the region. This is a great opportunity, that's what everyone feels. And so, there are a lot of requests, also from surrounding villages. As a result, our work area has increased from the original 22 to 37 villages. So, it's really starting to work.

### Joining forces

For such a large agricultural project, farmers need to stand behind it as one man. That requires strong leadership. And it's that role that YPS takes on. She gives farmers the confidence to join the project.

YPS has the overview, can think ahead, keep an eye on quality, has a long haul, can also plan things. That's what farmers across the region feel, and that's what YPS exudes. At the same time, YPS is in the middle of the farmers. That's why YPS doesn't have to search for farmers, they do sign up by themselves and ask their neighbor to join in. The participant will be held responsible for his/her part in the project.

**The meaning of the Jalihal Foundation, of our donors and of the money**

The Jalihal Foundation is the link in the whole that makes this project financially possible. The guidance and monitoring are extremely important and for this many people are called in, as the organizational chart shows. At this point alone, it are the donors that allow YPS to set up the organization so broadly.

**From the perspective of the participants**

Now we're going to look at it from the practice of 2019: 950 farmers, 30 women from our original target group<sup>3)</sup>, and 20 local communities. First, they follow a training, especially to familiarize themselves with the new crops that are used in the project. Everyone receives a printed manual in which each species is depicted and described. Then the many large and small stones are removed, and the soil is made as loose as possible to hold water. There's more oxygen entering the soil so that more micro mechanisms can grow. The participants then dig the holes in which the trees and shrubs are planted. They're getting directions from YPS field workers. Which species do fit together, and which ones should be kept apart? How deep are the holes, because there must be compost and absorber<sup>4)</sup> attached.

Irrigation is being built for the women, the schools, the temples and the mosque. The YPS team also advises. Drip irrigation allows to save 80 percent or more of the water. Each crop gets exactly the water where it is needed. It's also very labor-saving. If it wasn't that expensive, we would apply it much more broadly. A 2 x 3 meters basin is dug for farmers who do not have a well themselves, in which 6,000 litres of water can be stored. The location is



partly determined by the team. If it is laid in the wrong place, it is not accessible later for tankers to replenish the basin.



Manual

**When the rain comes**

From the arrival of the rain in June, the delivery of 150 trees and shrubs to the participants with hired trucks will begin. 36 different species are planted, all of which are drought-resistant, once they have formed enough roots. Every farmer has his hands full, usually the whole family participates. An employee of YPS suggests how the absorber and organic manure should be applied and in what quantity. Together with the farmer he plants five different crops. After that, the farmer takes over under the watchful eye of the team member. As soon as he sees that the farmer has got the hang of it, he moves on to the next participant. It concerns 1.000 times 150 trees and shrubs that must be planted before the end of the year. The numbers are recorded immediately in the Excel spreadsheet that has been compiled for this purpose. Shortly after that planting is completed, each participant buys 50 crops from people from their own relationship or on the local market. They take care of the planting themselves. YPS does include the participants' own plantings in the records.

**The organization is entirely with the YPS team.**

**Therefore, it is possible to roll out this project on this scale in**

**6 years. And that size is precisely what is necessary to green the entire region in such a way that new and restorative life is created within the impoverished ecosystem.**



### 35 women

In 2020, 35 women will participate in the project. The fact that women are given a place in this project is especially important for their place within the traditional and patriarchal views that are leading in rural India. Participation is made possible by offering

them additional guidance. A special employee has been recruited for this purpose. Because watering the crop forms a large part of the work, the women work with drip irrigation, which means that a lot of work is taken out of their hands. It is good to note in this context that women are already very busy. Taking care of the children, getting the food, water and wood to be able to cook, take care of the cow, the goats or the chickens, keep the house clean and so much other work. If women succeed in making their plantings a success, it will greatly enhance their reputation. More importantly, they will inspire other women to participate in the project in the coming years. The social significance of this project is great and will even increase in the coming years. If women actively participate in the improvement of living conditions throughout the region, this will lead to a positive change in gender patterns.

### 15 local communities

15 local communities will take part in 2020. The distribution between schools, temples and mosques is not known yet. They also contribute to social cohesion within the 37 villages that our area of activity now counts. In all these cases, some people are held responsible for carefully growing the plantings. Again, drip irrigation is required because otherwise those responsible would have to spend too much time on the care. Our wish is that as many women and local communities as possible will participate

in the project in the coming years because they are creating cross-links in the various villages that are of great value. The higher costs that are necessary for these participants can be found in the budget.

**The farmers, the women and the local communities are carrying out the project. YPS and the two doctors, developed the project. YPS ensures that everything is done in the right order: the balloting of the participants, the training given in advance, the growing of crops in the own farm, the purchase of the other trees and shrubs, the water management, the continuous monitoring of all participants, the logistical aspects and the administration.**

An attachment shows the YPS team that is overseeing this project. 20 people who keep an eye on the broad outlines and create all the conditions for the implementation of the project. And these 20 people make sure that every participant, male and female, is regularly visited. Each of the thousand fields is inspected at least once a week. Each participant of the pilot and of 2019 will be visited once every two weeks. This way problems don't get a chance to get big. Damage,



mortality and the presence of pests are reported directly by e-mail (pictured) to YPS and to the doctors<sup>5</sup>). They look for solutions and broadcast these without delay by YPS's own radio station. In this way, all participants

are informed almost immediately, and an impending scourge is fought project wide.



**It is a big project, but the risk will soon be shared by thousands of participants who will each serve their own interests. At the same time, they together form one major instrument to lift the entire region to a better quality of life.**

## The latest visit

Dora and Huub Bosse visited Jalihal in the second half of February 2020. They have visited many participants: women, farmers and some temples. The crops look good. The 20 percent that have not survived will be replaced by new crops or seeds in June. Both the participants and the staff are delighted with the progress.



## Extra water

The Krishna River originates in the state of Maharashtra and then passes through the neighboring state of Karnataka, some 26 km south of Jalihal. YPS has been advocating for almost 10 years to make water available for the Jalihal region, but it has always been rejected by Karnataka's government. For the first time, in the summer of 2019, water from the river was pumped from the river into a basin from which it ends up in the Jalihal region via a concrete "trench"

due to height difference. There, the water fills several water depots, both underground and above ground, with which the water supply for the coming months is secured. Water will also be delivered in a similar way in the coming years, but this is not yet guaranteed.

## Infrastructure

It is striking how the infrastructure has improved over the past years. Many roads are being built; others are being widened to include dual carriageways. Electricity is also available for more and more villages. It puts the possibilities of the entire region in a promising perspective.

The two biologists who supervise the project said, "We are making history with this project".

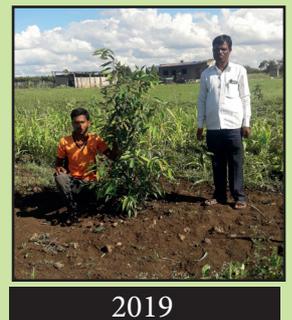
All conditions are present: a strong organization, professional knowledge, intensive guidance, a motivated staff, participants who take this opportunity and a financial source that makes all this possible. This project is definitely going to be followed up.

We now ask you to enable the implementation of the project in 2020 with a financial contribution.

All information can be found in the Annexes.

For more information, please contact us.

In advance our thanks for your contribution.



*Every next year we put this tree in the new brochure, so you can follow its growth.*



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