

From Doubt to Delight: How One Man's Determination Transformed Whole Community's Perception

SURAT, GUJARAT, INDIA, June 17, 2024 /EINPresswire.com/ -- In the heart of Saurashtra lies Kharopat, a region once dominated by barren land where only mesquite trees managed to survive. For years, the villagers believed the land was incapable of supporting any other vegetation, resigning themselves to a life of water scarcity and limited agricultural potential. However, one man's persistent determination has dramatically altered both the landscape and the mindset of this community.

[Savjibhai Dholakia](#), founder of the [Dholakia Foundation](#), has ventured on a mission to transform Kharopat's barren land into a fertile oasis. Motivated by the struggles of his mother and other village women who walked miles for water and vegetables, Savjibhai envisioned a greener, more sustainable future for his community.

"We have been farming here for years, and we know how much this soil is dead and useless. We don't think it will work," remarked some locals. Despite skepticism and resistance from villagers who had lost hope, Savjibhai remained steadfast in his commitment to rejuvenate the land.



Shri Savji Dholakia Planting Mango Trees in what was once a Barren Land, now a huge Mango Tree Plantation



This Barren Land used to be lifeless, but now it is full of life, not only Mango Trees but other biodiversity thrives.

Starting with the creation and rejuvenation of over 155 lakes and rivers across India, including the significant 52.9-kilometer-long river project from Krakanch to Charmadi, Savjibhai's efforts have benefited 75 villages and over 250,000 individuals. These water bodies raised groundwater levels and enriched the soil, laying the foundation for agricultural revival.

Savjibhai started integrating fertile soil into Kharopat and planted a single mango sapling as a symbol of hope and perseverance. Against all odds, the sapling thrived, astonishing the villagers and igniting a new belief in the land's potential. Savjibhai followed through until many noticed a successful transformation that further led to growing plantations, converting the once desolate area into a lush, vibrant landscape teeming with plants, animals, and birds. Savjibhai aptly named these mangoes 'Nation Fruit,' highlighting the incredible determination and vital government collaboration that brought them to fruition.

Today, Kharopat stands as proof of the power of determination and vision. The barren land now flourishes with mango trees, providing sweet, juicy fruits for the villagers. This remarkable transformation has not only changed the physical landscape but also the mindset of the community. Villagers who once said, "We can't grow anything here," now proudly declare, "This is the best soil for plantation."

These efforts were commended during Jal Utsav last year, India's first carbon-neutral water festival, hosted by Dholakia Foundation in collaboration with the Gujarat Government. The festival celebrated water conservation and honored Savjibhai's contributions. Notable figures such as Spiritual Guru Shri Rameshbhai Oza, Union Cabinet Minister Purushotam Rupala, and Chief Minister Bhupendrabhai Patel praised Savjibhai's vision and dedication.



The work of transforming a barren land to a huge farm required lots of hardwork and dedication but it was worth it.



Once barren, now teeming with abundance; this signifies the persistence and determination of a person who can change the perspective of a community. As our founder has done it, we must learn something from this.

Quotes from Distinguished Guests:

"In this land of Gagadiya where Mesquite thrives solely, water overflows in this setting. Savjibhai has planted Mango Trees, encouraging others to join in this cultivation endeavor." - Chief Minister of Gujarat, Bhupendrabhai Patel

"Savjibhai has revived this motherland, where we now sit, through his sheer will, courage, and dedication." - Governor of Gujarat, Shri Acharya Devratji

"This exemplifies the sheer passion of an individual, doing everything in his power to achieve something remarkable." - Spiritual Guru Shri Rameshbhai Oza

"To possess the courage to conserve water, and to channel that courage in the right direction—this barren land, devoid of any trace of vegetation, becomes the canvas for the audacious journey to cultivate the prized Kesar Mango." - Union Cabinet Minister Purushotam Rupala

"Savjibhai Dholakia and the Dholakia Foundation have made it possible to cultivate roses in the desert." - Motivational Speaker and Social Reformer Gyanvatsal Swami

Today, the once-dead land is home to diverse ecosystem species and produces a variety of vegetables and at least 300 kilograms of fruits each year, particularly mangoes. From nothingness to a source of abundance and inspiration to the locals.

About the Dholakia Foundation

Dholakia Foundation is the philanthropic arm of Hari Krishna Exports Pvt. Ltd. It works for sustainable change in various sectors, including education, healthcare, women's empowerment, and community development. The Foundation's Mission 102030 and Mission River initiatives accomplished over 3 million Trees grown and 155+ lakes developed across Gujarat and India, addressing water scarcity while adhering to the UN-defined Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) Principle.

Our founder, Savjibhai Dholakia, was conferred with the Padma Shri for his humanitarian services in March 2022. We have made significant progress toward achieving our goals, impacting thousands of individuals and communities.

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