

Press Release

Vedanta Value Added Business Provides Support to Amona Farmers in Saving Coconut Trees & Boosting Yield

As part of the initiatives under the Project 'Gram Nirman,' Vedanta Value Added Business (VAB) joined hands with the NGO partner VANARAI to conduct an informative awareness and training session aimed at combatting the Rhinoceros Beetle, a significant threat to coconut trees in Amona, Goa.

The awareness and training sessions bring together local farmers & coconut pluckers who are provided information on identifying the tell-tale signs & severity of the Rhinoceros Beetle infestation, which has been posing a substantial risk to the region's coconut trees.

As part of this initiative, the coconut farmers & pluckers were trained on use of pheromone traps, food baits, trap servicing, lure placement and replacement etc. . The specially designed traps, known as *pheromone traps*, are poised to play a pivotal role in pest control, ensuring the health and vitality of coconut trees while ultimately leading to improved crop yields. Over 90 coconut farmers & pluckers have been supported through this initiative. The technique has also been widely promoted by the ICAR- Central Coastal Agricultural Research Institute, Goa, & is known to reduce damage symptoms as well as leaf & spindle damage by 50% - 60%.

Siddhesh Naik , a coconut farmer from Amona, said “ I have a farm with 25 coconut plants & I had recently lost a coconut tree due to pest infestation. The workshop on Rhinoceros Beetle conducted by Vedanta & NGO Vanarai has been very beneficial. The traps provided to us and techniques that we have been introduced to have been of immense help. I have been able to trap the pests and protect the coconut trees in my farm.”

Vedanta VAB's CEO, Saptesh Sardesai, expressed that "At Vedanta, we believe in creating a positive impact on the communities we are a part of. The combat against the Rhinoceros Beetle is not just about protecting coconut trees; it's about securing livelihoods and nurturing a sustainable environment. We are dedicated to #TransformingForGood, and initiatives like these are instrumental in achieving that vision."

The collaboration between Vedanta Value Added Business and the VANARAI NGO is aimed at spreading awareness on easily sourced & scientifically proven methods among the farmer community. The endeavor to mainstream & introduce effective preventive methods to protect coconut trees, which are not only a source of livelihood for many but also an important part of the region's ecosystem, underscores Vedanta Value Added Business's commitment to supporting the community and farmers at Amona.

Vedanta VAB's 'Gram Nirman' initiative is a transformative program designed to empower rural communities and drive sustainable development. With a focus on agricultural advancement, livelihood enhancement, environmental sustainability, and community well-being, Gram Nirman

underscores VAB's commitment to creating positive change beyond its core business operations. The company's vision is to uplift rural India, and this initiative exemplifies its dedication to #TransformingForGood by fostering progress, empowering individuals, and leaving a lasting impact on the communities it serves.

About Vedanta Limited

Vedanta Limited, a subsidiary of Vedanta Resources Limited, is one of the world's leading Oil & Gas and Metals companies with significant operations in Oil & Gas, Zinc, Lead, Silver, Copper, Iron Ore, Steel, and Aluminium & Power across India, South Africa, and Namibia. For two decades, Vedanta has been contributing significantly to nation-building. Governance and sustainable development are at the core of Vedanta's strategy, with a strong focus on health, safety, and the environment. Vedanta has put in place a comprehensive framework to be the ESG leader in the natural resources sector. Vedanta is committed to reducing carbon emissions to zero by 2050 or sooner and has pledged \$5 billion over the next 10 years to accelerate the transition to net zero operations. Giving back is in the DNA of Vedanta, which is focused on enhancing the lives of local communities. The company's flagship social impact program, Nand Ghars, has been set up as model anganwadis focused on eradicating child malnutrition, providing education, and healthcare, and empowering women with skill development. Under the aegis of the Anil Agarwal Foundation, the umbrella entity for Vedanta's social initiatives, the Vedanta group has pledged Rs 5000 crore over the next five years on social impact programmes with a thrust on nutrition, women & child development, healthcare, animal welfare, and grass-root level sports. Vedanta and the group companies company have been featured in the Dow Jones Sustainability Index 2020, and were conferred Frost & Sullivan Sustainability Awards 2020, CII Environmental Best Practices Award 2020, CSR Health Impact Award 2020, CII National Award 2020 for Excellence in Water Management, CII Digital Transformation Award 2020, ICSI National Award 2020 for excellence in Corporate Governance, People First HR Excellence Award 2020, 'Company with Great Managers 2020' by People Business and certified as a Great Place to Work 2021. Vedanta's flagship Nand Ghar Project was identified as the best CSR project by the Government of Rajasthan. Vedanta Limited is listed on the Bombay Stock Exchange and the National Stock Exchange. For more information, please visit www.vedantalimited.com

About Sesa Goa Iron Ore Business

Sesa Goa Iron Ore Business of Vedanta Limited is engaged in the exploration, mining, and processing of iron ore. The company was founded in 1954 as Scambi Economici SA Goa and acquired by Vedanta. Since then, it has grown to be one of the top low-cost producers of iron ore in the country. During 1991-1995, it diversified into the manufacture of pig iron and metallurgical coke. It has also developed indigenous and environment-friendly technology for producing high-quality metallurgical coke. Sesa Goa Iron Ore also has two waste heat recovery power plants with a total capacity of 60 MW that produce clean power by using the waste heat recovery from its coke ovens and blast furnace gas. Sesa Goa Iron Ore operations in India are in Goa & Karnataka.

[For further information please contact:](#)

Sandhya Malik

Chief Corporate Communication Officer,
Sesa Goa

Tel: +91 9607969087 Email: sandhya.malik@vedanta.co.in