

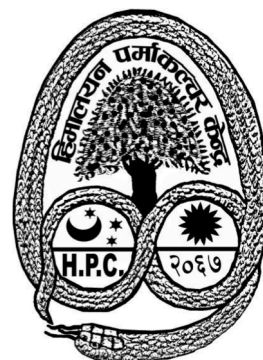
Himalayan Permaculture Centre

www.himalayanpermaculture.com

Building Livelihoods for Household and Community Resilience

6-month Report

Date of this report: December 2019



Working Areas

An updated summary of groups' names, locations and demographics is given below.

		Households	Women	Men	Total
Surkhet	2 municipalities, 12 villages	186	547	585	1132
Humla	2 municipalities, 18 villages	608	1857	1893	3750
Total	4 municipalities, 30 villages	794	2404	2478	4882

These figures represent the demographics of the villages that have been registered with HPC as participating villages. They do not include new villages that have requested participation, where HPC staff visit for surveying, and barefoot consultants have started to work (usually on training).

Activities

1. FOOD SECURITY PROGRAM

Resource Centers

This year and particularly the past 6 months have seen a period of tumultuous change at the Resource Centre (RC) in Baragaun. An agitation by a minority handful of local villagers at the replacement of the Board Chairperson following a vote of no confidence, and the replacement of a local staff member has resulted in HPC leaving its 9 year-old demonstration and training farm, and starting a new farm at a new venue, at the request of village groups. A new area of land has been provided by villagers in a neighbouring valley in Chingar village municipality, amidst 8 HPC village groups, where design and establishment work has been started since June. Participants of the PDC in April (see previous report) met for follow-up design work on the 0.75 acre (0.31ha) piece of land. Village groups also provided 65 person-days of voluntary labour contribution in clearing the land and a further 52 person-days for carrying timber to build a new training hall. The local village forest management committee provided the timber for free; HPC costs have just been for processing the timber into beams and planks ready for construction.

Meanwhile a new training hall and office has been constructed in Humla on land donated to HPC by 4 of the 8 farms that comprise the 1.5Ha RC in Dapka village. Other than the tin roof, the farm is made entirely of local materials, and is connected to the solar system installed in the old office, a small rented room in a neighbouring house. Work is now focussing on the small plot of land around the office for use as a demonstration/training site.

RC production – Surkhet & Humla

As such there has been no significant production at the new Surkhet RC as it is in the early stages of establishment in terms of clearing the land, and 22 trees, shrubs and grasses have been established, including *Melia*, cinnamon, cardamom, lemon grass and comfrey.

Meanwhile at the Humla RC, some **971kg of vegetables** have been produced over the past 6 months, including 300kg of garlic, 200kg each of potatoes and pumpkin, 55kg of aubergine, 45kg of cucumber, 34kg of chilli and 50kg of greens (comprising Swiss chard, broad leaf mustard and radish greens). In addition nearly **2500kg of fruit** was produced comprising mainly plums (1500kg), apples (500kg) and pears (400kg). Increasing amounts of walnut, almond and apricot have been harvested from the RC (85kg in total) as HPC is promoting these species that are easier to transport without significant processing.

In addition 52 plants have been distributed from nurseries in the Humla RC including apples, strawberries, comfrey and blackcurrant.

Households making integrated demonstrations

Practical Activities	June-Nov 2019		
	Surkhet	Humla	Total
No: households implementing	185	607	792
House hygiene	177	605	782
Stove	103	570	673
Toilet	177	453	630
Grinder	184	515	699
Water pot	184	497	681
Hay box	0	1	1
Sweepings	135	206	341
Waste water management	127	293	420
Plate/pot rack	175	176	351
Compost	108	40	148
Fodder trough	21	2	23
Salt lick	32	15	47
Kitchen garden/vegetables	178	556	734
Mulching	44	9	53
Liquid manure	52	35	87
hot bed	2	1	3
Leaf pots	47	0	47
Home nursery	26	510	536
Fruit nursery	36	1	37
Air nursery	11	4	15
Off season onions	1	40	41
Grafting	3	0	3
Budding	2	30	32
Top grafting	3	0	3
Air layering	2	3	5
Pot irrigation	45	8	53
Orchard	128	95	223
Agro-forestry	93	17	110
SRI	27	74	101
Green manures	19	17	36
No till	0	0	0
Bamboo cuttings	2	0	2
Improved plough	184	299	239
Fruit tree Pruning	76	0	76
Greenhouse	0	12	12
Biomass compost	46	10	56
Double digging	37	11	48
Urine collection & use	20	29	49
Seed production	177	45	222
Fruit planting	102	65	167
Water Filter	174	253	427
Jam/juice making	35	9	44

Most of these activities are illustrated in the [Farmers' Handbook](#), a key training tool used by HPC.

Demonstration farmers

Demonstration farmers, that are implementing the techniques listed above, are divided into 3 categories. In the 1st level farmers have attained the following:

- Taken Farmers' Training

- Taken PDC
- Taken ToT (Trainers' Training)
- Competent at grafting and fruit nursery management
- Able to make smokeless stoves
- Have planted at least 15 fruit trees on their land, and be competent at pruning
- Have planted at least 60 multi-purpose trees and shrubs of at least 10 different varieties in an agro-forestry design on their land
- Are using SRI in paddy areas
- Are growing vegetables and saving vegetable seeds
- Are able to manage greenhouse production
- Are using at least 25 other techniques from the Farmers' Handbook
- Can provide training in any of the above

The criteria for 2nd and 3rd levels are similar, but to a lesser degree. All farmers need to have passed through the basic farmers' training and be implementing techniques on their own land. Some are just starting. The current distribution of the top 3 categories of demonstration farmer is as follows:

	Category 1		Category 2		Category 3		Total		Total
	male	female	male	female	male	female	male	female	
Surkhet	12	2	19	4	13	5	44	11	55
Humla	23	6	28	8	21	10	72	24	96
Total	35	8	47	12	34	15	116	35	151

Demonstration farmers often get a chance to become **Barefoot Consultants (BCs)** that as well as having developed their own land and communities through receiving farmers' training, have also completed a permaculture design course (PDC) and trainers' training (ToT). Details of BCs are given in section 5. Capacity Building below.

Fruit and multi-purpose tree production and planting

Farmers in Humla have continued their high output of grafted fruit trees, apple in particular. One success story is of Mrs Kaile Sarki of Satti village. As a low-caste woman, she occupies one of the most marginalised groups in Nepal, yet she has learned grafting and nursery management, and has grown thousands of grafted fruit trees in her nursery with the help of her husband Rage, who is a HPC local technician. This year she has sold a total of **2900 apple seedlings** alone, and including a handful of other species such as almond and plum, earned a massive **NRs122,000/-** (GB£870) from her **0.02Ha** nursery.

Planting

Monsoon planting of fruit and multi-purpose trees, shrubs and grasses has continued despite the loss of the RC in Baragaun. In Surkhet, **8 village groups** planted an average of over **2000 multi-purpose trees and shrubs** each, totalling over **16,000 plants**, in agroforestry and integrated orchard systems around their farms. Most popular was napier grass (*Pennisetum purpureum*) with over **9300 planted**; Asian pepper (*Timur*) and mulberry over **1200** between them. Other species include *Ficus* (for fodder), Bakaino (*Melia azedarach*), willow, and cardamom. In addition 11 village groups planted over **1500 fruit trees and shrubs**, comprising **29 species** including 538 lemons, 203 oranges and 134 *Junard* citrus. Coffee, lime, pomegranate, grape, mango, avocado and apricot were also among the species planted.

In Humla **228 fruit trees and shrubs** have been planted, including 85 oranges and 89 lemons. In agro-forestry and mixed orchards a further 800 multi-purpose trees and shrubs have been planted, including 500 upland "Ipil" (*Lucaena diversifolia*) and others including *Melia*, pine and honey locust.

Fruit production

Details of fruit production in Surkhet and Humla shows that over the past 6 months a healthy **101,382kg of fruit** has been produced by farmers according to the summary below:

Species	Surkhet kg	Humla kg	Total kg
Peach	6,576	6,522	13,098
Plum	21,098	8,975	30,073
Apricot	0	40	40
Apple	0	5,645	5,645
Walnut	278	55	333
Almond	106	55	161
Grapefruit	27	50	77
Pear	15,635	722	16,357
Banana	17,895	0	17,895
Bewara (citrus)	328	0	328
Guava	11,930	0	11,930
Coffee	10	0	10
Mango	5,435	0	5,435
Total	79,318	22,064	101,382

SRI Rice Farming

The summer rice planting season is as its busiest as this report is being written, with harvesting in full swing. Data for harvest of SRI rice will be provided in the next report from the **101 farmers** (74 Humla, 24 Surkhet, practicing on over **4.11Ha** of rice land.

Bio-fertilizers

Following a nationwide program of 3 bio-fertilizer trainings provided by expert Juanfran Lopez in March this year, HPC is involved with the newly formed bio-fertilizer network as part of the strategy to spread this relatively new but extremely important concept and set of techniques and approaches. HPC hosted one of the 3 trainings (the others being at Sunrise Farm in Kathmandu and Almost Heaven Farms in Ilam) and 1 of the trainees, BC Thaman Giri, then spent time in Ilam following up techniques that he will start to teach back in Surkhet.

A [handbook](#) has been produced in English based on Juanfran's experience in Nepal, India, Africa, Spain and UK, and is in process of being translated and published in Nepali.

Community Funds

HPC facilitates community micro-credit fund establishment and management with its village groups that accumulate funds and disperse loans to group members for various purposes, such as buying livestock, paying school fees, investing in small business and getting medical treatment. Over the past 6 months loans totalling **NRs 1,177,291/-** have been distributed to **173 households** (148 in Surkhet; 48 in Humla). This reporting period's audit is summarised below:

	Loans given	Expenses	Cash	Total NRs
Humla	188,700	18,244	153,470	360,414
Surkhet	988,591	85,968	5,238	1,079,797
Total	1,177,291	104,212	158,708	1,440,211
GB£	£8,291	£734	£1,118	£10,142

Farmers' Training

Once demonstrations are visible, one of HPC's main efforts is around training in how they were created and managed sustainably. Trainings cover a huge technical range, from stove making and making more nutritious food, to fruit tree propagation, composting, agro-forestry, and pest management to name but a few. Trainings are delivered in a number of ways: residential courses at the resource centres, 3-day integrated trainings *in situ* in villages, and short single-topic technical trainings, also in the villages. Technical trainings have included composting, IPM, double digging, urine collection and use, pruning, nursery establishment and management, mulching, SRI, seed saving, budding and fruit tree planting. A new training involved producing paint from flour and local clays that can be applied to cement plaster, providing an alternative to toxic-based paints that are also

expensive imports with an organic and locally made, cheap product. This technique has been developed by BC and women's health expert Hommaya Gurung and is now being increasingly used in houses and schools within HPC's working area.

To supplement the technical trainings, capacity building trainings help the NGO and its groups to manage human and financial resources. A training summary for the past 6 months is below.

Surkhet	No: Trainings	Days	Participants		
			Women	Men	Total
Technical Trainings (1-2 hours)	21	3	137	91	228
Mobile Farmers' Training (3 days)	6	18	46	37	83
PDC Flow up	1	1	3	12	15
Total	28	22	186	140	326

Humla	No: Trainings	Days	Participants		
			Women	Men	Total
Residential Farmers' Training (5 days)	1	5	13	10	23
Mobile Farmers' Training	7	19	124	34	158
Livestock Mobile Training (3 days)	2	6	16	15	31
Technical Trainings	44	14	99	108	207
Total	54	44	252	167	419

Total All Areas	82	66	438	307	745
------------------------	-----------	-----------	------------	------------	------------

On-the-Job Training Students

Since September HPC have been providing training to 2 On-the-Job Training (OJT) students in Humla. Both from local villages in Humla, Mrs Meena Buddha and Mr Hari Chandra Buddha are studying agriculture and livestock management at Government-run Technical Schools in Lamjung and Bardiya districts respectively. They are both on 6-month practical extensions to their 1-year studies at the Technical schools, during which time they are practicing what they have learned and learning about permaculture adaptations and education. This includes working with HPC staff, BCs and village groups in relevant trainings and program implementation.

Slide and Film shows

HPC uses pico-projectors charged by solar to show slide and film shows in the villages. Over the past 6 months, 9 shows have been provided different villages in Humla to **328 villagers** of topics including agro-forestry and HPCs festival.

Livestock

Farmers in Nepal can spend up to 70% of their time and resources managing livestock, which play a crucial part in farm productivity directly through production of meat and dairy products, and also in terms of compost for maintaining soil fertility. Much time is used managing less productive animals, however, and diet and stall hygiene further reduces productivity so that despite the high inputs, animal productivity falls well below its potential.

HPC's focus is on basic veterinary care, breed improvement and stall management, including diet and hygiene. HPC has a cadre of farmers trained in basic diagnosis and treatment of livestock diseases, and provides medicines for mobile livestock health camps. These "barefoot vets" also provide basic training in stall management and preventative treatment. Increase in fodder resources are provided through agro-forestry and forest protection. In the past 6 months 59 goats and 7 bulls have been castrated, and 60 sheep treated or skin parasites. In Humla 2 mobile livestock health trainings of 3 days each have been provided to 31 farmers (16 women and 15 men).

Improved breeds of livestock

With an aim of improving productivity of livestock HPC supports communities to acquire quality breeding stock of cows, buffalo, goats and chickens. In this period villagers of Gurung Gaun and Subbatol (Pragithsil Krishak and Jana Sahayogi groups respectively) have received breeding goats.

Irrigation

Most of this activity has been delayed however applications from villages have been received and in some cases surveys have been carried out. Meanwhile HPC has distributed 50 sprinkler sets to various groups and is in the process of acquiring a further 150 more.

Appropriate Technology

In this program HPC is demonstrating and testing various technologies, firstly to assess their usefulness and effectiveness and then, if/when they are found to achieve aims of labour-saving and productivity increase, to support further acquisition. In this period a foot-pedalled rice/wheat thresher, maize de-hullers, wool spinning machines (for Humla) and chaff cutter have been procured and transported to village areas.

2. HEALTH PROGRAM

2.1 Women's Health Program (WHP)

Women's Health Training (WHT)

In Humla 2 mobile women's health trainings have been provided to 29 women. The trainer was Ms Chandani Bista, HPC local health technician and coordinator of the Women's Health Network (WHN) in Humla. In Surkhet a 3-day training was held in Adolescent Health for 22 school children at Pakhapani Secondary school, while a women's health education workshop was held for 20 women in Gurung Gaun.

In November a **gender training** has been held in Surkhet at Gokarna secondary school in Pakhapani village. Led by BC Hommaya Gurung and women's health expert Mrs Januka Bhattarai, the training was given to 10 men and 10 women, topics included:

- Gender differences between male and female – physical and habitual
- Gender-related violence & its effects on family, community & development
- History of development: roots of gender & caste discrimination and violence against women (VAW)
- Child marriage, caste influences,
- Discrimination against menstruating women & girls and pre-& post-natal women
- Conflict resolution in communities – routes of action at village/municipality level
- Laws and rights around gender discrimination and VAW
- Government strategies & programs to promote women's rights and prevent gender discrimination and VAW at national, district & municipality level
- Roles of community in advocacy
- Work plan for action by the group to hold further discussion and develop programs to make the work effective

Women's Health Camp (WHC)

In this reporting period 2 women's health camps have been provided, In October at Madana Health post in Humla, HPC coordinated with the local government Health Office to provide health service to **120 women** from 5 municipalities. As well as treatment for problems such as prolapse, white discharge, gastric ulcer, coughs, fever and skin parasites, patients were offered counselling and referral to other health services where appropriate. 47 men were also provided diagnostic and treatment support. Along with health treatment and counselling HPC also uses the camps as an opportunity to provide women's health education, and groups of women are given a tour of posters describing various issues such as gender, domestic violence, human biology and physiology, diet, hygiene and use of herbal medicines.

Volunteers from the WHN assisted Dr Sitasma Dangi from Kathmandu, along with 3 nurses from Phase Nepal based in Maila village. This was Dr Dangi's 3rd health camp in Humla and she remains the second only female doctor to have visited the remote south of the district.

In November Dr Dangi again led a WHC in Surkhet, held at Gokarna secondary school in Pakhapani, in coordination with the Chingar Municipality Office and Health Post in Gogane. HPC staff and volunteers, members of the Surkhet WHN and staff from Gogane Health Post facilitated the camp,

and **90 women and 16 men** from 3 municipalities were provided with treatment and counselling, as in Humla.

Following requests from local communities, HPC added a **dental clinic** to the health camp that was led by Dr Dil B. Satya and his assistant Ms Deepa BK, from Nepalganj. A total of **152 patients** were seen: 56 people had fillings (sometimes 2), 78 people had extractions (again, sometimes 2) and a further 18 people had other work such as tooth re-construction. HPC had previously carried out a survey in its villages and found 200 cases where farmers required dental treatment.

Women's Health Network (WHN)

Members of the Women's Health Network (WHN) have been meeting and coordinating activities in both districts, with 41 active members (17 in Surkhet, 24 in Humla). In Humla and Surkhet the WHN provided volunteers at their respective health camps. In Surkhet Gurung Gaun a 3-day training workshop was held for WHN members.

Stretchers

In villages far away from health services, there is difficulty to carry sick people to health centres due to lack of stretchers. For many years, farmers have been continuously demanding solutions for this so HPC has provided 5 stretchers to village groups in Humla.

Drinking Water

In this period establishment of drinking water systems and existing systems' maintenance has been delayed due to the agitation against HPC, but requests from villages have been made and are pending.

3. EDUCATION PROGRAM

Practical Literacy Classes

This activity involves running practical literacy classes in Humla and Surkhet. The PLCs combine Freirian literacy principles with HPCs unique collection of practical activities based on the Farmers' Handbook (FHB), an easy-to-read compendium of over 40 farmer-friendly methods to increase domestic household and farm productivity. PLC participants learn letters and words, and later sentences, that form topics from the FHB such as stove, nursery, toilet, hygiene, diet, fruit tree grafting, etc. At the same time as developing their literacy skills, they also apply the methods in their own houses and fields.

Two PLCs in Humla are currently in process and will end in December, with **47 villagers** enrolled (42 women and 5 men), while in Surkhet the class is delayed.

Schools' Program

HPC has functional relationships with schools in its working areas and provides infrastructure support, resources and training for creating productive gardens in school grounds.

Schools' Planting

Seedlings have been established in school grounds at 2 Primary schools in Khaltakura and Subbatol and 1 secondary school at Pakhapani in Surkhet, and 1 at Supakhet Primary school in Humla. In total **101 fruit trees and 75 multi-purpose trees** have been planted over the past 6 months, while **422kg of fruit, 1500kg of thatching grass and 700kg of tree fodder** have also been harvested from previously established plants in the school grounds.

Adolescent Health training has been provided to 22 students from Gokarna secondary school in Pakhapani village. Topics included looking at: definitions of adolescence, adolescents' needs, and issues around human physiology, menstruation, cultural issues, gender and physiology, domestic violence, and the links between organic, regenerative farming and health.

Natural Paints

BC and Women's Health specialist Hommaya Gurung has developed a way of using natural earth-based paints that is resilient and chemical-free, mixing ingredients of flour and clay to create natural colours. Painting has been done on buildings at Gokarna secondary school in Pakhapani village, and individuals that have taken the training have also used it on their own houses.

4. LIVELIHOODS PROGRAM

Beekeeping

Beekeeping in framed hives increase the efficiency with which bees can store honey, as the frames are re-used after harvest and the bees don't need to re-build the frame. In HPC villages in Surkhet, 84 traditional log and wall-hives have produced 105kg of honey, while 85 improved hives have produced 280kg of honey. These hives, and the top-bar version, are now made locally and the skills to manage them spread through trainings and farmer-farmer exchange.

Vegetable seed production

In the past 6 months farmers have produced a further **332kg of seed** (296kg in Surkhet, 36kg in Humla), including beans, cucumber, pumpkin, various gourds, aubergine, coriander, onion, Swiss chard, coriander and carrot. This adds to the previous season's 700kg, so well over **1000kg of seed** recorded for the year. Many seeds are being harvested over the next month and reported in the next period.

Cotton Growing & Processing

In May HPC sourced other varieties of cotton that are shorter-season and so more able to ripen at higher conditions. The growing group has now increased to 24 with the addition of 6 farmers in Gumi, a plain area near the Bheri river. The final training given by the UK-based expert is due to happen at the end of November/beginning of December. It will be reported in the next period.

Herbs development stage 2

Farmers in HPC villages are continuing to establish plants for herbal use. In Surkhet over **1000 plants** have been established in gardens and agro-forestry systems, including *Bhuichampha*, *Aloe vera*, *Menthus*, *Dioscorea bulbifer* and *Lindera nessaina*.

Weaving & Fibre Processing

The weaving looms made and operated by Pragitshil Krishak group of Salgadhi village (Majuwa) have not been in operation since July due to the HPC agitation. Meanwhile, the group is seeking new apprentices, and specialist training to weave nettle and hemp fibres that have been processed at the herb processing unit in Gurung Gaun, using spinning wheels provided by HPC, and by villagers in their own homes.

Solar drier

Previously 8 solar driers had been made and distributed in Surkhet and Humla. Further materials have been acquired to make up to 20 more driers.

Apple drying Humla

Hand-operated machines to cut apples have been purchased and shipped to Humla.

Juice/Jam making

A further 8 juicing machines have been purchased for Surkhet and Humla.

Biogas

Two biogas units have been completed in Pakhapani and Neta villages for 6 and 4cu.m respectively. HPC is further researching different methods to produce biogas cheaply, using water tanks and plumbing available from the bazaar.

Solar electric

Further solar panels, batteries and lighting systems have been acquired and distributed to **33 households** from 2 villages in Surkhet benefitting **242 people (124 women, 118 men)**.

Sugarcane Processing Machine

Two machines for crushing sugar cane to extract juice has been acquired and distributed to Shanti group of Salkharka/Bhalim and Janachetana Group of Mavidanda village, and are being used by farmers there.

Cloth recycling machine/training

A machine for recycling old cloth has been acquired in Surkhet and technicians are now looking at how to integrate the machine with the existing integrated mill in Pakhapani so that it can run from hydro-power. This program has been delayed by the agitation against HPC.

Community agro-vet centre operation

This program aims to set up a village-based centre for livestock treatment, providing tools and equipment locally and run by local co-operatives. Farmers will buy their services and materials to enable re-stocking and sustainable operation of the centre. Currently a site has been chosen and village group members are mobilising to build the centre, while HPC has started procurement of veterinary materials. This program has been delayed by the agitation against HPC.

Farm Produce and Distribution Centre

This activity aims to set up a centre to collect farm produce for marketing either locally or to entrepreneurs that will take for sale in local markets (Dashratpur, Ramghat, Chinchu, Birendranagar, etc.). Produce will include vegetables, fruits, herbs, vegetable oils and handicrafts where possible produced by village group members. The Centre will be run under a co-operative structure, and is currently in the planning and design stage with village groups. This program has been delayed by the agitation against HPC.

Farm tools community sales centre

Farm tools have been purchased and sales/distribution has started from the centre in Gurung Gaun. through sale, and income generated for re-purchase of materials. The centre is opened 1 day per week, when farmers are able to purchase farm tools, such as picks, spades and other digging implements, pipe, sprinklers, pruning saws, secateurs, files, sharpening stones, raw iron, seed containers, nails, etc. Local blacksmiths that have taken HPC's blacksmiths' training are able to buy raw iron there to fashion into tools for sale.

Vegetable Production Partnership

This activity aims to coordinate vegetable growing with 30 households from disadvantaged groups in HPC's working areas, enabling them to produce vegetables that will enhance their diets as a priority and further be able to be sold through the Farm Produce and Distribution Centre described above or privately by the grower. The program is currently in the planning and design stage with village groups. This program has been delayed by the agitation against HPC.

Local chicken rearing partnership

This activity is similar to the Vegetable Production Partnership but involving rearing of local varieties of chicken with 12 households from particularly disadvantaged/poor farmers. The program is currently in the planning and design stage with village groups, but has been delayed by the agitation against HPC.

Radio permaculture program: preparation & studio fees.

This activity aims to produce permaculture and project-related material for broadcast over local radio in Surkhet and Humla. This program has been delayed by the agitation against HPC.

Sewing training

Started in the previous reporting period, 3 persons (2 women and 1 man) from Humla have now completed this training and have started sewing work in their local communities. This was done in partnership from the district handicraft office, who paid for the trainer's fees in the village of Dalitbada. HPC provided training costs for the 3 sewing machines provided to trainees.

The Blacksmith training, Leatherworking training and Furniture making training have been delayed due to the agitation and will be held in the next reporting period.

5. CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAM

PDC Follow-up

In this period a follow-up workshop was provided to 14 participants of previous PDCs to share experience, and some practical design work training was carried out on HPC's new training hall and demonstration area in Chingar municipality.

The following trainings have been delayed by the agitation and will be held over the next 6-12 months:

Village Design Course, Trainers' Training, Organisational development, Business and Marketing Training

Farmers Field trips

In this period 2 local SRI field trips have been carried out by groups in Surkhet to visit each other's plots and to share experience. In total 14 farmers (5 women and 9 men) from 5 different groups went on the field trips.

Farmer-Farmer extension

In Surkhet there have been several meetings of farmers'/group leaders mostly the topics have been about dealing with the agitation against HPC and organising visits to the district and municipality headquarters where they have been making representations in favour of HPC. In Humla meanwhile, group leaders have met to co-plan various activities such as the Farmers' Festival, building of the new training hall and office, Women's Health Camp and management of BC participation.

Barefoot Consultants

Apart from delivering training and follow-up support in HPC's working areas in Humla and Surkhet, BCs have been active in Kalikot, Ilam, Dhading districts and elsewhere in Surkhet. A contingent of local project resource persons visited HPC from the Environmental Resources Institute (ERI), an INGO working in several districts of Nepal.

To date 70 BCs have been able to teach in HPC trainings both within its working areas and beyond. HPC has designated 3 categories according to their abilities:

Category 1 – have lead/facilitated a 5-day farmers' training, livestock health training, mobile training, mobile women's health training and any technical training

Category 2 – have supported a Category 1 trainer and co-facilitated similar trainings

Category 3 – have taught a single-subject technical training e.g. grafting, stove making, etc.

Details of BC's over the past 6 months are summarised below:

	Category 1		Category 2		Category 3		Total		Total
	Male	female	Male	female	Male	female	Male	female	
Surkhet	9	3	8	2	7	6	24	11	35
Humla	12	0	9	3	7	4	28	7	35
	21	3	17	5	14	10	52	18	70

Festival

This period has seen the annual festival in Humla where about 500 farmers gathered on land above Dapka village to celebrate the year's activities over 2 days. A large agricultural demonstration of produce and handicrafts was accompanied by traditional music, dance, competitions and sports activities. Prizes were distributed for all exhibitions.

Cultural Program

In Humla HPC facilitated a Teej festival once more. Teej is a traditional women's festival held in August, where women gather to dance and sing. It has not been a tradition in Humla and other remote Western districts where the patriarchal culture is very strong. However HPC have been successful in introducing it to its working areas in southern Humla and it has now become a regular part of local culture.

The **Rice Breeding training**, Video film making, PRA Training, Leadership Training and Proposal writing training have been delayed due to the agitation and will be held over the next year.

Community contributions

Community contributions to activities in Surkhet and Humla show a total contribution of **1281 person days** with a monetary value of **NRs 640,500/- (GB£4,575)**. Activities include maintaining community infrastructure (paths, bridges, water courses, mills, schools and community learning centres), and direct contributions to HPC programs such as portering of equipment, and establishment of a new RC. Group representatives have also spent considerable time meeting with district and municipality authorities to address the agitation against HPC.

HPC Website

HPC's website, www.himalayanpermaculture.com was created February 2009. Up to the time of this report (Nov 2019), over **236,736** hits have been recorded.

Major Challenges during this period

This reporting period and much of the previous period has been dominated by the agitation led by a few members of Baragaun village against HPC and the Resource Centre there. Driven by a local staff that lost his job and his father who was Board Chairman losing his post to a vote of no confidence over poor financial management, villagers forced the closure of the RC. This led to a lengthy investigative process by the district authorities and it was over a month until the RC could be opened. Meanwhile villagers have still refused entry and the RC remains full of equipment including large amounts of materials due to be distributed into the village groups, such as seed, books, veterinary medicines, tools, and other training materials such as posters and pico-projectors. HPC is still trying to secure and remove these resources. This has been a traumatic time for staff and groups in Surkhet (and has had knock-on effects in Humla), involving abuse and at times violence against them, and many activities have been affected through delay. HPC has taken the difficult decision to leave Baragaun and the RC, after 9 years of use it has provided demonstration and training to thousands of farmers from Surkhet, Humla and beyond. There have been positives. Firstly, other groups have come together to provide land and resources to start a new RC that is already under establishment. Secondly HPC's accounts over several years have been thoroughly reviewed by the authorities and no sign of financial mis-management found. Thirdly, HPC's work in general has also been reviewed and positive evaluations have been made, further increasing the exposure and validity of HPC's work. While the loss of the RC is challenging, it has opened up new possibilities for other groups to participate. Meanwhile staff and village groups are committed to making up for the delays in activities' implementation.