

HPC Report April -September 2014
Photo Gallery – Surkhet



Above - Napier grass (*Pennisetum*) flourishing at the Resource Centre (RC) in Baragaun, stacked in with fodder trees, August. Fodder production from grasses and trees continues to increase with little effect on crop production.



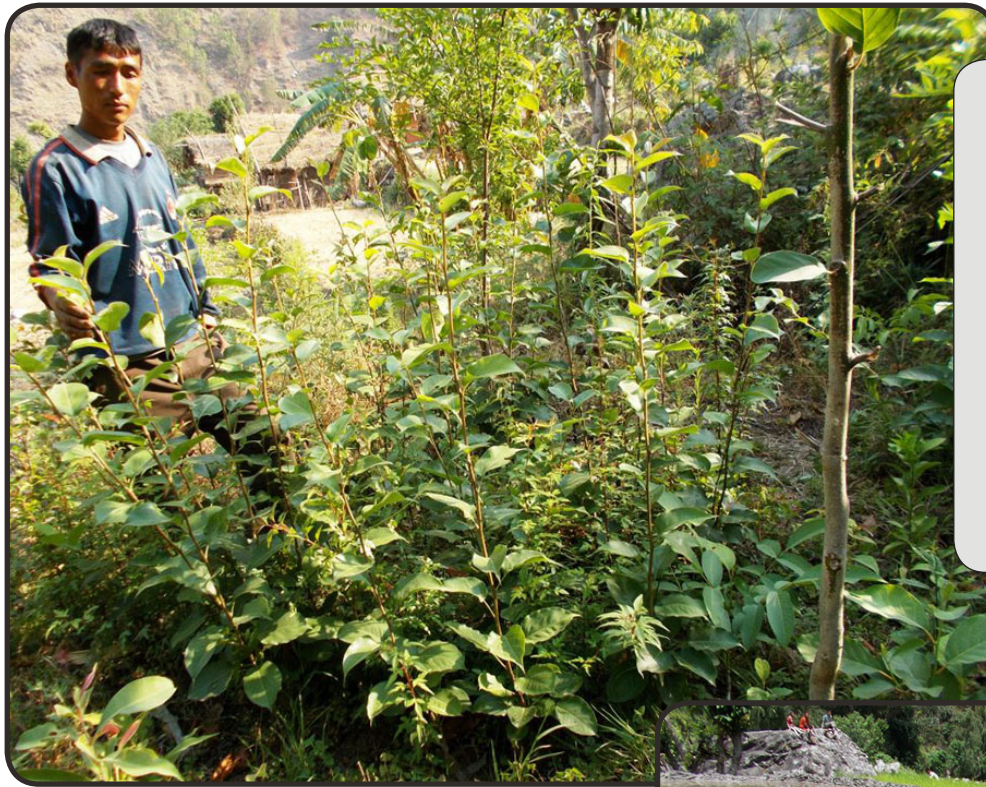
Above - A view through Baragaun RC: in the foreground technicians in the fruit nursery, in the background the new teaching hall, with the top of the greenhouse visible in front of it, recently covered as the summer comes to an end to conserve the heat in the soil, October.



Above - Technicians inspecting the roots of grafted pear in an RC fruit nursery as they are lifted and root and shoot pruned in preparation for distribution in the winter, October.



Right - Purnaram Gharti with a bamboo cutting planted at his home in Salgadi. An immensely useful and valuable plant, the bamboo is traditionally propagated by excavating and transplanting a huge culm. This is a big job, and only propagates 1 stem at a time. HPC teaches a method whereby 1 stem can produce several cuttings and a dozen or more can be planted in a day. More output for less input.



Left - Chetendra Gurung's home fruit nursery in Sal Kharka, with grafted pear ready for transplanting over winter. Chetendra is one of HPC's barefoot consultant and has been employed building smokeless stoves in his own and other villages. He was also involved in the training to create the video on stoves' construction and use, made back in March and now available on You-tube.



Right - June brings SRI planting season, here villagers from Shanti group in Bhalim village plant out the young (2-leaf) seedlings at wide spacing. While this aspect of rice planting is very new, farmers are adapting to the method and now find it as quick as the traditional way.



Above - After 4-6 weeks of little leaf growth but massive root growth, the rice plant put on rapid leaf growth, seen now in August. The rice plants produce more straw (for fodder) as well as increasing grain production.



Right - Monks from Swoyambhunath monastery in Kathmandu volunteer to plant SRI rice at Sunrise Farm RC in Sita Paila, June.

Right - A green manure crop of *Sesbania sesban* is grown in the fallow period between a winter chick pea/lentils mix and the summer rice crop. Just before the rice is planted the green manure is cut and ploughed into the soil providing valuable nutrients to the next crops. In this way green manures are an important way of increasing fertility with the relatively low input of sowing the seed (rather than carrying loads of manure).



Left - Participants on a farmers' training at Baragaun RC learn how to make a nursery the practical way. They will also receive seeds to take home and make their own nurseries.

Right - Participants from Pragatshil group (Salgadhi village) learn to make a fruit nursery with trainer Sumitra Gurung (mauve top red trousers) during a mobile farmers' training in August.



Left - Billy goat provided to Shanti group of Bhalim for breed improvement



Left - An area of maize grown successfully due to an irrigation system installed by HPC in Bhalim village, Shanti group.

Right - Maize crop close up. The irrigation system comprises a simple heavy-duty plastic-lined water collection tank that can store 35000L water and gravity distribute to several plots similar to this totalling over 7 Ha for 12 families.



Left - Women attending the Women's Health Camp (WHC) at Baragaun in May watch a play about the effects on the household when men go away to work overseas, such as increased workload on the women, and bringing home STDs.

Right - Nurses and staff from the District Health Office in Surkhet view a display of local herbs at the health camp. The DHO provided some logistical support and accreditation for the health camp, and referral support for those cases that were not able to be treated there and needed to go to the district or regional hospital for diagnosis and treatment.

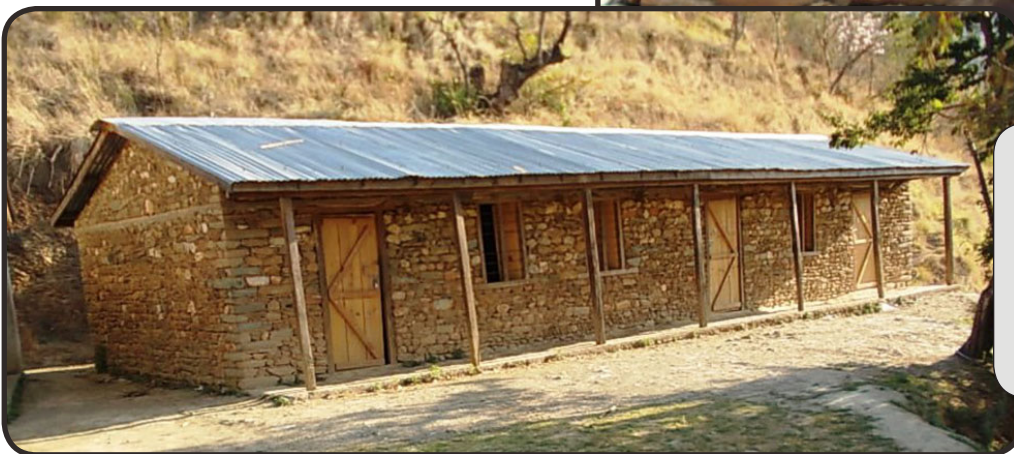


Right - Close up of some of the locally available herbs used medicinally on display at the WHC. They are labelled with their local name, where they are found (forest, fields, etc.), and their preparation and use in herbal medicine.



Left - Pipe for the drinking water system in Ghatutol being laid between the spring source and the village

Right - Villagers of Ghatutol (Himal group) complete a tap stand for their drinking water system: 12 taps for 12 households.



Left - Shree Gokarna Secondary school at Pakhapani village (Janajoti group) where HPC has contributed to providing doors and windows, benefitting 195 children (106 boys and 89 girls).



Left - Students at Sidheswori Primary School in Baragaun learn about tending a fruit nursery established in the grounds of the school, weeding, mulching, watering the rootstock plants before grafting takes place in the winter. Regular vocational classes are held at the school, using various demonstrations established there.



Right - Students learn how to water fruit trees using recycled bottles. The bottles, with a pin-sized hole made in the base, are buried close to young seedlings so the water seeps out directly in the root zone, reducing waste of water and the chance of fungal disease at the soil surface.



Above - Children from Baragaun Primary school visit the RC for a tour of the farm and a slide show about growing fruit trees. Here HPC's schools' technician Milan Khadka shows them on of the vertical growing experiments at the farm.
Right - Farm assistant Jaisara Gharti waters peas that have sprouted on the vertical system.

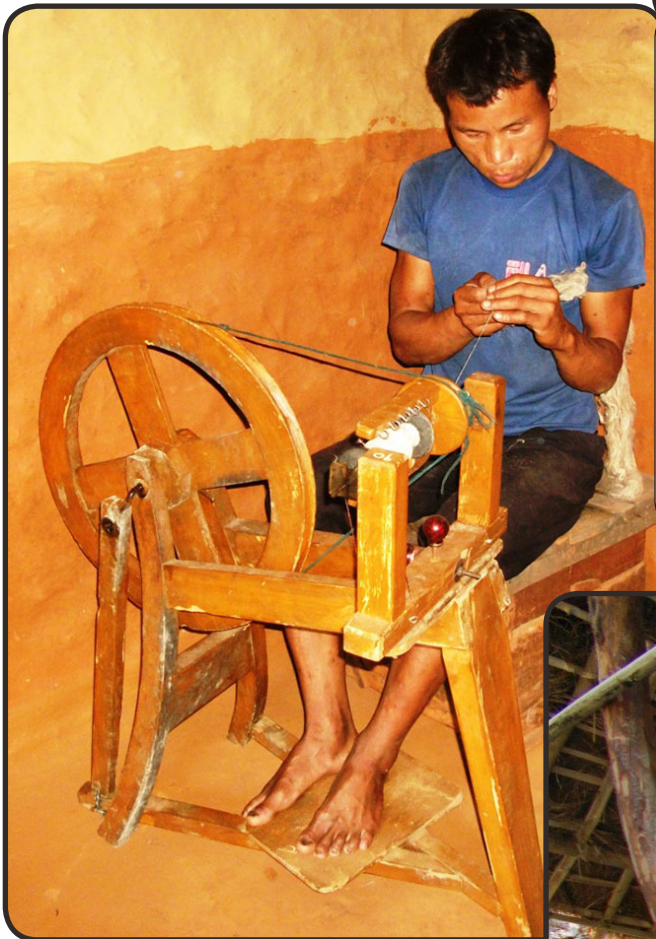




Above - The second Nepali edition of the Farmers' Handbook was released in September, with 1500 copies printed. Originally printed in 2001, the FHB has been updated with several new chapters added. HPC uses the FHB for its practical literacy classes and general technical education.



Above - Mr Padam Subedi, Horticultural Officer from the District Agriculture Office in Surkhet, giving participants a class during the training in vegetable seed production held at Baragaun RC in April.



Left - One of 5 spinning wheels acquired by HPC for processing nettle fibre into yarn, here run by Dipendra Buddha from Shanti group in Bhalim. The spinning wheels were provided at a 40% subsidised rate by the District Handicrafts Office in Surkhet. Nettle yarn is being produced to be marketed in Kathmandu, though the medium-term aim is to weave the cloth in the villages.



Right - A multi-purpose mill completed, servicing 6 villages (4 of HPC's villages and 2 from outside) and 60 households. The mill performs flour milling and rice de-husking, and can fit further attachments for vegetable oil extraction and planking.