

HPC Report November 2015 - April 2016
Photo Gallery – Humla



Left - participants on a 5-day integrated farmers' training held at HPC's resource centre in Dapka village, Madana VDC in Humla discuss planting fruit trees around a demonstration. As well as planting the tree, how it can be surrounded by companion plants to aid its growth and productivity is also demonstrated.

Below - the beneficial relationship between companion plants is illustrated using the "web of life" game where each participant plays an element in the group of plants in the companion system, each providing multiple benefits and using yields from each other to reduce work & waste.



Right - HPC's "barefoot vets" inoculate goats as part of the livestock preventative health program. The barefoot vets have received training from National training programs and have been integrated into HPC's program through being resident in HPC's working villages. Their work is largely voluntary, while HPC provides the medicines. HPC also provides basic livestock health training in which farmers are introduced to simple diagnostic practices and basic systems of preventative health through improved diet and stall hygiene.





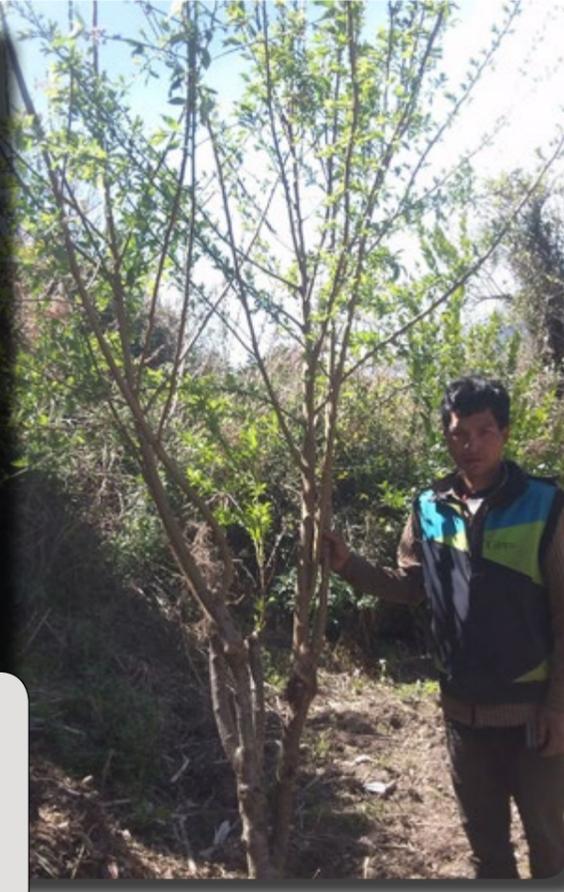
Left and below - HPC's barefoot vets inspect livestock assembled at a health camp where vaccinations, worming and basic treatment are done *en masse* for farmers. Considering livestock management takes around 60% of a household's time it is a crucial issue to be involved in, with the overall aim of reducing inputs, and increasing productivity. Many livestock are in poor health yet require the same resources to manage, and eat the same amount of fodder. One aim is to increase the outputs of a fewer number of livestock.



Above - barefoot vets write up reports following the livestock health camp. Left - new cuttings of mulberry, a valuable new livestock fodder in Humla (originally brought from HPC sites in Surkhet) just starting to sprout in a nursery. They will be planted out in agro-forestry designs on farmers' land in July/the monsoon.



Above - Guru Chandra's (Dhakal Samaj Sudhar group) kitchen garden in Gallabada showing a profusion of coriander amongst onions and other vegetables. Right - a peach tree originally top worked onto wild peach. A very popular technique, top working doesn't even require a nursery, involving grafting scion onto wild seedlings and even mature trees already growing around fields.



Above - making liquid manure from local resources such as wormwood, marigold, garlic, comfrey, cow dung and wood ash for the kitchen garden. It can be sprayed on as a folia fertilizer or added to irrigation water. Some types of concoction also act as a pest repellent. Left - Samundra Buddha of Satti village with a new fruit tree supplied as mother stock by HPC - it will be used to provide grafting material in the future so needs to be well nurtured in the meantime.



Above - participants at the end of a 5-day integrated farmers' training. They will only be issued with certification after follow-up visits by the barefoot trainers to see what progress has been made and what they have implemented in their villages from the course.



Above - some of the solar lamp systems ready to ship to villages in Humla: 3 lights, panel, battery & charger. Left - HPC group members from Humla visit groups in Surkhet to observe their work, here seeing vegetables & cash crops plots within agroforestry.

Right - volunteers from the International Disaster Volunteers help to rebuild Sunrise Farm, an HPC resource centre in Kathmandu (not Humla!) that was seriously damaged in the earthquakes of April & May last year. The farmhouse and livestock barn require rebuilding and a new training hall will be made to restore the farm to its previous function of a training and demonstration centre in Kathmandu.

