Himalayan Permaculture Centre

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Organic Karnali: Building Community Resilience Through Agroecology

12-month Report June 2024-May 2025

Date of this report: June 2025



Introduction and background

Following HPC's establishment in 2010, it has completed 4 phases of designed organisational and project development, building first its own capacity and subsequently the capacity and activities of its participating communities, their farming systems and their local economies. Working with 785 households (4750 men and women) of 31 villages in 5 municipalities of 2 districts (Surkhet and Humla), over 13 years, HPC has developed not only viable agroecology and appropriate technology demonstrations it has also produced dozens of demonstration farmers, many of whom are now able to teach their experience well beyond their home villages.

Phase 5 was conceived by HPC as a 5-year program to further scale up this work, in particular focussing on 1. Increasing local demonstration farms and plots on farmers' fields throughout Karnali Province, along with extensive farmers' trainings, and 2. developing a cadre of farmer trainer-designers (it calls them "barefoot consultants", BCs) that are able to train and design in agroecology development. Supporting this work are activities involving extension and integration with local government, and modelling small cooperative livelihoods projects based on local resources.

In December 2022, as Phase 4 was nearing its end, HPC was awarded the Lush Spring Prize in the Established Projects category, and this award, along with other small grants was allocated to Phase 5 in May 2023.

Even though by May 2023 it had secured only 8% of its budget needs for Phase 5, the HPC team was eager to start and needing to maintain momentum after Phase 4 ended. The staff and board made the decision to commence activities with the budget it had, according to a modified (scaled-down) project design. Since then, more funding has been acquired and with the partnership with KCF, WHH, SWI Nepal and with financial commitments from local Municipality governments, HPC has secured most of its needs for the first 3 years of its 5-year plan.)

Phase 5 partnerships

While Phase 5 has been developed by HPC based on its own experience and working modality, it is also partnering with German INGO Welthungerhilf to implement their own Agroecology development project in Karnali province: **Green Evolution (GE): Pathways for Food System Transformation.** The lead local project management partner in the GE project is LIBIRD (Local Initiatives for Biodiversity, Research and Development), while HPC gained the contract as a local implementing partner. GE is a 3½-year project being implemented in India and Bangladesh as well as Nepal. In Nepal, GE is aimed to work in 5 municipalities of 3 districts of Karnali province, thus fitting within HPC's own intended target area. Overall, HPC has incorporated GE as part of its Phase 5 project.

The GE project centres around agroecology training for farmers' groups in 5 municipalities in Surkhet, Dailekh and Jumla districts, that have become part of HPC's working area in Karnali province. Local lead farmers are identified and first provided with a "Sustainable Integrated Farming System" (SIFS) the farmers are provided a SIFS training that is part technical and part trainers' training, and then go on to provide the SIFS training to their respective village groups through a Farmers' Field School (FFS) approach. More details are provided below under "Farmers' Training". For HPC to adapt this to its own approach of Farmers' Training has been possible, as both SIFS and FFS are similar methodologies and approaches to teaching agroecology that HPC has been doing for more than 14 years (and some of its staff and barefoot consultants for over 30 years).

Another partner in Phase 5 is the Social Work Institute (SWI) based in Kathmandu and with extensive experience in Karnali and other provinces of Nepal. Its projects with HPC are focussed on agroecology, youth, livelihoods (including PGS), advocacy, networking and capacity building, and thus are also highly compatible with Phase 5 objectives. Activities within Phase 5 include farmers' training, street drama, seed banks, experience-sharing workshops and farmers' demonstration plots (learning resource centres/RCs).

Finally, HPC also partners with local municipality government to plan and implement activities in Phase 5, as this is crucial to support scaling up with local government participation as well as be a valuable source of funds for the activities.

Activities

Phase 5 activities are organised within 3 main areas:

1. Scale-up and Spread of best-practice methods and approaches of integrated, agro-ecological farming

This will be achieved by on-farm demonstrations and training to provide the skills, knowledge and resources needed to increase domestic production of a diversity of goods, while improving ecological services to the community.

- Resource Centres
- Farmers' Training (including women's health and schools' classes)
- Farmers' Agroecology Academy
- Networking and experience sharing

2. Creation of Regenerative Livelihoods

- Facilitate establishment and operation of local social enterprises and ethical business models that develop local rural enterprises and income generating activities that improve local household and community economies.

3. Responsible Governance

- Develop partnerships with local government that manage development and spread of activities under objectives 1 and 2.

Working Areas

A summary of groups' names, locations and demographics is given below:

District	Municipality	male	female	Total
Surkhet	Chingard	186	230	416
Surkhet	Barahatal			0

data collection in process

	Birendranagar	501	461	962	
Humla	Adanchuli	1424	1343	2767	
Jajarkot	Junichandi	292	172	464	
Dolpa	Tripurasundari	0	0	0	
D. 31.1.1.	Dullu	962	991	1953	
Dailekh	Atbis	220	180	400	
Jumla	Tatopani			0	
Total	1	3585	3377	6962	

data collection in process

data collection in process

PROGRESS

1. Scale-up and Spread of best-practice methods and approaches of integrated, agro-ecological farming

A. RESOURCE CENTRES (RCs)

(i) Existing RCs

In phases 1-4, HPC developed RCs in Surkhet and Humla from which to run its district programs. In 2018 the Surkhet RC was re-located to new land in Chyarkule area of Chingard Municipality, and in 2019 the local community in Tanjakot Municipality of Humla built a new RC building for the program in Humla. These 2 original RCs in Surkhet and Humla are still functioning as regional Centres for Phase 5. As such they demonstrate agroecological approaches and methods, and host training courses that cover the huge diversity of issues needing addressing. These include soil and water management, seed saving, agroforestry, composting, as well as social and capacity building trainings for group management and action, assessing resources, and networking. These "old" RCs are continuously being managed with nurseries, tree planting and crop production with which to demonstrate and train local farmers. Meanwhile they support a wider network of farmers that are wanting to apply agroecological approaches and methods on their own land in order to create more productive, diverse and resilient homesteads.

(ii) New RCs

With an original target of 5 RCs established in the first year, to date work has started on 4 new sites in Humla, Jajarkot, Surkhet and Dolpa districts. HPC is working through invitation only – by communities and local authorities, so it is not surprising that Surkhet and Humla wards have been at the front of the queue to invite the project, as they are neighbouring wards to where Phases 1-4 were operating RCs in Madana and Chyarkule village areas respectively.

A total of 719 fruit and multi-purpose trees and shrubs have been established on the RCs over the past year, over 4kgs vegetable seed planted and nearly 100kg of vegetables harvested in the past 6 months. Pruning has enabled 89 fruit trees to thrive, and fruit nurseries have produced 511 seedlings by grafting and air layering. Over 1000 trees and shrubs have been distributed from the RCs

In Humla near the village of Lauthi in Adanchuli Municipality 0.25Ha land has been donated by the Municipality office, and work has begun establishing agroforestry systems since September 2023. At the farm, nurseries for a diverse range of fruit and multi-purpose trees and shrubs have been established. In addition, 168 grafted fruit trees including almond, apple, peach and walnut have been grown and 170 fodder and

multi-purpose trees and shrubs planted. Farmers in Lauthi have already planted 127 fruit trees distributed from the Humla RC in Dapka village, 3 hours walk away.

In Jajarkot district (some may remember the Jajarkot Permaculture Program, the first such in Western Nepal, that ran from 1988 to 2001, and from which HPC is directly descended), Sirpachaur Secondary High School in Junichande has partnered with the local Municipality to invest in their resource centre. Under the guidance of staff and barefoot consultants (BCs) design and planting of 0.35Ha of land owned by the school has started in August 2023. Nurseries for fruit and multi-purpose trees have been established, and **362 fruit and multipurpose trees and shrubs** including fodder grasses and herbs planted around the land.

In Matela village, Chingard municipality of Surkhet district, establishment of an RC started in April 2024. The land, a 0.15Ha plot belonging to a farmer in the village, is being developed into a RC under a tripartite agreement between the farmer, the Municipality and HPC. All parties are investing in the development and operational cost of the RC, while outputs are divided 50:25:25 respectively. Here, different types of nurseries have been established for fruit and multi-purpose trees and vegetables, to grow plants that will be planted on the farm and distributed to farmers in the local community. Meanwhile, 71 fruit trees and multi-purpose trees and fodder grasses have been planted on the farm. An SRI plot has also been established to demonstrate this rice-growing technique. Other methods established on the farm include leaf pots, air nursery, mulch bed, vegetable polycultures, bamboo propagation through cuttings, waste-water management, compost making and urine collection.

Finally, in the remote district of Dolpa in the southern municipality of Tripurasundari the local mayor has committed municipality funds over the next 3 years and at present they are creating a fence, access route and water facilities for the 0.5 Ha Centre being established on community land there, along with tree and vegetable nurseries, vegetable beds, fruit and tree planting (55 trees and shrubs established) and grain/pulse crop growing plots. The area is particularly degraded, and significant work needs to be carried out on soil improvement.

A summary of HPC-run RCs is below.

RC Name	Location	Date Established	Altitude (m)	Area (Ha.)	Owner
HPC Central RC & Head Office	Chingard-1 Chyarkule, Surkhet	Sept 2018	1300	0.3	НРС
HPC RC & Humla Head Office	Tajakot-5 Dapka, Madana, Humla	June 2019	2650	0.1	Community
HPC Agroecology RC Dolpa	Tripurakot-7, Chal Jogikhor, Dolpa	April 2024	2330	0.5	Community
HPC Agroecology RC Jajarkot	Junichande-10, Deusule, Jajarkot	Sept 2023	2100	0.35	High School
HPC Agroecology RC Matela	Chingard-3, Matela, Thule, Surkhet	March 2024	1300	0.15	Private
HPC Agroecology RC Lauthi	Adanchuli-4, Lauthi, Humla	Sept 2023	2200	0.25	Municipality

B. FARMERS' TRAINING

Farmers' training focuses on a wide range of agroecological practices and approaches as well as women's health and schools' classes.

HPC's traditional way of delivering farmers' training is being used in working areas in Humla, Jajarkot and Surkhet (Chingard). This comprises:

- Farmers' Training on resource/learning centres 5-day format
- Mobile Farmers' Training 3-day format, *in situ* in local villages
- Technical farmers' training short technical trainings from half-an-hour to 4 hours long, both at RCs and *in situ* in local villages
- women's health training
- schools' agroecology classes

Training is delivered by experienced staff and Barefoot Consultants (BCs, see below part C) as well as apprentices in the Farmers' Agroecology Academy (see also part C below) that are leaning the skills of training and permaculture design.

In this period only residential, mobile and various technical farmers' trainings have been implemented In Surkhet, Humla and Jajarkot districts. Women's Health trainings will commence in the next reporting period, and schools' classes will commence once the teachers' strike is resolved (schools will normally close over the monsoon, which is due to start over the next few weeks).

A training summary over the past 6 months is given below:

AN A	No: Trainings	D	Participants		
All Areas		Days	Women	Men	Total
Residential farmers' training (5-day)	5	25	59	43	102
Mobile Farmer Training (3-day)	16	48	236	148	384
Technical Trainings	54	18	263	272	535
Total	75	91	558	463	1021

Green Evolution Agroecology Farmers' Training

In addition to HPC's traditional training modality, as part of Phase 5 they are also implementing farmers' trainings in Green Evolution (GE) project areas. These are in Surkhet (Bharatal and Birendranagar municipalities), Dailekh (Dullu and Atbis municipalities) and Jumla (Tatopani) district. These are called "Sustainable Integrated Farming System" (SIFS) trainings, and are delivered using a Farmers' Field School (FFS) approach, based on the project constructed by WHH, that HPC has integrated into its Phase 5.

Contents of SIFS training:

The curriculum contains the following sessions

- 01 Understanding link between nutrition and farming system
- 02 Introducing the idea of sustainable integrated farming system (SIFS)
- 03 Planning of your production
 - 3A Assessing stress
 - 3B Assessing resources
 - 3C Vision plan
 - 3D Work plan
- 04 Landscape microplanning
 - 4A Transect walk
 - 4B Resource and vision map

- 05 Crop management Mixing and rotating crops
- 6 Space Management
 - 6A Space management in garden
 - 6B Space management in hilly region
- 07 Seed management
- 08 Including trees in the cropping system (agro-forestry)
- 09 Soil and Water Management
 - 9A Soil and water management Heap and Pit compost
 - 9B Soil and water management Vermicomposting and Liquid Manure
 - 9C Soil and water management- Mulching, drip and pitcher irrigation
- 10 Pest management- yellow sticky paper, pest repellent, brahmastra
- 11 Livestock management- fodder and shelter
- 12 Free range chicken rearing
- 13 Marketing vegetables
- 14 Monitoring SIFS

Methodology of the Farmers' Field School (FFS) to deliver the SIFS training Each FFS session will

- be facilitated by an experienced farmer or lead farmer.
- have $20\sim25$ farmers in the group
- be completely practical, with participatory learning and demonstration basis
- have 15 minutes to recap/ review of the previous session and the actions taken by the participants in their farm/field, 1 hour to 3 hours new topic, and 15 minutes for giving home task for applying the knowledge in their own field, and planning for the next session.

The SIFS training approach is being implemented in GE project areas, namely Bharatal and Birendranagar municipalities of Surkhet district, Dullu and Atbis municipalities of Dailek district, and Tatopani municipality of Jumla district. The first SIFS ToT (Training of Trainers) was held over 6 days for 21 farmers' leaders selected by their community to facilitate FFS in Bharatal and Birendranagar municipalities. The training was held at Srijanshil Permaculture Learning Centre in Gumi, Gurvakot of Surkhet. A second SIFS ToT was provided for 22 selected facilitators from Dullu and Atbis in Dailekh – 3 days were provided at a homestay in Dailekh then it was realised that a dedicated agroecology demonstration and learning centre would be more effective to use as a training centre, so the second 3 days were held again at Srijanshil Permaculture Learning Centre. Finally a 5-day SIFS ToT was held for 22 FFS facilitators in Salghari village of Tatopani municipality of Jumla district (Jumla being too far to transport so many to Surkhet).

Following the SIFS facilitator trainers' training, the local facilitator is mentored by an experienced HPC barefoot consultant, with support from HPC and LIBIRD staff, to deliver the 14 SIFS classes through the FFS to local group members. Over 9 months each FFS group will receive on average 2 classes per month, each lasting 1-3 hours (see SIFS content, above). Thus in each of 5 municipalities will be 21 or 22 groups each containing on average 20 farmers, making a total of around 2000 farmers that will receive the SIFS training.

During this reporting period (December 2024 – May 2025) SIFS FFS classes have started in all 5 municipalities of the GE project. In total **60 groups** have been formed and classes started for 47 of them, provided by 46 facilitators. To date, a total of **296 classes** have been provided to **1077 group members (981 women and 96 men).** In Surkhet district, 20 groups in Birendranagar and Bharatal municipalites have completed half of the 14 classes. In Dailekh district, 20 groups in Dullu and Atbis

municipalities have also completed half of classes, and in Jumla 7 groups from Tatopani municipality have completed just 1 class each as they were only formed in April (a further 13 groups are in process of starting). With the monsoon imminent as this report is being written, most classes will reduce or stop activities while paddy planting season runs, and will pick up again in September, as with most other HPC areas.

A summary of GE SIFS training is below:

District	Surkhe	et	Dail	lekh	Jumla	
Municipality	Birendranagar	Bharatal	Dullu	Atbis	Tatopani	total
No. of SIFS trainers	9	11	15	5	20	60
No. in FFS group (total)	178	205	395	116	183	1077
no. FFS sessions taught	76	78	107	35	7	296

Street Theatre

As part of youth empowerment activities in farmers' training, "street theatre" about youth rights and agroecology has been performed in several locations of Chingard Municipality Wards 1-6, by a team comprising 9 female and 7 male youth from local villages in Ward 5.

Practical work in villages

As a result of the trainings HPC staff and BCs have started to monitor practical activities in the villages at the homes of course participants. As training has only recently begun in November/December 2024, their outputs and impacts are only just starting to be visible, in the form of species diversification in kitchen gardens, home vegetable and tree nurseries established, short-term fodder grasses produced and planted, etc. Monitoring by staff and BCs in Surkhet (Chingard municipality) and Humla (Adanchuli) show that a total of **296 households** have been able to implement at least 1 of 42 different techniques on their farms following training from HPC. These range from inside the house (permaculture zone 0) to the fields (zone 4) and include house hygiene (43 households), fruit tree pruning (37), etc. The top 10 techniques are as follows:

Technique	No households		
	implementing		
House Hygiene	43		
Pruning	37		
Fruit nursery	27		
Grafting	19		
Toilet	18		
Kitchen garden/vegetables	15		
Fruit planting	15		
Plate drying rack	12		
Sweepings	10		
Water pot lid	10		

This will increasingly be reported in more detail in future reports as systems mature and become more widespread.

Liquid manure and biofertilisers

Following a long partnership with Almost Heaven Farms in Eastern Nepal, HPC have been learning about making and using biofertilizers. Various biofertilizers are being

demonstrated and taught in all areas and these are documented in farmers' training details. The different biofertilizers have different uses, such as general building of soil health and biodiversity, supplying specific nutrients/minerals, and protecting against pests and disease. They are also used at specific successive growth stages of crops, from treating seed, to plant growth, flowering, and fruiting stages. They can be used on staple grain crops, pulses, vegetables and perennial fruit trees. A summary of types is below.

BF Name	Use/benefits
Phosphites	Prevent illness mainly caused by fungus.
	Phosphorous provides the energy for healthy development of
	plants.
	Stimulates the defensive system of and metabolism in plants.
	Stimulates growth and root development.
	Useful in post-harvest stress recovery.
	In fruiting trees it is useful in pre-flowering stages.
Supermagro	Brings balance to the soil and increases biological activity.
	The bacteria, <i>Bacillus subtilis</i> helps move phosphorus in soil.
	Prevents and acts as a predator of some pests/ disease.
Native microbes	To biologically replicate, reproduce, enrich, activate and
solid	regenerate your land, animal and human systems, by mimicking a
	local, healthy forest environment. It works as an inoculant to
	rebalance the soil and prevents pests and disease in crops.
Native microbes	The microbes will restore the soil's natural nutrient cycle and build
liquid	organic matter.
	The compounds stimulate plant growth, decrease pest incidence
	and ameliorate the soil.
Lacto acid	Increases the decomposition of organic matter, prevents rotting
bacteria (LAB)	and protects plants against pests and disease.

Following the training element, the use of different preparations at home, and the effects they may have on crop productivity (this may be in terms of yields as well as changes in crop losses due to pests) will be monitored and documented in future reports. For now it is too early to see results of early use.

Schools' Agroecology classes

As part of HPC's program practical agroecology classes are planned for schools in the program area. Classes are designed for different age groups and will cover topics such as balanced diet, kitchen gardens, seedling nursery, compost making, pest management, seed saving, mulching, mushroom cultivation and livestock health. The lesson plans differ for each age group, taking them through a basic process including literacy to more advanced lessons and practicals to make more complex biofertilizers, for example, or from simple seed sowing to more advanced grafting of fruit trees. Classes are also designed to complement adult training in the villages and at resource centres. The classes will be delivered by staff and BCs (both trained and apprentice-level).

The delay in release of the budget meant that classes were not able to start as planned in December, and when this was enabled, further delays have been caused by a national teachers' strike and agitation that is still going on as this report is being written. Schools will then close for the monsoon which is imminent and usually lasts from June to September.

C. FARMERS' AGROECOLOGY ACADEMY

The Farmers' Agroecology Academy is designed to produce "Barefoot Consultants" (BCs) that are specially trained in teaching and designing agroecological systems through a farmer-to-farmer approach. Over 5 years HPC aims to produce 75 BCs who will be responsible for scaling up agroecology within and beyond the programme area in Karnali province.

HPC currently has 5 experienced BCs that are responsible, with staff, for facilitating farmers' trainings (see above) in 7 municipalities of Surkhet and Humla. In these trainings they are shadowed by 7 new BCs that are apprenticing, with a further 3 new BCs places available for selection.

To be selected as a BC, farmers first have to complete the basic farmers' training and implement agroecological techniques and approaches they have learned on their own land. They need to show commitment to developing their skills and knowledge, and to be able to teach others. They are then provided capacity building training in design and teaching, and continue to use their skills to scale up the project.

Permaculture Design Course (PDC)

The PDC is an internationally recognised curriculum that HPC has been providing since 2012. It is the main resource for training BCs in permaculture design which, together with a trainers' training and on-the-job training will qualify them to be able to scale up agroecology within and beyond the project area

To date 2 PDCs have been provided in May 2024 and 2025 to 15 and 17 participants respectively. Of these 7 BCs have had refresher training and 7 new BCs have had their first PDC.

BC Capacity Building workshops

As well as the key PDC for design skills and ToT for training skills apprentice BCs are involved with on-going program planning, design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. They attend workshops for these activities along with staff and experienced BCs, while also shadowing/apprenticing on the different types of farmers' training, to get experience. They are also involved in following up training courses and monitoring what outcomes are apparent in the villages after training participants return home, in terms of what techniques they are able to implement, and what benefits accrue from them. As such they are part of an on-the-job training strategy for training and design.

In this period 2 workshops have been provided at HPC's Resource Centre in Chyarkule, attended by 16 BCs and staff (3 staff, 6 experienced BCs and 7 apprentice BCs).

BC Apprentice Training

As part of the BC's capacity building they are also apprenticing and shadowing staff and experienced BC's during the various farmers' training

Advanced BC Internship, Ilam

As part of BC capacity building and in partnership with Almost Heaven Farms/Himalayan Agroecology in Ilam, HPC plans to send up to 4 experienced BCs each year to train at AHF/HA sites in Eastern Nepal for up to 2 months each. While there they will learn in particular about biofertilizer development (see also above under "Farmers' Training") – the making, applying, monitoring and marketing of

biofertilizers, and also general program management, reporting, documentation and research skills in an active project environment. This period however, only 2 BCs were able to go due to delay in SWC registration, and 1 had to return after just 2 weeks due to family illness. One BC however was able to complete their internship and returned to Surkhet to share experiences in the field with other apprentice BCs.

2. Creation of Regenerative Livelihoods

This activity is about local enterprise development based on developed and/or replenished local resources. It involves planned development of enterprises based around food, herbs, textiles, soap and biofertilizers, run through cooperative and public-private collaborations.

To date this has involved initiating a biofertilizer cottage industry in Chingard in collaboration with the local municipality government. A proposal has been submitted to the municipality and is planned to be implemented in the next financial year.

A further collaboration with Junichande municipality government and the district Handicrafts Office of Jajarkot is also under discussion for a textile cottage industry.

Social media project

This involves creating training resources as well as increasing HPC's online presence as a Karnali-based education and design organization with all the resources it has to offer: demonstration sites, BCs, training infrastructure and techniques that can be shared throughout the province and beyond. Early outputs of this are:

- Introduction to HPC video
- Women's Menstrual pad awareness and advertisement (refined from Phase 4 activities)
- <u>Farmers' Homestead Songs</u> (these were created in the early 90's and continue to be very popular, and now are easily accessed on Youtube.

This project is also enabling BCs and staff to create presentations of their work in RC design and training for reporting and networking.

3. Responsible Governance

This aims to provide training for and alignment with local government, to involve them in the project process, train them in agroecological practices and approaches, and encouraging the investment of government funds.

Working with local Municipalities

One of HPC's strategies is to work with local government municipality offices to plan and implement its Phase 5 project, and to draw down municipality funds towards match funding its activities. It has received commitments from Adanchuli, Chingard and Tripurakot offices in Humla, Surkhet and Dolpa districts respectively. The table below summarises what work they have supported so far.

District	Municipality	Activity
Humla	Adanchuli	Hosting the RC on its office land; office space in its
		building; fencing and irrigation
Surkhet	Chingard	Providing land; tree planting; farmers' training
	_	program; nursery establishment (seedling/seed
		purchase); irrigation

Dolpa Tripurakot Providing land; fencing; irrigation (not complete)	ot complete)
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In Jajarkot matched funding has been committed by the local High School in Junechandi municipality and used to develop the resource centre (RC) in the grounds of the school (see above)

Further proposals are being prepared for activities in the next financial year (that starts mid-July) to include further RC development, farmers training and livelihoods projects such as biofertiliser factory and textile cottage industry.

Challenges

Challenges facing HPC and its implementation of Phase 5 are described below.

- Municipality funds not forthcoming/delayed
- HPC's lack of knowledge/experience of the process to apply for Municipality funding
- Dolpa delay in municipality funding -> lack of fence & water -> site grazed and dried out
- Academy registration of the academy at provincial/national level is proving very complex and will require a budget outside of the scope of Phase 5 funding
- GE project:
 - ➤ Administration burden of GE project meaning field staff having to spend more time in office work/less in field
 - ➤ Poor quality of original GE proposal (lack of training for LRPs) -> need for higher input from BCs
 - Lack of qualified BCs (due to greater than planned allocation to GE areas)
 - ➤ Lack of integration with Phase 5 (no programs for schools, BCs, RCs, limited technical Farmers' Trainings, no livelihoods aspects)

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