

# Himalayan Permaculture Centre

## Interim Activities Report

### April – September 2012

[www.himalayanpermaculture.com](http://www.himalayanpermaculture.com)



#### Introduction and Background

This report summarises activities carried out by the Himalayan Permaculture Centre (HPC) in its working areas of Surkhet and Humla districts during the period April to September 2012. In March 2012 HPC completed a year's capacity building program entitled "Capacity Building for Building Household and Community Resilience", jointly funded by KCF and The Network for Social Change. This was phase 1 of a 4-year program. Phase 2 of this program, has started in October 2012, and it is the purpose of this brief report to provide an update of HPC's status during the interim period between phases 1 and 2.

After phase 1 was completed in March, HPC went into a designed period of lower activity. This was partially due to having no structured programs or budget for activities, but more importantly it gave HPC and its aligned groups a chance for reflection on the achievements of the past year's capacity building, and to prepare for phase 2. It is also no coincidence that this interim period included the monsoon when farmers are very busy with crucial summer crops and have less time and energy for other activities.

#### Activities during this period

##### NGO Registration

During the summer HPC's annual audit and registration renewal at the CDO in Surkhet was completed according to CDO regulations.

##### Resource Centres (RCs)

At both resource centers in Surkhet and Humla farmers and voluntary staff met in May to review activities and plan for the next 5 months. Ongoing activities include SRI plots' monitoring, maintenance of fruit and multi-purpose tree and vegetable nurseries, and summer planting of trees and vegetables.



*Summer view of HPC Resource Centre, Baragaun*

At the Surkhet RC, the kitchen was moved and rebuilt to prevent damp coming from above terraces, with a community labour contribution of **60 person-days**. Other work on the RC included:

- **225 seedlings** of lime and wild pear were established on the farm
- **210 cuttings** of mulberry were distributed to farmers' groups from the RC nursery
- **59 kg of crops** recorded including garlic, tomato, aubergine, bitter gourd, karela and a massive 19kg of cucumbers and 27kg of pumpkins
- air nursery established
- new pit latrine constructed
- maize planted with green manure of velvet bean (*Mucuna* spp.)

## Groups' Activities

Groups have been kept ticking over through maintenance of trees planted over the past year, on-going operation of village nurseries, and establishing of SRI plots, as follows:

- planting of **2062** fruit and multi-purpose trees and grasses from village nurseries, including various citrus varieties (orange, lemon, lime, grapefruit, etc.), willow, lemon grass, napier grass, banana, comfrey, mulberry, plum, pear, peach, mango, alder, soapnut, lapsi, guava, jackfruit, bamboo, chestnut, ipil-ipil, papaya, lichi, butternut and pomegranate.
- Production of **312** rootstock of peach, pear and plum
- Sale of **158** grafted citrus plants and cardamon
- Establishment of **14 SRI plots** on farmers' own land (yield figures will be published in the next report)
- **468 person-days community contribution worth NRs 93600/-** by 116 farmers (87 men and 29 women) in local projects including path maintenance, school maintenance and fire control.

## Registration of new groups

In phase 1 a total of 11 groups were participating in the program (5 in Surkhet and 6 in Humla. For phase 2 a further 5 villages have been registered to make a total of 21 villages. Details of these villages (no: households, population and gender distribution) will be provided in the next report.

## Staff

Except for one farm manager at the Surkhet resource centre, all staff have been on voluntary duties from April to September 2012. From October previous staff have been re-hired and some additional posts created as below. The list includes a student from Kathmandu Training Centre undergoing on-the-job training (OJT) in vocational activities.

Director	1
Chief Technician	1
Accountant (part time)	1
Surkhet Coordinator	1
Surkhet RC manager	1
Surkhet Office manager	1
Surkhet Women's Health Workers	2
Surkhet Technicians	2
Humla Coordinator	1
Humla Office manager	1
Women's health auxiliary nurse	1
Humla Technicians	3
Humla OJT	1



*View of new HPC village areas in Surkhet*

In addition, HPC have applied to **Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO)** for a nurse to work primarily in Humla with the following job description:

- Observation of existing health issues, cultural practices and interventions
- Training of staff and volunteers in women's health issues
- Advising on and facilitating health educational programs
- Providing follow-up training and advice
- Assisting in operation of a women's health advice and treatment clinic/micro-health camps
- Research into use of local medicinal herbs in women's health treatment

The application is currently in process and it is hoped to have a nurse in post by January 2013.



*Sesbania sesban green manure newly growing on fallow paddy fields prior to rice planting in April*

*The Sesbania harvests energy from the sun as it grows, now in May*



*By June it has grown large and full of nutrients, ready to be incorporated into the soil as an efficient, low-input source of nutrients for the next crop*

*Here it seen being cut and mulched prior to ploughing in. We are using a scythe, being trialled in Surkhet (see a video on <http://youtu.be/KvmTr3Uq4pM>) which makes the job really quick*



*Here is another green manure, Velvet Bean (*Mucuna pruriens*) which, like Sesbania, harvests sunlight to produce biomass that covers the soil to reduce weeds and water loss, and provide a large nutrient source for the soil*

