

Himalayan Permaculture Centre  
 Report December 2018 - May 2019  
 Photo Gallery – Surkhet



Above - participants of the biofertilizer training mixing ingredients for creating fermented brews. They have various uses, from enhancing microbial soil activity to building plants' immune systems and protecting from pests and diseases. Right - some of the brews now fermenting before application - usually by foliar spraying. Below - at the end of the 5-day training, held at the Baragaun RC in Surkhet.



Below - HPC uses many methods to manage and improve fertility, biofertilizers, livestock manure, compost from biomass and liquid manure being some. Here, farmers on a training learn how to improve manure heaps using a simple technique of aerating with poles.

Below - making compost from biomass harvested from the fields.





*Left* - another way of increasing productivity is double digging. Here participants on a farmers' training complete a double-dug bed with a mulch on top in the polytunnel (before the plastic is laid in place) at the resource centre (RC) in Baragaun.



*Right* - participants on a mobile farmers' training for Shrijana group, Chaurgaun village, make a mulch bed. A thick mulch prevents weeds, conserves moisture and provides fertility.



*Left* - participants from Ujwal group, Khaltakura, make a small irrigation system directing waste water to the kitchen garden and home nursery.



*Above* - for mealtimes at this farmers' training participants learn to use a hay box, insulating partially cooked rice in straw which allows it to keep cooking without fire/fuel. *Left* - barefoot consultant (BC) Tek B. Pun (white shirt) teaches women farmers in Pakhapani village to make a tree nursery.



Right - villagers from Khalikharka village (Hariyali group) learn to make a nursery and plant seeds of *Bakaino* (*Melia azadirach*), a multi-purpose fast growing tree providing timber, firewood, goat fodder, bee forage and pest-deterrent use. Below - also in Khalikharka farmers are taught to make cuttings of bamboo, a fast and easy way of propagating this useful tree that is normally difficult and labour intensive to propagate.



Below - a technique using pots made from leaves used to propagate seeds that re difficult to transplant such as pumpkins, beans and cucumbers.

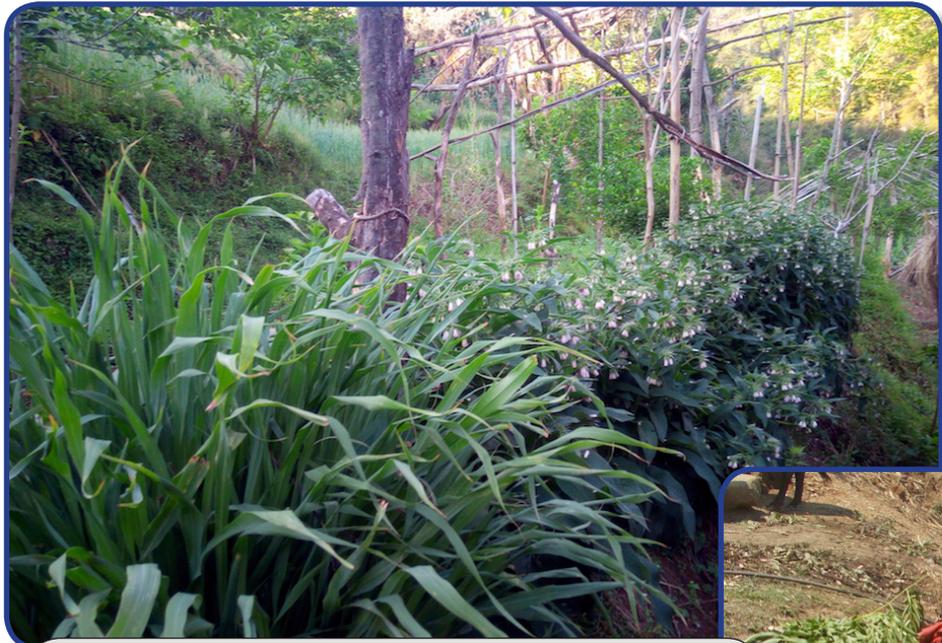


Left - a healthy and prolific bunch of local variety of bananas. Below - farmers at the end of a farmers' training go home with a grafted fruit seedlings.





*Left* - farmers from Humla observe produce in Nirmala Buddha's double-dug kitchen garden, Khaltakura. *Below* - some you win, some you lose: double scion top-grafted onto wild peach - on the left has taken, not on the right.



*Above* - terrace edge-planting of napier grass and comfrey in abundance on a farmer's field in Mavidanda village (Janachetana group). Traditionally these areas would be bare, but now are producing plentiful fodder, bee forage and medicinal herbs as well as helping to stabilise the slope. *Right* - farmers in Mavidanda making liquid manure from local resources on a mobile farmers' training.



*Left* - a walnut nursery on a farmer's land in Mavidanda. These walnuts will be grafted next winter using scion from soft-shelled walnuts found locally (the parent trees originally came from Humla).

*Right* - a green manure crop of Amaranth grown on the resource centre in Baragaun. This crop acts like a living mulch, keeping weeds down and conserving moisture, and will be tilled into the soil providing extra fertility, meaning less compost needs to be added.



*Left* - farmers from Humla meet with the Jana Sahayogi group from Subbatol village to hear about their micro-finance activities. This group has provided loans of over 280,000/- (about £2000) within the group from their savings, used for buying food, paying school fees, purchasing livestock, etc.



*Right* - participants on a 5-day women's Health Training at the Surkhet RC in April. *Below* - participants on a 3-day women's health training in Khalikharka village learned how to make sanitary pads.



*Right* - villagers from Jana Jyoti group in Pakhapani village finish burying pipe for a drinking water system provided to their local school.





*Left* - students from Jana Jyoti group in Pakhapani have been provided pens by HPC. Last year the Gorkhama primary school in the village constructed a drinking water system with HPC's support



*Right* - Pakhapani farmer Bhakta B. Khatri has established a cardamom plantation on steep, untterraced land on his farm. Naturally regenerated alder can be seen that he has protected and will provide a nitrogen-fixing cover crop for the shade-loving cash crop.



*Left* - RC farm assistant Pampa Buddha with mulberry fruit about to be loaded into the solar dryer. The dryer is kept busy drying various fruits, roots, seeds and pulses.



*Right* - farmers bring semi-processed stems of the Himalayan giant nettle for weighing and payment, harvested from the local forest under-storey near Gurung Gaun village in Rajena. The plants are cut so they will sprout again, then soaked, threshed and cooked to leave just the fibres, which are then spun before being woven into cloth. The aim is that villagers will be trained in all stages, creating levels of employment as the nettle is processed into cloth.

*Right* - bags of raw organic cotton from HPC farmers being "ginned" (seperating the fibres from the seed) - the fibres go for carding, spinning and weaving, the seed goes for re-planting and oil extraction, and the seed cake is fed to livestock.



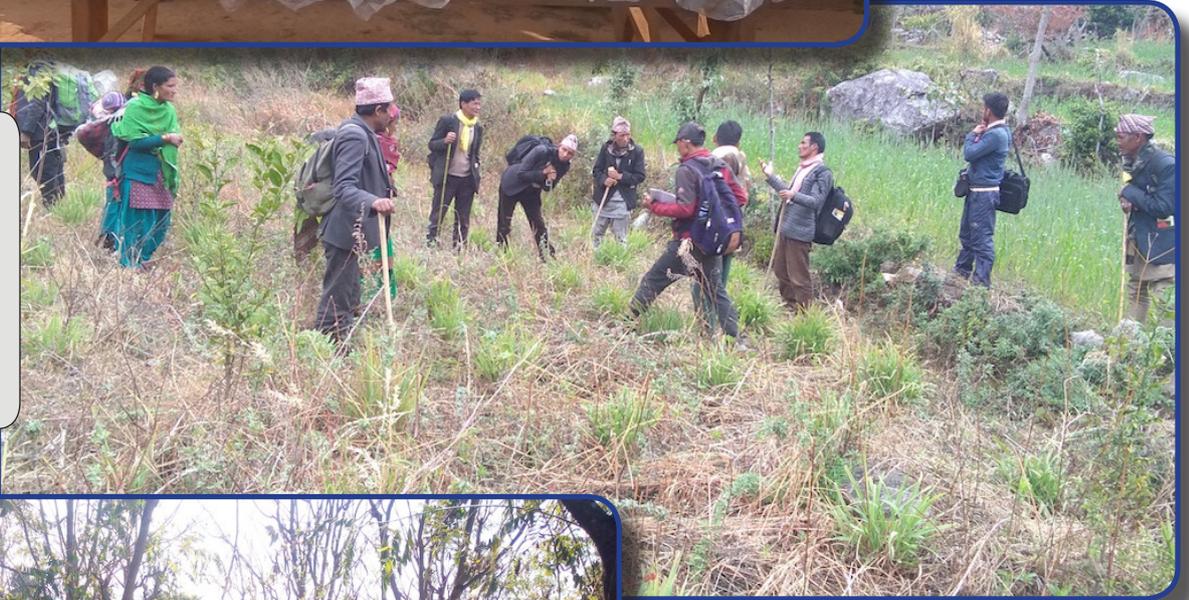
*Left* - weaving apprentice Mrs Uma Pulami with cloth woven on the looms of the community weaving centre in Salghadi village, managed by the local Pragatshil Krishak group.

*Right* - Kul B. Pun of Shanti group in Bhalim village selects broadleaf mustard plants for seed production. Some 130kg of broadleaf mustard seed has been produced this year in Surkhet. *Below* - farmers from Humla observe the garlic cash crops in Gurung Gaun (Pragatshil group)





*Left* - participants on the recent per-maculture design course at the Bara-gaun RC take home a set of the Farmers' Handbook, seed, seedlings and educa-tional posters



*Right* - Farmers from Humla visit a lemon grass plan-tation near to the site of the herbs' processing centre at Gurung Gaun



*Left* - villagers from groups in kalikharka village (Rajena municipality) view agro-forestry systems on a demonstration farm in Gumi village, estab-lished over the past 10 years



*Right* - villagers participating in HPC's annual Farmers' Festi- val this year held in Gurung Gaun bring items for the display, including many types of farm produce and locally made handicrafts. About 350 villagers attended the festival.