

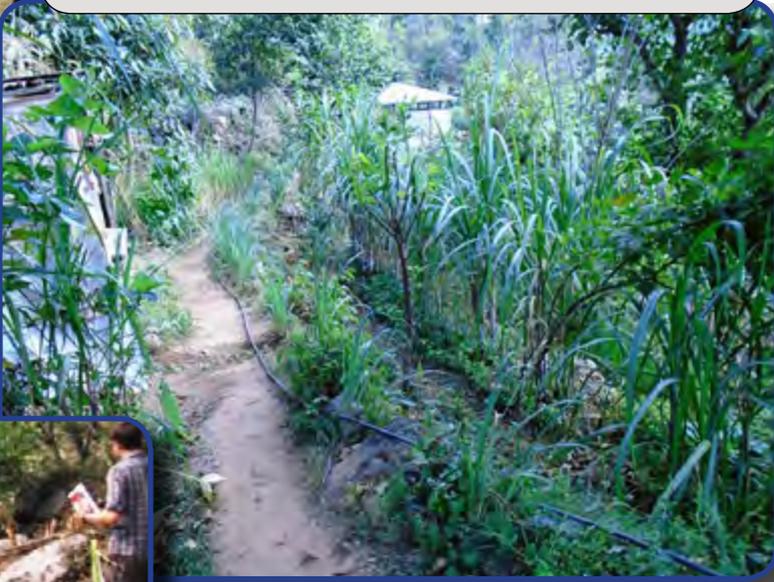
HPC Report May - October 2016
Photo Gallery – Surkhet



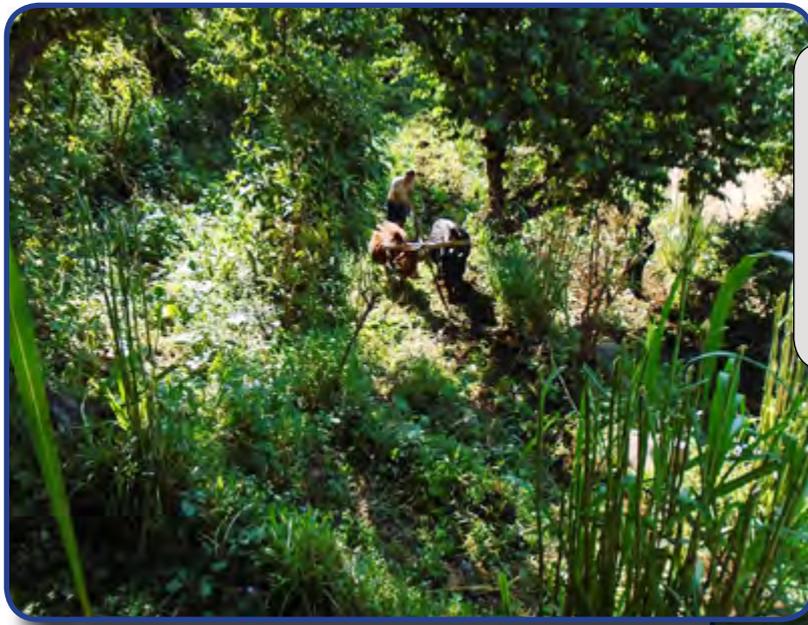
Above - Baragaun Resource Centre (RC) in 2012 with the then new greenhouse. Right - the same view in 2016 showing how the farm has grown



Left - another view of the RC in 2012 with (below) the same view in 2016 showing the extensive agro-forestry systems that have grown and started to produce crops of fodder, fruit, nursery plants, etc.



Left - farmers from a Peace Corps project in far-Western Doti district attend a Farmers' Training in Baragaun along with local participants from HPC's groups in Surkhet, here observing a small water catchment pond on a demonstration farmer's land



Left - technician Dhan B. BK uses his oxen to plough a terrace after the maize harvest in order to plant barley amongst the agro-forestry on the terrace edges. Grasses and other "weeds" are cut from the vertical edges and used to mulch the terrace once the next crop is sown to maintain a water-conserving layer over the soil.



Right - Processing broom grass harvested from the terraced edges of Baragaun resource centre. These are sold or bartered in the village for making brooms.



Left - The extensive, 7-year old agroforestry system at HPC coordinators home in Gumi VDC. The agroforestry system provides fodder, fuelwood and small construction timber as well as shade, soil protection and wildlife habitat. Meanwhile underneath are traditional crops of summer rice & winter wheat and pulses. *Below* - Members of Shrijana group in Chaurgaun village distribute daikon radish seed distributed from stocks saved by other groups in the region.



Left - members of *Jana Sahayogi* group Subbatol village meet for a discussion about their micro-finance activities. Loans are provided for activities such as buying livestock, getting medical treatment, investing in a business and paying school fees.





Left - experimental cold store under construction at Baragaun RC. The site is behind the farmhouse on the north (shaded) side) and the design is inspired by David Holmgren's cold store at his property "Melliodora" in Victoria, Australia. It will draw cold air up through the building to cool food stuffs stored within.



Above - Clear difference between SRI and conventional rice plots can be seen here – the SRI with its characteristic thick bunch of stalks from a single seed, at wide spacing. *Left* - Close up of the SRI plot.



Above - Bhuwan Khadka cuts 6-week old *Sesbania* to use as a green manure in June in a field to be used for rice planting.



Above - view of the extensive use of *Sesbania* green manure in rice in Khaltakura village. *Right* - Mr Ammar Pachabhaiya in his rice fields with the *Sesbania* close up. The *Sesbania* is nitrogen fixing and usually ploughed or dug in before the rice is planted – here plants are left to produce seed as well as providing nitrogen and fuelwood.





Left - Participants from *Jagaran* group in Sanu Khal-takura make a waste water collection pit during a mobile farmers' training. The pit is lined with clay to hold the water, which is collected from dish washing and other domestic use and can then be used for irrigating kitchen gardens and plant nurseries.



Right - using diluted cow urine on gardens can be a fertilizer and a pest repellent – here demonstrated on a residential 5-day Farmers' Training at Baragaun Resource Centre in June 2016.



Left - Technician Dhan B. Nepali teaches top grafting of an Asian pear onto a small wild pear tree growing on a farmer's land in Khaltakura village during a mobile Farmers' Training in July 2016.



Right - Participants learn from barefoot consultant Tek B. Buddha during a Livestock Health training at Khaltakura in June 2016



Left - Trainers play the part of pest searching out plants to eat on a Integrated Pest Management class of a Farmers' Training. With companion planting and diversity the pest are not able to find their prey compared to monoculture and this comparison is fun to role play during the class.

Right - HPC coordinator Bhuwan Khadka demonstrates an irrigation technique using a recycled bottle buried near a young plant. The bottle has a small hole in the base that delivers small amounts of water directly to the root zone. *Below* - A lime tree with companion planting of lemon grass and comfrey on Mrs Nirmala Buddha's land in Sanu Khaltakura village, *Jagaran* group.



Right - one of the new rice thresher. This has gears that can be adapted to threshing wheat as well. *Below* - the thresher being used at the same time as a traditional method of threshing using a table on which to thresh the rice.



Right - Farmers from villages in Rajena VDC collect pipe from the road head where it has been dropped by tractor for various drinking water and irrigation projects surveyed and planned for implementation post-monsoon.



Left - Women's Health Network (WHN) members meet at Baragaun RC with health specialist Januka Bhattarai to review and discuss activities and strategies of the WHN as well as practice yoga and meditation.



Above - Villagers get their hands dirty during a jam making training in Khali Kharka village in June 2016. Making jam (and juice) means that farmers can make use of excess fruits that would otherwise go to waste.



Left - Lead BC Tek B. Buddha's medicinal herb plot with several types of herb including Aloe Vera, Bhuichampa (*Kaempferia rotunda*) and Aconite (*Aconitum heterophyllum*)



Above - Cotton expert Nick Mason with translator Anisha Bajracharya during a theory class with cotton growers. Left - Mrs Ratna Pulami in her cotton field. In total 18 farmers had sown "Sea Island" cotton in prepared beds in June, and growth has been very good to date, with an average of 20-30 bolls ripening on each plant. This season's harvest will be mainly to provide seed for expansion next year.



Above - Sarusati Pulami of *Jagaran* Group in Sanu Khaltakura inspecting her cotton for pests in July 2016. *Above right* - leaf cutting caterpillar on 3-month old cotton. Farmers are hand picking this pest for the moment and it is not considered a significant pest. *Right* - a "rogue" boll ripens and opens early, but it gives a sight of what's to come. The cotton is expected to ripen towards the end of November. After the boll has opened it takes 4-5 weeks of further growth & seed ripening for the cotton to be ready to pick.



Left - HPC staff and barefoot consultants (BCs) participate in an advanced Training of Trainers (ToT) held at Baragaun RC in October 2016. This course was specifically designed to provide BCs with additional skills to assess and train other villagers within and outside of HPC's working areas.

Right - HPC members attend their Annual General Meeting (AGM) at Baragaun RC in September 2016





HPC's third PDC continued in October – the first week of the 2-week course was held in June. In the 2nd week participants focus on the design process. This starts with (*left*) observation of the land and (*below*) an interview with the farmer to ascertain their vision, objectives, resources and constraints. The farmer here has stopped work weeding his garlic crop in order to answer the questions.

Below - in order to compensate the farmer, Gan Bahadur, for his time the participants enact a traditional practice called *Parima*, whereby they exchange their labour for his time – so finishing the weeding job he and his wife had started.



Above - the design team assigned Gan Bahadur's land present their design at the end of the course, giving details of land observation, design, integration of systems, process of implementation and maintenance of the design. *Left* - the four groups present their final designs and receive their certificates of completion.

