

HPC Report April -September 2013
Photo Gallery – Surkhet



Left Napier grass growing in the fields of HPC's Resource Centre in Baragaun. The Napier grass has helped to increase fodder production from 350kg to 780kg in 12 months



Right Ghatutol village, Rajena VDC, one of the new villages in HPC's Surkhet working area, comprising 10 households



Left Group members in Ghatutol have built their own community meeting and training hall



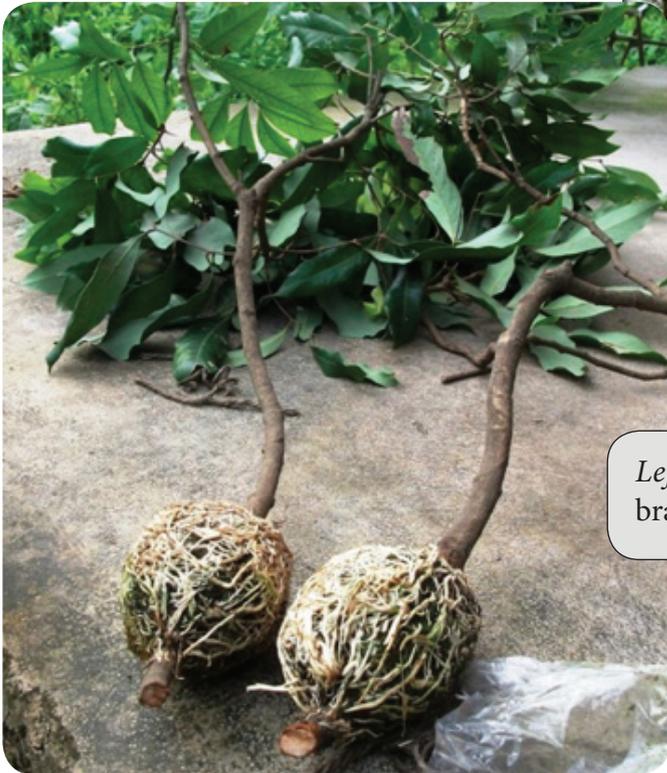
Right - Subbatol, a new village in the valley opposite Ghatutol, comprising 17 households



Left - SRI plot established in June, Sal Kharka village. The plants, each from one seed, are more widely spaced than conventional paddy and planted at the 2-leaf stage. This, combined with not perpetually flooding the rice, allows for greater root growth and space for leaf growth, resulting in higher yields.



Above - Farmers in the SRI Network meet to observe and interact in the field



Left - Roots developed from air layering of an orange tree branch, now ready to plant as cuttings

Right - Lead farmer Tek B Bud-dha shows his 18 month old agroforestry system with sugar cane under planted with cardamom, lemon grass, napier grass and comfrey. Tek has recently returned from teaching vegetable growing at a monastery school in Solukhumbu district. He is the first HPC-trained farmer to be able to do this outside of his home district, though he has run several within HPC's working area.



Right - HPC Coordinator Bhuwan Khadka teaches grafting in a Farmers' training at Baragaun's Resource Centre in April



Left - Participants of 3 villages (Ghatutol, Subbatol and Pakhapani) show off their complete beehives at the end of the training taught by chief technician Kul B. Buddha

Right - Kul Bahadur trains farmers from Shanti group to transfer bees from the traditional log hive to the improved Newton hives they have learned to build. Using the framed hives means that bees do not need to keep building new combs, thus saving energy and time that they can put into honey collection



Left - Part of the beekeeping training includes processing wax into candles, using forms made from local bamboo.



Left - Pakhapani village, another new village of 15 households registered this year, situated next to Subbatol, opposite Ghatutol and Chargaun



Right - Tek B. Buddha (see above) is also trained in basic veterinary health care, provides medication for a goat during a livestock health camp. Over 1000 animals have been treated at similar camps in Huma and Surkhet this year.



Above - The improved Billy goat provided to Manakamana group in Baragaun. *Right* - goats provided with a salt lick, an easy and efficient way of providing salt and other minerals on-demand to livestock

Right - the view from the house looking at "zone 1" techniques near the house - sweepings pit (for compost making), waste water management (for irrigation) provide otherwise waste resources for the kitchen garden and home nurseries. The plate drying rack on the right is also a new technique related to household hygiene



Left - Pipe for drinking water and irrigation systems on their way to the villages. HPC provides transport of materials to the road head and farmers then carry to their villages as part of their voluntary community contributions.

Right - The start of a non-cement water tank lined with clay and moss. Used as spring capture/intake tanks and break tanks. Not using cement drastically reduces the cost of water systems, sometimes by up to 75%, as well as making them cheaper and easier to maintain. As far as is known HPC is the only organisation in the country using this innovative technology, though has several "barefoot consultants" as well as staff that are able to implement and teach to other farmers and technicians



Left - Villagers from Chaurgaun burying pipe for their drinking water system, providing clean water for 13 households – 88 male and female – and their 167 livestock. This work is also done as community contribution by the families themselves, under direction from HPC technicians



Left - A wooden break tank used hold water on its way from spring to taps in village drinking water systems. HPC prioritises use of local resources instead of cement, which greatly reduces the cost of systems and makes their repair and maintenance easier.



Right - a near-complete tap stand, one of 13 built in Chaurgaun - part of HPC's "One house, one tap" program. Waste water from these taps is also used to irrigate kitchen gardens and nurseries during the dry season.



Left - Farmers are happy as irrigation water reaches Bhalim village in a different program. The water comes from a spring that is piped to a 40,000 litre plastic-lined holding tank above the village



Right - a participant's body is used to draw a map illustrating a woman's physiology during the Women's Health Training at Bara-gaun Resource Centre in April, prior to the Women's Health Camp

Right - Participants in the Women's Health Training (WHT) play a game



Left - Participants in a mobile WHT in Pakhapani village. The mobile format is used to provide training to more members of the village at the same time.



Right - A woman receiving treatment and counselling from health experts Khuma Gurung (left) and HPC Women's Health advisor Hommaya Gurung (right) at the Women's Health Camp held at Baragaun RC in April



Above - Posters demonstrating women's health issues on show during educational classes that ran parallel to the Women's Health Camp

Right - Bal B Sunard shows medicinal herb varieties he has established in an agro-forestry plot, Chaurgaun. There are currently 4 farmers in different villages that have started research into growing medicinal crops at home.

