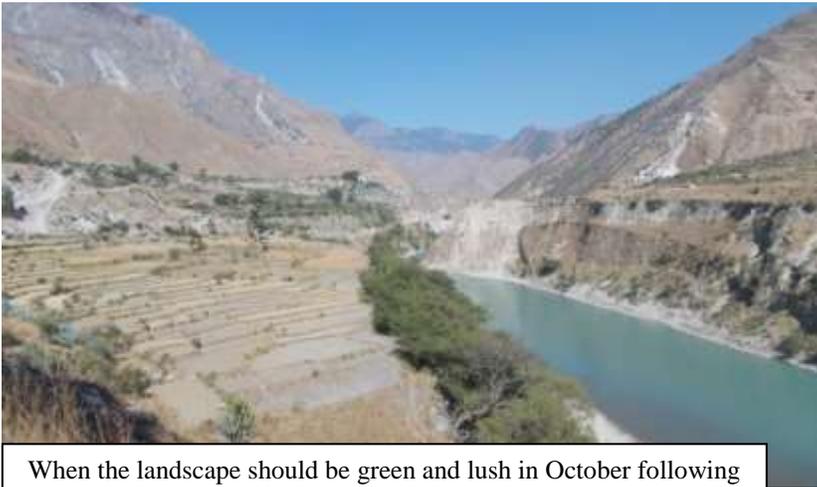


HPC Report May - October 2015

Photo Gallery – Humla

Humla coordinator Paumal Aidi's home nursery, with peach, apricot and almond seedlings ready for distribution behind, and smaller wild almond ready for grafting in front.



When the landscape should be green and lush in October following the monsoon, instead it is already dry as in February/March, due to the early end of the rains. Here it has not rained since early August, and the hot sun has done its work of drying the landscape.



SRI planting in Bhadaura village (Bahubaikalpik group), July



SRI in August on Ratnalal B.K's land, Bhadaura village.



Ratnalal also has his own fruit nursery and agro-forestry plot at home. He's one of HPC's barefoot consultants (BCs), able to teach his learned skills in other villages beyond HPC's working area.



Many of the hundreds of fruit trees planted over the past few years are starting to bear fruit – here office manager Sagun Bohora climbs a peach on his land.



July is time for budding of fruit seedlings, where a bud from a parent tree is inserted in to a compatible rootstock. Here almond is budded onto its wild variety during a famers' training in Okhare, a new village in Kalika VDC.



Technician Rage B.K. from Satti teaches air layering during a short training. Air layering is another way of propagating good quality fruit trees.



The BCs have already been responsible for spreading many methods outside of the project area – here a farmer from Bajura district shows an air-layered guava he has propagated following BC training.



Technician Hangse Buddha teaches making a hot bed nursery during a farmers' training.



Hangse teaches a mobile farmers' training in a new village, Lamahi, a Dalit village in Kalika VDC



In Lamahi a farmer shows plants he is using for seed production of Zucchini courgette and onion, since going on an HPC seed saving training.

Ms Urmila Bohora of Bhadaura village sharpens her scythe during the training that Milan subsequently delivered in Dapka.

Schools' technician Milan Khadka is also HPC's scythe trainer, here preparing a scythe for use in Humla. The scythes were provided by Alexander Vido of ScytheWorks in Canada who after a visit to HPC in 2012 prepared a video now available on You-tube – see it at <http://youtu.be/KvmTr3Uq4pM>



Ram B Buddha of Dapka fits a handle to the home-made "snath" (pole) during the training. The length of the snath and position of the handle are custom made to fit the height of the scythe user, to insure the optimum cutting angle.

Milan demonstrates the way to adjust the angle of the scythe blade to compensate between flat and sloping land.



With the preparatory part of the training complete, participants head to the fields to start practice at scything. Even the way the scythe is carried is important to learn, as it is potentially a lethal tool!



Participants get their first chance to use the scythes, here on millet stalks after the grain heads have been harvested the traditional way. One of the man challenges for the scythe is that it needs to be designed to be able to gather the stems in an orderly bunch so they can be dried and gathered easily. For this a "cradle" needs to be fixed to the snath, that keeps the stems together until they can be placed on the ground.



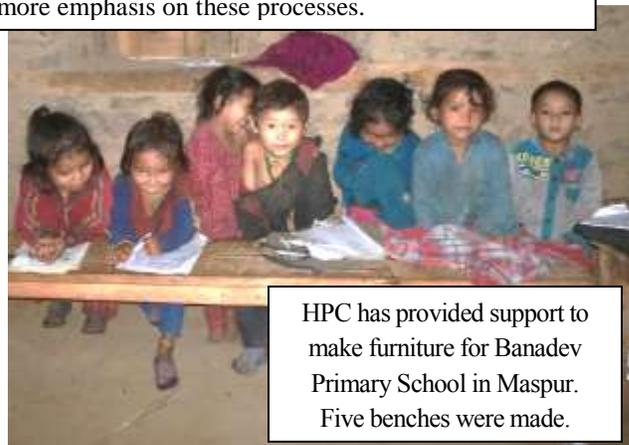
Participants in a jam making training start the process of selecting fruit – here plums - that are now produced in copious quantities in the area.



The plums are mashed and made ready for the next stage. Jam and chutney-making are an ideal way of processing the excess fruit that is the result of years of fruit tree planting, and in its next phase HPC will give more emphasis on these processes.



Participants of a 5-day farmers' training held at the resource centre in Dapka in June.



HPC has provided support to make furniture for Banadev Primary School in Maspur. Five benches were made.



Staff and “Barefoot Consultants” (BC’s) meet to review activities and exchange experience at the Dapka Resource Centre.



There are 22 BC’s in Humla at present and all have already practiced in local villages, teaching stove making, fruit nursery making, SRI, etc.



Farmers’ group volunteers gather to prepare for the first Humla Farmers’ Festival in the area.



Around 1000 locals came, mainly farmers, and prizes were awarded for exhibitions; there were 194 exhibits of livestock, fruit and crop produce, and handicrafts