



# Himalayan Permaculture Group

हिमाल दिर्घायु समूह



## Newsletter and Progress Report June - December 2006

Greetings and welcome to another newsletter/report from Appropriate Technology Asia (ATA) and its local partner the Himalayan Permaculture Group (HPG). April to September have been very difficult months for us. Having been told by the Humla district Maoist committee to suspend all activities in the main working area of southern Humla, hand over project materials and leave the district in late March, from April activities shifted to Surkhet. No clear or written reason was given for the decision to stop activities, though it later transpired that the lack of "relief" programmes (such as food-for work) and general small-scale nature of the activities was the main reason. However moral among staff was seriously affected, especially following the positive feedback and outputs from activities that had been undertaken following being given permission to re-start work in southern Humla in June 2005. From July that year, activities had provided a catalogue of tangible, direct and visible outputs, such as over 3600 livestock vaccinated, over 150 farmers provided with 4 and 5-day farmers' training, 2 labour-saving flour mills

been set for continuation and expansion of activities. This severing of the programme in mid-flow has had a significant affect on the momentum of activities, both for staff and villagers' moral.

Villagers were vociferous in their protests to the district People's Government, meanwhile HPG/ATA complained to the regional level NGO coordination unit (whom had originally granted permission to work). The Humla district committee responded with a denial that HPG had been ordered to leave, adding further insult to injury. In May HPG coordinator Bhuvan Khadga made a trip to Humla district centre Simikot to open dialogue with Maoists there, and he was given assurance that HPG was being invited back to re-start programmes. By that time programmes were in full swing in Surkhet, including a large women's health camp and training programme that had been originally planned for Humla, and it was decided that by the end of June staff

would return, giving them a chance to consolidate Surkhet activities. In late June Mr Khadga made a lone trip to the villages of southern Humla to prepare for this, but when he reached Simikot after a nearly 2 weeks meeting with villagers in the south he was told that all NGO activities in the district were being suspended "for an indefinite period". It later transpired that this period was only for about 10-15 days, but by then HPG had again had to postpone all activities from starting, including weaving and blacksmiths training, farmers' training and drinking water/small irrigation programmes.

Overall staff moral as well as concrete outputs from activities have been adversely affected. A visit in September revealed the damage done to the programme by the Maoists actions. Much work had not been completed, nurseries had dried up (due to lack of planned irrigation), planted trees had been grazed and overall it seemed that group members had slipped back into old ways and very little sign of the outputs achieved previously was apparent. All these failures can be attributed to crucial follow-up to trainings and other activities not being able to be provided at the right time due to staff not being present, and the fact that the region had been going through a severe drought-induced period of food shortage that had distracted farmers from any activity other than finding their next meal. However, during this trip, meetings with villagers showed that they were keen to re-start the process and at least pressed HPG to complete unfinished work. In Simikot the Maoist committee (the previous in-charge of which had been re-assigned outside of the district), had given up their demand for more relief work, had accepted the long-term and sustainable nature of the programmes, and promised support to get the programme up and running again.



Use of rooves for drying grains in Bhadaldip village, Maila V.D.C. in Southern Humla. Note the chimneys protruding from the rooves - these belong to smokeless stoves of which 150 were provided to 6 villages in the working area by ATA using a DFID grant. As well as removing smoke from the kitchens, the iron stoves burn wood more efficiently. HPG is currently providing training in making stoves from earth/stone which will be much cheaper while providing the same benefits.

constructed, nearly 1000 fruit trees distributed, and other various activities such as smokeless stoves, kitchen gardens, tree nurseries, greenhouses and polytunnels providing winter green vegetables, 5 weaving looms constructed, etc. All of this happened between July 05 to March 06, including 1 month during Dasain and Tihar holidays (when all staff returned to Surkhet) and a further 34 days (in 2 periods) when activities were again stopped by Maoists in Humla. Thus in just 7 months all these outputs had been achieved; stakeholder participation was high and foundations were felt to have

## Outputs of New Mill

In March 2006 year ATA constructed a low-head flour mill in Saathi village of Madana VDC (see report June 2006). Up to September villagers have been assessing the outputs of the mill. The mill was recorded as grinding up to 40kg of grain per hour, compared to local mills that grind only 16kg per hour. Through collection of a 12% levee on the flour processed, over 3 months the mill had earned the local group 756kg of flour valued at over NRs 16,000/-. There are 28 households that are members of the group, and this income, divided between them, is equivalent to 8.3% of income for each member household. The mill was built using a grant from ATA and local labour contributions of 784 person days.



*Right* - inside the Madana mill showing grinding in process. Grain is fed into the grindstone from the wooden hopper. Villagers carve their own stone with different sizes used depending on the water flow - during the monsoon the flow is greater requiring a larger stone that will grind faster.



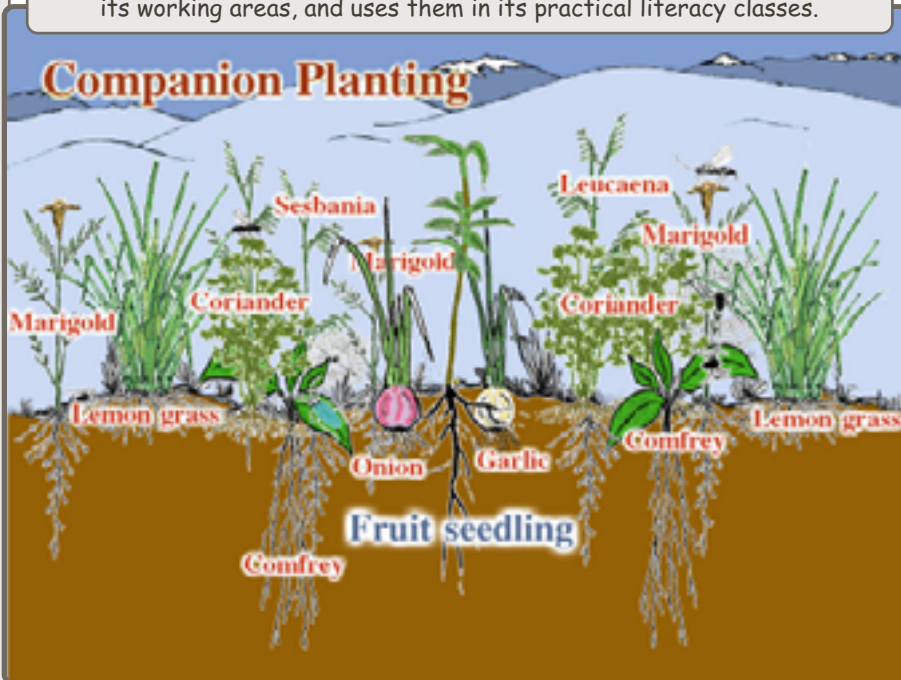
*Left* - Dal B. Buddha from Dapka village in Madana VDC cuts and mulches comfrey planted around the base of a Damson seedling (brought from UK) recently provided by ATA. The mulch keeps weeds down, conserves water and rots down to feed the fruit tree. Various productive plants can be planted around the fruit tree which help it to grow even better. This is called **companion planting**. Garlic, onion, chives, marigold, basil, mint, lemon grass, nasturtium, comfrey, coriander, fennel, dill, yarrow, white clover, anise hyssop, tansy and wormwood are some examples of companion plants. There are many benefits of planting them around the fruit tree (see below).

### What do Companion Plants Do?

- Help to protect crops from harmful pests and diseases;
- Attract beneficial insects that help to control pests;
- Produce vegetables, medicines, biomass, herbs, nectar for bees, etc.
- Can be cut and used for mulching, compost making, or fodder;
- Can be stacked densely in different layers;
- Help to balance the environment;
- Help to conserve soil moisture;
- Help to prevent weeds from growing.

Companion planting helps the fruit tree, but doesn't take much extra work - in fact, it DOES lots of work.

*Below* - an illustration from the English version of the Farmers' Handbook, a collection of farmer-friendly technologies for low-input sustainable agriculture. HPG has distributed several hundred of the Nepali version in its working areas, and uses them in its practical literacy classes.



## New Species Successfully Introduced into Humla

Below is a list of all the species that have been successfully introduced into ATA's working areas in Humla over the past 5 years. This has helped to increase the diversity of useful plants for a range of functions (see key for uses) by occupying empty niches where there is a lack of local species available to perform the specific functions needed, and are used alongside native species wherever possible.

Species	Use
Comfrey	Fo, Me, B, V, S, C
Tephrosia	Fo, Fu, B, S, C, M
Crotalaria	Fo, Fu, B, S, C, M, Fi
White clover	Fo, B, S, G, M, C
Alfalfa	Fo, B, S, G, M, C
Lettuce	V
Swiss chard	V
Carrot	V, B
Napier grass	Fo, M, S
Tree lupin	Fo, Fu, B, S, C, M
Honey locust	Fo, Fu, B, S, C, M, T, V
Bush clover	Fo, Fu, B, G, S, C, M
Wild lupin	Fo, Fu, B, S, C, M
Castor	M, S, Me, O
Red clover	Fo, Fu, B, G, S, C, M
Sweet clover	Fo, Fu, B, G, S, C, M
Vetch	Fo, Fu, B, G, S, C, M
Sunflower	O, V, B
Parsley	V, B
Yam	V
Blackcurrant	F, B
Hazel	F, T, M, B
Sweet chestnut	F, T, B
Cherry	F, T, B
Pear	F, T, B
Mulberry	Fo, F, B, Me
Olive	F, B, T, O

### Key:

Fo = fodder    Fu = fuel    G = green manure/cover crop  
 F = fruit    Me = medicinal    M = mulch/biomass  
 T = timber    B = bee forage    C = companion plant  
 V = vegetable    S = Soil improver    O = oil    Fi = fibre

Right - Mr Hiwada Tamata from **Janachetana** farmers' group of Lamahi village, Kalika VDC proudly shows his young pear tree, supplied by HPG's farmers' groups in Surkhet and planted in Humla in February '06. Already the tree has grown several feet. It is amongst the first pear trees to have been established in Humla district, and will be used as a mother stock to provide scion material for the grafting of new pear onto local wild rootstock that villagers have been establishing in nurseries as taught by HPG since they started work in the area.



### Local/wild species used in demonstrations

Spinach	Tomato	Turnip
Nettle	Pear (wild)	Radish
Garlic	Wormwood	Mustard
Walnut (wild)	Willow	Fennel
Onion	Hemp	Coriander
Poplar	Apple (wild)	Apricot (wild)
<i>Prinsepia utilis</i>	Aubergine	



### Olive Seedlings provided to Humla

In September the National Horticulture Centre, Kirtipur, provided ATA with 28 seedlings of grafted olive plants imported from Italy for planting in the village of Kalkhe in Sirinagar VDC, southern Humla, for research purposes. Under an FAO programme, hundreds of olives have been established at Kolti in Bajura district south of Humla in order to start an olive oil processing centre there in the future. To this end, several varieties are being established in order to find which are the best for the area. Wild olives are found in the region and grafted varieties, trialed since 2000, have shown promise. As wild olives are also found in certain areas of southern Humla, ATA took the opportunity of trialling several varieties in its programme area with the objective of finding the best varieties for there as well. Left - Mr Jai Karna Mahattoda of *Krishi Sudhar Samuha* (Farmers' Improvement Group) in Kalkhe village with one of the 2 olive plants (variety *Leccino*) he was given to plant, partially protected by a recycled basket. Farmers have been trained to measure the height and diameter of the plants at 3-monthly intervals to assess which varieties grow best in Kalkhe, situated at over 1800m on a south/south-east hillside above the Karnali river. The local area is very much drier than surrounding hillsides, and this village more than others suffers from recurrent crop failures and resulting food shortages.



Left - HPG coordinator Bhuvan Khadga and Lamahi farmer Mr Manjit Tamata view the latter's SRI experimental plot nearby the village, situated at 2300m. Manjit (inset, right) had established 2 plots but when, as with all SRI fields, the rice grew so slowly in the first month he decided to cancel one plot, replanting it the traditional way, and leave one for experiment, only to find that the SRI plot eventually out-performed his and other farmers' rice in the area. He says that next year he will plant much more land using SRI principles and will teach other farmers how to do the same.



### Blacksmiths' Training

In December a 15-day blacksmiths' training was held at HPG's newly established resource centre in southern Humla, in the village of Dapka of Madana VDC. Eight representatives of its groups received the training, similar to that held in Surkhet in June (see below). One of the participants of the Surkhet training, Mr Khadga B. Buddha, of Bikashil Group, Kaphleni village, had showed such improved skills that HPG hired his services to replicate the training in Humla. For more information about this training, see details of the Surkhet event on **p.7**.

Right - Manjit Tamata again, demonstrating his Jumla Top-Bar (JTB) beehive situated on a wall beneath his house in Lamahi village. The JTB combines the traditional hollowed-out log hive design with frames of improved hives to allow regular checking and management of bee colonies, and facilitate harvesting of the honey. HPG had taught dozens of farmers to use these and the improved Newton hives, but because of being ordered to leave the district by the Maoists at a crucial time this training was unable to be followed up, and as a result many established colonies died out or absconded. This is one of the few surviving ones and provides a model for re-establishing new colonies in new JTB hives.



Left - a farmer from **Pragatshil Farmers' Group** in Saathi village in his kitchen garden where the first seed production of vegetables introduced by HPG has been possible - shown here is **parsley** amongst other crops.

### Weaving

Weaving training has resumed in the village of Kalkhe in Sirinagar VDC of southern Humla. HPG technician Ammar Nepali had constructed 5 looms last year and since November these are being used by 5 trainees. Within a month over 100 metres of cloth has been woven of 3 types: local *tetwa*, a traditional weave usually only produced on narrow back-strap looms (about 30cm wide) but now possible in 110cm widths; *doti* - a traditional cotton sari-type cloth for women, and *chyadar*, traditionally used for thick shawls.

## Drinking Water and Small-Scale Irrigation

There are several on-going and new projects in this sector. ATA/HPG's forced absence from Humla between April to September has led to delays in the construction of several villages' combined drinking water and small-scale irrigation projects as well as survey of new or potential systems. This work has now continued since October. The basic design is to build new drinking water systems or repair and retrofit broken systems with appliances enabling sprinklers to run off taps and waste-water run off to be diverted to areas of need such as kitchen gardens, nurseries, etc. A summary of projects underway is given below. In addition, several new villages are being surveyed and user-group committees set up.

VDC, ward and Village	Women	Men	Total	# Households	Type of System
Maila- 1, Maila village	229	242	471	78	DW/SI*
Maila-2, Maila village	144	130	274	47	DW/SI
Maila-3, Katelgaun	93	94	187	30	DW repair/SI
Maila-4, Thapagaun	158	142	300	44	DW/SI
Maila-6, Pandebada	70	74	144	20	SI
Maila-6, Okharthana	35	37	72	5	DW/SI
Maila-8, Kandagaun	162	150	312	47	DW repair
Maila-5, Ramagaun	21	84	105	school	DW
Shirinagar-8, Kalkhe	135	148	283	41	DW/SI
Kalika-8, Lamahi	119	120	239	41	DW repair/SI
Maila-2, Dharmathan High School	42	158	200	school	DW
Shirinagar-8, Kailashdeu Primary school	35	100	135	school	DW
<b>Total</b>	<b>1243</b>	<b>1479</b>	<b>2722</b>	<b>353</b>	

\*DW = Drinking Water; SI = Small-scale Irrigation



Left - the village of Kandagaun, a new addition to ATA's working area, at the southernmost tip of Humla district in Maila VDC. Here forest degradation has led to springs drying up and long queues for drinking water from a single tank that leaks (below). HPG is repairing the intake to this tank as well as tapping a new source spring for this and 2 other villages.



Left - villagers from Pragatshil Group in Saathi village weeding their fruit nursery where plants are ready for grafting this winter.



Above - Mrs Chatta Buddha in her new kitchen garden, Dapka village. Behind her are 2 colonised Newton beehives made locally after HPG provided hive-making training. Right - Ms Saune Buddha also of Dapka, next to a peach tree provided by ATA in 2003, that fruited for the first time in June 2006.

## Surkhet Programmes

### Women's Health Network

Following the successful gender workshop, basic women's health training and women's health camp held back in May (see June '06 report), a local Women's Health Network (WHN) was started, comprising women representatives of the 12 groups from 10 villages currently affiliated with HPG and who attended the basic training. The network, comprising 23 volunteers, met for the first time in June and mapped out programmes and activities for the coming 3 months. As a result of this, women's groups have been either newly formed or existing but inactive mothers' groups re-activated in all 10 villages of the working area. Activities have included:

- Each group has made a fund into which members pay a monthly fee (5 to 10 NRs)
- Classes have been given to adolescent girls (ages 11-19: changes during adolescence, puberty, menstruation, etc. and their effects on girls' health) have been given to 60 girls at Neta secondary high school
- Family planning education (birth spacing, advantages and disadvantages of the different types of family planning available)
- All 12 village groups have been provided with adolescent and family planning classes.

- Adolescence classes has also been given to 65 girls from the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> years at Phulbari school (where the women's health camp was held in May this year)
- Women's empowerment - how to increase participation; how to design the women's health education activities; leadership roles; how to withstand males joking about women's health education - it has been recognised as a problem in some villages where women had started to discuss the issues at meetings, workshops and in domestic situations and men would try and disrupt the meetings, make jokes, etc.



Above - the house and land of Kul B. Buddha from Baragaun, Neta VDC, who has successfully established hundreds of fruit and multi-purpose seedlings on what was in 2002 a bare site. Hidden amongst the trees are also 25 beehives.

## Farmers' trainings, Trainers' Training

Over the monsoon the following farmers' training activities have been carried out:

Topic	Duration (days)	Women	Men	Total
Vegetable planting	1	0	12	12
SRI	10	42	109	151
Beekeeping	1	0	3	3
Stove making	1	2	3	5
Compost	0.5	8	7	15
Planting seedlings	0.5	8	4	12
<b>Total</b>		<b>60</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>198</b>



These trainings are held *in situ* with groups in their villages as well as on HPG's resource centre in Purano Gaun. The trainings are facilitated by HPG staff and farmers who were attendees of the Training of Trainers (ToT) that was held in Purano Gaun in October 2006. The latter - 20 participants in total of whom 16 are currently active - are in the process of going through their "apprentice" phase whereby their training abilities are being assessed and evaluated by more experienced HPG trainers.



Above - Surkhet farmers at a mini-training in planting rice using SRI principles at HPG's resource centre



Above - participants of the blacksmiths' training using fans to burn charcoal in order to heat the iron prior to beating it into tools.

### Blacksmiths' Training

In June a 13-day training in improving blacksmiths' skills was held at HPG's resource centre in Purano Gaun, Lekh Pharsa-2 in Surkhet. The main objective of the training was to improve and diversify the tools able to be made locally, which will have an effect of

- improving self employment opportunities locally
- increasing the number of skilled blacksmiths in rural areas
- improving productivity of farm and domestic activities through use of better tools

The training was attended by 12 male participants selected from HPG's groups throughout their working area. The trainer was Mr Bhakta B. Orale, a local blacksmith known throughout the region for his skills in producing a range of high quality tools. Resource materials for the training included manual fans, hammers, charcoal (made locally) and raw iron purchased in Surkhet. Other tools needed were made during the training. A total of 113 items of 19 different types of

tools were made during the training, including traditional hand-scythes, pincers, digging implements and knives. In addition, specialist tools made included secateurs and grafting knives, hand-held chaff cutters and a special tool for planting rice using the improved SRI method. One participant, Mr Khadga B. Buddha, went on to provide a similar training in Humla in December (see p. 4).

Right - at the end of the blacksmiths' training participants exhibit the tools they made over two weeks.



## Schools Support

Using an ATA grant, Gamkhala School has been able to increase the number of classrooms and so offer lessons to 3 extra classes. The school previously taught 359 students (180 girls and 179 boys), and the grant has enabled 3 extra classrooms to be built and equipped, allowing 133 extra children to enrol at the school. Of these, about 60% would otherwise have had to have gone to another more distant school, adding an extra 2.5 hours on their daily journey time. This has resulted in a massive saving of **800 student-hours per month**. The remaining 40% of children - especially girls - would most likely have dropped out of school because it was too far to go to another. The grant was used to help in site excavation and cement for two 4m x 6m floors to build the new classrooms as well as providing 25 sets of bench-tables, 2 blackboards (1m high and 3m long, low on the wall so as to allow small children to practice writing) and various other labour and materials. The school, its local committee and parents of local children combined to provide about **220 person-days** of voluntary labour valued at approx. Nrs 44000/- (GB£350).



Above - Gamkhala school showing on the right one of the new classrooms built with the help of an ATA grant.



Above - HPG coordinator Bhuvan Khadga trying out a maize de-huller in Purano Gaun. A time trial demonstrated that the simple machine, costing NRs 600/- (about £4.50) was 3 times faster than doing by hand, though this figure will increase as de-hulling by hand gets slower because hands will tire and develop blisters.

## Capacity-building for HPG

### Proposal-writing training

In October representatives of HPG staff, board members, village group and women's health network representatives participated in a 5-day proposal writing training course provided by 2 trainers from the the Social Awareness Centre (SAC) of Surkhet at HPG's own resource centre in Purano Gaun. The training was attended by 10 HPG representatives (5 women and 5 men) made up of 3 staff, 2 board members, 2 women's health network members and 3 village group representatives.

Topics in the training included:

- Development options
- Assessing People's needs
- Programme systems' components
- Restrictions to change
- Basic components of programmes
- Ways of choosing programmes
- Problem analysis
- Local resource analysis
- SWOC analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Constraints)
- Setting objectives
- Creating a work plan
- Proposal design and components
- Preparing and presenting a proposal - activity
- Establishing and maintaining Donor relations
- Report writing according to proposals' format

The main objectives of the training are to enable HPG to prepare proposals on an institutional and village group-level basis, to establish and maintain contact with donor organisations, and to be able to provide clear and transparent reporting to donors on programme activities.

### Computer Training

Over the summer HPG staff Bhuvan Khadga, Hommaya Gurung and Kaushila Thapa took the opportunity of inability to work in Humla to take basic computer classes in the town of Chinchu, located 3 hours' walk and a half-an-hour bus ride from HPG's centre at Purano Gaun. Ms Thapa has completed about 30 hours of tuition while Mr Khadga and Ms Gurung about 15 hours each. This has enabled them to become familiar with using MS Word and Excel software. Further classes will introduce them to internet and email software. ATA has donated a desktop computer and further laptop hardware is being sought, along with the elements of a solar power system that will enable HPG to operate a computer at its resource centre.



## HPG Annual evaluation (Surkhet)

HPG staff and member groups have spent valuable time assessing activities carried out over the last year in Surkhet. This shows that a wide variety of programmes have been carried out, both on-going from previous years, and new activities. Details are provided below.

Group Activities	Purano Gaun Farm	Pragathisheel, Purano Gaun	Ananda Shikhar, Lekh Gaun	Namuna, Pharsa	Swachha, Sireni	Janachetana, Bahara	Samaj Sudar, Lek Gaun	Anjuli, Sisneri	Himal Laigurans, Baragaun	Manakamana - Baragaun	Pragatshii Krishak Samuha, Majuwa	Bikashui, Kaphleni	Milijuli Women's Group, Kahare	Total
Year started	01	01	01	01	01	03	04	04	01	05	06	06	06	
Households #:	H.P.G	24	19	16	14	15	13	21	18	141	21	17	22	402
Female members #:	42	12	19	5	4	3	1	5	6	8	11	3	12	131
Male members #:	144	12	0	11	10	12	12	16	5	8	12	15	10	266
Stove in use # :	1	7	3	14	6	8	3	14	8	1	19	0	18	99
Pit latrines in use # :	3	24	19	16	10	12	12	21	11	15	21	17	12	193
Home nursery #:	9	6	4	7	0	0	3	5	9	8	7	1	0	59
Spp.raised in nursery	11	6	12	10	0	8	4	19	6	8	7	1	0	7 <sup>1</sup>
Kitchen garden #:	1	19	19	15	5	8	13	21	12	17	21	14	12	177
Spp vegetable grown #:	7	6	7	10	7	7	6	10	3	17	13	4	4	8 <sup>1</sup>
Spp. seed production #	3	3	5	3	3	4	0	6	2	5	9	0	4	4 <sup>1</sup>
Improved compost #:	3	0	4	6	0	1	0	9	2	11	0	11	2	49
Liquid manure #:	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	3	2	5	0	7	1	20
Agroforestry farmers #:	1	9	6	3	0	4	0	11	4	4	2	0	12	56
A/F seedlings planted #:	220	667	579	146	22	59	0	464	546	174	175	289	437	3778
Species used #:	10	22	10	6	2	6	0	9	3	11	15	1	11	88 <sup>1</sup>
Fruit trees distributed #:	281	288	709	55	0	0	7	37	136	0	0	0	0	1513
Grafted, budded, etc.#:	188	89	175	50	7	5	0	108	62	60	0	23	0	767
Beehives with bees #:	0	60	57	21	18	12	20	13	6	1	2	1	7	218
Local hives #	4	37	17	23	27	22	23	25	8	43	25	24	4	282
Honey produced, kilos:	0	289	81	260	155	80	58	50	15	0	31	25	0	1044
SRI Farmers #	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	3	0	3	10
Medical box use: <sup>2</sup>	7	2	12	0	0	2	0	10	34	0	0	0	0	67
Livestock treated #	825	0	52	0	0	0	0	90	105	42	229	56	36	1435
preventative	825	0	52	0	0	0	0	90	1000	41	115	56	36	2216
castration	100	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	34	7	63	9	0	221
Forest under protection	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	6
Village fund, members #:	0	26	19	16	14	15	13	21	16	16	21	17	13	207
- total fund NRs	0	112992	23986	31865	28431	10876	4550	17527	0	3200	16904	5892	72141	263437
- loans given NRs	0	83900	23824	31865	26698	10780	4550	12400	29615	2500	14146	5500	6700	252448
- interest earned NRs	0	14681	5008	5139	1807	2025	798	4764	1804	296	0	544	1523	38389
Types of Training given	3	3	5	3	0	2	2	4	3	4	5	2	2	38
Participants women #	21	3	5	4	0	2	1	8	1	3	6	2	3	39
Participants men #	27	3	5	4	0	2	1	8	1	3	6	2	3	69
Village meetings held #	0	1	94	71	84	19	10	14	71	42	22	21	21	470

<sup>1</sup> Average

### Honey Production

This year's *Chiuri* honey crop from bee-keepers in Surkhet was much reduced this year, down to 366kg from 942kg last year, due to unseasonal rain washing nectar from the flowers. The honey has arrived in Kathmandu for processing and marketing.

Groups' name	Address	Kg Produced
Himalayan Laligurans	Neta 2, Bara gaun	124
Ananda Shikhar Women's group	Lekhpharsa 1, Lekh gaun	35
Pragathisheel Samuha	Lekhpharsa 2, Purano Gaun	103
Namuha Samuha	Lekhpharsa 4, Pharsa	56
Swaccha Samuha	Lekhpharsa 4, Sireni	48
<b>Total</b>		<b>366</b>

## Nepal Permaculture Group Annual Convergence

In September members of ATA and HPG attended NPG's 10<sup>th</sup> Annual convergence and AGM in Kathmandu, entitled "**Food Sovereignty: Permaculture's Commitment**". Activities of NPG and its member organisations across Nepal were presented to guests including the Secretary of Agriculture, Director of the Agriculture Department and a scientist from Nepal Agriculture Research Centre (NARC). HPG has recently taken over the role of regional coordinator for the mid and Far-West regions. ATA was represented by Country representative Chris Evans and HPG by its coordinator Mr Bhuvan Khadga, Health coordinator Ms Hommaya Gurung and Sunrise Farm manager Mr Shyam Shrestha.



Above - Baragaun Farmers' Group chairperson Mr Bhim B. Buddha exhibits the village's new stud billy goat. The group in Baragaun had another stud billy for 2 years, and have provided this to a new group while using the funds to purchase a new one to maintain genetic diversity and purity. Left - developing vegetable nursery at a farm demonstration site managed by Manakamana Samuha, Baragaun's second Farmers' Group.



Left - Shyam Shrestha, owner-manager of ATA-supported Sunrise Farm in Kathmandu, examining this year's SRI rice plot. The clumps of rice shown have each grown from a single rice seedling transplanted at an age of just 12 days. Onto this plot Shyam had put biogas slurry which helps to explain the size of the plants, aided by the improved conditions for root development due to use of the SRI principles.

**Remember, if you're shopping on the Web, try <http://buy.at/ATA> and help raise funds for ATA's work**

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