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Projects In Progress

SeedTree Annual Report 2008

Issue 13



Since we first “hung out our shingle” in 1995 at the Seed-Tree Home Office, fondly called World Headquarters, the shingles have weathered silently. Yet they came to mind when asked to address our essence. The acorn and the lotus entwined by the same curve, signify the poles of develop-

ment united: from body and soul unfolding into spirit, practice & principle integrated: as above, so below, roots to fruits, economy in ecology, self-interest enlightened by and fulfilled in the shared well-being of life in our earth household.



Some of the ways we’ve tried to set SeedTree’s home operations on a more sustainable footing are by:

⇒ Planting evergreens to protect us from noise and wind, deciduous trees for seasonal sun & fruit.

⇒ priority to recycled or certified sustainably made construction and office supplies.



⇒ conserving energy with low watt appliances, insulation, compact fluorescents, passive solar design



⇒ & active solar: cooker construction and use and a *grid inter-tied photovoltaic system* to allow our excess solar electricity go back to the grid.

Dr. Komp of MESEA teaches solar uses.

Pay for grid usage via ME Interfaith P & L to other renewable electricity producers.

⇒ Rely upon renewable, locally grown wood heat.

⇒ Keep **Working Assets / Credo** for our long distance;

They **donated \$3100 this year** for us to plant 24,800 trees and plan on planting >150,000 more from 2009-10.



⇒ Ride-share with neighbors

⇒ & coop with pizza shop for locally

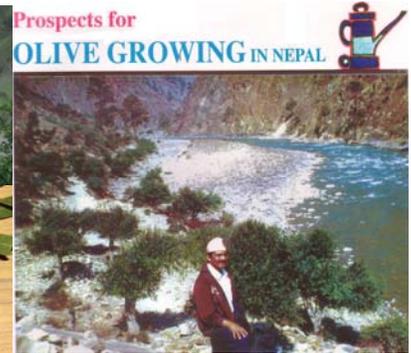
made biodiesel from post-food / waste soy oil.

Peak Oil to Peace Oil

With growing awareness that our use of fossil fuels is set on a catastrophic course, interest in - and controversy about—bio-diesel and fuels has increased. (Continue discussion on p3.)

For fueling our bodies, too, we find underutilized, high-quality, nutritional oils “growing on trees.”

We had heard of wild olive trees growing unexpectedly in the Bheri Valley of Dolpa, a remote district of Western Nepal bordering Tibet. Used only for firewood, they are in decline. These trees again came to mind when Tilak Kathayat of visitdolpa.com showed keen interest to bring a SeedTree program to Dolpa. We resolved to see what we could do to inform the Dolpali people of their potential value, help them to restore, care for and use these wild olive trees to greater advantage.



The edible Italian olives left were successfully grafted to the hardy local wild olive trees.

Horticulturalist Buddhi Raj Dahkal, co-author of the publication* (cover right), informed us of his experience with these trees growing in a narrow temperate band in the remote and poor western districts of Dolpa, Rukhum, and Mugu. Mr. Dakhal’s success in grafting a more edible variety onto the hardy local stock right near our project area, encouraged us to begin. Tilak volunteered to coordinate with Seed Tree Nepal, local horticultural office, community forest and other groups to hold a three-day workshop



Project Coordinator Tilak Kathayat (in striped shirt, upper left) joins pilot farmers in sowing wild olive seed.

farmers on methods and potential for olive cultivation. Himalayan Plantations sells its rare extra virgin oil at 2000 Rs. (\$27) a liter, indicating income potential. At the very least, we can improve the local diet. The pilot farmers are disseminating what they have learned. Stakeholders plan to expand this program in the coming years. With its war-weary citizens resolved to form a new Nepal, opportunities for beneficial interaction between branch programs have increased. Executive Director Carol Kinsey was able to visit villages in Dang along with S T Nepal Pres. Babu Ram Vishwakarma from the Central Chitwan office to review progress.



Carol (behind cow) joins Surya Daya Group and sees the stove that our Environmental Eco-Ed. Class teacher Hira BK has helped make in her mother's home.

Education Applied in Action

Whether with "seed deeds" such as the olive project, the participatory discussions we hold with our tree planting groups around their indigenous knowledge of species, or with our Rural Education Classes, we strive always to bring education and application together to illumine each other. Increasingly we are interacting with institutions of higher education to disseminate our experience.

In Maine Carol spoke to students studying sustainability at University of Maine and at Chewonki Foundation.

It was gratifying to see a long held dream fulfilled and the Tulsi Intermediate Science College established in Dang, Nepal, largely through Barbara Bradford's generosity. The Biology and Chemistry Labs were as well stocked and supplied as were the Physics lab and



Science students above & scholarship students right

Principal Bishma KC (left) with a '94 photo of him asking Carol to help bring advanced science education to Dang.

the **Barbara Bradford Library** (seen above right). Even poor students can now advance their studies in science, including environmental science with practical, ecological applications and field research. The **Kate Kinley Gregg Scholarship** was newly established to help an economically disadvantaged, academically excellent, girl student gain higher education in a field related to our mission, and willing to do work/study with SeedTree. The first recipient is



Beeju Paudel (left), now studying for B.Sc. Forestry at IOF Hetauda. Fellow Forestry Student Suraj Upadhaya (right), whose advocacy prompted our proposal, is also doing work/study in Kathmandu.

Beeju and Suraj have already completed translation of our Nepalese environmental education manual. Suraj helps also to coordinate with his native Dolpa. Student interest in expanding our program has also come from the Institute of Forestry IOF Pokhara, and a Master's student from the Institute of Agriculture IAAS, Nabin Khanal, is taking over the role of Coordinator, as Bishnu Bishwakarma has joined the SNV Soil Conservation team.

Dr. Tom Hammett has helped coordinate the branches of the Institute of Forestry while establishing IOF Center for Excellence. At right he shows his daughter Laura Margaret and friend a SeedTree Nepal forest enrichment site at Ramnagar, Chitwan where Community Forest Users have planted desired species amongst existing Sal (*Shorea*) forest .



As we prepared for **Assessing Program Impacts**, Dr. Tom introduced us to Dr. Bill Burch, also in Nepal for the Center of Excellence from the Yale School of Forestry. Serendipitously, Dr. Burch was teaching a course at Yale on Impact Assessment and provided us helpful guidelines for drawing up our preliminary assessment design. This, we tested and refined with four of our earliest Chitwan tree-planting groups.



Original Coordinator Satyanarayan Chaudhary (white shirt) returned with Carol after 12-13 years to learn long-term results of work in this preliminary assessment. Many testified of significant benefits: a bed, a bench, shelterbelt or roadside plantings, or money earned from the sale of firewood or timber. One woman had sold truckloads from her woodlot. When Carol listed the species that had been planted, one woman gestured to nearby *albezia* logs (above) recalling they were from our project. Another told how, when our *melia* had matured, they had gathered its seed and planted anew - an ideal outcome. These four groups had all formed in response to our initial offer and considered the project a valuable effort. As one exclaimed, **“the nursery program was the basis of our union!”** This development of social capital concurring with or program is remarkable, especially over time. In ‘96 we



BabuRam (right) joins Dang Mgr. Ved Bdr. KC (blue shirt) and asks a (1 of 5) newly formed Dang savings and credit group: “If you don’t meet, who will hear your voice?” met women afraid to speak their name to outsiders. These women are now confident of their rights to a full role in public life. This year in Dang, women finally were willing to hold capital and form savings

Nepal’s Departments: Nat’l Parks & Wildlife Conservation and of Forest Research & Survey have supported our proposed assessment. We propose to gather significant quantitative biomass data in anticipation that reforestation and community forestry will be included within the Clean Development Mechanism for offsetting carbon dioxide in Kyoto’s successor regulatory accord.

(cont. from p.1.) Our interest in tree-planting for bio-fuels began with our program in Andhra, South India. There our coastal mangrove restoration diversified a non-edible, oil seed tree *Pongamia pinnata* to be used for biodiesel to fuel fishermen’s outboards and villagers’ water pumps. Our co-sponsored project establishing local sustainability standard for the harvesting of native pine resin for turpentine came to mind when learning an early engine invented in 1826 ran on two biofuels: ethanol and turpentine. In Peru, Program Manager Adam Stone tested and confirmed that one tree, *copiaba*’s sap could directly run a diesel engine without further processing. We are researching its propagation and sustainable harvesting methods. Bio-fuels may lag behind fossil fuels in short-term, profit-driven, resource-extractive, free-market economies, responding often to manufactured demands. Yet bio-fuels can play a role in evolving economies that are more locally organized, sustainable, and benefit-driven. These first establish food security and maintain a natural frugality that enhances appreciation of all the good in life.

For a sustainable future, the socio-economic system must give sufficient incentive to sustainable solutions. Since 1989 Nepal’s provision for even poor and landless people to benefit by developing sustainable forest management on government lands. This has coincided with an increase of forest cover, despite the long civil unrest.



Young saplings fill gaps in the recovering Dang forest entrusted into community care through Nepal’s progressive community forest legislation.

India’s Joint Forest Management, though not so widely understood and utilized, also provides incentive for the poor to engage with government foresters to benefit from sustainable forest development. Our 10 villages in South India planted out the diverse species begun in 2007 and just planted 7000 new tamarind trees.





SeedTree in Peru:

In Dec. 2007, Carol proceeded down the Sacred Valley of the Urubamba into the Ucayali tributary of the Amazon to meet Adam, Bella and Naya Stone in Yarina,



near Pucallpa, the base for our Peruvian program. This watershed journey reveals the intimate bonds between forests and water with cascades falling through the highland jungle, holding, almost breathing the moisture evaporating into mists and clouds, cooling, releasing rain in thermal cycles, day and night. Coming out of the highlands, the serpentine river widens into the vast expanse of green. While heartening to behold, there is relatively little protection for this, earth's greatest remaining forest. Apparent also were the impacts of unaccountable free trade in timber, oil drilling and correlated global warming. We see receding Andean glaciers and evidence of increasingly devastating floods and deforestation, as seen on the hillside at left. In one afternoon's trip to visit a project site up a small tributary, we passed 5 boats full of mahogany logs, undeterred by a check-post.



New strategies are needed. Adam, who has made a home amongst indigenous people and their forest, noted it is "up for sale." To protect the land, we plan (and Debley matched Kate Kinley Gregg's challenge, providing initial support for) an eco-reserve including in the title residents willing to join in creating a sustainable jungle economy. Relying on our base near Pucallpa for marketing, we will demonstrate how canopy such as copiba, acai, wyduro, other medicinal, and value-added forestry products combined with ecological living can secure an ample prosperity. With loggers, we will introduce such methods as seedtree retention and strip harvesting with enrichment plantings that allow forest diversity to recover. We will continue to plant as we did this year, endangered timber and other trees valued for fruit or colorful seed used in jewelry. Our reserve will be located near some of the most wild remaining jungle, where seed of the endangered species can still be found and the voluntarily isolated tribes still live. We intend to strengthen their roots in the sustainable traditions of their own culture, while offering some tools so that they may engage beneficially with the modern world without losing their identity.



To this end, Debley sponsored a cultural art project this year. Participants made fabric art (2 examples right) telling of their traditional relation with their forest home. We learned much from their work and are delighted to share it in a 2009 Eco-reserve benefit calendar that includes the stories of each piece. The knowledge, myth and magic of their loving portrayals, deepens our respect and remind us that we have as much or more to gain as to give. In this spirit, the Stones are organizing eco-tours of our project sites in collaboration with Expanding Opportunities: **"Caring for Creation" A Service Journey to Peru**. We trust it will be enjoyable and of benefit to both tourists and our hosts, all giving nature the honor that we need give to our sustaining Life Support.



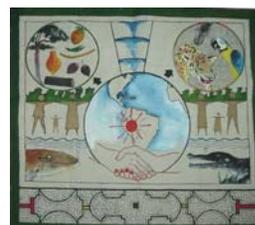
2 Schools include trees in curricula



Mahogany sapling planted at remote Nueva Yarina



SeedTree honors the loss of a great friend, **Emily Duffy**, the retired school librarian whose unsung dedicated work in html so developed www.seedtree.org Still recovering, we are updating with new officers and perspectives. Emily reminded us to "be of good cheer" and to search at goodsearch.com and shop online for SeedTree via goodshop.com - FREE!



Calendar cover art



Caring for Creation

SeedTree sponsored Oct 2007 - Sept 2008: funded by seed grants sg, circulating Community Environmental Trust Funds cef														
or as part of our 17 last Rural Environmental Eco-Ed. Classes ee (latter partial list: also) 10 New classes are now in progress.														
country	tree groups	trees planted	Improv. stoves	biogas stov-latrine	Simple latrine	water supply	scholarship	groups formed	work-shops	Veg. garden	Live-stock	Eco-energy	Agro-for: compost	Eco-income
Peru	5	18,000				1		1 eco-art	1 eco-art				green-manure,	Sericulture
India	10	7,000												Bee-keep, etc
Nepal	15	106,911	130 sg 56 ee	26 sg 6 cef	126 ee 5 cef	5 sg 9 cef	11	8 save & credit	4	9 cef 67 ee	16 cef	92 ee renew ^{bl}	137 ee	57 ee
Totals	25	131,911	186	32	131	15	11	9 new	5	76	16	92	137	57