



NEPAL
Remote Villages Trust

Changing Lives through Practical Aid

www.nepalrvt.org

NEPAL

Remote Villages Trust

Changing Lives through Practical Aid

www.nepalrvt.org

Working in some of the most deprived areas through trusted Nepali intermediaries, Nepalrvt aims to improve education and increase food security in Khotang, eastern Nepal.



*New manager appointed at Jaleshwori Community Farm
Kaji Man Tamang is pictured above with his wife Chari and their family*



Children at Dibdi Middle School wearing their new uniforms

www.nepalrvt.org

Newsletter Issue 16, January 2022

Charity no. 1173563

Christmas Trip to Jaleshwori

Having been forced to postpone the planned October 2021 trip to Nepal due to quarantine restrictions, Chris and Alison were delighted when a 'Covid window' suddenly opened up in November. Nepali authorities unexpectedly announced that quarantine regulations would be lifted for vaccinated travellers so we booked flights, and arrived in Kathmandu on 17th December.

It was almost two years since our last trip and there was a lot to do. First on the list was to buy more trees for the Community Farm with donations received through the Trees for Change initiative. We returned to Everything Organic Nursery (EVON) in Kavre, a couple of hours outside the capital, founded and still run by Judith Conan Chase, a remarkable American lady who arrived in Nepal many years ago and made her home here. EVON



Below: Judith Conan Chase at EVON with Pasang, Chris and Evon manager Shyamkumar

was able to offer us many varieties of fruit and nut trees suitable for different altitudes. This was important because as well as the Community Farm and the lower regions of the Jaleshwori hillside, we want to be able to offer trees to the villages higher up such as Sukepokhari and Rhupangmare.

School Uniforms were next on the list to sort out. Pasang had organized these to be made by a Kathmandu tailor. It was a large order of almost 400 uniforms in various sizes and with different school badges – a major undertaking. Inevitably they were running late but had promised that they would be ready to take with us to Jaleshwori. We visited the tailor and his workshop in Kathmandu to see how it was all progressing.

Below: The tailor's workshop and his rooftop terrace where his wife completed the finishing while we drank tea.





Chris and Pasang enjoying the traditional 'marigold welcome' at Tuhure Primary School



Local farmer receives a tree from Nepalrvt



New manager Kaji planting trees at the Community Farm

www.nepalrvt.org

Everything looked good but the sheer bulk of the uniforms was something we hadn't appreciated. How to transport them and the eighty trees we planned to purchase in the back of a jeep together with all our camping gear wasn't immediately clear. In the end our jeep driver turned out to be a real hero, making a second journey from Kathmandu to Jaleshwori and picking up the surplus uniforms and trees on the way.

Arriving at the farm after a 400km, two-day jeep journey, the last fifty-plus kilometres of which we would class as 'off road', was a huge relief. We had a packed agenda of tree planting, distributing the school uniforms and buying agricultural supplies. And everything takes much longer when transport isn't easily available, roads are difficult or non-existent and sometimes walking 10k uphill is the only option.

Over the course of the first few days, we visited four schools in the area – Dibdi Middle School and Tuhure primary school, both in Jaleshwori, then two primary schools slightly higher up; Sukepokhari and Rhupangmare. NRVT has worked with all of these schools before donating school supplies and solar panels. It was good to see these were still in place. It was also very noticeable that the difference in altitude at Sukepokhari and especially Rhupangmare has exacerbated the poverty of these areas. Rhupangmare at 2,200 metres has a much tougher climate than Dibdi and the Community Farm which are about 1000 metres lower down. Giving out the new uniforms to the school children, many of whom had probably never had a new article of clothing and many of whom were clearly very cold, was a huge pleasure. It was definitely one of the nicest projects we have had the privilege to be involved in and we want to thank all NRVT supporters for making it possible. The children received the uniforms just in time as the following day snow fell in the higher villages.



Jaleshwori Community Farm

It was really exciting to finally see the farm at last and to witness the work that Pasang and other NRVT Nepal trustees had already carried out. The aim of the project is to create a demonstration farm where new crops can be trialled using modern organic farming techniques, and to establish a nursery for fruit and nut trees that can then be distributed locally. Pasang, Chris and Kaji, the new manager appointed while we were there, immediately set to work planting the trees we had brought from EVON. Varieties included almond, macadamia, Meyers lemon, lime, pear, apricot, plum, apricot and goji berry. While most of the trees stayed at the farm to be grown on, some larger ones were donated to local farmers. Care was taken to match trees to the altitude of the recipient farm. Once established, trees at the farm will be used to graft from and the new trees donated and distributed throughout the local area.



Kaji, Pasang and Ful Kumar receive certificates from EVON along with others on the training course.

By lucky coincidence, EVON were running an Orchard Management course at the beginning of January so Kaji together with trustees Pasang and Ful Kumar accompanied us back to Kathmandu and joined the 5-day course. All reported that it was excellent and that it has given them a good grounding in grafting and tree care which they can share with Jaleshwori villagers

If you would like to help support or fundraise for Nepal Remote Villages Trust, please contact Alison & Chris at info@nepalrvt.org. We'd love to hear from you.