



**EDUCATE THE CHILDREN**  
INTERNATIONAL



## ETC Update, November 2015

It's hard to believe that only seven months have passed since the devastating 7.8-magnitude quake struck Nepal. Since then, there have been numerous aftershocks (some quite powerful), another major quake with its epicenter a few miles from our project area, mudslides and landslides, a washed-out main bridge into Dolakha, and the fuel shortage crisis affecting transportation and people's ability to heat their homes and cook their food.

Even with so much working against them, the Nepali villagers whom ETC is proud to serve are firmly committed to building healthier and better lives for themselves and their families. Their resilience and can-do attitude are so inspiring! Here are some highlights from the past few months:

- 139 teachers, headmasters, and school management committee members have participated in our professional development training and networking opportunities
- 30 schools in Dolakha have received important classroom and recreational materials, as have 8 schools in the Rasuwa and Nuwakot districts near the epicenter of the first earthquake. Items provided include desk and bench sets, white boards, computers, blocks and puzzles, first aid supplies, jump ropes, balls, etc.
- Our 46 women's groups continued to meet monthly and grew their microcredit funds by 32% from June to September — funds that are being loaned out to members for entrepreneurial activities
- 176 women and dozens of youths took part in our agricultural training activities



*At left:  
Women's group officers  
at quarterly meeting*



*At right:  
ETC's hard-working  
and dedicated staff*

As always, we at ETC thank you very much for making all of our important work possible.  
**We wish you all the best for 2016!**

**YES, I want to help ETC continue its good work in Nepal by making a year-end gift!**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**You can make a secure online credit card gift at [www.etc-nepal.org/donate.php](http://www.etc-nepal.org/donate.php)**

If you prefer to write a check or to have us process your credit card gift, please fill out the following:

Amount:  \$2,000  \$1,000  \$500  \$250  \$100  \$50  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Check enclosed OR  Charge my credit card:  Visa  MC  Amex  Discover

Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. date: \_\_\_\_\_ 3-digit code on back (required): \_\_\_\_\_

*Clip this form and mail to: ETC, P.O. Box 414, Ithaca, NY 14851-0414*

## *Agricultural highlights*

Sustainable agricultural development is a primary focus of ETC's work in rural Nepal. We provide the necessary training and resources to enable women farmers to feed their families more nutritious food and increase household incomes. In recent months, we have distributed seeds and seedlings for 13 types of crops, as well as fencing materials, tools, containers for making and storing



organic pesticides, etc. to more than 970 women farmers. We have also trained 56 women in cultivation techniques for cardamom and 120 women in the proper care and feeding of goats (see photo at left: identifying best fodder); both are high-value farming activities,

and participants received support to start their own small farms. Three of our four demonstration farms are also back up and running, and have been supplied with seeds and tools for use in hands-on training activities.



Ithaca-area friends, we'd love to see you at the **Ithaca Alternative Gift Fair, at The Space at GreenStar on December 5th.**

If you cannot make it or don't live in the area, remember that you can shop online to support ETC! Check our website for details as the date approaches.

## *Higher study scholarships*

In Nepal, Grade 10 has traditionally been the final year of secondary school. Students who pass the exams to earn their School Leaving Certificates can then go on to specialized studies in Grades 11 and 12 — **if** their parents can afford to send them. Sadly, many talented youths from impoverished families cannot continue their educations without financial support.

ETC, in cooperation with school personnel, recently selected 38 youths to receive scholarships (averaging \$48 per student) that will enable them to continue their studies and ensure their bright futures!



*At right: Four of last year's ETC-supported Grade 11 students, who aspire to be the computer programmers and teachers of tomorrow*

## *Phyukhri Ridge Project*

Drs. David Holmberg and Kathryn March have worked since 1975 in the Phyukhri Ridge area, where virtually all buildings were destroyed in the spring quakes. With funds administered through ETC, 30 traditional masons, carpenters, and ironworkers will soon participate in a week-long training program on locally sustainable, earthquake-resistant construction methods. Visit <http://www.facebook.com/PhyukhriRidgeReconstruction/>.



*Scavenging maize from the rubble*

*(Photo: Jay Tamang)*



**Educate the Children**

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