



# Harvesting Seabuckthorn at the Top of the World

## Nepal



### Partners

HimalAsia Foundation (NGO)

Ku Tsab TerNga Monastery  
Committee (CBO)

Lekshey Choeling Chunmay Lobta  
Nunnery School Committee (CBO)

Amchi Clinic Committee

Women's Biodiversity Conservation  
Utilization Committees

Tribhuvan University, Nepal

University of Applied Sciences,  
Cologne, Germany

Sushma Koirala/Interplast Hospital  
for Plastic and Reconstructive  
Surgery (Hospital)

## **A sustainable programme to harvest seabuckthorn and create products for local and international markets, thereby improving livelihoods and safeguarding traditional knowledge of medicinal plants and the biodiversity of Nepal.**

Seabuckthorn is a highly nutritious and versatile berry, containing vitamins C, E, beta-carotene and omega-3 fatty acids. Its berries produce nutrient rich juice and oil, and the leaves can be used for tea and traditional herbal remedies. Seabuckthorn plants are also known for their vigorous root growth, helping to mitigate problems of land degradation, desertification and soil erosion.

A partnership involving an international foundation, university research institutions, local community-based organizations, and practitioners of traditional Tibetan medicine, is working with a hospital and international businesses to build a sustainable programme for the cultivation and sale of seabuckthorn in domestic and international markets.

Three seabuckthorn nurseries were established in 2003, in cooperation with two community-based cooperatives and a local Amchi clinic. The HimalAsia Foundation provided the initial investment for the nurseries as well as training in the sustainable cultivation of the seabuckthorn plants.

Local women's cooperatives have also been trained to harvest and process wild seabuckthorn berries.

RECAST, a research centre at the Tribhuvan University in Nepal, and the ITT Cologne are involved in the development of specialized mobile pressing machines, which would enable these local cooperatives to extract seabuckthorn oil on site.

Nepal's only hospital for reconstructive surgery has recently joined the project, and will use the first batches of oil for the treatment of patients with burns and scars.

This partnership will develop a market in Nepal for seabuckthorn products, and it is hoped that the cooperatives will create small- and medium-sized enterprises to meet the domestic demand.

International companies have shown considerable interest in buying seabuckthorn products from the local cooperatives, and the initiative will help broker fair business relationships between such companies and the local producers.



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