

## Project Update: March 2014

Bio-fence for human wildlife mitigation (HWC) in the five forest villages (FV) were evaluated in November 2013 and they measured: Namla FV, 550 m; Gurdum FV, 850 m; Bich-Gaon FV, 550 m; Dara-Gaon FV, 800 m and Samanden FV, 600 m. The bio-fences have an average survival rate of 70%. Tea seeds have been put in germination-pits for strengthening the bio-fences in the next planting season. Chirata (*Swertia chirata*) a crop not affected by wildlife and with a high medicinal market value has been successfully planted in Samanden enabling communities to experience crop alternatives. HWC data is being continually collected in the five forest villages. The team has been converging action on HWC with WWF, India-Khangchendzonga Landscape Programme, Sikkim and ATREE, Eastern Himalaya Office, Darjeeling in terms of data generation in the landscape and placing the issue at various platforms like the Khangchendzonga landscape Conservation and Development Initiative.



Bich-Gaon forest village bio-fence, Nov 2013.



Dara Gaon- bio-fence, Nov 2013.



Chirata (*Swertia chirata*) and Maize in Samanden forest village.

