

Supplies for Kolti

Part IV: Kolti

Eventually we arrived at Kolti, or rather the area around Kolti. Kolti is a small village, but during the growing season every year, most of the villagers live scattered around the area in their own little one-room houses adjacent to their terraced farm plots. The terracing helps cut down on soil erosion and helps to capture melting snow in the spring and rain water during the monsoon.



One of the men of Kolti proudly showing us the farm plots



Terraced fields on the mountainside

They grow wheat, potatoes, and other vegetables like chilies, onions, beans, peas, garlic, squash, and cucumbers for their own consumption. They have cows and water buffaloes for milk and butter and some goats.



A small patch of chilies

During winter the families move from their farm plots into the village. They told me that winters are very difficult, but they enjoy each other's help and company. Everyone pitches in and, for instance, when someone needs to go to the hospital, the people of the village all help carry the person up the mountain. On the way down to the village, in fact, we saw a man carrying a child on his back up the trail. When there is not enough grass or hay for the cattle, the villagers climb a certain type of leafy evergreen and pick the leaves, which are good for the cattle. They are careful not to kill the tree by taking too many leaves. They struggle, though, to get by.

Bulbir told us that they had not told anyone that we were coming, so the people were surprised to see us and were almost speechless.



Young woman with her cattle



Young mother with toddler with cookies we brought



Bulbir Singh delivering the first flour to Kolti. He left one bag at each house.



This little girl came running barefoot through a dung heap to get some cookies.

We delivered some of the sacks of flour and gave small treats to the children at home with their parents, then went to the village school.