



# annual report 2009-10



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# Himmotthan: An Overview

The Himmotthan Society (Himmotthan) was registered in 2007 under the Society Registration Act 1860, in Dehradun, Uttarakhand. Himmotthan grew out of the vision and needs of the Sir Ratan Tata Trust (SRTT), the oldest private philanthropic organization in the country, which runs large scale rural development projects across the country. The Trust, which has numerous programmes across the Central Himalayan region, realized the need for a local unit for monitoring and evaluation of its regional projects. It further had a future vision which included intensive local immersion of strategy, as well as increased networking amongst both, government as well as non-government organizations and departments in the region.



In 2007 therefore, the Himmotthan Cell was initiated, which was then registered as the Himmotthan Society. Himmotthan's tasks include information gathering, networking, database development, strategy development, monitoring and evaluation, idea incubation through pilot projects, up-scaling of successful pilots and the coordination of works with the state government of Uttarakhand and with various partner organizations. The mandate of the organization is rural development, with a specific focus on natural resource management. The results of these activities are successful, community managed initiatives which contribute directly to rural income increase, resource management and conservation.

The Trust's activities in Uttarakhand have received due recognition from the State Government in the form of a formal MoU. This was signed in 2004, for a ten year period, between the Trust and the state government.

Over the past couple of years Himmotthan's work area has extended to Himachal Pradesh, where Trust related programmes are being initiated and developed.

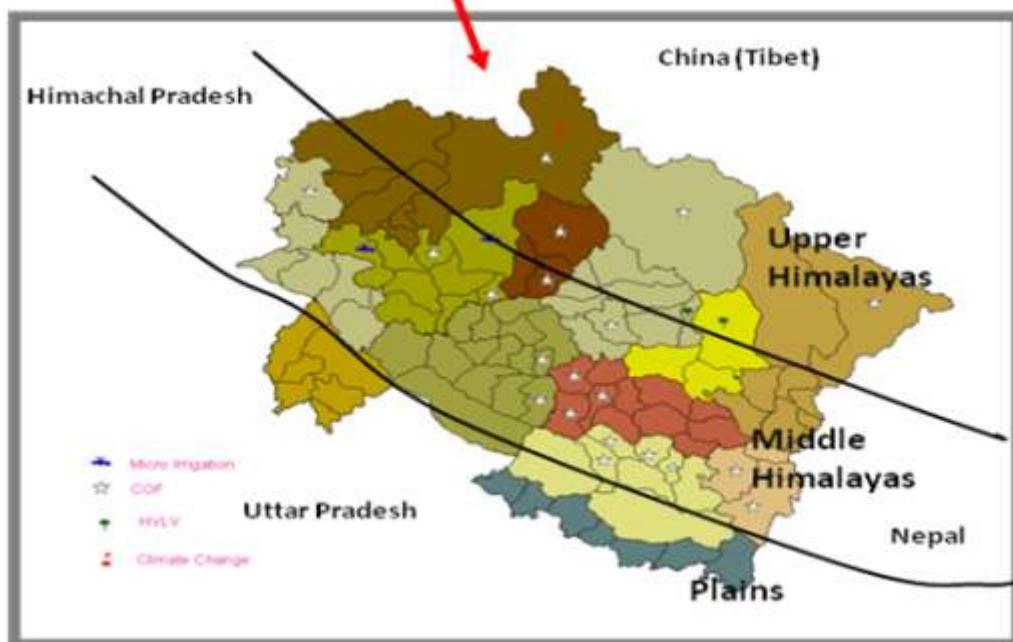
## INCLUSIVENESS AS A MANDATE

- a. Focus on remote regions of the state/ isolated villages.
- b. Focus on SC/ST/BPL villages and areas.
- c. Focus on small land holding.
- d. Particular involvement of women and focus on issues to mitigate women's drudgery and increase their earnings.



## Vision

Together with its partner organizations, Himmotthan is dedicated to the vision of building prosperous and self sustained mountain communities, which live in harmony and sympathy with their natural surroundings.

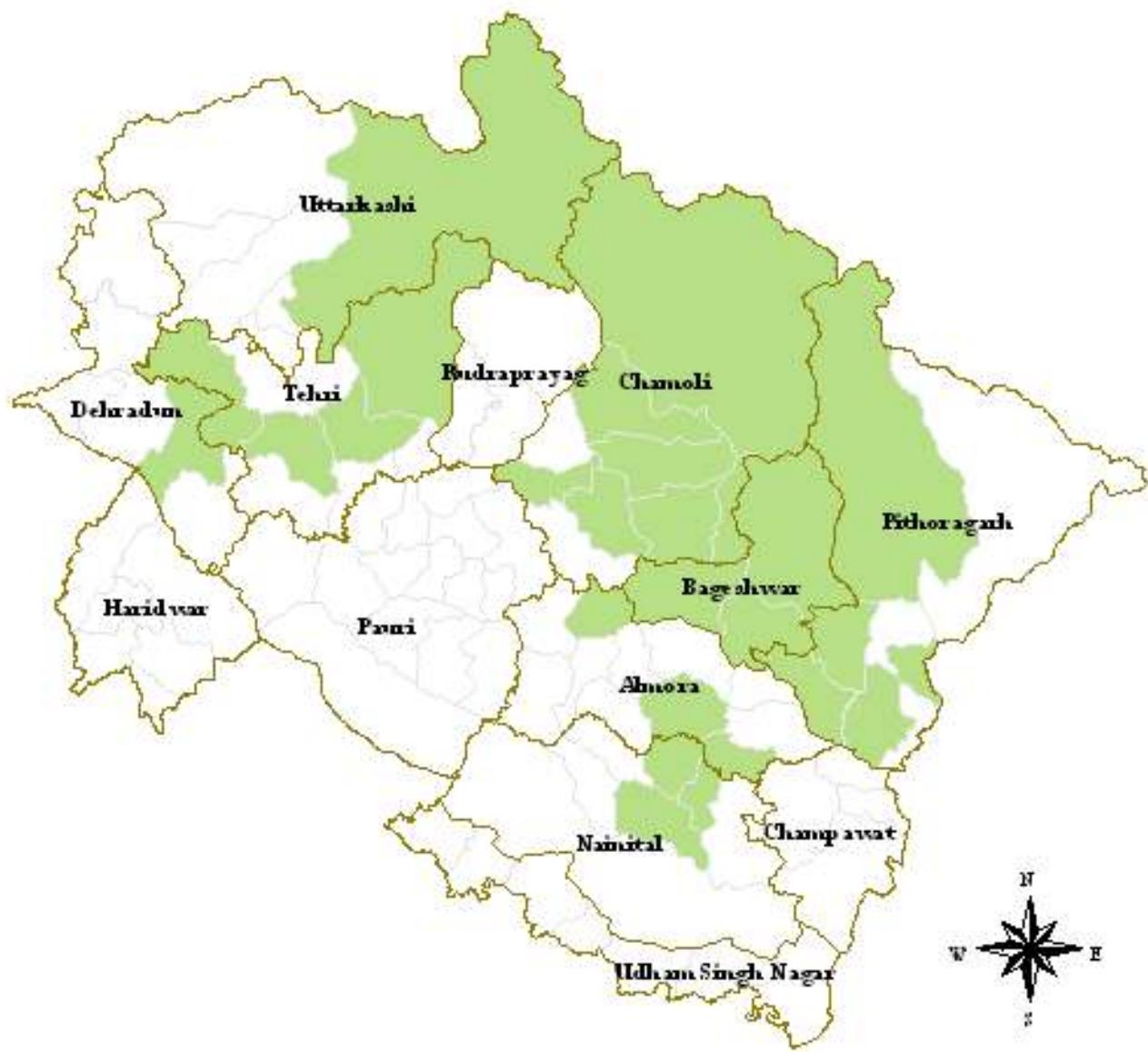


## The Central Himalayan Region

Himmotthan works mainly in the mid-altitude zones of the Central Himalayan region, including the northern states of Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh. In this region natural resources and forests are heavily used and have been extensively degraded over time. The loss of ecological soundness has lead to numerous land based problems, including to soil erosion and landslides. The increased vulnerability of mountain resources to ongoing environmental changes implies the loss of resources for human use, the loss of income generation possibilities, loss of soil fertility and water sources, loss of forest resources, increased migration, and a general fall in the quality of human life. Another and more dangerous outcome of degradation is the instability of slopes, loss of topsoil, increased landslips and landslides and therefore, increased risk of life, assets and livelihood.

## Spread of Activities

Himmotthan is currently working in 224 villages in 28 blocks of 8 districts in Uttarakhand. Projects are implemented through the intensive field support of partner organizations across the region.



## Our Partners

Himmotthan's partner organizations fall into three main categories, those which are geographically situated in the rural regions of the state and implement projects on the ground; those which may be based out of central locations and have the technical expertise to guide others and enhance performance over time, and those which are brought in from the outside for specific tasks such as impact assessments and evaluation studies.

Himmotthan's on the ground partners programme implementing partners include the:

- a. Alaknanda Ghati Shilpi Federation (AAGAAS) , Chamoli
- b. ANKUR (Institution for Rural and Eco – Development in Garhwal Himalayas), Chamoli
- c. Central Himalayan Environment Association (CHEA), Nainital
- d. Chattrasal Sewa Sansthan (CSS), Ranikhet
- e. Garhwal Vikas Kendra (GVK) , Tehri
- f. Himalayan Education & Resource Development Society (HERDS), Chamba, Tehri
- g. Himalayan Gram Vikas Samiti (HGVS), Pithoragarh
- h. Himalayan Organization for Protection of the Environment (HOPE), Ranikhet
- i. Himalayan Sewa Samiti (HSS), Pithoragarh
- j. Institute of Himalayan Environment, Research and Education (INHERE), Masi, Almora
- k. Jai Nanda Welfare Society (JNWS), Chamoli
- l. Jakheshwar Shikshan Sansthan (JSS), Gopeshwar
- m. Mount Valley Development Association (MVDA), Tehri
- n. People's Science Institute (PSI), Dehradun
- o. Research Advocacy and Communication in Himalayan Areas (RACHNA), Dehradun
- p. Sankalp Samiti, Tharali, Chamoli
- q. Society for Integrated Management of All Resources (SIMAR), Dewal, Chamoli
- r. Shri Bhuvaneshwari Mahila Ashram (SBMA), Anjanisain, Tehri
- s. Central Himalayan Rural Action Group (CHIRAG), Simayal, Nainital

Partners assisting closely in designing strategy, evaluating and monitoring include:

- 1. Advance Center for Water Resources Development and Management (ACWADAM), Pune
- 2. Centre for Ecology Development and Research (CEDAR), Dehradun

Our Partners have competencies and expertise which range in different issues related to natural resource management and community mobilization. Most are also geographically defined, a natural outcome of a steep and difficult terrain. All are linked very closely to the communities they live and work with, often in very remote areas off the beaten track.

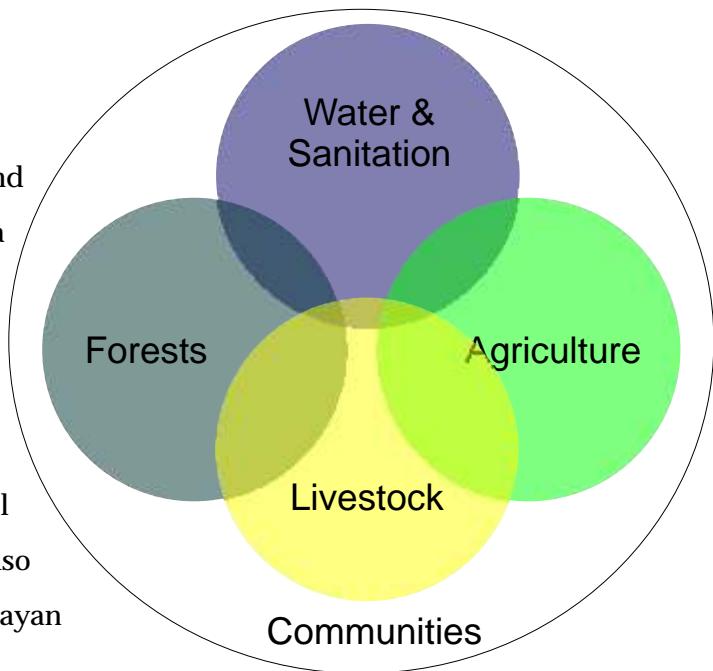
Himmothans role is including bringing to Partner organizations the new systems, strategies and possibilities in programme development and design; to help in networking and liaisoning with the government and funding agencies; to help set up the newest in monitoring and evaluation systems; to bring to them information, networking possibilities and technologies, and to provide physical and technological spaces to connect, discuss, debate and deliberate on issues as varied as rural development, institutional and personal growth, technologies and finance.

# Himmotthan Focus Areas and Projects

Himmotthan's programmes and projects are focused under 5 main areas of work:

1. Water and Sanitation
2. Agriculture
3. Livestock
4. Forests
5. Communities

Representation of the five areas of work and their interlinkages is done through a diagram of four interlinking circles, within a larger circle which denotes the community. This simple illustration aptly describes the dependence of each of these issues upon the others, as well as the overall immersion within the larger sphere, as also defining the focus of the Central Himalayan programme – on local communities.



## Water and Sanitation

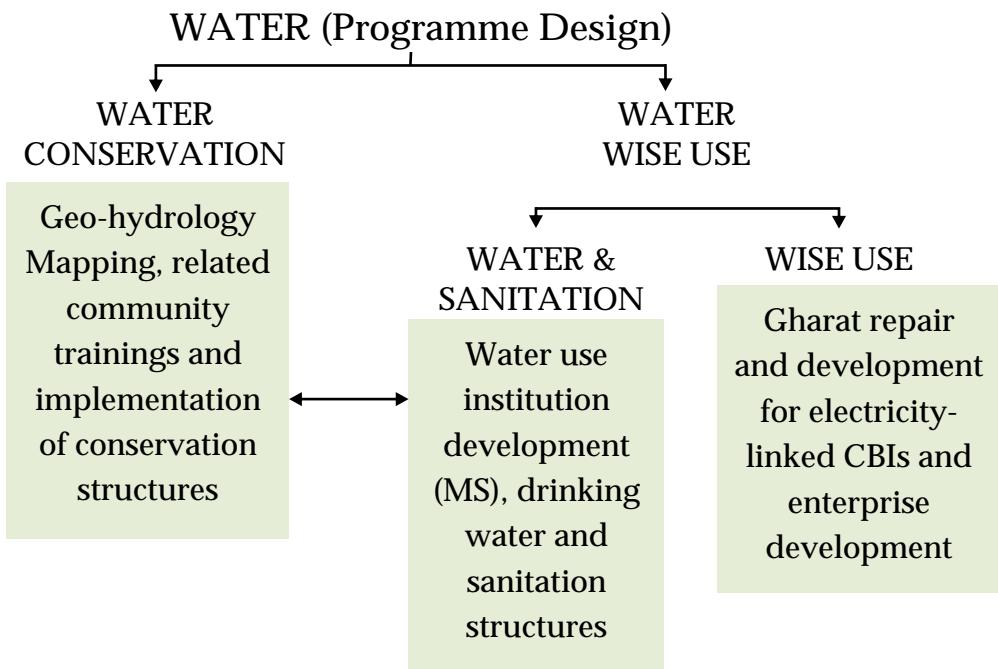
Himmotthan works on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene in remote Central Himalayan areas where water supplies are not available at the village, where women spend several hours a day in fetching water, and where sanitation is close to non-existent.

This initiative is divided into two main water related areas – 'Conservation of Water', 'Wise Use, and Sanitation'.

Water conservation usually refers to reducing the usage of water in human activities or the recycling of used water. To this we add the process of developing an understanding of water in its natural state,

### WATER ISSUES IN THE REGION

- Scanty rainfall, no storage.
- Focus on traditional rain fed agriculture, low productivity.
- Many health and hygiene issues related to basic cleanliness.
- Lack of safe drinking water.



and working towards protecting the sources. This includes learning about the above and below flows of water in the mountains, surface runoffs and geology, understanding precipitation patterns and usage systems.

Despite adequate rainfall, most of the Central Himalayan regions face acute water shortages due to the lack of storage and access. Increasing environmental degradation promotes rapid runoff and lower ground water seepages. To tackle such issues implies understanding the system, the process and developing locally led initiatives to build and manage. Himmotthan is committed to work in integrated water programmes which develop conservation, management and reuse systems.

## Water Conservation

Project 1: A critical programme is working on the mapping of geo-hydrology of mountain streams – training villagers and non-profits to understand bedrock, sub-surface hydrology, seepage and recharge zones, without the necessity of 'external experts'; community trainings and the construction of conservation structures. Four pilot sites have been taken in Garwal where conservation structures and village level management are being put together to develop a long term strategy.

All four pilot streams are part of Himmotthan's 'WATSAN' programme, and therefore provide water to gravity drinking water schemes. Data is being collected by 6 partner organizations across the state on the status of flows of 60 streams. This hydrological information is being compiled and will be brought out in publication form by 2011.



#### Partner Organizations:

1. Himalayan Educational And Resource Development Society (HERDS).
2. Garhwal Vikas Kendra (GVK), Nainbagh.

#### Technical Support Organization:

Advanced Centre for WAtter resources Development and Management (ACWADAM), Pune is a not-for-profit organization that aims to develop solutions to groundwater problems of today and tomorrow. It is a premier Education and Research Institution and facilitates work on groundwater management through action research programmes and trainings.

#### Wise Use of Water

Human need for water takes many forms, from the building of big dams to the non- invasive uses of art and aesthetics. In the mountains water is both, more aggressive and much more difficult to tame, store and use. The lack of flat land reduces storage capacities while the steep terrain vastly magnifies costs of delivery schemes.

Schemes are also vulnerable to falling rocks and landslides, which unfortunately are quite common. The trick here is to build sustainable use models which do not adversely impact the environment, make water transport and storage easy and most importantly, are easy to maintain. Institutional



structure at the village level is possibly the most important aspect for the sustainability of any water related scheme, and more so for drinking water. The issues around water remind us that the capacity of mountains to maintain and support human needs will always be limited.

A separate *gharat* (traditional water mills)

revival project for power generation and agricultural value addition has been initiated in a village in Uttarkashi.

#### Partner Organization:

The Himalaya Trust, Dehradun

#### WATSAN: Water and Sanitation Programme

In 2002 the SRTT initiated a drinking water and sanitation programme in the region, implemented by partner organizations and guided and monitored by Himmotthan. This ongoing programme is into its third phase. In the Phase One 45 villages were made 100% open defecation free, and 89 drinking water schemes which constituted of 209 km of pipeline, 160 rainwater harvesting tanks, 1442 sanitation units and 53 ha watershed conservation area. 3035 households were covered in this phase and 19000 beneficiaries reached. In Phase Two of the project 50 new villages are ongoing. Planning for Phase Three begun with over 100 applications already received from villages. This project is now being extended to Himachal Pradesh, with recent state government approval received for commencing work in 10 pilot villages.

#### Process:

- Toilets are built by the villages in each house, at their own cost. On completion the project grants a nominal Rs. 2000 as a bonus per toilet.
- All toilets follow a standard, ecologically friendly design which is discussed and agreed upon by all partner organizations.
- Intensive training and workshops on sanitation and hygiene is an ongoing process.
- On completion of the toilets the construction of the drinking water gravity scheme is initiated.
- Villages contribute a minimum of 10% of project costs to the project. This is cash collection. Villages also contribute significant labour during the construction process.
- A Management Society is set up in each village which is responsible for all project activities,

and later for the maintenance and management of the scheme.

- Formal documentation is completed if required, for example with private owners of land or the forest department if required.
- All schemes are insured against natural disasters.
- Intensive monitoring of the programme has been the key to its success with an external monitoring agency guiding the entire process.

## Agriculture

Agriculture is the mainstay of the subsistence level existence of a majority of the rural population in the Central Himalayan region. Small scale, low input and manual labour characterize the region. Traditionally, agriculture here has been integrated with livestock and NTFP, with each component strongly dependent upon the other in an integrated system of resource usage, linking various activities. Long distances, the lack of a good road network and the lack of transport further impede easy marketing. Major environmental differences over short distances due to change in altitude, slope and aspect further complicate matters. Under the given circumstances an integrated system which addresses ecological, social as well as economic sustainability aspects, and involves multiple stakeholders is required. Himmotthan therefore focuses upon integrated and niche products which are relatively high value, and require minimal external inputs. The other important aspects in agriculture are diversification, strong village level institutions, local value addition technologies and market linkages.

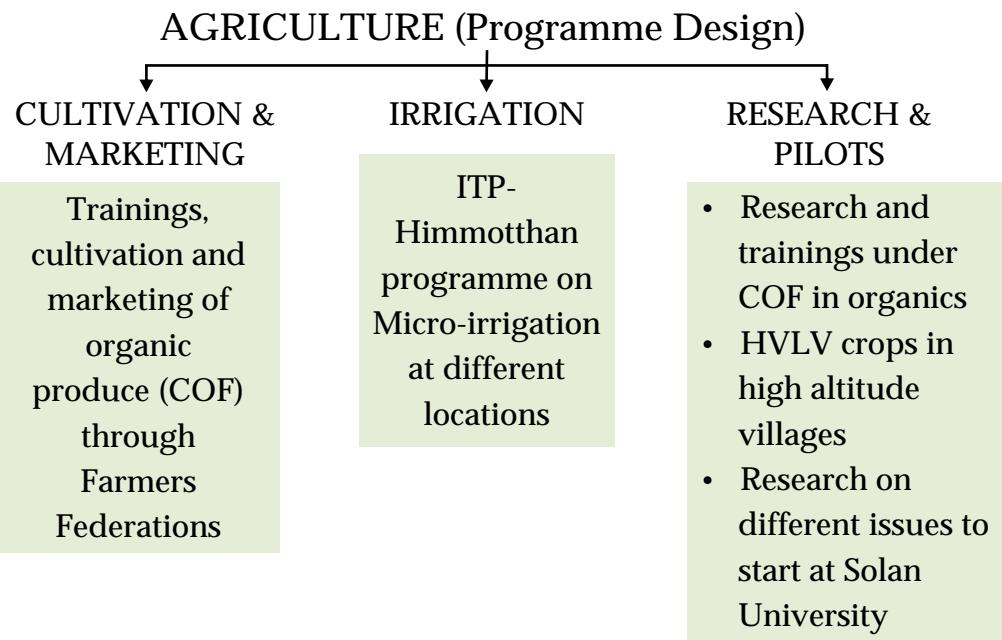
All activities are backed by research, and the piloting of new ideas.

The Agricultural Initiative's programme design as a result focuses on three sub-initiatives –

### AGRICULTURE ISSUES

- Small holdings.
- Mainly sustenance agriculture.
- Scanty rainfall, no storage therefore traditional rain fed agriculture, low productivity.
- Lack of transport facilities.
- Limited or no value addition.
- Weak institutional structures.
- Limited finance options/ understanding.
- Limited reach of government extension facilities.





- (a) **Cultivation and Marketing:** Himmothan oversees the work of the State's Organic Board (UOCB – Uttarakhand Organic Commodity Board). Under the UOCB the Centre for Organic Farming I and II (COF) together covered over 15,000 farmers and brought 4000 ha of farmland under organic certification. Income increase approximated Rs.33,000/ year/ farmer. 28 products are on the market, 5 sustainable market linkages are in place, 4 major sub-clusters operate and one green restaurant is in the process of being developed.
- (b) **Irrigation:** Himmothan signed an LoU (Letter of Understanding) with the IWMI-TATA programme and developed 13 mid to high altitude sites where micro-irrigation systems have been put in place in collaboration with the IWMI-Tata programme. This project was initiated in 2009, and results were good.
- (c) **Research and Pilots :** A high altitude “high value – low volume” cropping system is being piloted in 10 villages, all above 2500msl. Also, a Climate change study is being



#### AGRICULTURAL DYNAMISM

- Focus on agricultural diversification.
- Focus on niche products – e.g. Organic products, HVLV crops for higher altitudes.
- Focus on developing Village Level Institutions and cluster based Federations/ Cooperatives.
- Market and market linkage development.
- Local value addition processes.
- Research and experimental pilot studies.

carried out, again in the higher altitudes, to understand existing agricultural patterns and changes happening, if any. This study has till date identified a few main focal points including increasing pest occurrence at higher altitudes, changes in cropping patterns, decreasing productivity in certain species e.g. apples etc.



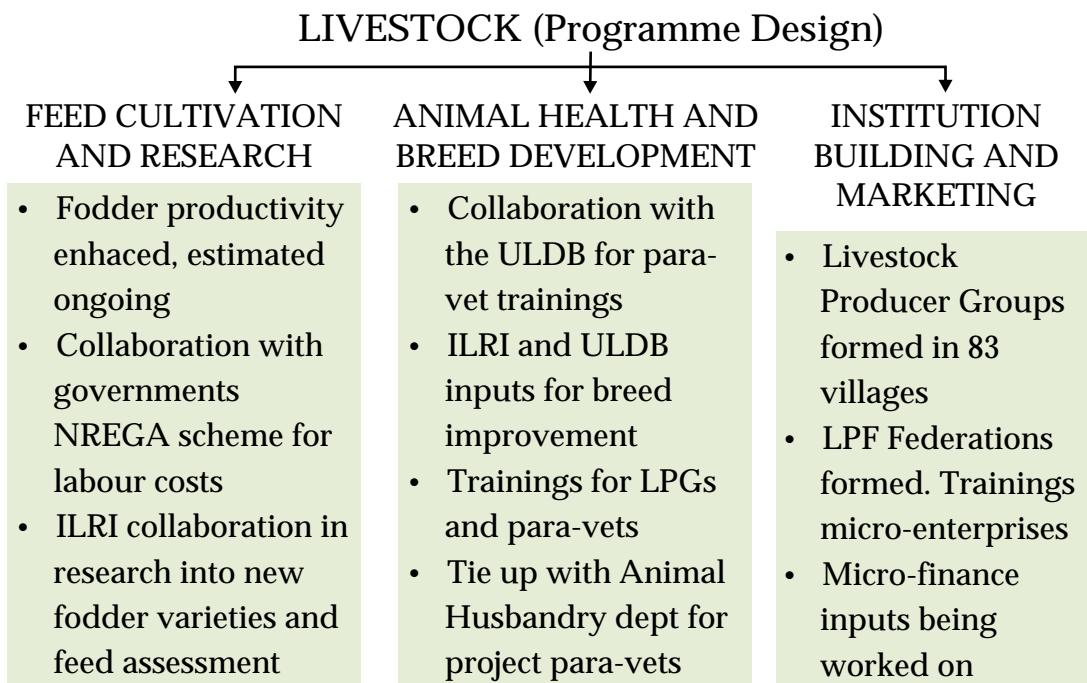
#### Partner Organizations:

1. HOPE, Ranikhet
2. SIMAR, Dewal

## Livestock

Himmotthan is implementing a livestock programme designed around -

(i) Feed cultivation and research – In this area focus is upon increasing fodder availability, developing drought and pest resistant fodder varieties of increased nutritional value and in cutting

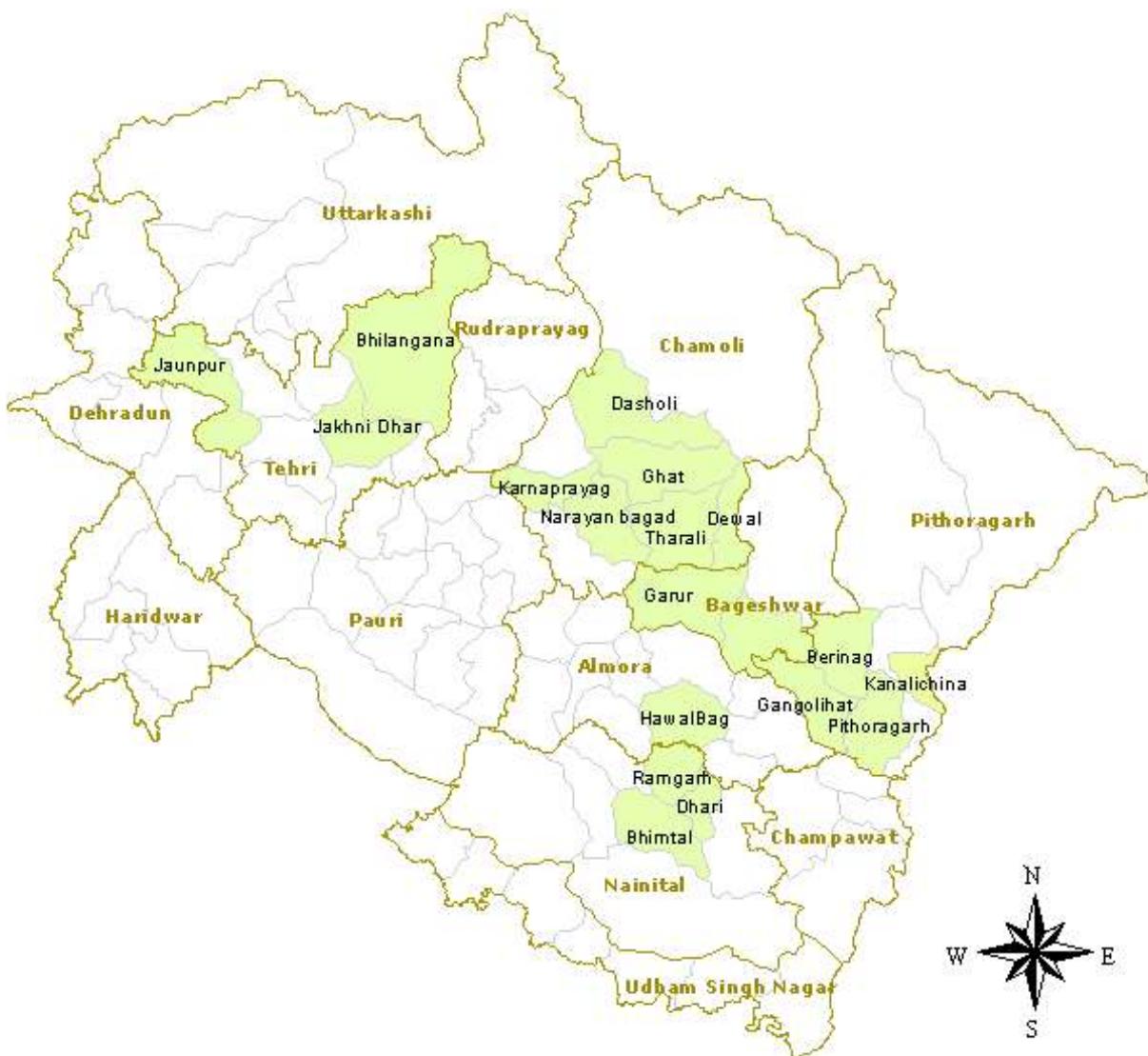




## LIVESTOCK ISSUES

- Fodder scarcity.
- Lack of improved breeds.
- Low milk yields.
- Poor livestock health practices.
- Women's drudgery.
- Traditional practices continue.

time spent by women in collection and their drudgery and labour. Himmotthan is collaborating with the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) in a research programme on better fodder varieties, along with the Uttarakhand Livestock Development Board in the developing of new varieties. Over 500ha have been put under better fodder varieties across 90 villages; an intensive feed assessment study has been completed. Several varietal trials are underway. Seed production of chosen species will provide project villages with the next years fodder base.



(ii) Animal health and breed development – In collaboration with the Uttarakhand Livestock Development Board (ULDB) several aspects of animal health and breed improvement are being tackled – AI (artificial insemination) carried out by trained para-vets, vaccinations, demonstrations on how to improve stalls, better feeding practices and animal health.

(iii) Local Institution and market development: All activities are currently being carried out under the aegis of the ongoing “*Integrated Fodder and Livestock Development Project*” (IFLDP). Focused on community development, the project has developed more than 255 Livestock Producer Groups (LPGs), with over 2300 members.

There are 12 Federations of which 10 are now running micro-dairies. Two federations are making and selling Ayurvedic medicines and cattle feed. Bank linkages have been established allowing them to develop value addition aspects and to fund better breeds. Over 8000 households will benefit from this initiative, once it has reached its full spread. The initiative will also expand in the coming year to include a larger focus on value addition and markets, and will also spread out across the state to new valleys.

### The Integrated Fodder and Livestock Development Project (IFLDP)

Livestock forms the backbone of the traditional agro-ecosystem practiced in the central Himalayan regions, and in the state of Uttarakhand in Northern India. The majority of the State's rural population depends upon subsistence agriculture of which livestock forms an integral part. The system is also strongly dependent upon available common property resources (CPRs) that act as the major feed resource. Uttarakhand has over 75 lakh livestock and over 70 percent of the state's workforce is involved in livestock rearing. A hundred million human-days of labour are generated by livestock keeping. However, livestock rearing practices are significantly inhibited by an acute fodder shortage estimated to be around 50 percent of the state's total fodder requirements. This not only greatly impacts milk yields and the health of livestock, but fodder collection from forests is recognized to be the single most important cause of deterioration of forest quality in the state. Additionally, poor livestock management practices, the lack of improved livestock, poor livestock health and ineffective marketing practices and facilities are major constraints in the promotion of livestock based activities in Uttarakhand.

To tackle some of the above mentioned issues in key chosen locations, in the year 2008-09, Himmotthan, initiated a project entitled “*Integrated Fodder-Livestock Development Project (IFLDP)*”, with the aim to promote rural livelihoods and enhance incomes through an

environmentally sustainable, integrated livestock management programme. The IFLDP is designed as a three year project, to sequentially strengthen the various components necessary to create an integrated and profitable livestock venture. Major thrust areas of the project are: (i) Empowerment and capacity building; (ii) Promotion of fodder resources and adoption of better feeding practices; (iii) Breed improvement and livestock health; and (iv) Promotion of livestock based enterprises. The project is being implemented in 88 villages in 15 project areas spread over six hill districts of Uttarakhand in collaboration with different organisations already working in the sector. Over 8,000 households (covering a population of about 44,000) of the project villages are directly or indirectly involved with the project.

The project is being implemented in partnership with different government departments and NGOs. Fodder cultivation related activities are being implemented with the dovetailing of funds from the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), while the Sir Ratan Tata Trust (the Trust) is supporting activities such as fodder preservation, better feeding practices, capacity building and community mobilization. The cattle breed improvement component of the IFLDP is being implemented in collaboration with the Uttarakhand Livestock Development Board (ULDB), which is training Para-vets, providing them with supplies; carrying out livestock health camps, livestock insurance and promotion of livestock based enterprises with Himmotthan support.

### Partner Organisations

S No.	Partner Organization	Location
1	Alaknanda Ghati Shilpi Federation, Chamoli (AAGAAS)	Chamoli district
2	CEDAR, Dehradun	State level
3	Central Himalayan Rural Action Group (CHIRAG)	Nainital, Bageshwar
4	Chatrasal Seva Sansthan (CSS)	Ranikhet
5	Garhwal Vikas Kendra, Tehri (GVK)	Nainbagh
6	Himalayan Gram Vikas Samiti (HGVS)	Pithoragarh
7	Himalayan Sewa Samiti, Pithoragarh (HSS)	Pithoragarh
8	Jai Nanda Welfare Society, Chamoli (JNWS)	Chamoli
9	Jakheshwar Shikshan Sansthan (JSS)	Chamoli
10	Mount Valley Develop. Asso. Tehri (MVDA)	Tehri Garhwal
11	Sankalp Samiti	Chamoli
12	Shri Bhuvenshwari Mahila Ashram (SBMA)	Uttarkashi
13	Society for Integrated Mng. of All Resources (SIMAR)	Chamoli

## Forests

Himmotthan's Forest Initiative works on both, Conservation and sustainable use, and production and marketing of forest products. Planting of commercially important varieties of bamboo, training of bamboo artisans, promoting sustainable NTFP use, and interventions promoting forest conservation to rejuvenate springs to supply water for both domestic use and irrigation, form the core of the initiative. It further promotes innovative research in NRM and institutional development. Successful experiments are scaled up to large regional programs.



## Common Lands

Project 1. An ongoing Trust programme on bamboo use for products and housing continues in collaboration with the State's board – the Uttarakhand Bamboo and Fibre Development Board (UBFDB), is being guided and monitored by Himmotthan. Currently in its second phase, the project has drawn from previous experience to focus on developing four regional clusters of artisans in four artisan federations. In this year, over Rs. 30 lakh in sales is expected by the federations.

Project 2. A Himmotthan project on the development of natural fibre from wild Himalayan nettle is underway, and will reach 500 households over a 3 year period. Products will be launched on the market in 2011.

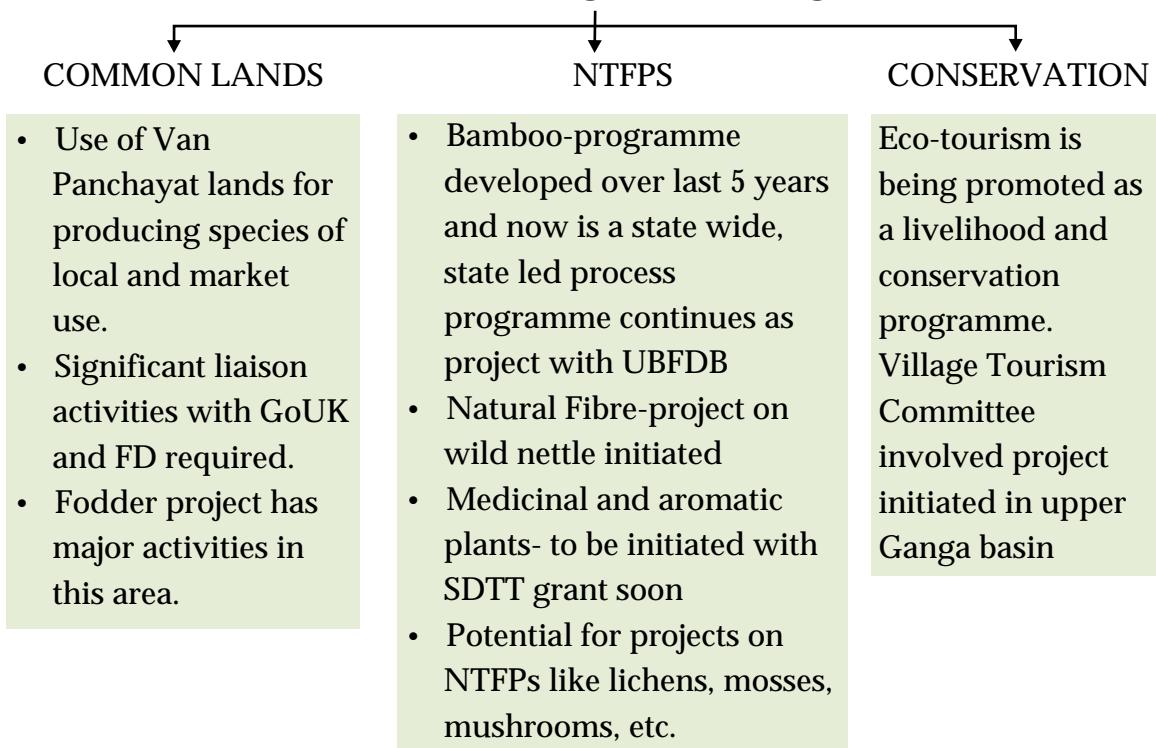
### Partner Organizations:

1. AAGAAS, Pipalkoti, Chamoli
2. JNWS, Bhimtalla, Chamoli

### FOREST ISSUES

- Mis-management of Van-Panchayat common lands therefore low productivity.
- Van-Panchayat institution weak and disorganized.
- Unsustainable, unauthorized and unregulated harvesting of forest products, often damaging the system and reducing future harvest potential.
- Increasing encroachments and loss of forest lands.
- Degraded forest lands prone to erosion and landslides.
- Forest fires common, often lit by local villagers.
- Changing forest character, changing species patterns.
- Lack of peoples interest in the management of reserve forests .

## FORESTS (Programme Design)



### NTFP: Non-Timber Forest Products

Project 1. A SDTT funded NTFP project takes on the difficult aspect of Van Panchayat Forest management with sustainable forest product production and marketing. Being done across three districts in the state, the project focuses on Himalayan natural plant products and will develop linkages with banks, drug and pharmaceutical companies. The project expects to reach over 1000 households.

#### Partner Organizations:

1. CHEA, Nainital
2. INHERE, Masi, Almora
3. HGVS, Gangolihat, Pithoragarh
4. ANKUR, Ghat, Chamoli

### Conservation

Project 1. A village based tourism programme has been launched in the upper Ganga basin in Uttarkashi, and is promoted as a livelihood and conservation programme in 6 villages. Village Tourism Committees are bringing together the initiative under the guidance of RACHNA, a local NGO.

#### Partner Organization:

1. RACHNA, Dehradun

## The Commons, Livelihoods and Markets Project (CLMP)

The CLMP project was conceptualized following experiences from Himmotthan's first phase of work in Uttarakhand. Himmotthan's flagship project on fodder brought to fore the concept of community management of the 'Commons'; strengthening community organizations and developing markets and market linkages for products from common lands. Natural resources of the mountains mostly originate on common lands and forests. They cut across economic, land use, institutional and management parameters. These resources, available to all, are critical for day to day survival and provide a buffer during difficult times. Resource availability often bridges the gap between a sustenance farmer and a small trader/ entrepreneur, as it provides the base for numerous enterprises – nettle and agave fibre, silk, honey, medicinal and aromatic plants, spices, lichen, mosses, lac, resin, etc. Increased and sustained availability furthermore, vastly eases the burden of physical labour on rural women.

This Project therefore focuses upon the necessity of continued availability of natural resources based livelihoods in this region, which requires specific and sustainable management practices. Himmotthan is, through this Project piloting, lobbying and liaison on the issues discussed above, in the Central Himalayan regions, to ensure secure access, sustainable strategies and market linkages. Pilot projects are being implemented under the relevant programmes and, depending upon their success, will be used to develop larger concepts on scaled up projects.

This Project initiates the development of six different areas of work - some new and some the consolidation of previously run pilots. Components include: (i) a High Altitude programme for the upper Himalayan communities; (ii) developing a systematic microfinance (MF) programme to integrate microfinance in all existing livelihood based programmes by strengthening and developing local village level institutions; (iii) a Non-Timber Forest Produce programme, mainly focusing on medicinal and aromatic plants; (iv) Rural Tourism (v) Hydrology and water resources (vi) Climate Change, which involves mainly developing a high altitude baseline and discussing the issue and its impacts on natural resources and (v) Management Information Systems as a continuation and development of the work of the first phase in which a database system was designed and initiated.

The immediate scope of activities in planned pilots are expected to directly benefit over 2,000 households covering around 13,000 beneficiaries in 48 villages over the next three years. Indirectly, but as an immediate fallout of the interventions, another 5,000 beneficiaries are expected. This does not cover beneficiaries under the scaled up programmes.

## CLMP Partner Organizations

S No.	Partner organization	Location of Project	Project
1	Garhwal Vikas Kendra, Tehri (GVK)	Nainbagh	Hydrology
2	Society Integrated Management of All Resources (SIMAR)	Dewal	NTFP
3	Himalayan Education & Resource Development Society (HERDS)	Chamba	Hydrology
4	Advance Center for Water Resources Development and Management (ACWADAM)	Across all areas	Hydrology
5	Himalayan Organization for Protection Environment (HOPE)	Bageshwar	NTFP
6	Research Advocacy and Communication in Himalayan Areas (RACHNA)	Uttarkashi	Eco-tourism
7	People Science Institute, Dehradun (PSI)	6 high altitude villages in Garhwal	Climate change
8	Centre for Ecology, Development and Research (CEDAR)	State level policy study	Carbon sequestration

## Himalayan Nettle Fiber: A Community Based Approach to Sustainable Harvesting, Value Addition and Marketing

NTFPs have attracted the interest of both the public and private sectors for their crucial role in securing livelihoods of the rural poor in forested regions. NTFPs can provide community needs for improving rural livelihoods, contribute to household food security and nutrition, help to generate additional employment and income, offer opportunities for NTFP based enterprise, contribute to foreign exchange, and support biodiversity and other conservation objectives.

In Uttarakhand, one such NTFP is the Himalayan Nettle (also known locally as *Sisoon*). It is a highly valued fiber yielding plant and is becoming one of the commercially important species due to the high demand of its processed materials. Traditionally, the plant fiber had been used for making domestic products' however over a period of time Nettle has been widely replaced by plastic.



In 2008, Himmotthan operationalised a pilot project in collaboration with the Uttarakhand Bamboo and Fiber Development Board (UBFDB) focusing upon: (i) opportunities of income generation using Himalayan Nettle on common lands; (ii) standardization of various process; (iii) resource availability; (iv) institutional development; and (v) markets. The project area comprises of four blocks i.e. Dasoli, Dewal, Joshimath and Ghat of Chamoli district.



Both, UBFDB and Himmotthan have recognized the economic and ecological potential of Himalayan Nettle and are committed to a large program to promote Nettle cultivation and its commercial development. Work carried out in this direction over the past two years has shown that mainstreaming Himalayan Nettle cultivation and craft as a livelihood activity for the rural poor is a viable means of income generation.

The project focuses on the most marginalized of the rural communities of the state and addresses the livelihood concerns of the SC/ST communities of remote villages of Uttarakhand. The project will directly and indirectly benefit more than 1,000 artisans and community members by providing them additional income to the tune of Rs. 12,000 to 18,000 annually. Nettle processing is an absolutely innovative enterprise, so people are keen to learn and earn through the same.

S No.	Partner Organization	Location
1	Alaknanda Ghati Shilpi Federation, Chamoli (AAGASS)	Chamoli
2	Jai Nanda Welfare Society, Chamoli (JNWS)	Chamoli

### Sustaining Rural Livelihoods through the Cultivation and Conservation of Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) and Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (MAPs) in Uttarakhand

Uttarakhand has a distinctive recognition as a state where rare high altitude plants including herb, shrub and trees are found which have enormous meditational value for human. The state has officially 34661.52 square kilometer of area under different forest cover which is about 64.81% of its total geographical area. Still at present the status of NTFP cultivators and medicinal plant growers in



the state is not very brawny. But this situation provides an opportunity to the individual cultivator and group of farmers to step in and add up significance livelihood options through the cultivation and selling of NTFP and medicinal plants.

The government of Uttarakhand has a defined policy for rural areas - that every village should have a Van Panchayat (community forest). Many aromatic plants and weeds grow naturally in wild conditions inside the Van

Panchayat and waste land areas. There is a need to identify and prioritize species according to their adaptability to low management inputs if the plants are planned to be grown on a mass scale. There is a need to think about the cultivation and management of NTFP and Medicinal plants in the vast areas of Van Panchayat surrounding the villages. Apart from Van Panchayat the cultivation of MAP and NTFP could also be promoted on private land areas, as long as the village communities are provided with essential technical support by different competent organizations which have been working in these areas for many decades. With respect to this, Himmotthan Society in collaboration with the Sir Dorabji Tata Trust, Mumbai is working on the mass scale propagation and plantation program of NTFP and MAP in 28 villages in Uttarakhand. Under the structure of this program individual farmers have been organized in self help producing groups. These groups are being organized beneath a bigger structural organization proposed as farmer Federations. The farmers are being provided technical support in establishing nurseries of selected Map and NTFP species and mass scale propagation is being done at these nurseries. The plants are then transferred at large scale on van Panchayat areas and private land. This Program is proposed initially for a three year period 2010-2013.

S No.	Partner organization	Location
1	Himalayan Gram Vikas Samiti (HGVS)	Pithoragarh
2	Institute of Himalayan Environment, Research and Education (INHERE), Masi	Almora
3	ANKUR (Institution for Rural and Eco – Development in Garhwal Himalayas)	Chamoli
4	Central Himalayan Environment Association (CHEA), Nainital	Nainital

## COMMUNITY ISSUES

- a. Lack of local employment opportunities.
- b. Far flung villages, low population density in rural areas, long distances, high travel time.
- c. High male migration.
- d. Money order based economy.
- e. High women's workload.
- f. High risk zones, disaster prone area.
- g. Number of marginal villages high.
- h. Poor SHG and village level institutional linkages.



## Communities

Although Uttarakhand is bestowed with a sanguine climate and beautiful landscapes, connectivity, marginality and accessibility are major problems across the region. Steep terrains, altitude differences and the lack of basic infrastructure in rural areas have led to high migration rates to urban centers for work. Agriculture by itself is not a sustainable option in this difficult terrain. Traditionally, a majority of male members of families joined the armed forces, making a large number of families dependent upon remittances and pensions. As a result, the community is largely literate, and aware of saving schemes at post office and banks. Over a period of time however a rapidly increasing population, changing climate and increasing degradation of forests and grazing lands, has led to ecological disturbances and the loss of access to natural resources. These issues are well recognized and considerable work is being done in an attempt to curb ecological losses

## COMMUNITY (Programme Design)

### CAPACITY BUILDING

- Programmatic focus is on developing local community organizations for sustainable livelihoods.
- All projects focus on community mobilization therefore have trainings, workshops, exposure visits, etc.
- Most projects specifically result in local institution development/revival for specific livelihood related results.

### INSTITUTIONS

Village level Institutions at the first tier (SHG, LPG, SPG, VPs, GPs) are brought together into cluster/area level Federations for generating critical product volume and establishing market linkages

including watershed projects, drinking water and sanitation, eco-restoration etc.. At the same time HMP is implementing livelihood projects on non-timber forest products, High value low volume medicinal and aromatic plants, fodder and livestock with dairy market linkages and others. However, while a lot of work has and is being done on livelihoods, soil and water conservation, sanitation and drinking water, the efforts are not significantly focused on village level institutions, community institutions and microfinance. The classical concepts of Self Help Groups (SHGs), community approach and mobilization although adopted by most local NGOs, are partial or even negligent, in their thoroughness to the approach. Government departments/ projects and funding agencies have also never really emphasized the classical approach, which has over time resulted in the relatively poor condition of SHGs as formed across the state by government projects and many NGOs.

The foundation of the various projects being implemented and guided by Himmotthan are community based organizations (or CBOs), or village based institutions (VLIs). It is these institutions which take forward the project, and the inherent strengths of these organizations are what make project results sustainable. In all various projects carried out by Himmotthan, particular focus has been given to developing strong village based organizations, through trainings, facilitation and team building. Village level groups (either self help groups, livestock producer groups, fibre producer groups etc.) are federated into larger cluster based Federations, which are trained to take forward activities in an enterprise mode. Specific projects in this area have included a pilot project given to HGVS, a Pithoragarh based organization which is putting into place specific institutional strengthening activities. At the same time Himmotthan is planning a larger Micro-finance initiative which will primarily strengthen its various on ground projects through institutional strengthening and micro-finance activites.

## Himmothan Pariyojana Monitoring

One of Himmothan's key activities is monitoring on the Sir Ratan Tata Trusts numerous ongoing projects in the region. These activities include regular visits to project locations, hand-holding and back stopping support to partner organizations, External Resource Person (ERP) recruitment and placement in projects. Monitoring processes include data collection, putting in place evaluation and impact monitoring systems, and liaisoning with government and other officials towards smooth functioning of projects. All projects are implemented through an annual work plan system and progress is measured against milestones. Key activities undertaken during the reporting period are as follow

**WATERSHED PLUS:** The watershed plus projects will adopt a livelihood focused and market centric approach. The proposal is under consideration. The project will be closely monitored through Himmothan Society.

**WATSAN:** Regular joint monitoring missions from Himmothan and ENV-DAS are made to 40 odd project locations currently being implemented by four partners - INHERE, SBMA, HIHT and HGVS. Inputs are given in order to improve project implementation. Under the Phase-III of WATSAN 50 new villages have been identified, finally around 30 villages will be delineated to implement the project. Under Batch -I, SATHI, HGVS and HIHT will be the implementing agencies respectively.

**Dr. Y.S. Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry, Solan, Himachal Pradesh:** Himmothan is providing hands on support to develop the impact indicators of five pilot projects being implemented by the Dr. Y.S. Parmar University, Solan. It will also be monitoring these projects once initiated.

**ACWADAM:** ACWADAM, Pune, was brought in to support the WATSAN project by strengthening the geo-hydrological component. Four sites of the on-going WATSAN programme and a site of an old scheme are currently being studied and monitored.

**UTTARAKHAND ORGANIC COMMODITY BOARD:** In addition to provide regular inputs in the on-going programme, Himmothan is providing constant inputs to the UOCB towards developing a comprehensive project proposal for the subsequent phase which would further their extension services and research base.

**UTTARAKHAND BAMBOO AND FIBRE DEVELOPMENT BOARD:** The project is being closely monitored by Himmoothan and an ERP, through a cluster based Matrix Framework, this would ease the process and help achieve planned outcomes in a planned manner.

**INTEGRATED FODDER AND LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT PROJECT:** Monitoring continues at regular intervals in all aspects, community strengthening, institution development, fodder production, animal health, para-vet performance.

**COMMONS, LIVELIHOODS AND MARKETS PROJECT:** Himmoothan team is providing hands on support to the partners' implanting the CLMP projects that start from Eco- Tourism, Wise use of water, Catchment area protection etc.

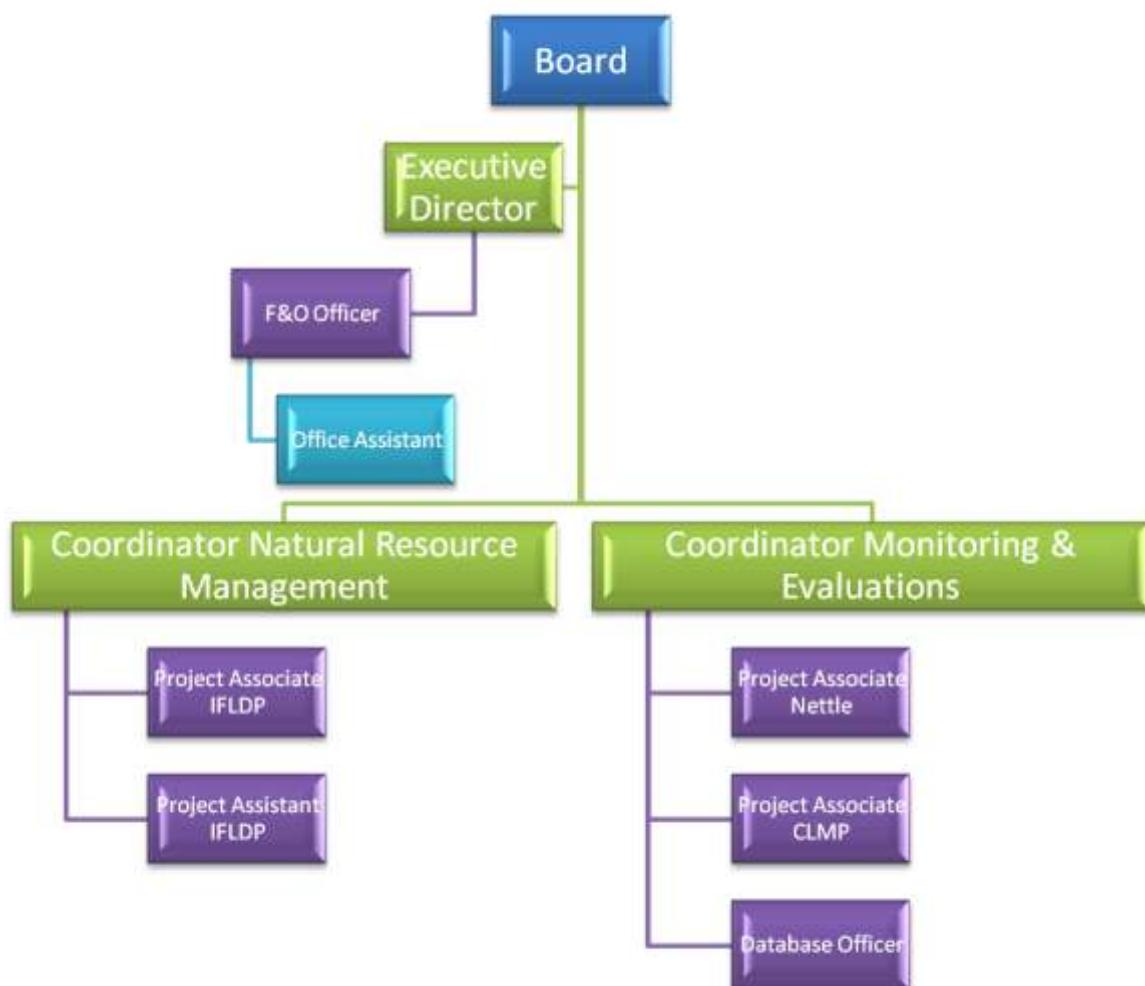
**NETTLE FIBER:** Regular coordination with partners was maintained to ensure better implementation, field visits and meetings have been undertaken in all project locations. Himmoothan has developed a monitoring framework for seed sowing and baseline which has been well accepted by the partners. An agency will be hired to provide support on the marketing-linkages.

# Governance and Team

## The Board

The Board of the Himmoothan Society is chaired by Shri N.S. Napalchyal, Chief Secretary, Government of Uttarakhand. Dr. Rajesh Thadani is the Treasurer for the Society, while Dr. Malavika Chauhan is the Secretary to the Board and Executive Director of Himmoothan. Shri S.T.S. Lepcha, Conservator Forests and CEO of the Uttarakhand Bamboo and Fiber Development Board is a member of the Board representing the Government of Uttarakhand. Dr. Ravi Chopra, Director of the People's Science Institute, a Dehradun based NGO which specializes in watershed development, and Prof. B. K. Joshi, ex- Vice-Chancellor, Kumaon University are also members of the Board.

## Organizational Structure



## The Team

### Malavika Chauhan : Executive Director



Malavika completed a Ph.D. in Wetlands Ecology in 1994 from the Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, following which she worked with the WWF-India programme, Wetlands International – South Asia and the Institute for Economic Growth, Delhi. She completed a DST Young Scientist post-doctorate on wetland restoration at Keoladeo National Park, Bharatpur, Rajasthan, and was also a GEF fellow to the East Anglia University, U.K. in environmental economics, and a Fulbrighter with the USGS - NWRC in Lafayette, Louisiana. Malavika was also an SRTT fellow at the Institute of Social and Economic Growth, Bangalore where she designed and led an economic valuation study of the Cauvery floodplains. Her work experience ranges from conservation ecology, environmental economics and management. She has consulted extensively, including for the WB, ADB, WWF-I and various state government programmes. She has worked in several states in India, and has visited or worked in over 14 countries. Her publications include the authorship of books, over 50 scientific publications and several general interest articles. Malavika joined Himmotthan in 2007 as the Executive Director, and is also a Deputy Development Manager at the Sir Ratan Tata Trust, Mumbai.

### Yashpal Singh Bisht: Coordinator, Natural Resource Management



Yashpal completed his M.Sc. in Environmental Science from the G.B. Pant University of Agriculture and Technology at Pantnagar and a Ph.D. on the beautiful and inaccessible Nanda Devi National park which includes the spectacular Valley of Flowers in the upper reaches of the Himalayas. He studied resource and energy use patterns of the local inhabitants, focusing on the increasing impacts of human intrusion. Yashpal spent nine years at CHIRAG, a reknowned NGO in the Kumaon region of the state which works on natural resource management and other social issues. He then moved to the SPWD (a Delhi based NGO) and by 2004 had joined the ongoing IFAD project in Uttarakhand. After three years he joined Himmotthan in 2007, and initiated the 'Integrated Fodder and Livestock Development Project', which developed the independent concept of integrating NGO activities, local community work and government programmes into one holistic effort. His area of interest continues to be the utilization of the 'Commons' – the vast common lands available to our rural communities, and the integrated management and utilization of commons products. Yashpals strengths lie in his vast understanding of the region, the players and in project strategy development. Yashpal is Coordinator, Natural Resource Management at Himmotthan.

### Vinod Kothari : Coordinator, Monitoring and Evaluation



Vinod is a resident of Dehradun and spent his youth in the queen of hill stations, Mussoorie. He has an abiding interest and understanding of issues which plague rural communities and retard development. With a M.Sc. in Statistics, he then completed his PGDBA from IMT, Gaziabad in 1996, Vinod has extensive experience in both, the development and private sectors. He initially worked with Ace Laboratories and Care India in Delhi. With a wish to return to Uttarakhand and to cultivate his core interest in rural issues he joined AT India, one of the largest NGOs in the state, where he was the managing director of a community owned enterprise, mainly focused on organic commodities. He also worked with the Directorate of Sericulture. In 2006 Vinod joined the Sir Ratan Tata Trust programme team at Mumbai, and was deputed to Himmotthan. Today Vinod manages the extensive grant and WATSAN portfolio of the Trust in Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh, and also focuses on market interventions and related activities. Vinod holds the position of an Assistant Development Manager at the Sir Ratan Tata Trust, Mumbai.

### Rajendra S. Koshyari - Project Associate (Integrated Fodder and Livestock Development Project)



With a Ph.D. in Forestry from Kumaun University, Nainital Rajendra moved into research where he focused on forestry and rural development. His research experiences spans work with World Bank and Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) sponsored projects. He taught at the Postgraduate level at Kumaun University and spent several years in rural action research projects on horticulture, livestock, agriculture, Natural Resource Management based livelihoods; formation and strengthening of Community Based Organisations (CBOs) and PRIs; and marketing and technology dissemination for livelihood promotion of poor. Rajender continued on to work in various management positions at the International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD) assisted Aajeevika Project in Chamoli district; Livelihood Improvement Project in CHEA, a Nainital based NGO, and Center for Development Studies (CDS) - the Uttarakhand Academy of Administration, Nainital. Currently he looks after the IFLDP project in Himmotthan, and is a strong field person and excellent communicator.

**Diwakar Purohit : Project (Field) Assistant  
(Integrated Fodder and Livestock Development Project)**



With an MA in Sociology Diwakar moved into rural development, focusing upon community mobilization and development. He has extensive experience in group and federation formation and strengthening, baseline development and participatory approaches, having worked with the Jakheshwar Sikshan Sansthan, Gopeshwar as a Block Coordinator on the IFAD assisted Aajeevika Project, and Coordinator with the Swyam Siddha project in Joshimath, Chamoli. His strength in field based programme management, networking with the government departments and partner organizations, and personal communication has contributed significantly to the success of Himmotthan's work in the remote border district of Chamoli in the upper Himalayas.

**Mohd. Shareef : Finance and Administrative Officer**



Shareef completed his Masters in Commerce from Kumoun University in 1999, and started his career with a World Bank Project – the “Diversified Agricultural Support Project” at the District Coordination Unit, Nainital as an Accounts Officer. In November 2004 he moved to the “Uttarakhand Livelihoods Improvement Project for the Himalayas (ULIPH)” at the State Office at Dehradun, as a Finance and Administration Officer. This project was being funded by the International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD) and was implemented by the “Uttarakhand Gramya Vikas Samiti” under the Rural Development Department of the Government of Uttarakhand, Dehradun. Shareef received his MBA in Finance, from Sikkim Manipal University in 2008. In 2009 he joined Himmotthan as 'Finance and Administration Officer', and now handles all programmatic finances and accounts. Shareef has a continuing interest in learning in his field, at the same time has a good understanding of local rural issues which makes his contributions in project design extremely important.

**Nirmal Harbola : Project Associate (Himalayan Nettle Project)**



Nirmal received his Masters in Sociology from Kumaun University, Almora. He had started his career as an entrepreneur in the development sector in 1984, when he established an Angora rabbit rearing cum wool production farm at Chitai village, Almora. Over the next eight years he worked on developing a cottage based industry for Angora wool production, and refined techniques for inbreeding Angora rabbits, rearing, wool collection, product development, natural dying and

marketing. He also developed techniques for wool grading, carding and spinning of Angora wool. Since 1994 Nirmal began working for various NGOs and Government Projects in India and Nepal as a Consultant on natural and animal fibers, finally starting his own Consultancy service in 1998. He worked with OKO Himal an Austrian INGO, working in Nepal, and coordinated a German angora development program. He also developed techniques for developing Himalayan Nettle (Allo) ranging from raising to production and export marketing. This was done in collaboration with rural SHGs at the Makalu Varun conservation area, Nepal. Nirmal also worked as a Regional Manager for the World Bank supported 'Multipurpose Household Survey' for 29 cities in Kumaon. Nirmal joined Himmotthan in 2009 and is currently handling a Himalayan Nettle project in the state.

#### Dinesh Chandra Singh Negi : Data Base Officer



Dinesh is a Masters in Computer Science and also holds an MCA. He has further specialized in computer programming. Dinesh began his professional life as a faculty at APTECH Education in 2000, and worked there for five years following which he joined the Decentralized Watershed Development Project (UWDP), SWAJAL – Uttarakhand, funded by World Bank as DPA, in 2006. He has also worked with the IFAD funded Aajeevika programme. As an IT Professional Dinesh has principally worked on solution architecture, data management strategies and desktop/web based MIS development. Each project he has worked on has had its own set of challenges, mainly concerning the management of large volumes of primary field data. He has developed user/organization specific software for the analysis of field data. He joined the Himmotthan Society in 2009, and since then has set up an internal primary data based MIS system, and designed the organizations core database. As Data Base Officer his work is crucial to maintaining the systematic flow of data and monitoring systems of various projects.

#### Anil Kumar: Office Assistant



Anil started his professional career as a Field Assistant at the 'Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology', Dehradun, in 1988. He assisted in many scientific expeditions with which he travelled extensively across the higher Himalayan ranges right through Ladakh, Kashmir, the Pin-Parvati valley and the Great Himalayan National Park in Himachal. He also visited the Karakoram ranges to assist in scientific studies at the Institute. After 16 years with the Institute he joined the Peoples Science Institute, Dehradun, (PSI) as an Office Assistant in 2003. In 2006, he was deputed to work with the Himmottan team by PSI, and in

2009 he joined Himmotthan full time, as an Office Assistant. Anil manages the office and is an astonishingly excellent people's person. Of the scientists from across the state who visit Himmotthan, a surprising number seem to have known him and depended upon him at some point of time. His extensive travels and knowledge of places and people is regularly tapped into by the entire Himmotthan team. His primary hobby continues to be travelling in the mountains.

Sapna Jarial, Project Associate at the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), Delhi (On a collaborative project on fodder research with Himmotthan)



Sapna Jarial has Masters and Doctorate degrees in Dairy Extension Management from the National Dairy Research Institute, Karnal, India. A former DAAD fellow at the Department of Resource Economics, Humboldt University, Berlin, she has over four years of research experience in rural extension and communication, natural resource management, documentation, rural livelihoods, and the monitoring and evaluation of various governmental, non-governmental and corporate programmes. She is experienced in planning, organizing and conducting field research and surveys on livelihood issues at various levels. Her research interests include rural extension and communication, indigenous technical knowledge, dairy and natural resource management. She is currently working as a Project Scientist on the Tata-ILRI programme in Uttarakhand.

# **Voluntary Disclosures**

## **Governance:**

None of the Governing board members are related to each other or related to any of the senior salaried staff by blood or by marriage.

None of the Governing Board members have received any salary, consultancy or other remunerations from Himmothan. Travel costs, as per actual tickets submitted that were budgeted into projects, were however reimbursed.

The Governing Board has met on the following dates –

1. In 2008-09 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2008 and 21<sup>st</sup> March 2009
2. In 2009-10 on 08 September 2009

## **Travel:**

No international travel was incurred.

Travel was incurred only as budgeted in project heads No travel costs were incurred for any other reason.

## **Our Statutory Auditor:**

K.W. JAIN & Co., Chartered Accountants

Pritam Castle, Clock Tower, Dehra Dun 248 001, Uttarakhand, INDIA

## **Our Bank:**

Indian Overseas Bank, Kanwli Branch, 305 Phase II, Vasant Vihar, Dehradun 248006, Uttarakhand

## **Society Registration Details**

The Himmothan Society is a registered under the Indian Societies Registration Act, 1860.

The Registration No. is 78/2007-2008 Dated 22/12/2007

Society PAN No. AAATH6935K

Society TAN No. MRTH00788E

Details of Registration under the Sections 12A and 80G of the Income Tax Act, 1961

Section 12A granted since 25/09/2008; 40(117/Dehradun/2008-9/10768)

Section 80G is granted since 8/10 /2008; S.No. 19(52) Dehradun/ 2007-08/ 11261

# Finance

## HIMMOTTHAN SOCIETY

(Registered u/s Society Act 1860)

Regd. Office : 22, Vasant Vihar, Phase I, Dehradun, Uttarakhand

Present Address: 65, Vasant Vihar, Dehradun, Uttarakhand Ph. 0135 2760728, Fax 0135 2761796

### Balance Sheet

As on 31st March'2010

S. No.	Particulars	Sch. No.	As at 31st March '2010		As at 31st March'2009	
			Amount	T. Amount	Amount	T. Amount
<b>A. SOURCES OF FUNDS</b>						
I	FIXED ASSETS CAPITAL FUND	A		540,097		NIL
II	DEPRECIATION FUND			NIL		79,063
III	GENERAL FUND	B		569,713		250,477
IV	GRANT FUND (UNUTILISED GRANTS)	C		10,167,256		8,214,991
V	CURRENT LIABILITIES & PROVISIONS	D		84,399		156,429
	<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>11,361,465</b>		<b>8,700,960</b>
<b>B APPLICATION OF FUNDS</b>						
I	FIXED ASSETS (NET BLOCK)	E		540,097		155,480
II	INVESTMENTS	F		4,197,793		-
III	CURRENT ASSETS, LOANS & ADVANCES	G		6,623,575		8,545,480
	<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>11,361,465</b>		<b>8,700,960</b>

Significant Accounting Policies & Notes on Accounts as per Schedule - O

Chairman

Certified in terms of our separate report of even date.

For K. W. Jain & Co.  
Chartered Accountants

Secretary/ Executive Director

For K. W. Jain & Co.  
Chartered Accountants

Treasurer



(Alok Kumar Jain)

Proprietor

Membership No. # 70088

FRN No. 000247C

Finance and Admin. Officer

Dated : 27.07.2010

Place : DEHRADUN









## *Green Mountain*

*“You ask me why I live on Green Mountain?  
I smile in silence and the quiet mind.  
Peach petals blow on mountain streams.  
To earths and skies beyond humankind.”*

*Li Bai*