



HIMMOTTHAN

(An Associate Organisation of the Tata Trusts)

ANNUAL REPORT 2014-15

FOCUS

- Remote regions of the state/ isolated villages
- SC/ST/BPL villages and areas
- Small land holdings
- Issues to mitigate women's drudgery and increase their earnings

In the News!



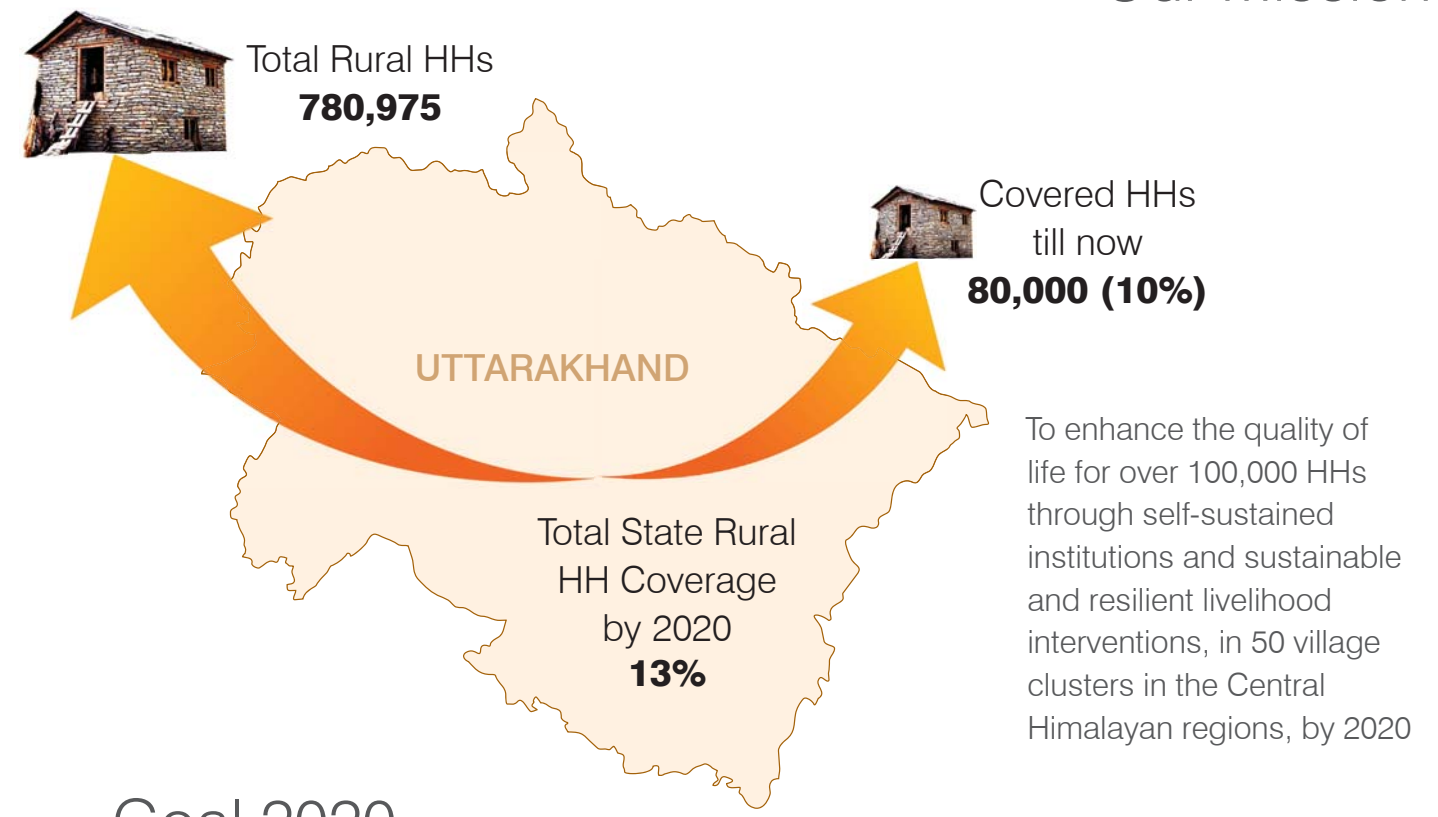
Once again in 2014-15, Vinod Kothari and Rajendra Koshyari participated in the Standard Chartered Mumbai Half Marathon, held on January 18, 2015. Among the Himmotthan as well the Trusts team participants, Vinod came first with a timing of an hour and 53 minutes.



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Our Mission



Goal 2020

- Outreach to 90,000 households
- 100% access to drinking water
- 2700, predominantly women focused village institutions
- 100% sanitation
- 60 community run, vibrant federations
- Primary education reach in all locations
- 1 State Level Producer Company
- 70% increase in agricultural productivity
- Rs 45,000 / HH / YR income increase
- Alternate energy provision in each village for lighting and cooking

Foreword

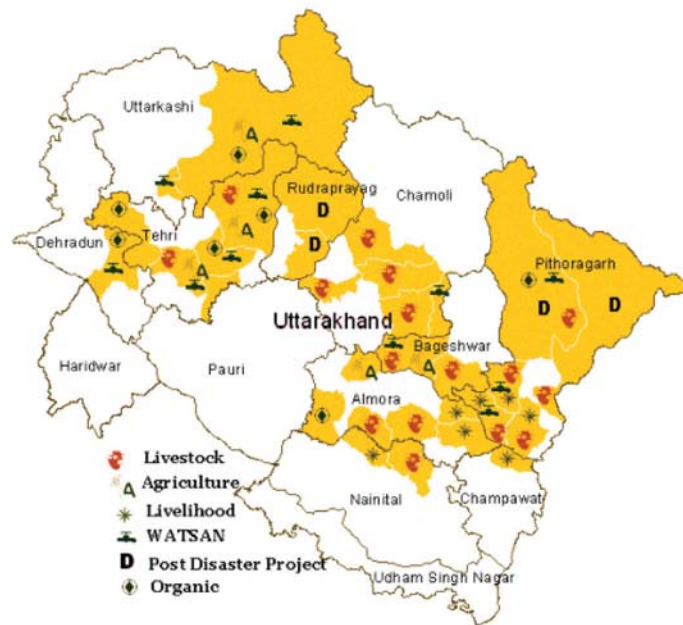
Himmotthan's work in Uttarakhand completed eight years this March. With the passage of time we have seen many changes in the way we work. In the expanse of the programmes, in the depth of activities, in the ways in which we reach individual beneficiaries, in the increasing sophistication of the field trainings, monitoring systems and data documentation and in constantly changing thought processes. What has, however, remained the same has been the core vision of rural development through the building up of community-based enterprises. How we achieve this, how we make it sustainable and how we monitor it are necessarily areas of constant discussion and modification.

A new aspect that we are now integrating across our projects has been an outfall of the year 2013. The horrendous disaster in that year which struck across Uttarakhand, and which echoes in various forms and shapes every year up and down her slopes and valleys during the monsoons, brought to fore one of the most important elements of rural life in the youngest mountain range of the world – Risk. It takes but a single dislodged keystone to bring down a slope, taking with itself livestock, homes, roads and human life. Landslides shift drinking water sources by miles, fills agricultural lands with stone and rubble, destroys grazing lands and grassy meadows and, makes the very land under one's feet shift. Some of this is natural, much is brought about by construction activities, but also, increasingly and more often, landslides are triggered by heavy and persistent rainfall events. Changing rainfall patterns across the mountains show larger volumes of precipitation over shorter periods, which increases the risk of land slips and rockfalls. In terms of incomes, the loss of a single road connection means the loss of connectivity to the market, pile up and loss of local produce, loss of several months' direct earnings and the loss of regular market-based jobs, earnings and labour. The fact that most of the disasters happen during peak earning months compounds the losses. As had happened in the Kedarnath valley.

Much of our work now, therefore, focuses on post-disaster rehabilitation of livelihoods, trying to build risk-tolerant local income sources, which are yet linked to local and regional markets to give a decent, ecologically and economically sustainable income. Himmotthan received donations and funding from various individuals, organizations and companies post the 2013 disaster, which are being used across five village clusters in about 100 disaster-struck villages. In these villages, women's groups have been organized which have initiated enterprises, individuals who suffered losses are being economically rehabilitated, and through group meetings, discussions and decisions, are being brought into a community-supported system.

In a topography as difficult as that in the State, working on the ground in villages often a several hours walk from the road up steep paths, is not something done well alone. The work done by our programme is supported strongly on the ground by numerous partner organizations, individuals, village community leaders, research agencies and universities, governmental departments and officials, and technical experts from different fields. The results are a combined effort of all and are sustained eventually by the enthusiasm and encouragement of the villagers, from whom we continue to learn. To all, our most grateful acknowledgements, and knowing that we will, with this strength, continue to build upon this network of friends and supporters.

Where we work



26 Blocks with *Integrated Village* clusters across 9 districts in Uttarakhand

Mountainous: 93%

Area under forest: 65%

Area under agriculture: 14%

Area under irrigation: 6%

UTTARAKHAND

- **Total Population:** 1.01 crore
- **Rural Vs Urban Population:** 70% vs 30%
- **Incidence of Poverty:** 40% (higher than national average of 32.7%)
- **Male-Female Ratio:** 960 females per 1,000 males

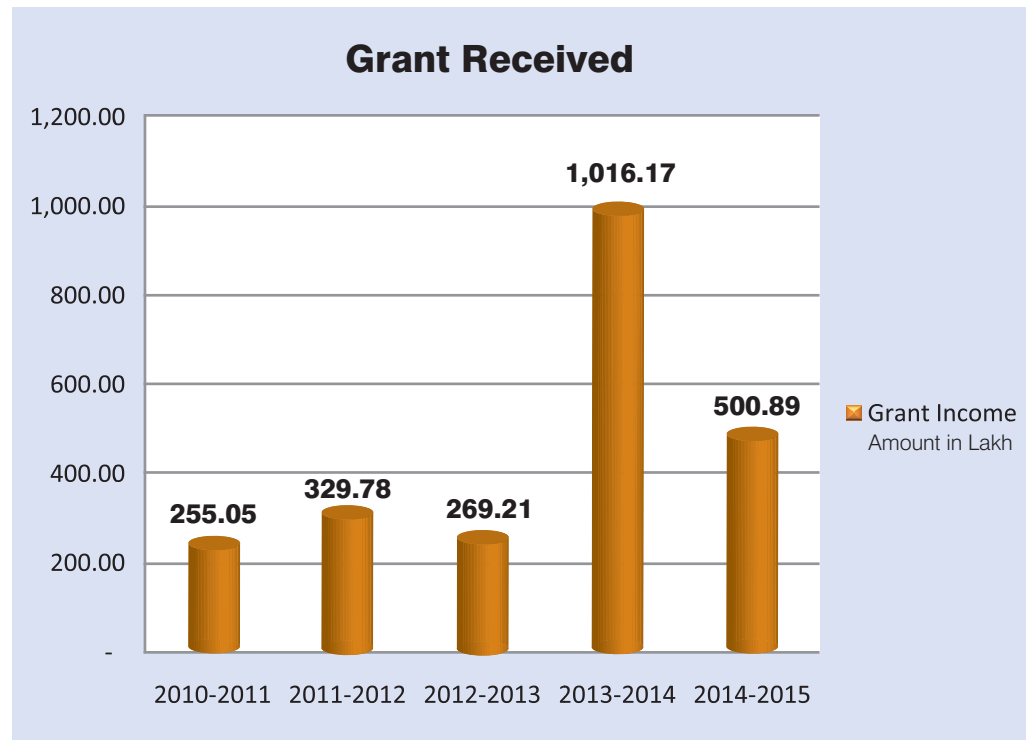
Achievements of 2014-15

- Six new Women's Federations were registered under the cooperative act in Kumaon. This takes Himmotthan's total women's federations to 20, of which 15 are registered under the Cooperative Act; five are yet to be registered.
- The 15 women's federations in the State running dairy businesses had an overall turnover of over Rs 2.4 crore in 2014-15 from the dairy business alone.
- 53 gravity drinking water schemes completed in 43 villages; 1,052 sanitation units completed and 202 Roof Rainwater Harvesting structures completed, in all benefiting over 2,118 households (of which 866 were SC/ST households).
- Roll out of post-disaster (2013) livelihood rehabilitation projects in over 100 villages across the five 2013 disaster impacted regions of the State with the support of the Tata Trusts, the Tata Relief Committee, TITAN, STAR TV Pvt Ltd Company, ISC Oman and many individual donors from across the world.
- Phase II of the scaled-up Tata Trusts backed Livelihood Initiative was rolled out across over 1,000 villages, comprising 1 lakh households in 9 mountain districts.
- A new primary education programme initiated on a pilot basis.
- Himmotthan's strategy for the next five years – Vision 2020, was finalized.

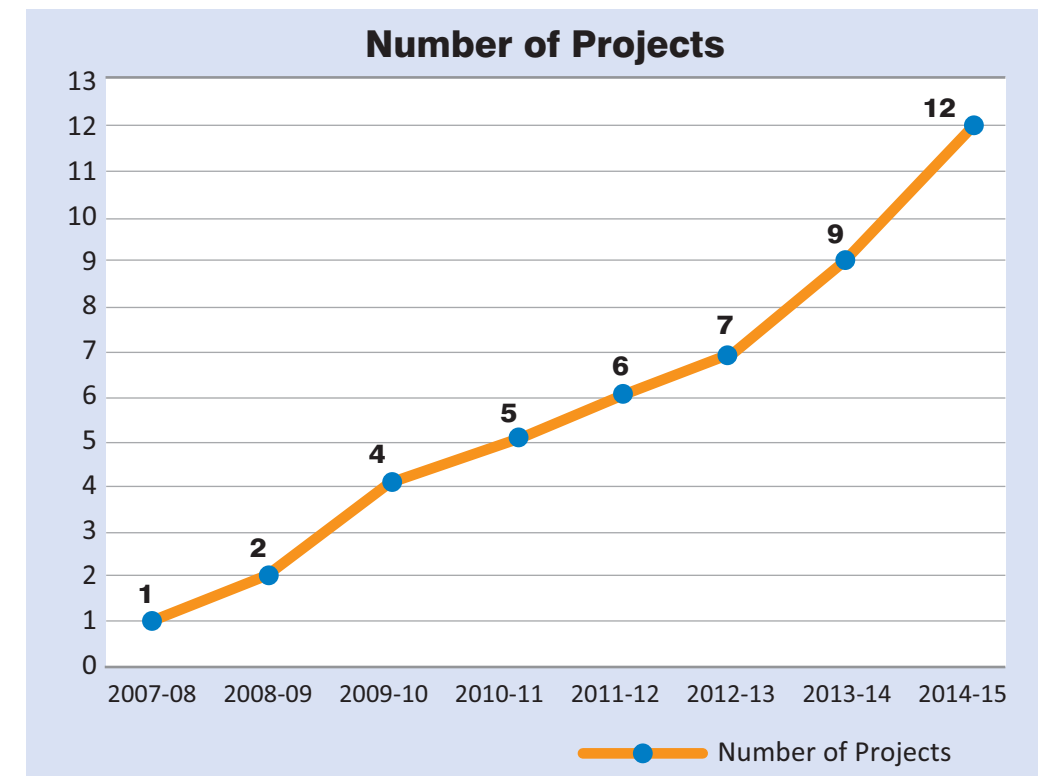


Journey Till Now...

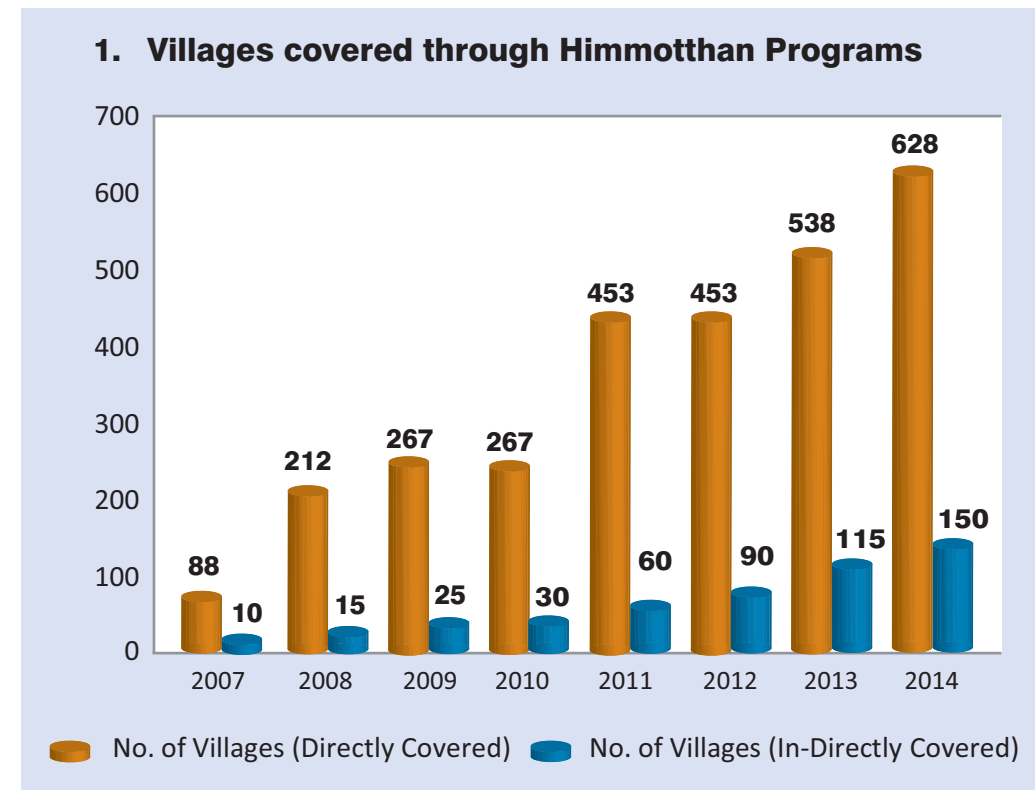
In a journey, it is how the path is travelled which is more important than the final destination. The step-by-step movement, interactions and support systems built enroute are what ensure growth. Here we reflect growth through the growth in understanding of existing and changing ground realities, an understanding of the possibilities which will be acceptable and sustainable, and, as a consequence, a growth and the consequent spread of acceptance and adoption of practices and technologies. Our journey over the past few years is, therefore, presented in a series of graphs which give a visual description of the programmes' growth across the State.



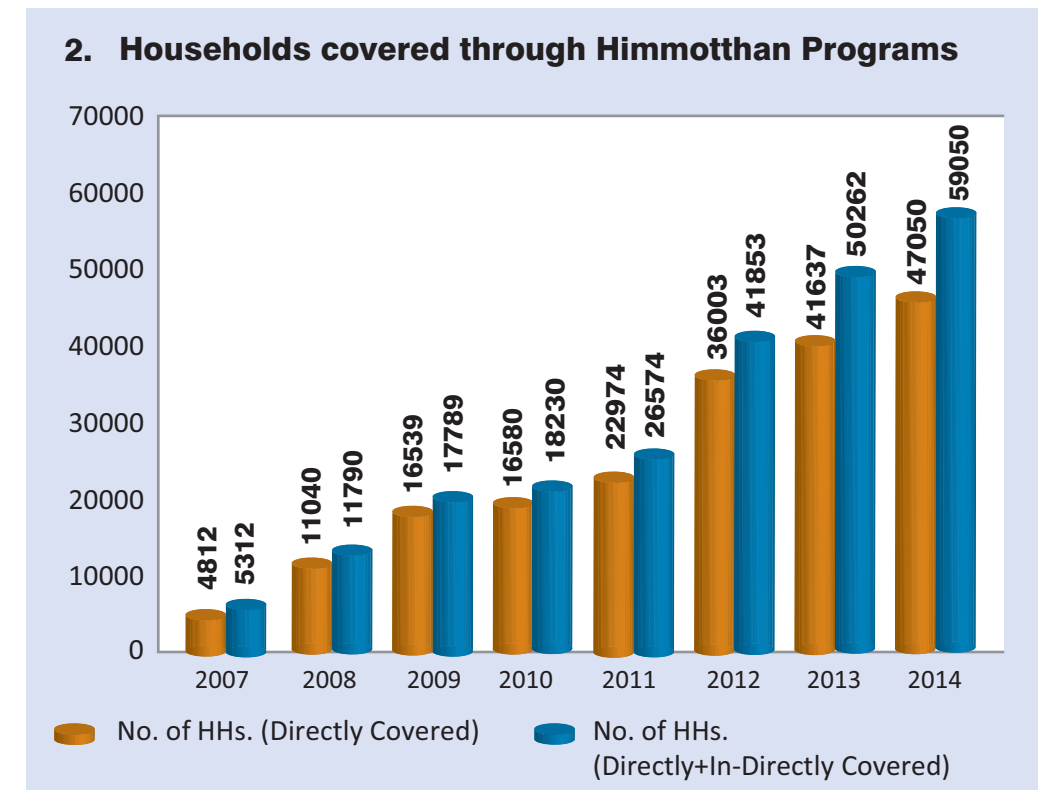
Funds received by Himmotthan over the past five years highlight the anomaly of 2013-14, caused by the disaster which struck Uttarakhand that year. It was precipitated by an inflow of funds from individuals, organizations and corporates towards relief and rehabilitation activities, much of which came in one-time grants, rather than, as we usually receive, in six monthly or more installments over a period of several years. This caused the spike in the graph, which otherwise shows a slower, but steady, growth in annual programmatic funds.



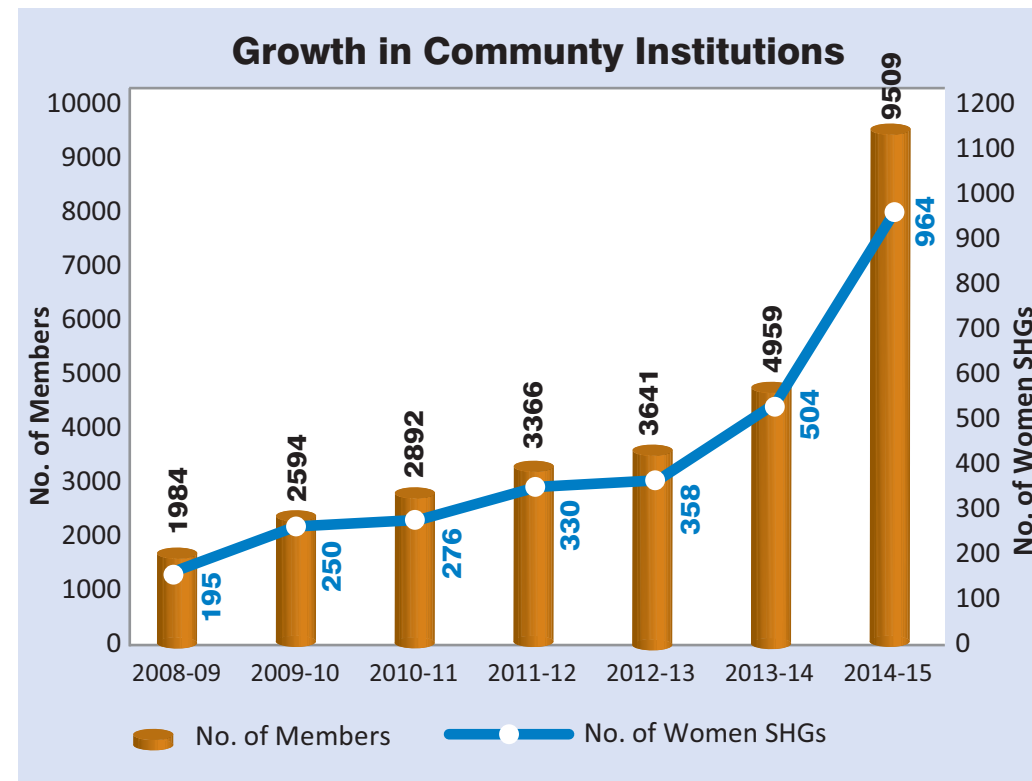
Collaborative increase in the number of projects being run by Himmotthan, along with an increasing programmatic spread across the State is reaching an increasing number of beneficiaries, is shown in figures 1 & 2 below.



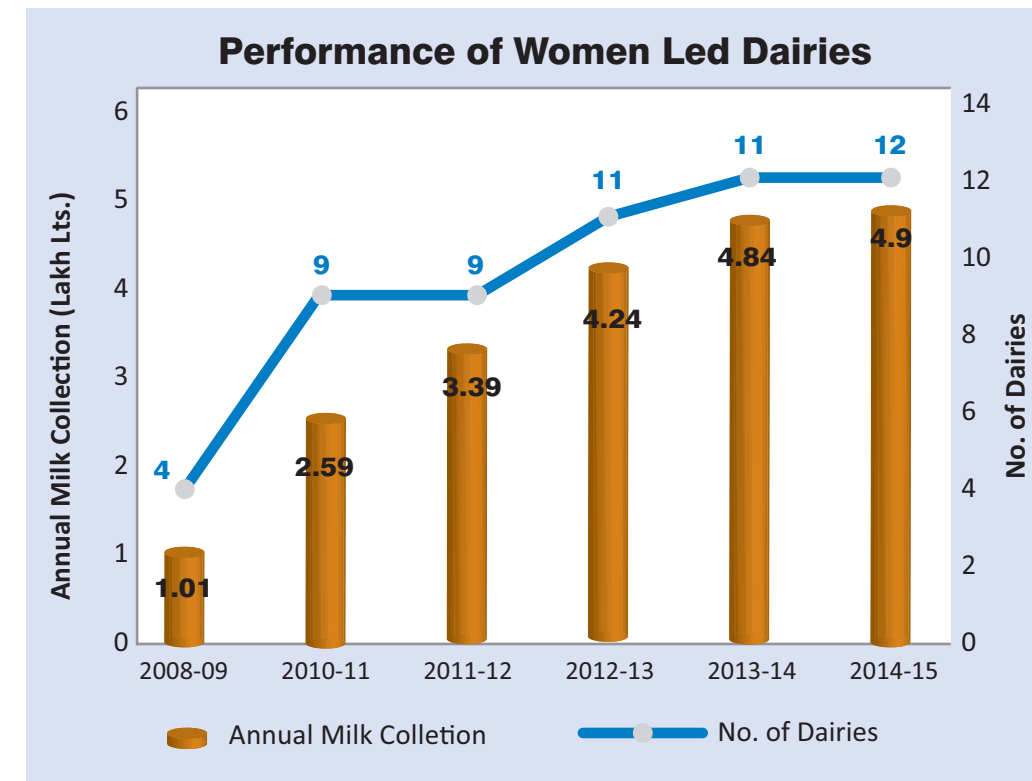
These figures also indicate the three-year cycles which projects follow, which result in the similarity of three consecutive bars, and the jump in number of households in the next programmatic phase, which would scale up previous projects and pilots.



The current total number of households covered by Himmotthan is above 60,000, with a total number of about 3 lakh beneficiaries covered by the programme under its different activities. All direct beneficiaries of the programme are part of village community institutions, in this case largely women's Self Help Groups (SHGs). Currently, over 950 women's SHGs have been established and are active under 30 community-run Federations, all of which are actively engaged in programme-supported livelihood activities.



Another example of a specific indicator for programmatic growth is given by a very focused activity in one of Himmotthan's flagship programmes, the livestock and dairy project. In this programme, which is now in its sixth year, the annual milk collection and sale has crossed 4.9 lakh litres annually, under 12 very active Dairy Federations run by the women's groups. Support to the project is in fodder and feed, breed improvement, veterinary support systems, risk mitigation and animal management systems.



In our programme on water and sanitation, which has been ongoing under the Himmothan Pariyojana banner since 2004, the total number of villages where drinking water has been delivered at the doorstep is 176, reaching over 58,000 individuals. Sanitation facilities were created for 4,160 households. Overall, over 8,500 families till date have benefited from a programme of hygiene and the increased quality of life and health drinking water systems. It has also brought to fore collaborative efforts on part of the villages to maintain these systems, and increasingly, a push towards alternate options, including a solar pumping system for drinking water provision and rainwater harvesting.

The above results of this programme must be seen in context of the mountain ecosystems in which the activities take place. In such an environment, working without the support of local communities, organizations, government departments, local and regional experts and institutions would not allow for real growth. It is a large partnership of institutions, organizations and supporters and the belief and trust of local communities which allows for the steady growth of our work.

The Programmes

Background

Life in the rural Central Himalayan region is predominantly labour intensive, as habitations lie mainly between altitudes ranging from 500 to 3500 metres, characterized by steep slopes, varying elevations and the lack of a road network. Villagers depend largely on non-mechanized agriculture and naturally available resources to meet day-to-day needs. The out-migration of men, and often whole families, for employment and children's education is slowly but surely making the villages empty. Himmothan was initially launched in 2001 to address such core issues of this region, as the Tata Trusts' central Himalayan programme (called the Himmothan Pariyojana) in a sustainable manner.

In taking forward the Tata Trusts programme in the State, the Himmothan Society's engagements include working as a resource agency for the government, not-for-profit agencies and other stakeholders; promoting and incubating new ideas for increasing outreach, extension and incomes of rural populations; working as a knowledge hub – conducting and disseminating research to guide field and policy action; and, promoting networking and collaborations in the rural development sector in the State. On the ground since 2007, Himmothan is now working in nine mountain districts, in over 600 villages, in programmes in community institution-building, enterprise development, natural resource use and management, water and sanitation, agriculture, education and energy. These areas of work are complemented by in-house research, information systems and knowledge generation.

It has been seen with time that although most projects are largely successful in complementing the quality of life of beneficiary households, long-term self-sufficiency continues to be an issue in the more remote and defuse village clusters of the mountains. Keeping this in view, Himmothan's strategy has, over the years, been consolidated to focus on specific village clusters with programmatic and thematic integration. Developing robust community institutions is the central core of the strategy. A Micro-Finance

programme was initiated two years ago in the existing programme areas to promote sustainable community institutions and enterprise development by making available credit and loan facilities through bank linkages and sustained handholding. Similarly, the Elementary Education portfolio of the Trust is bringing in thematic integration within select integrated clusters. More focused projects would be initiated next year.

As a result, all Himmotthan projects now focus on clusters of villages. The focus on enterprise development means sourcing critical product volumes for financial sustainability of a value chain and to ensure larger impact at the field level. On the basis of geographical spread of villages and partner organization locations, Himmotthan has identified 30 clusters of villages where projects overlap. In the coming year, the number of clusters under integrated projects will increase and engagement further deepened with communities to impact holistically at the household level.

In many areas of the State, particularly in regions which are topographically difficult, viable partner organizations are lacking. This came to fore, in particular, post the disaster which struck several regions of the State in 2013. In such areas, Himmotthan has moved towards setting up its own field offices. As of today, Himmotthan has five field offices, including in three disaster-hit regions, two regional offices covering the Central (Chamoli) and Eastern (Almora) parts of the State and a main office in Dehradun which also covers the western part of Uttarakhand. In all, over 35 staff now are part of the Himmotthan team.

The Process



Year 1 Pre-planning

- Community mobilisation
- Baseline impact indicators
- Team building
- Community institution development



Year 2-4 Scaling up

- System development
- Technical inputs
- Productivity enhancement
- Asset building
- Initiation of enterprises



Year 5-6 Exit planning

- Strengthening of institutions
- Linkage development
- Economic viability
- Benefit sharing mechanism
- Service providers
- Handing over assets



Progress in 2014-15

Communities and Micro-Finance

In high risk regions – like those defined by the mountain districts of Uttarakhand where landslides can cut off villages from the mainland markets and administrative systems for weeks if not months at a time – it is necessary for local communities to own enterprises, activities and programmes to sustain them over time. This remains the core principle underlying all activities carried out by Himmotthan, a fundamental approach to develop community institutional identity, strengthening them to an extent that they can run enterprises independently. Himmotthan's Micro-Finance Project is a cross cutting initiative across all major projects and focuses on mobilizing and skilling the community in managing, leading and developing enterprises and income sources. In the livestock and fodder project, the agriculture projects, goatery programme and various natural resource projects community mobilization activities, training in finance management, organizational systems, etc., is carried out. The main objective of this initiative is to strengthen village-level groups specifically through focused activities in micro-finance, and bank linkages are established to promote different livelihood activities.

The journey of community institutional development in Tata Trusts-backed villages in Uttarakhand started with the formation the initiation of the Trusts work in Uttarakhand, in 2001, with work in villages on natural resource management, forestry, organic agriculture, drinking water and sanitation and other areas of need. In 2011-12, however, a consolidation of various Self Help Groups (SHGs) across the State under various projects began. In 2014-15, a systematic training component for the various groups and their consolidate organizations, the federations and cooperatives, began. This brought under a single umbrella the organizations location-wise and this is now the basis for a future plan for State-wide consolidation of organizations. All SHGs under Himmotthan programmes were trained on the basic concept of village-level groups,

Total SHG Accounts 2014-15

Total SHG savings till
now: **Rs 1.25 Crore**

Cumulative Inter-
loaning: **Rs 2 Crore**

Income generated by
Federations:
Rs 84 Lakh

Bank Credits for SHGs:
Rs 5 Lakh

group management, book-keeping, financial management, leadership development, etc. In 2011, Himmotthan started the Micro Finance Initiative formally in two clusters. By then, around 400 groups had been formed and were showing improvement in overall management and in developing a support mechanism for village women. Women were collecting small amount of funds in every meeting, inter-loaning had started and many experienced a positive change in their lifestyle after starting small income-generation activities through loans taken from these groups.

So far, we have been able to facilitate the formation and strengthening of 938 SHGs, comprising of 9,712 members. Himmotthan's integrated approach in livelihood interventions has begun to show results on the ground. Numerous households have taken loans from their SHGs to purchase livestock, seeds, for running shops, providing a better education to their children, dealing with health issues and, in general, improving the standard of living of their family.

By March 2015, 30 Federations (which when registered are Cooperatives under the Act) were formed under various Himmotthan Initiatives. Most of these Federations / Cooperatives have ongoing enterprises owned and run by the women. Enterprises variously under different programmes may be dairy, cattle feed units, product distribution units, farmer community facility centres, vegetable production, etc. At the same time, Himmotthan is in process of linking its SHGs and Federations with the State Rural Livelihood Mission by training the groups on SRLM compliances. A linkage with the banks for credit facility has also been established for some of our groups and approximately Rs 5 lakh have been credited as loan for different income-generation activities.



Water and Sanitation

In 2014-15, 43 villages completed their final stages of the Water and Sanitation (WATSAN) implementation, taking the total number of WATSAN villages in Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh to 133. The project builds upon the basics – better hygiene and water security and links directly to the Tata Trusts' vision of clean drinking water for all. Projects are implemented through village-based Water and Sanitation Management Societies. Geo-hydrological mapping and augmentation of spring sources is a mandatory part of the programme as all projects are based on the tapping of natural springs. They are the sole source of drinking water in these mountain regions.

Due to changes in precipitation patterns, as well as anthropogenic impacts, the discharge from springs has been declining at several locations, adversely affecting health and livelihoods. Depleted springs can, however, be revived in most cases. Participatory approaches towards spring-shed revival, rooted in hydrogeology, have been demonstrated in our projects. The discharge from springs can be established, augmented and managed collectively by empowered communities.

In 2014-15, 52 gravity-fed water schemes, 1,052 sanitation units and 202 Roof Rainwater Harvesting Tanks were completed, benefiting 2,089 Households, out of which 866 Households belong to SCs/STs. For these items to be completed, the project was started three



years ago and these items reached completion individually and in stages. Himmotthan is now working on a plan for another 300 villages under WaSH, which will be part of an integrated approach, and this would be completed in another three years.

Case Study: Moving Gawana Village towards an improved quality of life

Each morning, before dawn, Sangeeta and a group of women from the tiny 32-household Gawana village in Tehri Garhwal, trek a steep and arduous 3 kms to the nearest water source. A better part of their lives is spent fetching water. Once back, Sangeeta would send her daughter, Kiran, to fetch more water, while she prepared food and completed other chores. Kiran was usually late for school as she not only had to fetch water, but also helped her mother with chores around the home. On top of which, she suffered often from diarrhea and stomach pain. The situation was worse during summer as the usual water source would dry up and they had to arrange for drinking water to be delivered on mule back from further away. Despite the daily drudgery, Sangeeta still dreamt of a life with dignity – a simple dream with hope for change in their abysmal standard of living.

Sangeeta is a rare person, a dreamer and a doer. Seeking a way out of the problem of fetching water from far-off sources, she submitted a proposal through a local NGO, the HIHT (Himalayan Institute and Hospital Trust), to Himmotthan. After some initial indecisiveness, the community realised that the solution lay in their own hands and it called for unity and confidence. The village proposal was considered by Himmotthan, but during initial visits women did not come forward during discussions. In time, however, they gained enough confidence to discuss issues with project staff. Geeta, a resident of the village, says, "Before Himmotthan, we were known as somebody's wife or mother, but now we have our own identity and the community refers to us by our individual names. Himmotthan helped us find a voice." Her pride in this achievements is evident.

Low cost Bio-sand Filter (BSF)

Currently are being developed in Pachaad block, Himachal Pradesh, through a partners organization named SATHI. This is a low cost technology for water purification, around 60 BSFs were constructed. This initiative was awarded by Government of HP.

Despite initial setbacks (including the exceptional rainfall incident in 2013), the community worked hard with the project team to achieve their dream. Together they constructed a gravity water supply scheme for the main village tok (hamlet), and helped set up 11 Rainwater Harvesting Tanks for scattered Households across the village, where taking a gravity pipeline was not feasible. Further, the village attained 100-per cent Open Defecation Free status, following the construction and use of toilets in all homes. Today, after completion of the project, water is available at their doorstep and they have access to improved sanitary facilities. Gawana village is free from 'open defecation' and the community is well-versed in personal and domestic hygiene and environmental sanitation issues. The village has also constructed check dams and planted various species of plants under the geohydrology-based 'catchment area protection scheme' to ensure the protection and sustainability of their water source. The village has also appointed a Maintenance Worker, who collects a monthly tariff from all households, carries out the chlorination and takes care of preventive and curative maintenance, ensuring availability of sustainable drinking water. Women devote the time that they save in fetching water to agricultural and animal husbandry activities to generate some extra income, or simply in spending more time with their children and in relaxing and conversation. Kiran now attends her classes regularly and is aware of personal and domestic hygiene. Her health is much better and she is able to concentrate more on her studies.

Sangeeta's world has changed for the better and so has that of the other villagers. Based on the analyses of technical, physical and social work done under project, the villagers are confident that their scheme is sustainable even beyond the expected design period of 20 years.

Agriculture

Agriculture continues to be the core component of livelihoods of households in rural Uttarakhand, with 100 per cent of rural households carrying out at least sustenance level agriculture. Traditional agriculture systems, however, are unable to produce food for a family for more than six months in a family farm. Which is why agriculture in the mountains must necessarily be integrated with other livelihood activities to give a family enough income to grow in a sustainable manner. Agriculture is, therefore, a major component of Himmotthan's on-farm activities. It is also a part of several different, integrated projects at a number of locations across the State. Moreover, activities focus upon various important aspects of mountain agriculture, including diversification, strengthening of community institutions, mechanization, drudgery reduction, value-addition technologies and market linkages. All activities are backed by stringent research and testing of new concepts.

A part of the ongoing agriculture activities are integrated in the 'Natural Resource based Livelihood Project' (NRLP), following an initial household level need assessment, in villages in Kumaon. The project has piloted a variety of technologies which are under active usage (polyhouses, irrigation options, etc.). Learning from this, in 2013 Himmotthan further initiated the "Maximizing Mountain Agriculture



Project (MMAF)" in 32 villages across five clusters of four districts, in partnership with four grassroots organizations. The project aims at increasing productivity of selected crops using safe, sustainable and economically viable agricultural technologies. In the first year, enormous effort was put in to establish project concepts and to convince farmers to try improved techniques, seeds, farm mechanization and other new ideas. First year's results, rather than in production volumes, were largely in the increasingly enthusiastic involvement of farmers (women and men) and communities.

In 2014-15, production results began to come in. Witnessing the improved quality of production along with a steady increase in yields and incomes, more and more farmers now want to be part of the project. We now have more land for demonstration, more farmer groups and, importantly, a strong networking with local organizations, government departments, research centres and, ultimately, with the community.



A look at the numbers: 14 new high yielding varieties of selected crops were demonstrated in farmers' fields while adopting appropriate scientific practices. The results are very promising as yields were recorded at 1.25 to 2 times higher from various, introduced varieties. Farmers, who earlier found simple row sowing difficult, are now learning and adjusting to time-bound fertilization, pest and disease identification, timely irrigation and a variety of scientific agriculture practices which are new to them.

Over 70 Self Help Producer Groups were formed and federated under five cluster-level Federations for collective marketing. Seed, the availability of which limits agricultural growth in the State, is now being produced in select 'Seed Villages'. Seed production has been initiated mainly for three crops (paddy, wheat and onion) and seed is now being marketed to the Uttarakhand Seeds and Tarai Development Corporation (UK Seeds and TDC) by community Federations. Farmer's Common Facility Centres (or, farmer information centres, or FICs) have been established in each of the five clusters and are actively operative.

Our agriculture Advisor, Dr H S Rewal, has been a constant guide, teacher and strength for our agriculture team, pushing them to achieve these results which have, in general till now, been considered impossible for mountain communities to achieve, considering the fragmented and small land holdings. The lack of information or access to technical know-how and non-availability of critical inputs are a further barrier. The team has now developed a strong field monitoring and technical guidance system, and is fluent in those small and critical issues which ultimately decide the fate of agriculture in the mountains. In the year, all the agriculture clusters showed a clear jump in crop production and, therefore, increase in farmer income.

Next year will be crucial for the Agriculture team as they will be introducing a new set of improved varieties of seeds and scaling the use of scientific methods and technologies for cultivating crops in these village clusters. Simultaneously, crops will be promoted specifically for seed production, agro-processing and for strengthening community institutions in initiating the marketing of produce.

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS: SUCCESSFUL PILOTS/ INNOVATIONS

- ✓ Shift from the local wheat variety to VL Piyaz 3 in Uttarkashi resulted in an increased income from Rs 90,000 to Rs 3 lakh per ha. Storage of onion bulbs for next year's seed production is ongoing (presently unavailable for long day

onion seed in the country). This variety was developed by VPKAS for the region in 1991 and had not been promoted by any agency in the State.

- ✓ High yielding Basmati variety, Pusa 1509, was identified as suitable for high valleys. It yielded more than 50 qtl/ha in a short span of three months (July to September). This experiment has now been taken up by the State and is being replicated to a large extent by the State Agriculture Department and externally funded agencies (IFAD).
- ✓ Seed production (an urgent requirement) for cereals crops in the Rabi and Kharif seasons has been taken up and quality seed – 17 quintals of wheat and 68 quintal paddy, were supplied to the UK seeds and to the Tarai Seed Development Corporation Ltd (UK Seeds & TDC). During the current quarter, 32 quintals of quality seed of improved paddy varieties was supplied to TDC.

MAJOR OUTPUTS & CHALLENGES

- The present dual-purpose wheat variety succumbed to yellow rust, therefore trials were conducted to replace it with another high yielding, local variety VL-907, which yielded 30 qtl/ ha of green fodder during the lean period (January) and 35 qtl/ ha grain along with 35 qtl/ ha straw at harvesting. This will be replicated at scale in the forthcoming Rabi season.
- Arkel was the only preferred variety for off-season pea crops by communities. Three options – VL-10, VL-11 and PB-89 – have been tested in the field and found suitable. The seed of PB-89 is readily available and has an added advantage that it can be harvested in one picking, in comparison to Arkel which requires three pickings. This is being offered as an option.
- Farm mechanisation, such as the use of power tillers, paddy thrashers, wheat thrashers and wheat-paddy harvesters, was introduced with the support of the

State Agriculture Department. Project farmers have readily adopted to their use, and this is an area in which much more push is required.

- Providing irrigation facilities at the crucial growth stages to crops is a major challenge, and is a major reason for low production in the mountains.
- Farmers are ready to adopt line sowing but no R&D institution has yet devised a farmer-friendly hill-specific seed drill as yet.
- Availability of quality seed of high yielding varieties is still a major challenge.

Case Study: **The Villagers of Gairy Village : Gifts of Tomatoes**

As a result of project interventions, in some villages, farmers have started cultivating cash crops, replacing traditional cereals. On the distribution of improved vegetable and spice seeds, a significant increase in production was recorded. In Gairy, a small village (23 households) in Gram Panchayat Gwenada, Barakot block of Champawat district, villagers replaced vegetables grown in the kharif season with tomato. GRAS, a partner organization in the valley, discussed the idea of growing tomato as commercial trial crop with 9 SHG farmers over about 10 Nalis (0.2 ha) in 2013. As there was no irrigation possible, it was decided to grow a rainy season variety. Anupama and Lyco varieties were selected and grown, following soil testing and other preparatory measures. GRAS arranged trainings in transplantation and regular sprays. Monitoring visits were made to protect the crop from pests. Necessary inputs (fertilizers/micro-nutrients) based on soil reports were given following the advice of experts.



Table: **Tomato cultivation in Gairy Village**

Number of Farmers	No of seedlings planted	Area (Nali)	Production (kg)	Loss/ Self use/ distributed to fellow villagers (kg)	Sale (kg)	Rate (Rs)	Amount (Rs)
9	6,015	10	3,320	1,345	1,975	18	35,500

Villagers were quite happy with the results as, till now, they had been cultivating maada or wheat in these fields. It was for the first time that the fields had generated a cash income. However, according to our agriculture Advisor, under ideal conditions the production should have crossed 36-46 qtl from the cropped area. A sizable quantity of the crop was damaged while handling and because of a disease (late blight) due to excessive rain that year. Encouraged with the success, farmers offered gift of tomatoes to fellow villagers and relatives as part of their local custom.

Case Study: **Bachi Singh, a changed farmer**

Bachi Singh, who lives in the Jyolikhet village in the distant Gangolihat block of Pithoragarh district, was a traditional farmer. He got involved in our NRLP programme in 2012-13, which was introduced to him by RISE, a local partner organization in the area. As part of the project, he visited several agriculture institutes and attended various technical trainings. He took quickly to some of the scientific methods of cultivation and has experimented with improved varieties of cereals and planted fruit trees on the bunds and corners of his fields. He now knows and prefers improved varieties of vegetable crops as they fetch a good price. His income from his half hectare of land



has begun to bring him about Rs 1.2 lakh/ year, which he considers amazing. He now intends to increase the area under vegetable cultivation, wants to do something about storing water for the lean season and to using it more efficiently, and to construct a polyhouse for off-season vegetables. His last year's income from his field is given below:

Items	Production (q)	Sale @/kg	Income (Rs)
Radish	4	15	6,000
Cauliflower	1	12	1,200
Bean	0.5	25	1,250
Tomato	12	25	30,000
Squash Marrow	2	20	4,000
Potato	6	8	4,800
Ginger	8	80	64,000
Turmeric	20	20	4,000
Coriander	0.3	50	1,500
Garlic	0.5	40	2,000
Mango	10	20	2,000
Total	64.3	315	120,750

Livestock and Fodder

Two types of livestock management systems are found in the Central Himalayan region, sedentary and transhumance. This distinction has evolved over time, with large herds maintained jointly by communities in the upper reaches. As these herds could number up to several hundred heads at a time, the animals had to be moved to newer pastures on a regular basis. Sedentary livestock systems usually are based in individual household level management of livestock – a single household has a few cattle or goats and manages them locally. But, both systems have been heavily dependent upon the natural resources of the region.



The concentration of population across this zone of the Himalayas and heavy dependence of livestock on the forest resources brings about different challenges to the livestock sector. The availability of fodder and feed across different seasons, immunization and health care of animals, coupled by the challenges associated with the marketing options available both for milk, milk products and meat, are some of the immediate challenges faced while addressing the livestock sector, along with issues of the genetic diversity associated with livestock. Himmotthan's livestock-based interventions have in the initial years focused on easing the biotic pressure by promoting semi-stall feeding practices. To ensure the availability of green

fodder, Integrated Fodder and Livestock Development Project (IFLDP) was initiated. Napier, *Auns* grass and fodder tree species' plantation has been taken up in a big way, around 1,887 ha has been covered under plantation on common land and around 2,734 ha for intercultural operation. To address the dry fodder requirement, Total Mesh Ration (TMR) was taken up with the technical assistance of International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI). The first unit has been established in Raigarh cluster. The unit is producing TMR for cattle, goats & poultry needs. The input requirement of the TMR unit is also being sourced locally, thus providing a ready market for low grade and waste material of cereals and pulses.



The IFLD Project has brought under its ambit more than 5,400 women members from 250 villages, organised into 504 Self Help Groups and federated into 16 Federations. Twelve micro dairies are being operated by these Federations and more than 19.65 lakh litres of milk has been sold by them. In total, the Federations have done a business of more than Rs 539.8 lakh. Two animals feed units and one ayurvedic livestock medicine unit has been set up. A total of 30 Para Vets have been trained so far and 15 of them are being actively supported in various cluster areas. More than 12,000 artificial inseminations have been done and more than 38,000 animals have been treated in more than 420 animal health camps.

Case study 3: Kamlesh Kumar – towards self-employment

Kamlesh Kumar's house is 15 km from the main road (Khairna-Garampani) at Siltona village, in Nainital district. He is a graduate and was earlier serving in a private company at Haldwani, but was not able to generate sufficient resources to fulfil his needs. A Natural Resource based Livelihood Project (NRLP) was initiated in his village by Himmatthan in 2013, in partnership with CHIRAG. In fact, it was his mother who introduced him to the CHIRAG team who informed him about various project interventions, specifically about livestock based activities and the importance of breeding in livestock development and the role of Para workers. He was motivated by the team to become a Paravet to generate a continuous source of income, along with chance of building a reputable position in his and adjacent villages. The project assisted him to take a four month training from the Uttarakhand Livestock Development Board (ULDB) as a Paravet. He was trained on Artificial Insemination (AI), animal health, breeding techniques, livestock insurance, livestock breeds, etc. In January 2014, he start working as a Para Vet in Siltona cluster. Initially, he was getting very few cases for artificial insemination. But after continuous efforts of the project on raising awareness of communities about better breeds and on the importance of livestock rearing and management, the number of cases increased gradually.

So far he has done 271 cases of AI, treated 665 animals and motivated 8 farmers for purchase of improved livestock breed and getting them insured. As a result, 30 milch cattle were insured in the cluster villages. Initially, he was earning



Rs 500-800 a month. Now however, he has made a total earning of Rs 90,000, which comes to approximately Rs 64,000 per annum. Apart from this, he has regularly been providing consultation services to the community. Efforts of the project towards government liaisoning have resulted in helping Kamlesh establish a good network with the officials of the Animal Husbandry Department. He is now a motivation for local farmers and livestock rearers. Kamlesh is happy with his work and very satisfied with the reception he is getting in the village as the local Para Vet. The idea of breed improvement and livestock management as a potential source of income generation, which earlier did not even exist in the area, has now become an attractive and skill-based profession. Farmers from remote villages regularly invite him for his skill and the services he can provide. His involvement with the project now motivates other local youth to try their hand at such services.

The Post-Disaster Rehabilitation Activities



Flash floods and landslides in June 2013, set off by extreme rainfall over a period of several days in Uttarakhand, led to unprecedented damage and destruction in the State. After the initial relief and recovery stage, Himmothan initiated “Uttarakhand Post-Disaster Livelihood Programme”, supported by the Tata Uttarakhand Program and ‘Saath Hain Hum – Uttarakhand Livelihood Initiative’ supported by STAR TV. The programme aims at restoring the livelihoods of 10,000 disaster-affected households in 95 villages of Rudraprayag, Uttarkashi, Chamoli and Pithoragarh districts. The focus of the programme is on rebuilding livelihoods through on-farm as well as off-farm activities.

The programme seeks to improve the quality of life of impacted and vulnerable communities by enhancing the income of small and marginal families and by strengthening producer (community) based institutions to manage micro-enterprises in a sustainable manner.

These programmes encapsulate several activities under the following major focus areas:

1. Formation and strengthening of community institutions.
2. Skill enhancement of the community for entrepreneurship development.
3. Enhance livestock production and set up livestock-based enterprises.

4. Promotion of spices, vegetables, pulses and aromatic herb-based enterprises.
5. Support to distressed families while focusing on women drudgery reduction.

The following table presents the demographic information of the clusters:

Cluster	Villages	Households covered	SC	ST	OBC
Kalimath	11	816	115	0	1
Chandrapuri	19	1470	286	0	155
Didsari	10	1439	215	9	1119
Toli	8	1568	360	90	487
Walthi	15	642	102	18	520
Tharali	19	1710	285	0	106
Guptkashi	13	1496	241	0	19
Total	95	9141	1604	117	2407

Implementing Organisations

- SBMA in Didsari, Uttarkashi
- APAAR in Toli, Dharchula
- CHIRAG in Walthi, Munsiyari.
- SANKALP in Tharali, Chamoli
- Himmothan in Chandrapuri, Guptkashi and Kalimath clusters of Rudraprayag.

Activities

- Fodder Plantation on 86 hectare of common and private land, 9 Nurseries with 23,000 root stocks and 28,000 plants.
- Construction of 16 cattle sheds, 7 biogas plants, 24 goat sheds, 3 brooder units and 26 backyard poultries
- 20 improved cows and 158 goats provided to beneficiaries moving for livestock enterprises
- 14 youth are trained and have started functioning as local service providers for livestock and agriculture
- Field survey is on to start the dairy enterprise up to May 2015. Poultry units will be in function from March 2015.
- Farmers earned more than Rs 1.6 lakh from vegetable and spices nurseries and cultivation of vegetable and spices in 5.5 hectare of land. Maintenance of 10 ha of old orchards
- Preparations are on for Kharif season cultivation of spices and vegetable
- Testing of 105 soil samples, with the support of Tata Chemicals Limited, and introduction of improved tools like power tillers, brush cutters etc., for farm mechanization and drudgery reduction.

Outcomes of Year 1

Over the last year, the project has covered considerable ground, covering over 3,280 households in the 95 impacted villages. A total of 2,899 women are associated with the 263 Self Help Groups, which will be consolidated in 7 Federations, out of which two Federations are in place. A total savings of Rs 2,151,750 has been collected. Programmatic focus is on developing both individual and group-based enterprises. The following are the achievements of the past year.

Enhance livestock production and establish micro dairies

- 60 improved cattle sheds and 35 goat sheds constructed.
- 39 improved cows and 236 goats provided as part of breed improvement.
- Fodder plantation on 96 ha of common and private land.
- 7 youth trained as Para Vets.
- 7 brooder units and 63 backyard poultries constructed and established.
- 10 biogas plants constructed.

Promotion of spices, vegetables, pulses and aromatic herb-based enterprises

- Promotion of high value crops.
- 22 ha area covered under vegetables and spices cultivation by providing support irrigation.
- 25 vegetable and spice nurseries established with polyhouses.
- 25 polyhouses established.
- 21 drip Irrigation systems established in fields.
- 14 ha of old orchards maintained.

Skill enhancement of the community for entrepreneurship development

- Technical trainings conducted by external resource persons for vegetable and spice production.
- Support to 30 distress families by giving them flour mills, knitting machines, and by developing a Garhwali and Kumauni band.
- 7 power tillers, brush cutters introduced.

UPCOMING MICRO-ENTERPRISES

- Micro-dairies to be established in all 7 clusters.
- Cattle and goat feed units.
- Federations to be set up in all clusters.
- Support to distress families – blacksmith units renovation, establishing Garhwali/Kumauni bands, flour mills, knitting units, etc.
- Processing and value addition units to be installed in 4 districts.
- Common marketing centres to be set up in all clusters.

The Natural Resource Based Livelihoods Programme

Uttarakhand comprises 70 per cent forest land. The livelihoods of rural communities living in far-flung mountain areas depend, to a large extent, upon the productivity of available natural resources, mainly forests, agricultural land and livestock. In the past, village populations were lower and these resources almost completely sustained the lives and livelihoods of dependent rural communities. However, with time, as populations as well as aspirations have grown, it has become increasingly difficult for rural communities to sustain their livelihoods from only the naturally low production resource-based systems in which they live.

The result of these ongoing changes in demography and economic systems is now increasingly visible across the mountains of the State. Farmer's interest in agriculture and allied activities is rapidly declining, and out-migration has left many villages bare, and others with a skeleton population of women, children and elderly. To create socially, ecologically and economically balanced communities in the mountains therefore, it is necessary to enhance the productivity of available natural resources through scientific and technological interventions, and to link them to viable, sustainable and economically profitable business enterprises, which benefit from connectivity with the outside world markets.

With this in mind, in 2013 we started a project



called the 'Natural Resource base Livelihood Project' in 74 villages across six village clusters in four districts of the State, in partnership with six grassroots organizations. The project primarily aimed at improving productivity of available natural resources through scientific and technological interventions and converting them into community-led business enterprises.

To sensitize the villagers on the programme's ideology and aim, and to make the process participatory, the project was initiated by a range of meetings with village-level institutions such as Gram Panchayats, Van Panchayats and Mahila Mangal Dals. Strong linkages with government departments were established simultaneously to support project interventions.

The first year had considerable achievements in the form of increased area under support irrigation, community-led micro-dairies and community facility centres, increased population of improved breed milch cattle, substantial plantation of improved variety fodder grasses, well trained/ informed farmers on scientific practices of agricultural production, trained Para Vets to provide animal health services and 190 women-based SHGs and six Federations which have been registered under the Self Reliant Cooperative Act. The focus was on strengthening supporting components of value chains for enhanced production. For example, to strengthen agricultural production in cluster villages, the first step was to increase the area under support irrigation. Once the irrigation structures were laid down, farmers were trained on scientific practices of vegetable and/ or spice cultivation through the help of qualified resource persons. Better quality planting material/ seeds and marketing facilities were provided to the farmers simultaneously by establishing CFCs in the village project clusters. A similar approach was followed to strengthen the productivity of other components.

The year 2014-15 has been fruitful as project interventions have resulted in impressive outcomes. An increase of 31 per cent in the vegetables and spices production was recorded and this was mainly because of increased area under support irrigation and

Formation of 02 Federations and 162 SHGs (as per NRLM guidelines), with saving and inter-lending of Rs 573,000. Process of formation of another 5 federations is ongoing.

Proposals of Rs 5,000,000 sanctioned under convergence with MNREGA for 2014-15



the adoption of scientific practices of crop cultivation. This increase in production enhanced the income of farmers from 1.5 to 2.5 times. These impressive outcomes have provided enough impetus to the farmers to increase the area under off-season vegetable and spices cultivation. The impact was indeed a huge one, as few of the farmers have started cultivating land that was left unused before project implementation. In clusters where micro-dairies were established, the number of improved breed milch cattle increased substantially and this resulted in increased milk production. Farmers engaged in dairy business earned an annual income ranging from Rs 6,688 to Rs 18,972. In addition to ensuring better livestock health, the occupation of Para Vet was found to be an attractive and remunerative one for the local unemployed youth. Para Vets earned a monthly income ranging from Rs 4,000 to

Rs 8,000 across the clusters. The plantation of fodder grasses and tree species on common and private land has resulted in 15 per cent increase in fodder availability in the project clusters. In addition to providing much required input material and marketing facility to the farmers, the community facility centers (CFCs) established in all the project clusters have obtained a net profit ranging from Rs 9,029 to Rs 106,487. The Federations in some of the clusters have distributed to their members a handsome share of the profit. In one of the clusters, continuous efforts resulted in a food-processing unit that earned a profit of Rs 40,000 for the Federation during the year through processing local fruits into jam, juice and pickle. Furthermore, with the help of Uttarakhand Seeds and Tarai Development Corporation, seed production was initiated in two of the project clusters.

The most important outcome is that the farmer's interest in agriculture and its allied activities has been regenerated in the project clusters. Now farmers in the project clusters are much more aware about the fact that substantial livelihood benefits can be gained by integration and productivity enhancement of the available natural resources. Since the business enterprises established in the project clusters are being managed effectively by women-based Federations, this intervention has also helped to bring the women of the project clusters into the forefront. It has also helped immensely in building entrepreneurship skills of the women in the region. The enthusiasm of Federation members can be judged by the fact that some of them have contributed land voluntarily for the construction of Federation's permanent office. In some clusters, the Federations have obtained substantial financial support from the MLAs/MPs of their area for the construction of their office.

These outcomes became possible mainly due to the collective actions of a range of dedicated actors. We sincerely appreciate the hard work, dedication and patience that the partner organizations and field staff have shown while implementing the programme. The support from external resource persons is of immense significance. They have provided almost a full-time guidance to the project staff, without which the present outcomes would not have been possible. Last but not the least, we thank the local community for the trust they showed in us.

A lot of work still has to be done to set up concrete examples for the sustainable development of these mountain ecosystems. The coming years will be crucial for us. In addition to improving the productivity of available natural resources, we have to explore options/ideas that could strengthen the established micro-business enterprises.

Other ongoing initiatives

Apart from the major initiatives which we have been taking forward over the past few years, Himmotthan teams have been piloting a few newer, different ideas, looking for ways to solve existing problems, or to raise newer, sustainable sources of income. From solar-powered water lifts to efficient water-powered mills or easier ways of rural marketing, no idea is too small or too difficult to try. A listing of the few which have shown potential, is given below:

TATA TEA, GAON CHALO INITIATIVE

In July 2011, Himmotthan and the Tata Global Beverages Ltd (TGBL) jointly started a rural tea marketing initiative, the 'Gaon Chalo' programme, in the State. Put

into operation through existing partner organizations, that began to work with Himmotthan's already existing SHGs and Federations on the ground to procure and sell Tata Tea, the programme is currently ongoing through two women Federations and 8 partner organizations. These together cover more than 1,200 villages in 20 development blocks, covering 8 districts of the State. More than 1,200 SHGs are involved in this business, which has extended beyond Himmotthan's traditional groups. The initiative has given employment to more than 80 local youth, while partner organizations and women's Federations involved have developed the programme into a long-term and sustainable business opportunity.

The programme was not without initial hiccups,



with TGBL having to spend time tweaking the kind of tea being sold in the region to suit local tastes. But, all in all, this has been a considerable achievement in that it is far removed from the usual natural resource-based projects being done by Himmotthan, does not involve physical labour on part of the beneficiary and provides a sustainable and instant supplementary income. The one negative of the project, however, is the fact that it is entirely based on outside inputs, which makes the income highly susceptible to the failure of transport systems, or the washing away of roads.

Achievements: By the end of 2014, the total sale of tea products through the Federations was 362,486 kg, worth over Rs 7 crore. Of this, the income of the Federations was Rs 30 lakh.

THE GOATERY PROJECT

Initiated in April 2013 and ongoing till 2016, a goat-based enterprise model, based on background work carried out in the field in association with the International Livestock Research Institute, is being carried out in 16 villages in 3 blocks of Pithoragarh district. The idea is to add to the income of goat rearing families through environmentally sustainable and farmer friendly goat management practices. This largely involves working with a fixed number of animals in a unit (usually 9 females and one buck) and the construction of a specifically designed pen to keep the animals in for part of the day. This reduces the time spent by the animals in free grazing, an issue often brought up by environmentalists and foresters with regard to the devastation of grazing lands by large population of goats. The animals supplied to the rearers are of a better breed and bucks are circulated amongst the rearers to keep inbreeding down to the minimum.



A total of 39 Goat User Groups (GUGs) with 459 members have been formed, and are linked up in 3 Federations. Regular saving and loaning processes are ongoing and the total savings of these groups was Rs 13.87 lakh, with an interloaned amount of Rs 21.14 lakh. Soft loans for improved quality goat rearing are a priority in these groups and was an activity initiated by the Federations themselves. Till March 2016, Rs 335,800 (at 4 per cent interest) was distributed to 34 goat rearers. At the same time, over 19 ha of land was brought under common land plantation by the GUGs and 45 enclosures were constructed for semi-stall feeding. A total of 10 buck rearers (which has specific requirements) were identified and 90 male kids were reared by them for future breed improvement.

Apart from these activities, 10 goat health camps were organized in the villages with the support of the State government veterinary department and ILRI, and a roughage based complete feed (i.e. TMR) unit was established in Raiagar cluster, Pithoragarh, with a technical support of ILRI. It is functioning well.

This project has been hugely successful from the rearer's point of view in many ways – it has reached out specifically to the poorest families amongst the weaker sections of village society and the landless, those who cannot afford to keep cattle. It also provides a ready source of cash income when required. Learnings from this pilot have already been replicated across other projects, specifically in the post disaster-impacted villages, where this has been hugely successful.

NATURAL TEXTILES: THE NETTLE FIBRE PROJECT

Over the past few years, Himmotthan has been working on the revival of the rapidly dying craft of making fibre and cloth out of the wild Himalayan Nettle plant, branded as 'Kandali'. Himmotthan facilitated the setting of the '*Jagriti Resha Utpadan Evam Vipadan Swayatt Sahakarita*', a local cooperative, which is working on building up a stock of fabric and designs, developing Himalayan Nettle as a sustainable eco-

textile. The community based cooperative consists of members from three blocks in Chamoli district (Joshimath, Dasoli and Ghat), and is working to create an enterprise based on the wild Himalayan, high altitude Nettle plant. Locally known as *bichhu booti*, for its strong sting, the plant grows wild in forest areas in the upper slopes of the border districts of Uttarakhand. The project currently involves over 435 households. The Self Reliant Cooperative (SRC) produces nettle products (shawls, stole, mufflers, tweeds, fabric and carpets) along with newer woollen products.

Products were showcased at two national-level exhibitions in Delhi and were well received, accumulating sales of over Rs 4.5 lakh. Customers appreciated efforts made towards reviving natural forest resources and, in the process, ensuring income to artisans as well. Based on recommendations from agencies and experts, the project is now expanding its work into the area of natural dyeing for its fibres, to allow the positioning of eco-friendly products from the Himalayas.

As part of this initiative, village women are encouraged to form Fiber Users Groups to sustainably manage the local fibre resource, and to produce yarn using eco-friendly practices. Profit from the sales of these products is distributed to the artisans, with a small portion going towards conservation of the local ecosystem. The coming year would focus more on natural dyes and scaling up on the loom products and market linkages.

Working in 27 villages, natural fiber collection above 10 tonnes was done as also





seed board casting of 260 kgs in 209 hectares. Overall sales of SRC was Rs 5 lakh (they have started sales from last year only). Overall benefit through SRC was up to Rs 11 lakh through other activities such as fiber collection, seed collection, ratting washing, carding of fiber, etc.

TAKING FORWARD SOLAR POWERED PROJECTS

Solar Powered schemes would be taken forward in the coming financial year to energize village-level small enterprises such as micro-irrigation support systems, spice grinding machines, milk cooling systems, etc.

TATA SWACH

To provide more livelihood opportunities to rural institutions, offline water purification systems, such as Tata Swach, were introduced recently on sale through the existing Federations on a cost basis. The Federations save about Rs 200 per unit. This is currently a pilot which is seen as providing an incentive on the product as well as on clean water.

Education

“There are no magic answers, no miraculous methods to overcome the problems we face, just the familiar ones: honest search for understanding, education, organization, action ... and the kind of commitment that will persist despite the temptations of disillusionment, despite many failures and only limited successes, inspired by the hope of a brighter future” (closing words from *‘Turning the Tide’* by Noam Chomsky). The only solution to sustain developmental activities and efforts towards the betterment of rural communities is sustained efforts and increasing the levels of education. Our teams continue to learn and explore the possibilities of reaching communities in ways that create long-term impact and, therefore, a programme in Education was initiated in 2013-14 with the prime objectives of (i) improving levels of learning from the Aaganwadi till class 5 in the first phase of the programme; (ii) increasing the role of technology in education through the introduction of laptops and audio-video visual mediums; and, (iii) increasing the role and involvement of the community and school management societies in improving the functioning of schools.

To kickstart the programme, a Small Grant Project was initiated in Bhilangana block of Tehri Garhwal, with the Mount Valley Development Association (MVDA), for building capacity of the organization to work in elementary education. It helped in taking the intervention beyond the preparatory phase as well as increasing the role and involvement of communities in improving the functioning of schools. Currently, MVDA operates in seven primary schools and more than 200 children are involved with this programme through Bal Panchayats and trainings on learning outcomes. Another initiative for “Supporting Bal Panchayats in Primary Schools of Disaster affected Communities in Tehri-Garhwal” was completed with support from the Dehradun-based Ann Mary School, which aimed at providing a space to the children of the government Primary School in Doni village, Tehri Garhwal, and communities though

a Bal Panchayat, where they could access information and know-how to make their school and education system better.

During the year, the Education team has provided trainings to teachers, developed curriculum and built leadership through the formation and strengthening of Bal Sangthans. These small interventions on the ground helped teams to understand ground realities, gaps and the many ways forward. In Uttarakhand, one in five children leave school without basic skills in math and reading (Hindi and English), according to the ASER (a nationwide survey on Primary Education conducted by PRATHAM) standards. This affects their future chances in life, holding them back from moving on to secondary schools. Elsewhere in other States, the last decade has seen millions of more children joining school, but those children aren't necessarily learning. About two lakh primary-school age children (Uttarakhand) are not able to read, write or count well enough to meet minimum learning standards, including boys and girls who have spent at least four years in school. This demographic is Himmotthan's target population for the future.

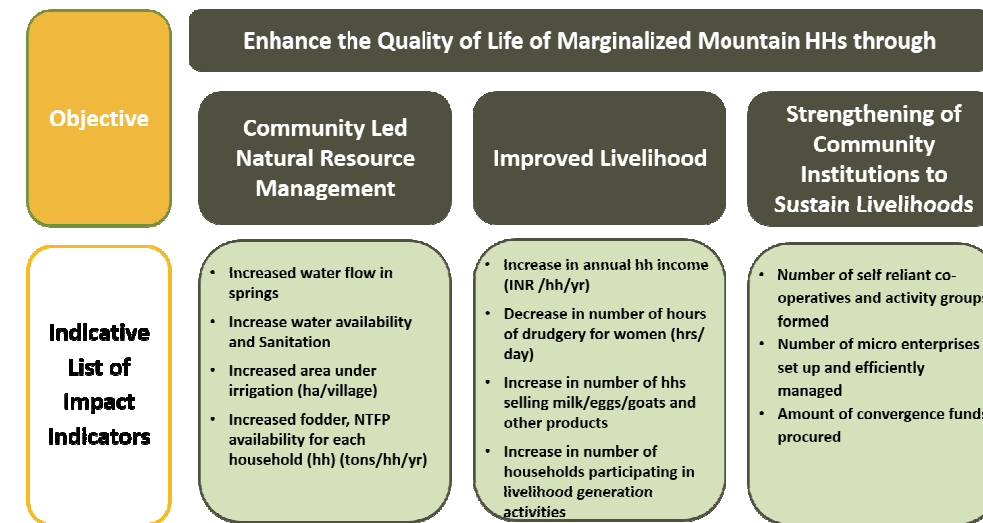
JOURNEY AHEAD

Following a background needs assessment of different locations involving schools and local organizations, an extensive exercise was carried out to develop a larger Education proposal along with local organizations, which then led to the development of a detailed Project Implementation Plan (PIP). The Plan focuses on the enhancement of quality of education for over 5,000 children through multiple partners by building life-skills, the use of technical innovations, English literacy, library interventions, and linkages with the SSA and Women and Child Development Department to fill the gaps in education, and involving the community in effective management of 65 primary and 20 pre-primary schools in 82 villages of 4 mountain districts (Bageshwar, Chamoli, Tehri and Nainital) by 2018.

Project Monitoring

Objectives and Impact Indicators

Objectives and Indicative List of Impact Indicators of the Program can be Summarized as:



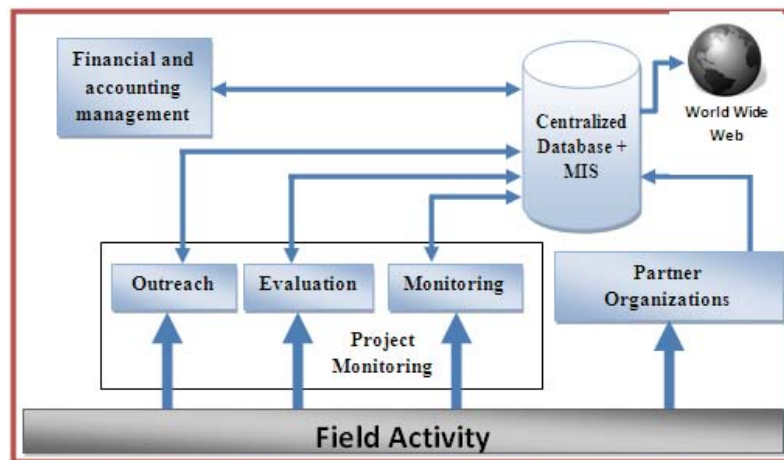
Program Management

MANAGEMENT OF INFORMATION

Himmotthan is working over a geographical area spanning two States, Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh, in the middle and upper central Himalayan region of the Indian Himalayas. Himmotthan has several rural development programmes which are implemented with the support of partner organizations responsible for on the ground trainings and various levels of monitoring. Community organizations further carry out self-monitoring exercises, although this is an area that needs to be strengthened in the near future. For Himmotthan, the monitoring of such a large number of activities across over 500 villages along with activities also carried out by partner NGOs (over 20 partner organizations) and community organizations, is not possible unless data received from different stakeholders has not been standardized into easily accessible formats. Furthermore, data on various indicators is expected by different funding agencies which support Himmotthan. An organization's success depends greatly upon its ability to get timely and accurate data on its operations, to

maintain a database and to base its future projects and activities on this data. This work is given priority at Himmotthan.

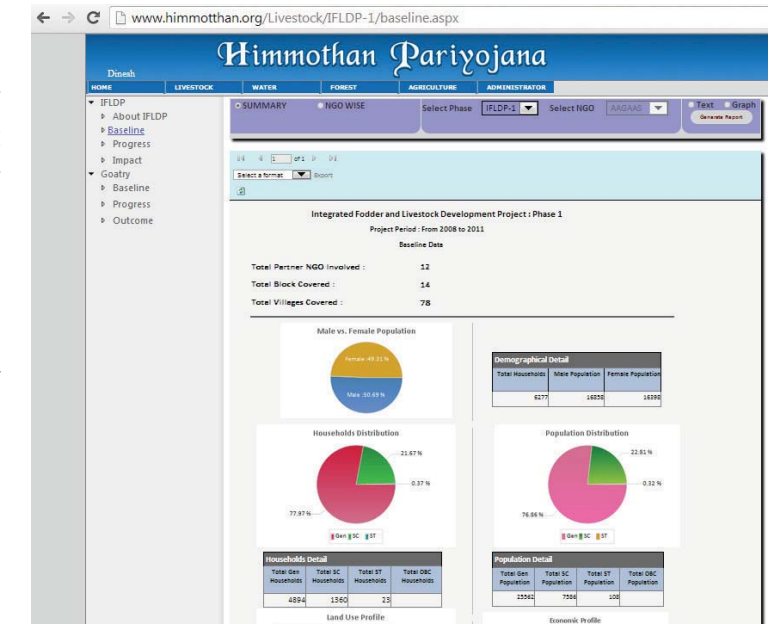
To cater to the information needs of an programme as wide spread as Himmotthan's, information systems had to be developed and deployed to gather and process data in a centralized database usable by partner organizations, decision makers and funding organizations alike. Himmotthan put together a team and started work on a centralized database in 2009,



Himmotthan's approach for Database management and Information dissemination

and over time this database has grown and changed considerably in tune with its growth in programmes as well as the larger data assimilative requirements of its parent organization, the Tata Trusts and other funding agencies.

Himmotthan currently has a web-based Management Information System, including a comprehensive GIS database for progress monitoring. The current system uses computer hardware and software, manual procedures, models for analysis planning, control and decision-making and a database with web-enabled interface to achieve these objectives. Using front-end and back-end web-based tools, it provides single-point information management, storage, querying and a retrieval interface for Himmotthan staff and stakeholders for handling all information traffic flow.



2014-15

To align the data and information needs of the Tata Trusts, along with that of other stakeholders, Himmotthan developed a new database module by using an SQL Server 2008 and technology from Microsoft (the Microsoft.net framework 3.5 – ASP.NET) to build this robust front-end tool. Both the database and web application were published on www.himmotthan.org and the web application is up and running successfully.

The new interface has been categorized in five themes (Livestock, Communities,

Water, Forest and Agriculture). Within these five themes, related projects have been detailed and the web application provides an online facility to update data.

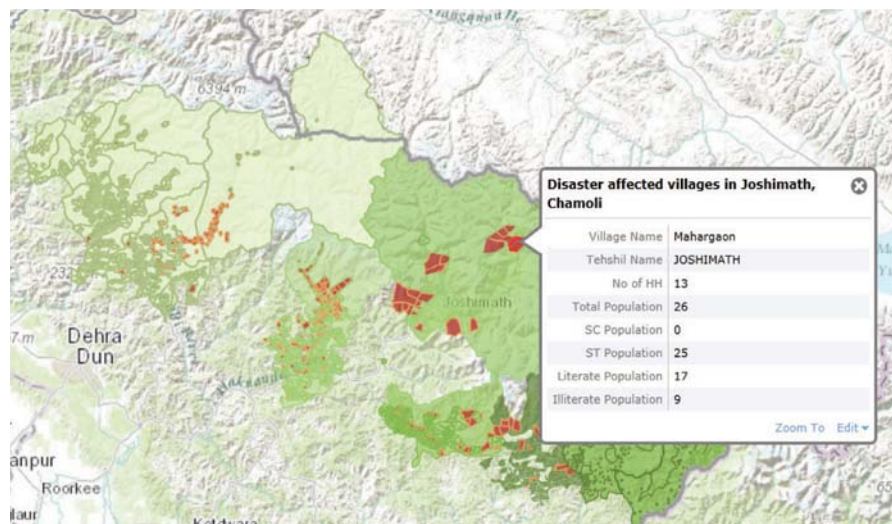
The facility further delivers the reports in the forms of text and graphs. Updating and inclusion of new projects with this online web application is an ongoing exercise.

Besides this, the current Himmotthan system also provides information on

independent components like the Uttarakhand Census Population (2011) of Uttarakhand, GIS maps of Himmotthan Project Clusters, interactive GIS map of disaster areas of Uttarakhand, amongst other data. Population and GIS maps are essential in strategic planning and the online availability of such resources ensures their availability for all ground-level stakeholders and Himmotthan's own team.

Consistent efforts to develop a robust information

system has helped us enormously in developing long-term strategic proposals, for example, the Central Himalayan Micro-finance, Education and Livestock Initiative, three large-scale post disaster rehabilitation projects, several water and sanitation projects, amongst many others. It has also provided a base in the formulation of project implementation plans for the next five years. Himmotthan's technical team continuously works towards developing responsive web-enabled systems integrated with GIS for real-time data collection and information dissemination.



Governance and Team

Our Governing Board

Chairperson Prof. B K Joshi,
Educationist and Ex Vice Chancellor,
Kumaon University

NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS OF THE HIMMOTTHAN SOCIETY DURING FY 2014-15

S.No.	Member's Name	Address	Designation	Occupation
1.	Dr. B.K. Joshi S/o (Late Suresh Chandra Joshi)	217, Indira Nagar, Phase 1, Dehradun, Uttarakhand	Chairman	Ex. Vice Chancellor, Kumaun University, Uttarakhand
2.	Dr. Ravi Chopra S/o Late Shri B.D. Chopra	252, Vasant Vihar, Phase 1, Dehradun, Uttarakhand	Member	Director, People Science Institute, Dehradun, Uttarakhand
3.	Shri. S.T.S. Lepcha S/o Late Shri D.T. Simick	D-1, Hathibarkala Estate, Survey of India, Dehradun, Uttarakhand	Member	APCCF, Planning and Financial Management, Forest Department, Govt. of Uttarakhand, Dehradun
4.	Shri. Arun Pandhi S/o Dr. Bhim S. Pandhi	10, Gandhi Road, PS Dhara Chawki, Dehradun, Uttarakhand	Member (ex-officio)	Chief Development Manager, Sir Ratan Tata Trust, Mumbai

5	Shri B. S. Taraporevala Sri S. Taraporevala)	Sir Ratan Tata Trust, Homi Mody Street, Bombay House, Mumbai	Member (ex-officio)	Chief Accountant and Secretary, Sir Ratan Tata Trust, Mumbai
6.	Dr. Rajesh Thadani S/o Late. Shri. N.T. Thadani	A-17, Mayfair Gardens, New Delhi, 110016	Treasurer	Forest and NRM Consultant, SRTT Mumbai
7.	Dr. Malavika Chauhan D/o Late Dr. P.P. Sah	H.No. 31, Lane 10, Ext. Mohit Nagar, Dehradun, Uttarakhand	Secretary (ex- officio)	Executive Director, Himnotthan Society

Our Partners

NGO	NGO/Organization NAME	Address
CHIRAG	Central Himalayan Rural Action Group (CHIRAG)	Central Himalayan Rural Action Group (CHIRAG), Orakhan, Simayal, Po- Nathuakhan, Nainital, Uttarakhand
HGVS	Himalayan Gram Vikas Samiti	Awalaghat Road Dasaithal (Gangolihat), Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand
HSS	Himalayan Sewa Samiti	Himalayan Sewa Samiti, Dharapani, Po- Chandak, Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand
INHERE	The institute of Himalayan Environmental Research and Education (INHERE)	Masi Bazar, Masi, Chaukhtia, Almora, Uttarakhand
JSS	Jakheshwar Sikshan Sansthan (JSS)	Jakheshwar Sikshan Sansthan (JSS), near petrol pump, Gopeshwar, Chamoli, Uttarakhand
MVDA	Mount Valley Development Association	Mound Valley Development Association (MVDA), Village Doni, PO: Megadhar Tehri Garhwal
SANKALP	Sankalp Samiti (SANKALP)	Sankalp Samiti (SANKALP), Village and post Tharali, Chamoli, Uttarakhand
SBMA	Shri Bhuneswari Mahila Ashram (SBMA)	Shri Bhuneswari Mahila Ashram (SBMA) Village and Post Anjanisain, Tehri Garhwal
SIMAR	Society for Integrated Management of all Resources (SIMAR)	Society for integrated management of all resources (SIMAR), Village and Post Shantipuri, No-1, District U.S. Nagar
THT	The Himalaya Trust	59/1, Vasant Vihar, Dehradun, 248006

RISE	Rural Initiative for Social Engineering	Village and Post, Bhainsiyachhana, District Almora, Uttarakhand, 263624
KMUM	Kashturba Mahila Utthan Mandal	Laxmi Ashram, Post Kaushani, District Almora, Uttarakhand, 263639
GRAS	General Rural Advancement Society	Mile Stone - 2, Pithoragarh Road, Joriya, Patan, Lohaghat, District Champawat, Uttarakhand - 262524
APAAR	Association for People Advancement and Action Research (APAAR)	7/12, Ram Ashram, Takana Road, Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand- 262501
UOCB	Uttarakhand Organic Commodity Board	Uttarakhand Organic Commodity Board, Kisaan Bhawan, 2nd Floor Mussoorie By Pass, Ring Road, Nehrugram, Dehradun- 248001

Voluntary Disclosures

GOVERNANCE

None of our Governing Board members are related to each other, nor are 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 Himmotthan. Two Board meetings (13th and 14th) were held on 27.06.2014 and 09.12.2014. Travel costs as per actual tickets submitted that were budgeted into projects, were however reimbursed. Himmotthan's fifth Annual General Body meeting was held on 09.12.2014. 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,
Dehradun 248001, Uttarakhand

OUR INTERNAL AUDITOR

DMA & Associates,
Chartered Accountants,
8-A, Bangali Mohalla, Karanpur,
Dehradun, Uttarkhand

OUR BANKS:

1. Indian Overseas Bank, Kanwli Branch, Vasant Vihar, Dehradun, Uttarkhand
2. Axis Bank, GMS Road, Dehradun, Uttarkhand
3. Uttaranchal Grameen Bank, Indira Nagar, Dehradun, Uttarakhand

SOCIETY REGISTRATION DETAILS

The Himmotthan Society is registered under the Indian Societies Registration Act of 1860. The Registration Number is 78/2007-2008, dated 22/12/2007. It was last renewed on 27/12/2012 and is valid till 26/12/2017.

The Society PAN Number is : AAATH6935K

The Society TAN Number is : MRTH00788E

HIMMOTTHAN SOCIETY
(Registered u/s Society Act 1860)

193, Vasant Vihar, Phase-II, Dehradun, Uttarakhand. Phone: 0135 2760728, Fax: 0135 2761796

Balance Sheet
As on 31st March' 2015


The Society FCRA Number is : 347900161


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

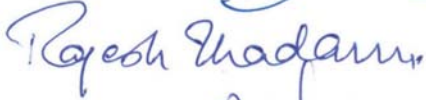
- Section 12A granted on 25/09/2008;40 (117/Dehradun/2008-9/10768)
- Section 80G granted on 08/10/2008;S.No.19(52)Dehradun/2007-08/11261


S.No.	Particulars	Schedule No.	As at 31st March '2015	As at 31st March '2014
			Amount	Amount
A.	SOURCES OF FUNDS			
I	FIXED ASSETS CAPITAL FUND	A	1,246,985	943,114
II	GENERAL FUND	B	358,309	358,309
III	GRANT FUND (UNUTILISED GRANTS)	C	96,885,155	89,910,881
IV	CURRENT LIABILITIES & PROVISIONS	D	265,030	337,690
	TOTAL		98,755,479	91,549,994
B	APPLICATION OF FUNDS			
I	FIXED ASSETS (NET BLOCK)	E	1,246,985	943,114
II	DEPOSITS WITH SCHEDULED BANKS	F	64,823,600	67,090,361
III	CURRENT ASSETS, LOANS & ADVANCES	G	32,684,894	23,516,519
	TOTAL		98,755,479	91,549,994

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

Chairman 

Secretary/ Executive Director 

Treasurer 


Finance and Admin. Officer 

Certified in terms of our separate report of even date.

Dated : 22.09.2015
Place : Dehradun



For K.W Jain & Co.
Chartered Accountant
FRN No. 000247C


(Alok Kumar Jain)
Proprietor
Membership No. # 70088

Notes

In the News!



Once again in 2014-15, Vinod Kothari and Rajendra Koshyari participated in the Standard Chartered Mumbai Half Marathon, held on January 18, 2015. Among the Himmotthan as well the Trusts team participants, Vinod came first with a timing of an hour and 53 minutes.





HIMMOTTHAN SOCIETY

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