HIMMOTTHAN

A N N U A L R E P O R T 2 0 2 4 - 2 0 2 5



Himmotthan

[Himm-otthan] verb
Upliftment of the people of the Himalayas

It was formed with the belief that challenges & opportunities of mountain communities are different and have to be addressed sensitively by keeping the community especially the women at core.

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About Cover Photo

Amidst the terraced fields of the Himalayas, the cover photograph reflects the resilience and dedication of local farmers who nurture their livelihoods from the land. The lush green crops, set against the backdrop of forested hills, symbolize food security, sustainability, and the deep bond between people and nature. Each harvest is not just produce, it is a story of perseverance, tradition, and the promise of a better future. Through our initiatives, we continue to strengthen sustainable development across Himalayan communities, ensuring prosperity while safeguarding the fragile ecosystem.

Each chapter cover has been artistically illustrated by our team member, Mr. Jagmohan Panwar, whose visual storytelling captures the landscapes and communities we serve.









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Preface by Chairman

I am pleased to present Himmotthan's 17th Annual Report for the year 2024-25, marking another milestone in our journey of transforming mountain livelihoods across the Western Himalayas.

Over nearly two decades, Himmotthan has established a meaningful presence in over 2160 mountain villages across 16 districts in Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, and Ladakh.

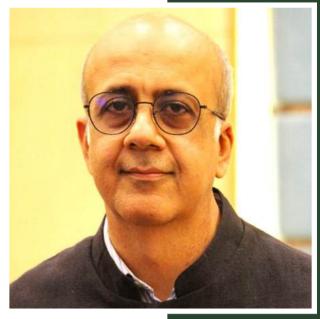
This year represented a strategic shift from geographical expansion to consolidation and integration. Our primary focus centred on creating meaningful interlinkages and synergies between sectors and interventions while strengthening our outreach to civil society organisations. This approach has enabled us to maximise impact across our existing operational footprint and build more sustainable, interconnected development models.

Our core livelihood interventions maintained their emphasis on sustainability and long-term viability. In agriculture, we concentrated on improving market access and enhancing crop resilience through strategic diversification initiatives.

Our livestock development programs evolved toward enterprise-based models, focusing on improved animal husbandry practices, fodder management, and breed enhancement. These efforts acknowledge the rapidly changing rural landscape, where communities are experiencing decreased dependence on traditional forest resources alongside increased market connectivity. Himmotthan has remained cognisant of these environmental shifts, adapting our interventions to meet evolving community needs.

Simultaneously, our primary education initiatives were strengthened through targeted investments in foundational learning, library enhancement, and active community participation in educational governance. This holistic approach ensures that educational improvements are both sustainable and communitydriven. Recognising the Government's increasingly dominant role in the development sector, we strategically partnered with flagship programs such as the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) - collaborations that have amplified our impact while ensuring alignment with national development priorities.

Innovation remained central to our approach, with the integration of sustainable technologies including solar-based fencing systems, drip irrigation, and solar dryers to support long-term community resilience. A significant technological advancement was the installation of twenty water level recorders across various streams, substantially enhancing our data quality and decision support systems for water resource management. Throughout all interventions, Himmotthan maintained its commitment to fostering social equity, with particular emphasis on positioning women at the forefront of planning and implementation processes. This approach ensures that development benefits reach the most marginalised community members while building sustainable leadership capacity.



This year also marked a significant organisational transition with the superannuation of Dr. Yashpal Bisht, who provided exemplary leadership through many transformative years. The organisation remains deeply grateful for his visionary stewardship and lasting contributions to our mission.

I am delighted to welcome Dr. Vinod Kothari as Himmotthan's new Executive Director. As Himmotthan's first employee and the architect of our water vertical, Dr. Kothari brings unparalleled institutional knowledge and experience to this leadership role. His deep understanding of mountain ecosystems and community development ensures continuity in our organisational vision while bringing fresh perspectives to our evolving challenges.

We extend our profound gratitude to our partners and donors whose unwavering support enables our work. The Tata Trusts continue as our anchor partner, providing not only financial support but invaluable sector insights and strategic guidance.

We also acknowledge the continued confidence shown by our other key donors whose partnership has been instrumental in expanding our impact. Our appreciation extends to grassroots partners, research agencies, and numerous well-wishers who form the backbone of our collaborative approach to development.

As we continue our mission in the Western Himalayas, Himmotthan remains committed to integrating local aspirations with regional and governmental priorities.

This report details our progress in this direction and our ongoing efforts to build resilient and self-reliant mountain communities. We are confident that with continued support from our partners and stakeholders, Himmotthan will continue to evolve and serve as a catalyst for sustainable development in the mountain regions.

Rajesh Thadani, PhD Chairman Himmotthan Society

Message from **Executive Director**

The development challenges in the Himalayan regions today are dynamic, deeply interconnected and shaped by multidimensional risks. Climate change, biodiversity loss, fragile ecosystems, and socio-economic vulnerabilities converge to create a complex landscape that demands systemic, locally grounded solutions. In this context, multilateral cooperation and community-led action are not just desirable but essential.



Subsistence livelihoods continue to dominate the hill districts, with migration and remittance economies shaping rural life. The disconnect between markets and resources often renders local products financially unviable. Traditional agriculture, constrained by terrain and scale, cannot serve as the primary engine of development. This reality calls for a strategic reimagining of hill development. We need a strategy that promotes local employment, enhances income generation, and improves the quality of life for mountain communities.

Himmotthan recognizes this imperative. We are actively investing in becoming a more agile, anticipatory organization, strengthening our people, refining our business model, and enhancing operational excellence. Our approach is rooted in community-based, holistic development that integrates natural resource management, education, and livelihood generation.

Water, a critical resource in the Himalayas, is increasingly threatened by erratic rainfall and shifting climate patterns. Therefore, we must conserve every drop of water. Our water future depends on our water wisdom. Himmotthan has embraced this challenge by promoting water literacy, deploying innovative technologies, and empowering communities to take ownership of water management.

A geographical zone-wise strategy which is based on altitude, aspect, and agro-climatic conditions, offers a promising pathway for consolidating surplus commodities and connecting them to niche markets. Be it Munsyari Rajma, Himachali Maize, or Leh Apricots, these limited yet high-value products can thrive in premium markets. Cluster-based planning and regional branding are key to unlocking this potential, especially in sectors like cash crops, horticulture, services and tourism.

In the Himalayan region, the farming scenario is challenging on various fronts: inadequate irrigation, limits the yield of major vegetable crops and spices, agricultural inputs are lacking, and a sizeable rural population remains outside of the formal credit system. Himmotthan's response has been to locate commons within broader ecological and social landscapes, promoting collective action, nature conservation, and sustainable resource use. Our interventions aim to improve farm productivity, livestock health, water security, and local employment, while staying within ecological thresholds that foster regeneration.

As I pen this reflection, I am reminded of the conviction, confidence and commitment of our team, resilience of the communities across the region and the unwavering support of our partners and donors. Their belief in our shared purpose continue to guide us forward. We are deeply grateful to our past leadership and management, whose contributions have laid the foundation for an even more impactful tomorrow.

Together, we reaffirm our commitment for building resilient, self-reliant mountain communities, where development is not only sustainable but deeply rooted in local aspirations and ecological integrity.

Dr. Vinod Kothari **Executive Director** Himmotthan Society

Himmotthan's Governing Board



Dr. Rajesh Thadani Chairman & Expert- Natural Resource Management



Ms. Amrita Patwardhan Treasurer & Head- Education, Tata Trusts



Mr. Ashish Deshpande Member (Ex-Officio Tata Trusts Nominee) & CFO and Company Secretary, Tata Trusts



Mr. Divyag Waghela Member (Ex-Officio Tata Trusts Nominee) & Head- Tata Water Mission



Mr. Deepak Sanan Member of the Board & Ex. Add. Chief Secretary, Govt. of India



Mr. STS Lepcha Member of the Board & IFS (Retd.), Ex-PCCF, Govt. of Uttarakhand



Dr. Yashpal Singh Bisht Ex-Executive Director, (till Dec, 2024) Himmotthan Society Member Secretary of the Board



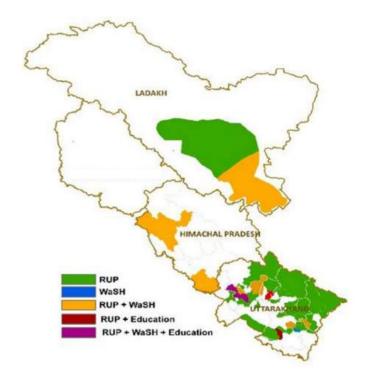
Dr. Vinod Kothari
Executive Director,
(Jan, 2025 onwards)
Himmotthan Society
Member Secretary
(Ex-officio, Tata Trusts
Nominee)

Himmotthan at a Glance

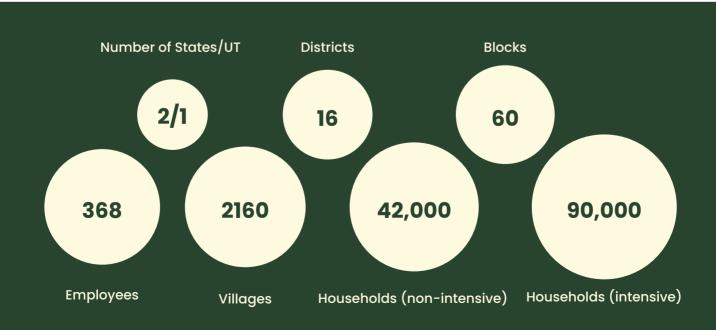
The Himalayas are not just mountains- they are a way of life, known for their breathtaking beauty, rich wildlife, and deep cultural roots. These mountains are not only natural wonders but also provide life, livelihoods, and a sense of identity to the people who live there. With their towering snow-covered peaks, dense forests, and flowing rivers, they have always inspired awe and wonder. For the people who live here, the Himalayas are home. These mountains shape their daily lives, cultures, and futures.

At the same time, life in the Himalayas can be difficult. Villages are often remote, roads are limited, and basic services such as healthcare, clean water, education, and employment are hard to access. Many young people feel compelled to leave their villages in search of better opportunities in cities. Limited access to quality infrastructure and essential services has led to increasing migration, especially among youth, as families seek better lives in urban areas.

To support mountain communities, Tata Trusts launched the Himmotthan Pariyojana in 2001 in the state of Uttarakhand. The idea was simple but powerful: work with local people to find long-term, practical solutions to the challenges they face every day. Over time, the initiative grew both in reach and experience and in 2007, it became an independent organization called Himmotthan Society.



Over the years, Himmotthan has expanded its reach and impact. Today, Himmotthan works across the mountain regions of Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, and Ladakh. Our work is grounded in the belief that every community is different, and real change can only happen when we listen to people, understand their needs, and build on their strengths.



HIMMOTTHAN: VERTICALS AND THEMATIC AREAS

Himmotthan operates through four key verticals, each focusing on a distinct area of rural development. These verticals form the backbone of Himmotthan's integrated approach and are further divided into specific thematic areas to address the diverse needs of mountain communities more effectively.

RUP (Rural Upliftment Program)

Under this vertical, interventions support agriculture, livestock, climate-resilient farming, sustainable livelihoods, financial inclusion, rural tourism and promotion of social tourism.

Water

This vertical focuses on water - centric solutions, including common land development, spring shed management and ecosystem restoration.



Himmotthan Core Verticals



Education

This vertical includes FLN (Foundational Literacy and Numeracy), Physical Literacy (PL), model library setups, teacher training, and the strengthening of School Management Committees (SMCs).



Community Institutions

This vertical empowers rural communities through the formation and strengthening of Self-Help Groups, promoting financial inclusion and fostering institutional convergence for sustained impact.

Thematic Areas of Himmotthan under each vertical



Water

Agriculture



Education

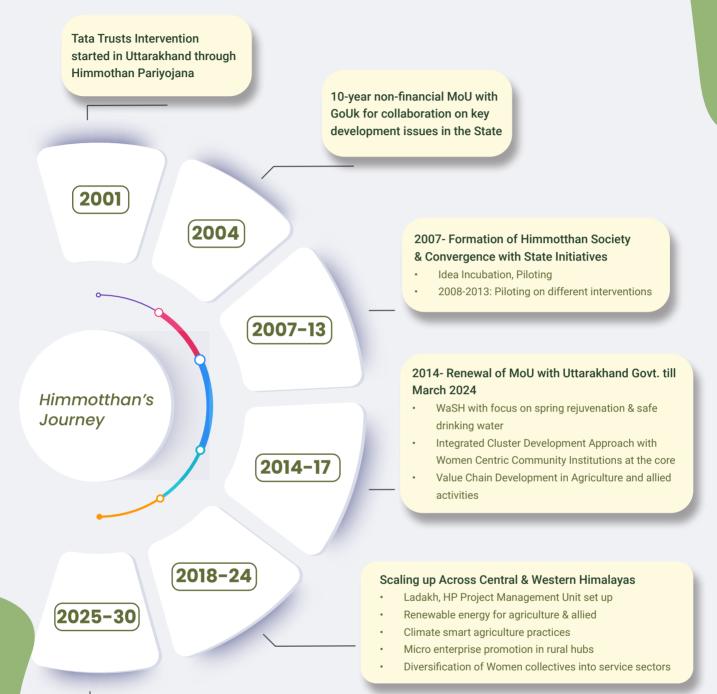


Community Institutions



Livestock





Graduating Towards Technical Resource Agency- Indian Himalayan Region (IHR)

Core Strengths:

- Natural Resource Management & Ecosystem services
- Livelihoods, Social Enterprises under Mountain Specificities
- Communities & Landscape Management
- · Rural Service Sector Value chains

VISION

Building prosperous and self-sustained mountain communities which lives in harmony and sympathy with natural surrounding

MISSION

Improve quality of life of mountain communities and their ecosystems through collective actions

APPROACH

- Integrated cluster approach-multithematic program
- Remote locations, marginalized families
- Women led community institutions
- Value chain strengthening & livelihoods



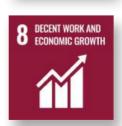




















Overall Progress 2024-2025

In FY 2024–2025, Himmotthan continued to drive its mission of inclusive and sustainable development across the Himalayan regions of Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, and the Union Territory of Ladakh. Guided by a deeply rooted, community-centric approach, the organization created tangible improvements in the lives of rural communities across its core focus areas - Rural Upliftment, Water, Community Institutions and Education.

Through the Rural Upliftment Program, over 24,500 households experienced enhanced livelihoods through better Agri-allied services and women-led enterprise models. In the Water sector, access to safe drinking water was ensured for over 14,200 households through locally led planning and catchment restoration efforts.

Community Institutions continued to be a strong pillar, with over 33,500 women mobilized through 3,680 self-help and producer groups, strengthening financial access and entrepreneurship. In the field of Education, the program engaged 665 government primary schools and positively impacted over 13,000 students, deepening efforts in foundational learning, capacity building of teachers, and fostering community participation through active school governance and library initiatives.









Rural Upliftment Program (RUP)

- Fodder & Feed: 215 hectares under fodder cultivation; 53,000 trees planted; 2,990 quintals of feed produced via 11 units.
- Livestock Health & Al: 21,000+ artificial inseminations, 76 animal health camps, and 342 improved milch animals distributed.
- Value Chain & Enterprises: Milk revenue of ₹743.29 lakh generated via 26 women-led cooperatives; 13 hatcheries operational; A2 Ghee unit in Joshimath generated ₹11.3 lakh.
- Goat & Poultry Models: 372 goats, 13 poultry hatcheries, and 10 breeding buck units established.
- 3,940 Mahila Kishan and farmers received skilling training farm and non-farm
- 1,336-acre area covered under improved Agriculture practices.
- 290 MT of fresh and dried apricots marketed by women FPO in Ladakh.

Community Institutions

- SHGs & PGs Supported: 3,680 groups with over 33,500 women members across all 3 regions.
- Financial Access: ₹5.16 crore credit linkage facilitated for 904 SHGs; ₹4.87 crore in internal savings mobilized.
- Enterprise Promotion: Asset transfers included 269 dairy animals, 97 goats, 129 agri-horti units, resulting in ₹38.02 crore turnover and ₹14.56 lakh net profit.
- FPO Strengthening: 33 FPO-SRCs supported using a 6-stage model with centralized MIS systems for real-time tracking and compliance.

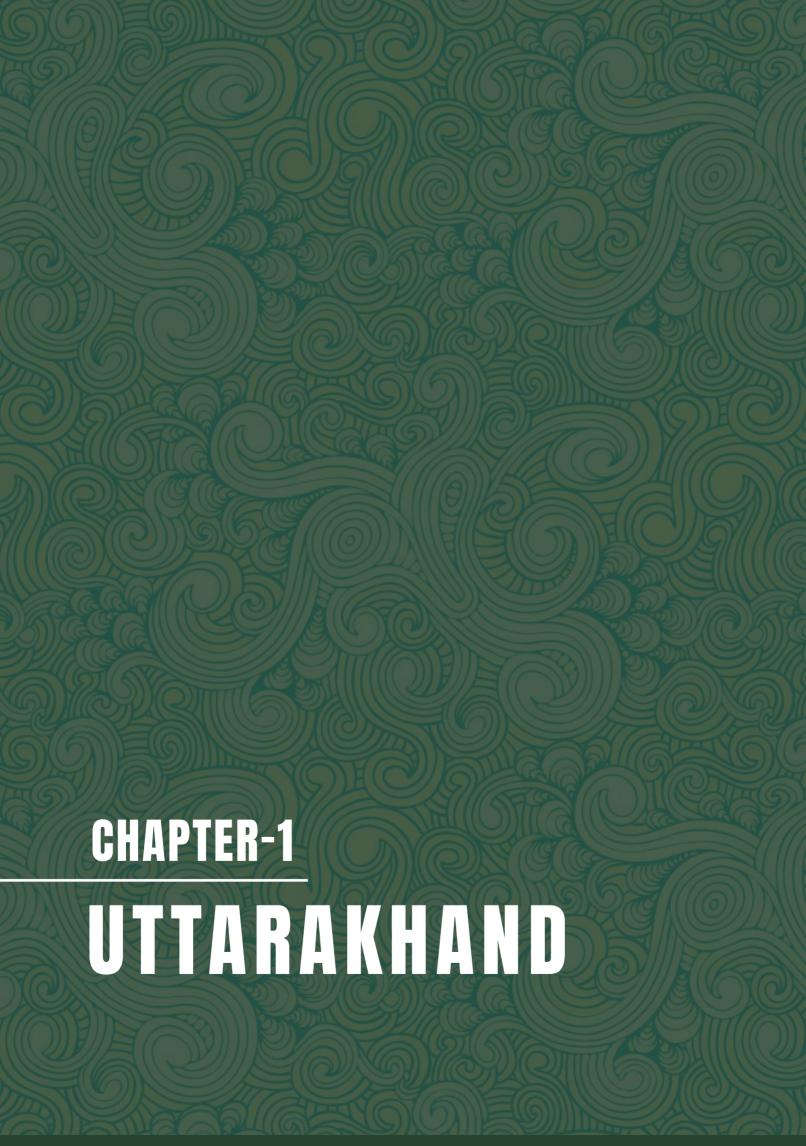
Key Sector-wise Progress FY 2024-25

Water

- Water Security Plans: 209 Water Security Plans (WSPs) were developed and approved by Water Users Groups and village councils.
- Spring & Catchment Recharge: 683 hectares were treated across three states, resulting in an average 22% increase in lean-season discharge.
- Infrastructure: 3,473 households received tap connectivity under the Jal Jeevan Mission (Uttarakhand: 1,476; HP and Ladakh: 1,997).
- Governance: 35 villages initiated water tariff collection, and Village Water and Sanitation Committees (VWSCs) became operational in six villages of Uttarakhand.

Education

- Schools & Students Reached: 665 Government primary schools across 4 blocks; over 13,000 students impacted.
- Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN):
 Achieved 77% literacy and 81% numeracy in intensive schools; 64% FLN attainment in extensive schools.
- Teacher Capacity Building: 599 teachers trained; 94% of intensive-area teachers adopted improved practices.
- Libraries: 77 model libraries developed; 73% are fully functional; child-led management models in place.
- Physical Literacy: Daily sessions in 300 schools.
- SMC Engagement: 1,765 SMC members trained.





INTRODUCTION

Himmotthan's journey began in Uttarakhand in the year 2001, under the name Himmotthan Pariyojana, initiated by Tata Trusts. It emerged from a deep concern for the unique and persistent challenges faced by remote mountain communities' challenges around water access, sustainable livelihoods, education, and natural resource degradation. The approach was clear from the beginning: to engage directly with communities and co-create sustainable, contextually relevant solutions.

Over the years, what started as a focused initiative matured into an independent organization "Himmotthan Society" in 2007. Since then, the organization has deepened its presence and impact in Uttarakhand, building long-standing partnerships with rural communities and government systems.

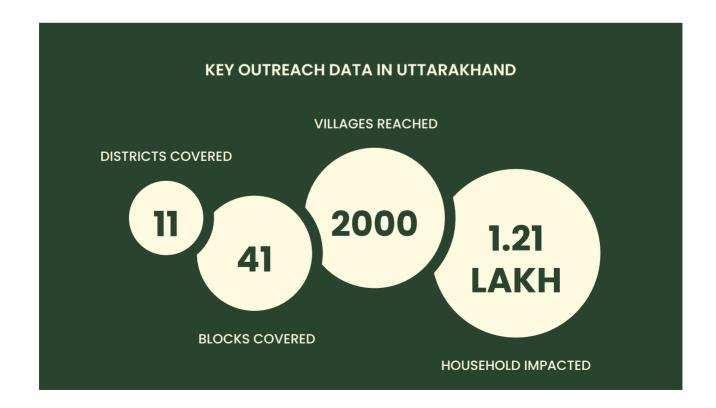
Himmotthan's work in the state is comprehensive and spans across multiple thematic areas. In Natural Resource Management, it has focused on restoring degraded lands through community plantations, managing and rejuvenating spring sheds, and promoting water budgeting and long-term maintenance of rural drinking water systems.

In livelihoods, the organization has prioritized the strengthening of women-led producer groups, value chain development in traditional crops and forestbased produce, climate-resilient agriculture, green



technologies, and enterprise development. Education and youth engagement remain a key focus, ranging from foundational literacy and numeracy in early grades, to the development of school libraries and physical literacy, as well as digital skilling and life skills for adolescents.

Through this integrated approach, Himmotthan aims to strengthen community resilience, improve quality of life, and ensure inclusive rural development in the hill state.



Rural Upliftment Program



"Her back bends under the load, but her spirit stands unyielding - a mountain woman planting resilience in every furrow"

AGRICULTURE INITIATIVES

Agriculture forms the backbone of livelihoods in the Central Himalayan regions, where the rugged terrain and climatic vulnerabilities pose significant challenges to rural communities. Yet, amidst these challenges, hope and resilience shine through as farmers adopt innovative practices, embrace sustainable techniques, and work towards securing their futures. Himmotthan, through its multi-pronged agricultural interventions, has been instrumental in transforming lives and landscapes across Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, and Ladakh.

In the year 2024-2025, our efforts were centered on empowering communities through sustainable agricultural practices, strengthening market linkages, and fostering climate-resilient farming systems. Our work spanned diverse areas such as beekeeping, orchard establishment, and natural resource management, impacting over 35,000 households in 17 mountain clusters.

03

OUTCOME AND IMPACTS: (AGRICULTURE)









Himalayan Beekeeping:

Targeted interventions revitalized beekeeping, integrating 378 households and establishing 669 bee habitats with 860 colonies. This led to a 30% increase in household income for participants, with 6.2 metric tonnes of honey marketed through FPOs and a fully functional apiary center built, strengthening apiculture infrastructure.

Mountain Seed Production:

665 households cultivated seeds (potato, onion, turmeric, ginger, barnyard millet, finger millet) over 108.79 acres. Potato seed production was enhanced with 50 quintals of breeder seed varieties (Kufri Himalini, Girdhari, Jyoti, Karan) sown on 125 nali, supporting sustainable seed enterprises and rural livelihoods.

Natural Resource Management:

Under springshed management, a total of 97.12 ha of land have been covered. Additionally to provide critical irrigation support, 47 water harvesting structures i.e. LDPE tank, stone masonry, Geomembrane tank (~587 kilo-liters capacity) have been constructed, enhancing water security for agriculture and supporting ecological restoration.

Pulses and Nutri-Cereals:

3,200 households adopted climate-resilient crops (rajma, black soybean, horse gram) and improved seed varieties (finger millet VL Mandua 380, barnyard millet PRJ 1, amaranthus VL Chua 110) across 765.97 acres. Organic farming was adopted by 2,478 farmers, with 253.39 metric tonnes of produce marketed through FPOs, strengthening market linkages and farmer income.

Fruit Orchards:

A climate-resilient approach developed 32.36 acres of mixed temperate (apple, peach, plum, apricot, kiwi) and subtropical (mango, citrus) orchards, benefiting over 179 households. Drip irrigation covered 150 Nali (≈7 acres), optimizing water use, while climate-smart hybrid fencing protected 210 Nali (≈10 acres) of orchards, mitigating wildlife threats and supporting climate adaptation.

Case Study: Reaping Rich Harvests Through Scientific Cabbage Cultivation



"I had no idea that growing cabbages would alter my life in such a way. I was able to transform my modest field into a source of pride and success for my family with the support from Himmotthan"

— Reena Devi, Jadipani Village, Tehri Garhwal



Reena Devi, a smallholder farmer from the remote village of Jadipani, Tehri Garhwal and a member of the Varsha Swayam Sahayata Samuh, has witnessed a transformative journey from marginal income farming to profitable vegetable cultivation- thanks to the support from the Maximising Himalayan Agriculture Initiative (MHAI). Reena lives with her family of five, which includes her husband, two children, and a dependent elder. Her husband drives a rented vehicle to earn daily wages, while Reena managed agricultural activities on a small



scale to support household needs. With limited land and access to resources, farming remained more of a subsistence activity than a livelihood opportunity.

Initially, Reena cultivated cabbage on 2 Nalis of land, using 20–25 grams of seeds per Nali, and despite limited guidance, she managed a production of around 360 kg per Nali. Due to a lack of access to reliable marketing and transportation facility, she was forced to leave the remaining land uncultivated, fearing post-harvest losses and poor returns. The burden of carrying produce to distant markets on her own was discouraging.

Things started to change when the MHAI team began field-level engagement in Jadipani. Through onfarm demonstrations, technical trainings, and peer learning sessions, Reena gained hands-on knowledge of scientific cabbage cultivation techniques including seed rate optimization, proper spacing, irrigation scheduling, pest and nutrient management.

More importantly, she became aware of the Common Facility Center (CFC) established by Himmotthan Society in her cluster area which provided a dedicated platform for aggregation, transportation, and collective marketing of vegetables helping farmers like Reena access better markets and reduce dependency on middlemen.

Encouraged by the support system now available, Reena decided to scale up her cultivation to 6 Nalis (approximately 0.12 ha), this time using the recommended 10–15 grams of good quality seeds per Nali. She followed best practices throughout the crop cycle. The impact was remarkable. Reena harvested 450 kg of cabbage per Nali, yielding a total of 2700 kg. With assured transportation and market linkage through the CFC, she sold her produce at a rate of Rs. 18 per kg, earning Rs. 48,600 in total.

After deducting input and labour costs, Reena earned a net profit of Rs. 22,000 from a single cropping season more than she had earned in multiple seasons earlier.

Today, Reena is not just a successful farmer but also a source of inspiration for other women in her group. Her story stands as a shining example of how access to knowledge, infrastructure, and market linkage can empower rural women to break free from subsistence farming and build a sustainable livelihood.

Case Study: A Transforming Journey Through Millet Farming - A Climate Resilient Pathway

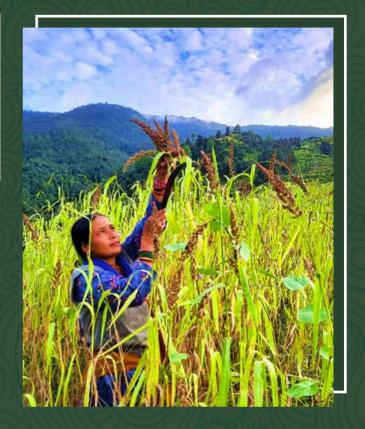


"Earlier, we struggled even to meet daily needs. Today, we are proud to grow nutritious millets that support our family and our land. I want to inspire other women to stay, not migrate,"

— Birma Devi, Rokhra Village, Pauri Garhwal



Birma Devi lives in the remote village of Rokhra in the Thalisain cluster of Pauri Garhwal, a dedicated woman farmer who has transformed her family's livelihood through climate-resilient millet farming. Living with her husband and two children, Birma's family was entirely dependent on agriculture and barely sustained their basic needs. In an area where migration is a growing concern, especially due to limited income opportunities and geographical isolation, families like Birma's often find themselves on the edge forced to lease out land or send family members to cities in search of work.

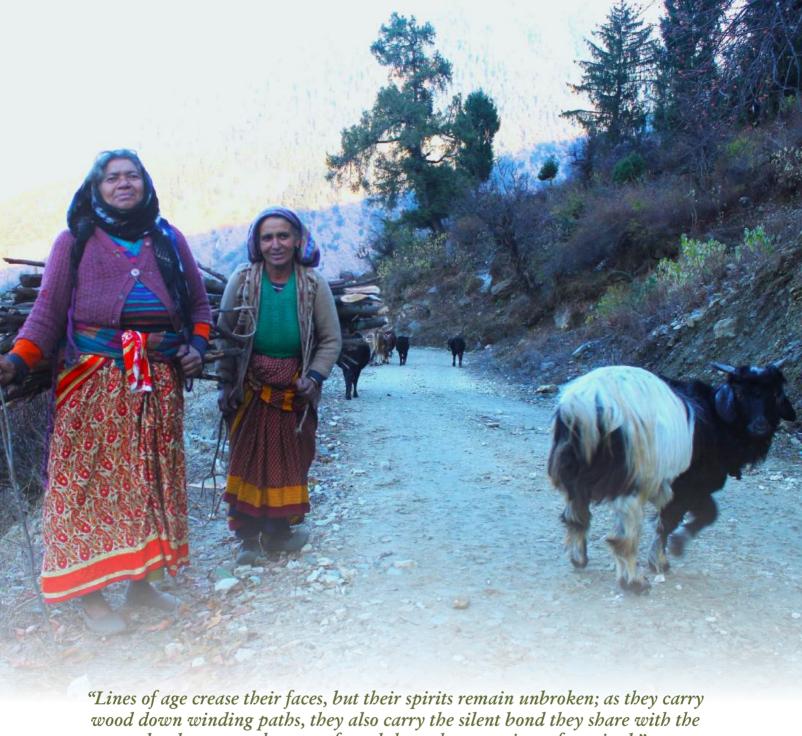


Like many in her village, Birma cultivated barnyard millet, a crop well-suited to rainfed conditions and poor soils. However, due to a lack of scientific knowledge and post-harvest processing facilities, her productivity remained low just 15–20 kg per Nali. Manual threshing with sticks was intensive and inefficient, and in the absence of proper market linkages, she sold her produce at just Rs. 25–26 per kg.

Birma's journey took a positive turn when she learned about Vindeshwar Mahila Utpadak Samuh and the ongoing interventions under the Maximising Himalayan Agriculture Initiative (MHAI), led by Himmotthan Society. Eager to improve her livelihood, she joined the group and actively participated in the training programs offered. Through the initiative, Birma gained critical knowledge on the nutritional benefits of millets, scientific cultivation practices, and sustainable agriculture techniques. Encouraged by the support, she expanded her millet cultivation from 4 to 15 Nalis using scientific methods, including timely sowing, line-to-line spacing, organic nutrient management, and disease control.

Additionally, with access to farm mechanization and small processing equipment, she no longer relied on manual threshing. These interventions significantly improved efficiency and output, increasing her productivity to 30–35 kg per Nali. Perhaps the most transformative aspect was the access to better markets. With support from Himmotthan Society, she was able to sell her produce at Rs. 40 per kg, nearly 50% higher than before. Also, thanks to low input cost and minimal crop management expenses, she earned approximately Rs. 19,000 in just one season from the sale of her millet produce an amount that was previously unimaginable. The increase in production, coupled with better prices, has not only improved her family's financial condition but has also given them a renewed sense of dignity and purpose.

Now, Birma is determined to spread awareness among her fellow villagers about the potential of millet farming as a climate-smart and income-generating alternative. Her story reflects a powerful shift not just in economic terms, but in mindset showing how traditional crops, when nurtured with modern techniques, can pave the way for sustainable rural development and help curb migration from fragile hill regions.



land, an unspoken pact forged through generations of survival."

LIVESTOCK INITIATIVES

In the Himalayas, where life is as challenging as the terrain, livestock rearing has been more than just a means of livelihood, it is a legacy of sustenance passed down through generations. Despite its importance, the sector faces persistent challenges, from fodder scarcity to inadequate veterinary care. Recognizing this, Himmotthan launched the Livestock Development Program to transform traditional livestock farming into sustainable, income-generating enterprises. Through the Central Himalayan Livestock Initiative (CHLI-II), the program targets 60,000 households across 1,200 villages in 14 districts of Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, aiming to enhance animal productivity, promote sustainable practices, and strengthen value chains in dairy, goat rearing, poultry, and fodder systems. The goal is to empower mountain communities while preserving their deep-rooted connection with livestock.

OUTCOME AND IMPACTS: (LIVESTOCK)









Strengthening Mountain Livelihoods:

The initiative reached 9,207 households in 2024–25 (57,574 overall), shifting livestock rearing from subsistence to enterprise models by promoting improved breeds, scientific feeding, and market linkages across 11 districts of Uttarakhand.

Enhancing Animal Nutrition and Fodder Security:

215 hectares of fodder plots established and 53,000 trees were planted, with 11 feed units producing 2,990 quintals annually, improving animal nutrition, reducing women's drudgery, and raising milk yields.

Breed Improvement, Animal Health, and Management:

37 paravets conducted 21,000+ artificial inseminations (4,600 improved progenies), 76 health camps benefited 9,000+ animals, 186 cattle sheds were built, and 342 improved milch animals distributed, boosting productivity and herd health.

Development of Small Ruminant Value Chain:

Semi-intensive goat rearing promoted with 372 goats, 46 sheds, and 10 breeding buck units, increasing productivity and incomes with local level marketing and supporting sustainability.

Micro-Dairy Promotion:

26 women's cooperatives managed micro-dairies; 16 lakh litres of milk sold (₹743.29 lakh revenue, 80% to farmers), and A2 ghee production (1,050 kg, ₹11.3 lakh) benefited 376 farmers and created rural jobs.

Backyard Poultry Development:

13 hatchery units and improved breeds enabled distribution of 6,604 chicks and 4,848-day-old chicks, empowering women and diversifying rural incomes.

Case Study: Gangotri Dairy Initiative – A Decade Of Women-Led Enterprise And Resilience



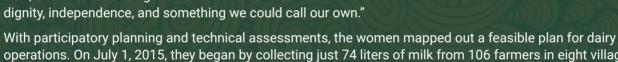
"When women come together with a shared vision, the mountain move. The Gangotri Dairy is more than just a cooperative – it is a testament to the strength of collective will, resilience, and the transformative power of empowering rural women to lead"

Meena Devi, Founding Member,
 Gangotri Self-Reliant Cooperative



In the valleys of Uttarkashi, where life flows with the rhythm of the mountains, a revolution began in 2015. 400 women from self-help groups, driven by the desire to break free from the limitations of poverty and guided by Himmotthan, came together to form something truly transformative "The Gangotri Self-Reliant Cooperative". What started as a modest dairy initiative soon became a beacon of hope, resilience, and leadership.

"We wanted more than just income," says Meena
Devi, one of the founding members. "We wanted
dignity, independence, and something we could call our own."



operations. On July 1, 2015, they began by collecting just 74 liters of milk from 106 farmers in eight villages. It was a small start, but one filled with determination and belief. Exposure visits to successful models in Tharali and Jadipani further strengthened their resolve.

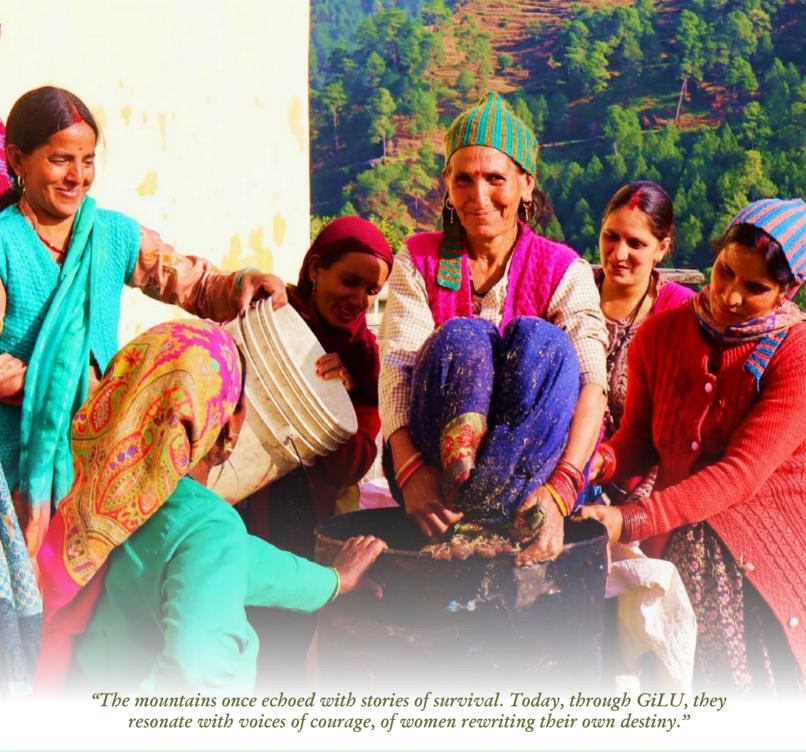
The cooperative steadily expanded, reaching 180 liters per day by 2019, and by 2020 had grown to include more villages. The integration of the Brahmkhal cluster in 2022 brought in high-quality buffalo milk and broadened their reach. Today, the cooperative engages 281 households across 18 villages, collecting 350−400 liters of milk each day. It has collected 7.37 lakh liters of milk, generated ₹2.84 crore in sales, and paid ₹2.22 crore directly to farmers. More than 1,350 producers have been engaged over the years. From its initial deficit, the dairy turned profitable by FY 2016−17 and has remained so since.

But the true success lies beyond the numbers. For women like Kamla from Brahm Khal, the dairy has been life-changing. "Earlier, I had no say in family matters," she says. "Now, I contribute to the household income, and my opinion matters. This dairy gave us more than work it gave us voice."

Entirely managed and owned by its members, the cooperative employs dozens of rural women and youth, offering livelihood opportunities where there were none. Its democratic governance and community-rooted approach have turned it into a replicable model for remote mountain regions.

As it steps into its second decade, the Gangotri Dairy Initiative is not just an enterprise, it is a living testament to what women can achieve when trusted, equipped, and empowered. It is a reminder that even in the most remote corners of the Himalayas, hope when nurtured together can become a thriving reality.





GENDER INCLUSIVE LIVELIHOOD THROUGH FINANCIAL INCLUSION (GILU)

In the quiet strength of the Himalayan hills, where women rise before the sun to fetch water, tend to livestock, and nurture families, a silent revolution is underway. These women- daughters, mothers, sisters, and dreamers have long borne the weight of survival. But now, through the Gender Inclusive Livelihoods through Financial Inclusion (GiLU) initiative, their roles are transforming from caretakers to changemakers.

Launched in October 2023 by Himmotthan Society, with support from Tata Trusts and in collaboration with the Uttarakhand State Rural Livelihood Mission (USRLM), GiLU is more than a program, it is a movement to restore dignity, build resilience, and unlock the economic power of rural women across five hill districts of Uttarakhand: Nainital, Pauri, Pithoragarh, Rudraprayag and Uttarkashi. With a strategic implementation plan spanning until September 2028, GiLU aims to create sustainable livelihoods for rural women by bridging gaps in financial literacy, livelihood opportunities, and enterprise development.

OUTCOME AND IMPACTS: (GILU)



Livelihood Development and Financial Inclusion:

The project mobilized over ₹2,500 lakh through CIF and bank linkages, benefiting 3,000+ women. 229 PGs and 7 PEs were formed, focusing on sustainable value chains like dairy, tailoring, and pulses; BDPs and demonstration units provided structured financial strategies and best practices.



Skill Development and Capacity Building:

Nearly 3,000 women received technical training in farm and non-farm activities. PGs and CLFs adopted digital accounting and record-keeping, while DigiPay Sakhis now deliver banking services to remote areas, improving financial inclusion.



Strengthening Community Institutions and Governance:

The initiative established 14 CLFs to enhance grassroots governance and decision-making. 141 Sakhis were trained to provide financial, digital, and Agri-based services, supporting resource mobilization, enterprise promotion, and compliance.



Innovations and Convergence for Sustainable Impact:

Convergence with government programs like PMFME, SVEP, and Lakpati Didi maximized impact. Enterprise hubs in Yamkeshwar and Betalghat showcased sustainable livelihood models, integrating multiple components for lasting economic outcomes.

Case Study: From Quiet Determination To Community Light- Sunita Mahant's Journey Of Strength, Spirit, And Sisterhood



"I once thought my life would always be confined to the fields and my home. Today I am not just earning; I am empowering other women to dream, to act, and to rise"

- Sunita Mahant, Tipri village, Uttarkashi



Sunita Mahant a mother of two and the wife of a hotel worker, Sunita once lived a life defined by the daily rhythms of agriculture and livestock- humble, steady, and often overlooked. But beneath that modest life beat the heart of a woman who wanted more not just for herself, but for her children, her neighbours, and her entire village.

Everything began to change when Sunita joined the Maa Renuka Self-Help Group. Her natural leadership and unwavering commitment to community upliftment soon saw her emerging as a "Sakriya



Mahila" (Active Woman). She didn't stop at her own empowerment, she facilitated the formation of six new SHGs in her village, becoming a beacon of inspiration for others. Her journey through the Community Resource Person (CRP) training program opened new doors, giving her the tools to mobilize women across districts like Pauri and Rudraprayag. But it wasn't just training or titles that transformed Sunita it was her willingness to start small and dream big. With a ₹10,000 loan from her SHG, she first met household needs, repaying it within ten months. Her second loan of ₹50,000 sparked a turning point: she and her husband opened a small grocery shop, sowing the first seeds of financial independence. Then came a new opportunity- mushroom cultivation. With training from Himmotthan Society and support from MGNREGA, she built a mushroom shed and became a consistent supplier through the Sarv Shakti Cluster Cooperative. By 2021, Sunita had taken on yet another role: collecting milk from fellow villagers, ensuring that dairy livelihoods remained viable.

In 2023, she embraced her calling even further by becoming a Pashu Sakhi trained under NRLM to provide vital livestock health services to her community. Every step in Sunita's path has not only improved her household income and her children's education, but has uplifted those around her. Today, she mentors other women who are starting their own enterprises from mushroom units and dairy farms to flour mills and grocery shops.

Sunita's journey is not marked by grand headlines or dramatic gestures it is marked by quiet strength, tireless work, and an unwavering belief that change is possible. She has become a pillar in her community, proving that with the right support and belief, a woman from the hills can transform not only her life, but the destiny of those around her. Her story reminds us that rural women are not beneficiaries they are builders. And when given the chance, they don't just rise they lift entire communities with them.



"Her smile is not just of welcome, but of wisdom - a mountain woman opening the door to her world, offering stories, strength, and the soul of her land to every traveler."

COMMUNITY BASED TOURISM

In the stillness of the mountains, where clouds embrace ancient forests and rivers carry the rhythm of time, a quiet transformation is unfolding, one homestay at a time, one dream at a time. With support from the Make My Trip Foundation and Tata Trusts, Himmotthan Society is implementing a Community-Based Tourism project in the Jadipani and Ukhimath clusters (2021–2025). The initiative fosters sustainable, community-led tourism rooted in local heritage.

So far, 32 homestays have been developed, 48 locals trained as tourism professionals, and 19 unique experiences curated. The project has directly benefited 71 households, established 2 community institutions, and provided training in first aid, digital marketing, and livelihood development, laying the foundation for lasting opportunities in the hills.

OUTCOME AND IMPACTS: (COMMUNITY BASED TOURISM)



Empowerment of Local Communities:

The CBT Project empowered 350 households in Jadipani, Makkumath, and Ransi clusters by enabling income from homestays, guided tours, and café operations. 64 individuals were trained as tourism trainers and experience anchors, instilling pride and financial stability as locals share their culture.



Infrastructure Development and Heritage Preservation:

16 new homestay units were added (total 32), each equipped with hospitality tools, and Nathuli Café in Jadipani was completed and licensed. An architectural design guide promoted traditional architecture, supporting artisans and preserving local heritage.



Economic Impact and Revenue Generation:

In FY 2024–25, the project generated ₹56.97 lakhs in incremental income, raising the cumulative revenue to ₹66.93 lakhs. New homestays, experiential activities, and stronger business linkages boosted income streams, especially with 8 curated activities in Ransi.



Skill Development and Professionalization:

31 community members received training in first-aid, digital marketing, and hospitality management; exposure visits to Devalsari enhanced skills. Hospitality kits were distributed to guides to maintain a professional image and improve service standards.

Case Study: Empowering Smt. Sulochana Devi – A Journey From Hesitation To Confidence



"When I first joined the training, I was nervous and unsure of myself. But with each trail walk and interaction, I gained confidence. Working at Nathuli Café has not only given me a stable income but also a sense of pride and purpose. Every day, I learn something new, meet new people, and share the beauty of our village with them. Bahut kuchh sikhne ko mil raha hai yahan pe har din!"

— Sulochana Devi, Community Café Chef and Guide, Nathuli Café, Jadipani Cluster



Sulochana Devi, a resident of Jadipani village in Chamba Block, Tehri Garhwal, had always harboured dreams of providing her 2 sons with a quality education. However, with her husband working as a driver and limited sources of income, the financial challenges made it difficult to meet even the basic



needs of her family. The increasing burden of expenses weighed heavily on her, leaving her anxious about her children's future. In 2022, Himmotthan Society, with the support of Make My Trip Foundation (MMTF) and Tata Trusts (TEDT), initiated the Community-Based Tourism (CBT) project in Jadipani. The project aimed to empower local women by providing them with sustainable livelihood opportunities through tourism and hospitality training. Sulochana was identified through the Varsha Navard Self-Help Group (SHG) and was encouraged to join the Guide and Hospitality Training Program.

Initially, Sulochana was hesitant. Though she had some education, she lacked confidence and feared speaking in public. The idea of interacting with guests and narrating stories about her village seemed daunting. Nevertheless, with the encouragement of the trainers and her SHG members, she decided to step forward and participate in the program. During the training, Sulochana participated in five trail walks, learning how to engage with guests, narrate local stories, and showcase the cultural heritage of Jadipani. The handson experience helped her gradually overcome her fears and gain confidence in her communication skills. In June 2024, she was offered a position at Nathuli Café, a community-run café established under the CBT project. Working as a chef and guide at Nathuli Café proved to be a turning point in Sulochana's life. The café provided her with a stable monthly income, enabling her to support her elder son's hotel management course and save for her younger child's education. The regular interactions with visitors not only enhanced her communication skills but also boosted her self-esteem. The CBT project has not only provided Sulochana with financial stability but has also opened doors for further growth. Sulochana's story is a powerful example of how targeted interventions can transform lives.

From a hesitant homemaker to a confident chef and community guide, she has become an inspiration to other women in Jadipani, proving that with the right support and opportunities, empowerment is truly possible.

Water



"She pours water onto the cracked soil, a quiet offering to the land that's taken so much from her - her time, strength and dreams. but even in the dry earth, she plants hope."

WATER INITIATIVES

For communities in the Himalayas, water is not just a resource, it is dignity, health, and survival. Since 2001, Himmotthan has worked to ensure safe and sustainable water access across Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, and Ladakh. Through community-led governance, spring rejuvenation, and the use of technology, the programme has become a flagship water initiative in the central Himalayan region.

By 2025, Himmotthan had reached 1,565 villages, benefiting over 81,000 households through 411 water schemes, 1,015 rejuvenated springs, and 760 greywater units empowering rural families, especially women, with easier and safer access to water.

OUTCOME AND IMPACTS: (WATER)







Springshed Management Impact:

Improved access to safe water was provided to 5,111 households through springshed management initiatives.

Water Security Planning:

A total of 123 Water Security Plans (DTRs) were prepared and approved by Water User Groups (WUGs) and village councils.

Catchment & Recharge Treatment:

Physical structures, afforestation, and vegetation efforts treated 419 hectares of land, enhancing catchment health and water recharge.

Capacity Building:

Training was provided to 123 WUGs on designing, implementing, and maintaining Springshed interventions.

Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) Impact:

Under JJM in Uttarakhand, 40 WQMSC members were trained to use Field Test Kits for water quality monitoring. Tap connectivity provided potable drinking water to 1,476 households across 23 villages, while 6 VWSCs took charge of operating and maintaining water supply schemes for long-term sustainability.

Water Supply and Governance:

5 villages secured a minimum of 55 LPCD household water supply. To promote efficient resource management, 35 villages began collecting regular water tariffs, reinforcing sustainable water governance.

Spring Recharge Impact:

Treated springs demonstrated an average 22% increase in water discharge, supporting improved water availability.

Case Study: Women Lead The Way In Water Security In Futsil Village, Uttarakhand



"Earlier, we walked far just to bring water home—without knowing if it was safe. Now, we test it ourselves and protect our families. For the first time, we feel seen and heard,"

- Kamla Devi, one of Futsil's water monitors.



In the hilly village of Futsil, located in Uttarakhand's Pithoragarh district, the burden of ensuring water for daily needs - drinking, cooking, sanitation has always fallen on women. Like many others in the region, Futsil's 135 households relied heavily on agriculture and livestock for their livelihood, yet lacked safe and dependable water sources.

Women walked long distances each day to fetch water from springs, often risking their health and safety, while the community struggled with rising cases of waterborne illnesses.



Recognizing this challenge, Himmotthan Society, in collaboration with the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), launched a dedicated water security intervention focused on empowering women to lead change.

Local governance bodies like the Village Water and Sanitation Committee (VWSC) and Water Quality Monitoring and Surveillance Committee (WQMSC) were activated and strengthened with women's participation at the core.

Five local women were selected and trained to monitor water quality using Field Testing Kits (FTKs) equipping them with the tools and skills to test for pH, turbidity, chlorine levels, and even bacteriological contamination. These women quickly became the village's first line of defence against unsafe water, regularly testing sources, reporting risks, and building awareness around hygiene, storage, and treatment.

As a result, the village saw a visible shift: safer water practices emerged, open defecation reduced, and waterborne disease cases declined significantly.

Beyond the health outcomes, the initiative gave these women confidence and visibility they now actively participate in gram sabhas, speak to engineers and health staff, and advocate for the village's needs. Their leadership is proof that when women are trusted with responsibility and equipped with knowledge, they drive lasting commuity-wide impact.

The success of this model has set the stage for similar interventions across other villages in Uttarakhand. As Himmotthan and JJM work toward scaling it up, Futsil stands as a powerful example of how gender-inclusive, community-led governance can not only solve critical problems like water security but also uplift women as changemakers in rural development.

IMPACT STUDY: UTTARAKHAND - JJM



Achievements under Integrated Drinking Water Project-JJM - (184 villages), UK

(As JJM started in August 2021 and ended in October 2024; so, the remaining achievements under JJM of 2024-25 – Uttarakhand are as mentioned below)

Therefore, third-party impact assessment was conducted by the consultancy agency "SoulAce" and the below points were highlighted in the intervention area of the project "Integrated Drinking Water Project - JJM" (184 villages, Tehri, Almora and Pithoragarh districts of Uttarakhand) by Himmotthan.

		Uttarakhand - JJM Impact
岭南	HEALTH	11% baseline villages reported water borne diseases has reduced to 1.8% post Endline.
	ECONOMIC	70% baseline villages comes in less than 60-minute efficiency in water fetching allows time to 100% in Endline villages for productive activities providing economic benefits.
	COMMUNITY	29% baseline villages increased community involvement and awareness in the Endline village to 92.8% promote sustainable water management and higher engagement in water-related governance.
<u>₽</u>	INFRASTRUCTURE	22% baseline villages increased to 92.4% Endline villages. High installation rates of FHTCs and improved stability of water services in the Endline village ensure reliable and regular access to clean water, improving living conditions and health outcomes.
†\\(\partial\)†\(\partial\)	CAPACITY BUILDING	100% increase in Endline villages training and knowledge on WASH improves community hygiene and manage water resource effectively.



"The hills have always witnessed burdens of belonging. Now, they witness dreams of becoming, sung by women who believe in tomorrow."

COMMUNITY INSTITUTIONS

In the Himalayan villages of Uttarakhand, where the air is crisp and life shaped by both beauty and hardship, women have long shouldered the burden of household responsibilities often with little recognition. Yet over time, their resilience, solidarity, and willpower have quietly laid the foundation for a movement that is transforming not only individual lives but entire communities. Himmotthan's Community Institutions portfolio focused on building strong, women-led grassroots governance structures.

These include Self-Help Groups (SHGs), Producer Groups (PGs), and Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), which serve as vital platforms for financial inclusion, collective enterprise, and participatory decision-making across remote regions of Uttarakhand. In FY 2024–25, the initiative remained committed to strengthening these institutions enabling women to lead, save, invest, and grow together. The year marked a significant push toward deepening grassroots governance, fostering community-based enterprises, and introducing digital systems to enhance transparency, sustainability, and scale.

OUTCOME AND IMPACTS: (COMMUNITY INSTITUTIONS)



Community Institutions and Financial Inclusion:

A total of 3,680 SHGs/PGs were supported, engaging over 33,500 women members who federated into Village Organisations and Cluster Level Federations, with 176 women serving as Board Members and 15,155 becoming community shareholders. The initiative saw robust financial activity, with ₹4.87 crore mobilized in internal savings and ₹5.11 crore disbursed as inter-loans, while credit linkage efforts enabled 904 SHGs to access ₹5.16 crore, reflecting strong trust and partnership with financial institutions.

Enterprise Promotion and Income Generation:

Women-led groups received 269 dairy animals, 97 goats, and 129 Agri Horti units, enabling asset-based income generation and resulting in a collective turnover of ₹38.02 crore and a net profit of ₹14.56 lakh. Trained cadres, including Bank Sakhis, CRPs, and Bookkeepers, played a key role in ensuring transparent and efficient enterprise operations through last-mile facilitation, monitoring, and capacity building.

Strengthening FPOs- 6-Stage Institutional Development:

To promote sustainable rural enterprises, a 6-stage model was implemented, supporting 33 FPO-SRCs through structured capacity building, business plan development, and compliance. Digital transformation was prioritized with the deployment of a centralized FPO-MIS portal, enabling real-time data management and evidence-based decision-making for enhanced transparency and timely interventions.

Case Study: Empowering Dreams - Babita Devi's Journey Of Transformation



"Before joining the SHG, I felt powerless. Today, I not only run a successful business but also stand as a pillar of support for my family. If I can do it, so can every woman of my village"

— Babita Devi, Dangala Village, Tehri Garhwal



Babita Devi, a resilient woman from Dangala village in Jaunpur block, Tehri District, lives with her husband, Rajpal Singh, and their two children. Rajpal works at a hotel, but his modest income was barely enough to sustain the family. To supplement their livelihood, Babita engaged in small-scale farming and livestock rearing. However, with only a small piece of land and 1 cow, the family could manage for just 3 to 4 months a year. The constant struggle to provide for her children's education and basic needs weighed heavily on her.



One afternoon, while conversing with her neighbour, Babita learned about Himmotthan's initiative to form Self-Help Groups (SHGs) for women in her village. Intrigued, she decided to attend the next meeting. There, she found herself among women facing challenges similar to her own, seeking financial stability and a way to lift their families out of hardship.

Babita soon became an active member of the SHG, attending every meeting regularly. Together, the group established rules regarding meeting times, savings contributions, and loan procedures. Babita faithfully deposited her savings each month, gradually building a financial cushion and confidence in the collective system.

As time passed, Babita realized that occasional household expenses, such as family functions or unexpected needs, could not be managed through savings alone. More importantly, she dreamed of starting a small business to create a steady income source for her family. Motivated by this vision, she approached the SHG chairperson and requested a loan of Rs. 1 lakh to open a beauty parlour and tailoring shop, a venture she had long aspired to. Her proposal was discussed in the group meeting, and after careful consideration, the loan was approved at an interest rate of 2% per month.

With determination, Babita set up her parlour and tailoring shop. Within months, her business began to flourish. Today, she earns between Rs. 10,000 and Rs. 15,000 per month, enabling her to manage household expenses comfortably and ensure her children's education.

Babita Devi's story is a testament to the transformative power of self-reliance and collective support. From struggling to meet basic needs, she has become a confident entrepreneur and a source of inspiration for other women in her community, proving that with courage and determination, a better life is within reach.



"When a child reads, the silence is not empty, it is filled with the sound of a future being written."

EDUCATION INITIATIVES

In the beautiful but challenging landscapes of Uttarakhand, children set off each day on long journeys to reach their schools, often walking for miles through steep hills and rocky paths. For them, education is not just about a classroom; it's about hope and a dream for a better life. Yet, these children face many obstacles in their pursuit of learning.

To bridge this gap, the Education Initiative is working across 665 government schools in Augustmuni, Chamba, Jaunpur and Kotabagh blocks impacting over 13,000 children and 665 teachers. The program focuses on foundational literacy and numeracy, physical literacy, library development, and teacher capacity building; creating joyful and engaging learning spaces where children can thrive, despite the odds.

OUTCOME AND IMPACTS: (EDUCATION INITIATIVE)



WORKSHOP ON Library Capacity Building Capacity B





Strengthening FLN and Child-Friendly Libraries:

Structured FLN sessions with teaching-learning materials improved outcomes: 77% of intensive school students achieved literacy and 81% numeracy, surpassing the 50% target. Extensive schools saw 64% achieve FLN. 77 model libraries were set up, and 73% were fully functional by year-end, fostering reading habits and student leadership.

Teacher Capacity Building:

Training conducted for 599 teachers in FLN, PL, and library facilitation. It led to 94% teachers (intensive schools) and 80% (extensive schools) adopting improved practices.

Himmotthan's expertise was recognized, with DIET and BRCs inviting the team to support government-led capacity-building program.

Physical Literacy (PL):

Daily PL sessions in 300 schools increased student engagement and well-being. Teachers noted improved classroom energy, peer cooperation, and attendance, aligning with NEP 2020.

Strengthening SMCs and Community Engagement:

Capacity-building workshops were conducted for 1,765 School Management Committee (SMC) members across 287 schools, strengthening community involvement, improving school governance, and boosting local resource mobilization. Community outreach in 218 villages further deepened school, community ties and increased enrollment, with over 5,000 children and families participating in seasonal learning camps.

Case Study: Restoring Learning Through A Vibrant Library – GPS Manjiyad Gaon, Chamba



"Earlier, the school felt like it belonged only to the teachers, but through the library, we too have become a part of it. We now join the children for stories, learn with them, and feel proud seeing their enthusiasm."

-Shobha Rana, SMC Member



Government Primary School (GPS) Manjiyad Gaon located in Chamba block is a small school serving just 13 students across grades. Despite the small size, the school faced outsized challenges ranging from crumbling infrastructure to an almost non-existent learning environment beyond textbooks. Due to a leaking roof, the school was forced to operate from a temporary Panchayat building, leaving children with little or no access to a structured reading space or library. Recognizing the critical need to bring learning back into focus, Himmotthan, identified GPS Manjiyad Gaon for library strengthening. The objective was not only to create a functional reading space but also to foster a culture of joyful and independent learning.



The transformation began with basic structural repairs and vibrant wall painting, turning a dull room into a warm, child-friendly library space. The library was equipped with age-appropriate books from well-regarded publishers such as Eklavya, Pratham, and Ektara, known for their contextual and inclusive content. Lowheight racks, seating mats, and a welcoming reading layout made the space accessible and inviting for all age groups. To build a sense of ownership and accountability, a check-in/check-out system using "Len-Den Cards" was introduced. Students began taking responsibility for the books they borrowed, which also enhanced their organizational and time-management skills. The intervention emphasized student leadership through the creation of a Children's Library Management Committee (CLMC) a group of enthusiastic readers trained and mentored to conduct daily library sessions. The CLMC was formally constituted by the Head Master in collaboration with the SMC members.

The role of the teacher was pivotal in this transformation. Initially hesitant, the teacher gradually embraced the value of a functional library and began allocating regular time to reading sessions. Library sessions were introduced to improve children's physical well-being and engagement in school activities. These sessions are now being conducted regularly, and teachers and CLMC members have started facilitating them independently. This has contributed to improved attendance, enthusiasm, and overall holistic development. Community participation has been one of the most heartening aspects of the intervention. Parents and SMC members were not only supportive of the initiative but also became active participants many joining as storytellers during library hours and helping maintain the reading space. The inclusion of a dedicated library period in the school's daily timetable ensured that reading was not left to chance but became an integral part of the learning process.

The impact of the intervention at GPS Manjiyad Gaon has been visible and inspiring. Reading levels, vocabulary, and student confidence have improved significantly. Students, once shy and disengaged, now look forward to library time. They confidently manage sessions, recommend books to peers, and even read aloud in groups. The teacher's role has evolved from sole instructor to facilitator, and the community has become a partner in learning rather than a passive observer.

Midline Assessments: Student Learning & Classroom Practices



Between January and February 2025, Himmotthan Society conducted midline assessments across 71 government schools (29 intensive and 42 extensive), reaching 2,032 students from Grades 3 to 5. The assessments were carried out by the education field team, while data analysis and results reporting were undertaken by Convegenius Insights (CGI), an independent third-party agency.

The Student Learning Assessment focused on measuring foundational

proficiency in Language and Mathematics, helping identify learning levels and gaps. Alongside, the mWater classroom observation tool was used to assess teacher practices, school environment, and the functionality of key components such as School Management Committees (SMCs) and school libraries.

A. Student Learning Outcomes (Grades 3-5)

Indicators	Target (%)	Achieved Literacy (%)	Achieved Numeracy (%)
Children achieve FLN (applicable to all children from grade 3 to 5): NIPUN Bharat definition	50%	77%	81%
Children achieve FLN (applicable to all children from grade 3 to 5)	35%	64%	66%

B. M Water Assessment Outcomes

Indicators	Target (%)	Achieved (%)
Teachers demonstrating changed classroom practices (Intensive)	60%	94%
Teachers demonstrating changed classroom practices (Extensive)	40%	80%
Functional Libraries	100%	73%
Functional SMCs	70%	98%

These findings reflect significant progress in foundational learning and improved classroom practices, particularly in intensive schools. The data also highlight areas for continued focus, such as enhancing library functionality to meet 100% targets



CHAPTER-2

HIMACHAL PRADESH



INTRODUCTION

Himachal Pradesh, with its majestic mountains, verdant valleys, and vibrant cultural heritage, is one of India's most picturesque states. Beyond its natural beauty, the state is home to a large rural population deeply rooted in traditional farming and livestock-based livelihoods. The serene environment masks the challenges that many of these interior communities' face-limited livelihood options, small and fragmented landholdings, low agricultural productivity, and limited access to markets and services. These challenges highlight the need for inclusive, sustainable, and community-driven development initiatives.

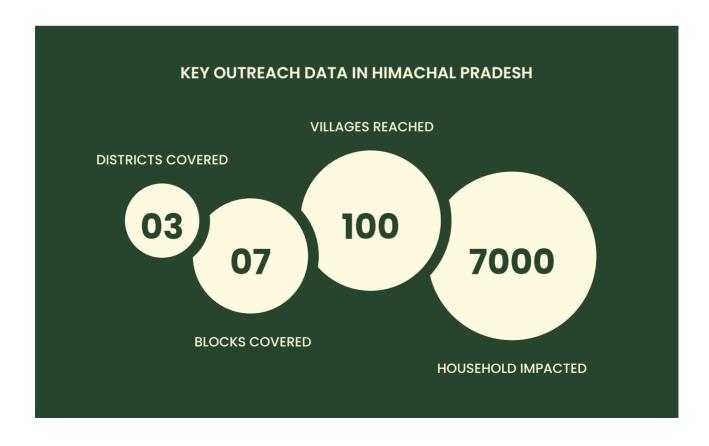
Himmotthan began its work in Himachal Pradesh in 2017, with an initial focus on improving livestock practices in the Kangra district. The organization supported farming families in enhancing productivity, income, and overall resilience. A significant milestone came in April 2021, when funding support from HDFC Bank CSR under the Holistic Rural Development Project (HRDP) allowed for expansion and deepened impact.

Currently, Himmotthan operates across three districts of Hamirpur, Kangra, and Sirmaur covering seven blocks. Interventions are designed based on localized needs and priorities, identified through ongoing engagement with communities and



institutions. In Hamirpur, the focus is on promoting vegetable cultivation and poultry farming. In Kangra, efforts are directed toward strengthening dairy development and reviving traditional crops such as millets. In Sirmaur, the program emphasizes dairy and integrated natural resource management.

Himmotthan's interventions in Himachal Pradesh aim to build resilient rural communities through integrated livelihood solutions and participatory development models tailored to the state's unique geography and socio-economic context.





"Behind her smile is a lifetime of labor, love, and leadership. her story is not just hers alone, it is the story of a rural revolution being written by thousands of hands like hers."

AGRICULTURE INITIATIVES

In the serene hills of Himachal Pradesh, where generations have depended on the land for survival, farming is not just an occupation - it is a way of life rooted in tradition and resilience. To support this tradition, Himmotthan Society has adopted a cluster-based approach, promoting sustainable agriculture through community-led efforts. Over 587 farmers cultivated traditional crops like finger millet and barley across 88 acres of land, while others shifted to high-value crops such as turmeric, green peas, tomatoes, and onions. Mechanization through farm tool banks, power tillers, and cycle ploughs has eased manual labour. Mushroom cultivation, honey production with traditional mud hives, and improved irrigation schemes have diversified livelihoods.

These efforts, supported by the formation of 35 Producer Groups, are helping farmers enhance income while preserving the natural balance of Himachal's agriculture.

OUTCOME AND IMPACTS: (AGRICULTURE)









Promotion of Millets & Traditional Crops:

In FY 2024–25, Himmotthan promoted Finger Millet (VLM 380), Naked Barley (HBL 276), and Red Rice (HPR 2720) across Kangra and Hamirpur, with support from IARI Shimla, CSKHPKV Palampur, and KVK Kullu. A total of 587 farmers cultivated 88.17 acres. 42 farmers received POP training, and 18 MT of produce was marketed.

Promotion of High-Value Crops:

Improved variety seeds of turmeric (Pragati) and peas (GS-10, Mucio) were distributed to 372 farmers covering 39.24 acres. In Bijhari, 150 farmers received inputs like seeds (tomato, potato, onion, pea), fertilizers, and spray pumps. Three trainings were held. 4.5 MT of crops were marketed, and bamboo staking was adopted in tomato/cucurbit farming.

Mechanization Support:

Six Farm Tool Banks with power tillers and maize threshers were set up in Bijhari (Harsaur, Darkoti, Chanbeh, Dalchera, Jhanjiani, Maslana Khurd). In Hamirpur, 11 power tillers/weeders and 52 cycle ploughs were distributed to promote mechanized farming.

Mushroom Cultivation:

21 white button mushroom units were set up for landless households, producing 12 MT marketed locally. A compost unit is planned in Bijhari for FY 2025–26.

Honey Value Chain:

In Uttrala (Kangra), 10 households began managing 35 *Apis cerana indica* colonies. With support from the Horticulture Department, farmers were trained and built 28 mud hives using local materials. Expansion planned in FY 2025–26, focusing on youth and women.

Irrigation Support:

15 irrigation schemes completed, covering 25.12 acres and enabling HVC cultivation on an additional 5 acres in rainfed areas.

Chain-Link Fencing:

3,000 meters of fencing installed in Pathliar and Chakmoh, protecting 25 acres of land from stray animals.

Case Study: Cultivating Prosperity Through Mushroom Farming In Dalchera

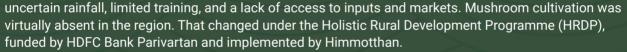


"The income from this one cycle has improved my family's quality of life. For the first time, I feel financially confident and excited about what lies ahead," says Shammi Patial, now preparing for his second cycle.



In Dalchera village, located in Hamirpur district, mushroom farming has emerged as a promising and sustainable livelihood alternative for small and landless farmers. Unlike conventional crops that require large tracts of land and are highly dependent on the monsoon, white button mushrooms thrive in compact spaces, demand lower inputs, and generate income within a short cultivation cycle making them ideal for resource-limited rural households.

Prior to 2024, farmers like Shammi Patial relied solely on seasonal agriculture, struggling with



The program offered an end-to-end support package, including intensive training on spawn preparation, pest and disease control, harvesting, and post-harvest handling. Each participant received a fully equipped mushroom unit, complete with stainless-steel racks, 150 pre-inoculated casing bags, quality spores and substrate, packaging tools, heaters, spray pumps, and a hygrometer to manage the controlled environment needed for successful cultivation.

Technical experts visited field on regular basis to ensure successful implementation and address any issues on the ground. In his first cultivation cycle in November 2024, Shammi harvested 302 kg of white button mushrooms, earning ₹45,300 his highest seasonal income so far. By following optimal growing practices and managing pests effectively, he achieved premium-quality produce with minimal losses.

During FY 2024–25, the initiative supported the creation of 21 mushroom units across Dalchera and nearby villages. Together, they produced approximately 12 metric tonnes of mushrooms, which were marketed directly by farmers in local mandis and roadside outlets, allowing them to retain full profits. Plans are now in place to establish a central compost facility in the Bhijri cluster in FY 2025–26, which will support remote growers with enriched substrate and help boost productivity further. Dalchera's mushroom farming success demonstrates how skill-based, low-land enterprises can transform rural incomes.

By blending traditional farming knowledge with modern practices and reliable market access, Himmotthan Society and HDFC Parivartan are enabling farmers to build resilient, year-round livelihoods. With future plans for value addition like dried mushroom products and branded packaging this initiative is steadily becoming a foundation for community-wide prosperity.





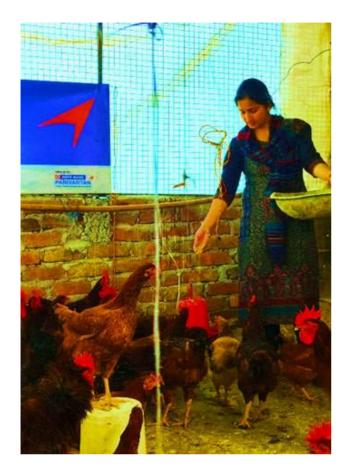
"That smile isn't just joy, it's the quiet triumph of a man who turned struggle into strength, with every feathered friend by his side."

LIVESTOCK INITIATIVES

In Himachal's rural homes, livestock are seen not just as animals but as essential members of the family, providing food, income, and stability. Recognizing their value, Himmotthan Society has focused on improving the dairy and poultry value chains across project clusters. With the support of veterinarians and the Animal Husbandry Department, 19 animal health camps were conducted, treating over 550 animals and benefiting more than 1,100 people. Two milk collection dairies are operational, backed by fodder plantations and the construction of animal sheds to improve productivity. In poultry, a 1,600-egg hatchery was established in Dalchera village, and 25 backyard poultry sheds were set up, housing 2,000 local birds.

These efforts are not only improving animal health and product availability but also strengthening livelihoods and food security for rural families.

OUTCOME AND IMPACTS: (LIVESTOCK)







Animal Health and Fodder Development:

A total of 19 livestock health camps were conducted across clusters in collaboration with the Animal Husbandry Department and scientists from the Veterinary College, Palampur. Around 550 animals were treated and provided with mineral mixtures, liquid vitamin feed, and deworming tablets. These efforts were complemented by the cultivation of fodder across 15 hectares of land, leading to improved milk yields with daily milk collection reaching 325 liters.

Poultry Value Chain Enhancement:

A hatchery with a 1,600-egg capacity was established in Dalchera village, expected to support 30 backyard poultry units over three years. In FY 2024–25, 25 poultry sheds housing 2,000 birds were constructed across the state. This intervention is set to benefit 20–25 additional farmers with regular access to day-old chicks, boosting egg production and farmers income.

Water

"In their eyes, you don't just see relief, you see a kind of calm that only comes when the most basic need finally reaches your doorstep."

WATER INITIATIVES

In the hills of Himachal Pradesh, water is life flowing not just through taps and fields, but through the hopes of families who depend on it every day. For many, dry summers once meant long walks and empty pots. Himmotthan's water programme is changing that reality by addressing drinking water scarcity and irrigation challenges through springshed restoration, recharge structures, and small-scale irrigation.

In Kangra and Sirmaur, 86 Water Security Plans were prepared and approved by village committees. Treatment of 264 hectares of springsheds led to a 22% increase in spring discharge, providing year-round safe water to 2,654 households. Additionally, 15 irrigation schemes brought reliable water to 25.12 acres, supporting high-value cropping. In Maslana Khurd, an 8,000-liter Jalminar tank now supplies clean, chlorinated water to 32 households restoring dignity, health, and hope drop by drop.

OUTCOME AND IMPACTS: (WATER)







Springshed Management Impact:

In FY 2024–25, 2,654 households in Himachal Pradesh benefited from improved year-round access to safe water through springshed restoration efforts.

Water Security Planning:

86 Water Security Plans (DPRs) were prepared and approved by Water User Groups (WUGs) and Village Councils, enabling community-led planning and management of water resources.

Catchment & Recharge Treatment:

264 hectares of land was treated with physical recharge structures, afforestation, and vegetation, enhancing groundwater recharge and ecosystem stability.

Capacity Building of WUGs:

All 86 WUGs received training on planning, execution, and maintenance of springshed interventions, strengthening local ownership and sustainability.

Tap Connectivity under JJM:

Under Jal Jeevan Mission, 1,997 households in 20 villages received tap water connections. Additionally, 16 villages now access a minimum of 55 LPCD, improving potable water availability.

Water & Sanitation in Poanta Block:

In Poanta block, 10 household toilets were renovated and 25 compost pits were built, improving sanitation and promoting hygienic waste management.

Case Study: Malsana Khurd Jalminar- Delivering Clean Water To Every Household



"Earlier, the "We no longer wake up worried about water. My daughters go to school on time, and I finally have time to sew and earn," says Sita Devi, a mother of three. "This tank didn't just bring us water—it gave us dignity and time."



In Maslana Khurd, a small village nestled in Himachal Pradesh, the daily act of fetching water once defined the rhythm of life especially for women and children. With unreliable access to clean sources, villagers depended on distant springs and seasonal streams, often walking for hours to collect water that was neither safe nor sufficient.

In FY 2024–25, this reality began to change. Under its Rural Livelihoods and Water Intervention pillars, Himmotthan Society implemented a community-led Jalminar system that now delivers clean, chlorinated



water directly to every household in the village. The heart of the intervention was an 8,000-litre reinforced storage tank, linked to an old, disused waterbody via a lift-based pumping mechanism. A chlorination unit ensures safe, disinfected water reaches each home, even during the dry season.

From the very beginning, the project focused on community participation and ownership. Women's groups and village leaders actively contributed to site selection and pipeline layout planning, ensuring the system responded to real needs. Local masons and youth volunteers were trained on-site, helping reduce costs, build skills, and foster long-term responsibility for maintenance.

The impact was swift and significant. Health centre records showed a decline in water-borne illnesses, especially among children under ten. Women reported saving up to two hours a day, now reallocated to childcare, household tasks, or even participation in adult literacy sessions. Children arrived at school hydrated, punctual, and more attentive.

The Jalminar is now not just a tank it is a symbol of self-reliance and what thoughtful, small-scale infrastructure can achieve. A village water committee, formed during implementation, oversees operations, collects a small monthly household contribution, and manages chlorination, pump servicing, and minor repairs ensuring sustainability without constant external support.

Encouraged by this success, Himmotthan is preparing to replicate this model across other water-stressed villages in Hamirpur and Sirmaur districts, integrating water access with nutrition, health, and sanitation goals. In Maslana Khurd, water is no longer a burden it is a right fulfilled, and a foundation for better health, learning, and livelihoods.

IMPACT STUDY: HIMACHAL PRADESH - JJM



Achievements under Integrated Drinking Water Project-JJM - (103 villages), HP

(As JJM started in August 2021 and ended in October 2024; so, the remaining achievements under JJM of 2024-25 – Himachal are as mentioned below)

So, third-party impact assessment was conducted by the consultancy agency "SoulAce" and the below points were highlighted in the intervention area of the project "Integrated Drinking Water Project - JJM" (103 villages, Sirmaur and Kangra districts of Himachal Pradesh) by Himmotthan Society.

		Himachal Pradesh – JJM Impact	
岭南	HEALTH	9% baseline villages reported water borne diseases has reduced to 1.2% post Endline.	
	ECONOMIC	89% baseline villages come in less than 60-minute efficiency in water fetching allows time to 100% in Endline villages for productive activities providing economic benefits.	
	COMMUNITY	61% baseline villages increased community involvement and awareness in the Endline village to 96.3% promote sustainable water management and higher engagement in water-related governance.	
	INFRASTRUCTURE	48% baseline villages increased to 99.7% Endline villages. High installation rates of FHTCs and improved stability of water services in the Endline village ensure reliable and regular access to clean water, improving living conditions and health outcomes.	
†\(\overline{\psi}\)† \(\overline{\psi}\)	CAPACITY BUILDING	100% increase in Endline villages training and knowledge on WASH improves community hygiene and manage water resource effectively.	



COMMUNITY INSTITUTIONS

When people come together with a shared purpose, real change begins to feel possible. The Producer Groups formed by Himmotthan aren't just about improving livelihoods, they're about building a sense of belonging and confidence. For many women and smallholder farmers, this has been the first time they've worked in a structured group, taken decisions collectively, and seen their efforts turn into real income.

These institutions are helping people feel seen, capable, and supported. It's not just about economic growth, it's about people standing stronger together, trusting their own voices, and taking charge of their future.

OUTCOME AND IMPACTS: (COMMUNITY INSTITUTIONS)



Building Stronger Communities Through Producer Groups:

In FY 2024–25, Himmotthan prioritized the development of grassroots-level institutions to support sustainable livelihoods. A total of 35 Producer Groups (PGs) were formed, comprising 461 members across sectors such as agriculture, mushroom farming, and poultry. These groups consist largely of smallholder farmers, women, and landless families, brought together to collectively plan, procure inputs, and build local enterprises. Going forward, these PGs are being nurtured into larger Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) to strengthen their business potential, market reach, and long-term viability. The initiative has enabled community ownership, improved income generation, and enhanced rural enterprise capacity.



EDUCATION INITIATIVES

Education in Himachal Pradesh is often praised for its high literacy rates and inclusive outreach, yet many interior villages continue to face challenges. Limited infrastructure, lack of digital access, and pedagogical gaps restrict children from achieving their full potential, especially in foundational literacy and numeracy.

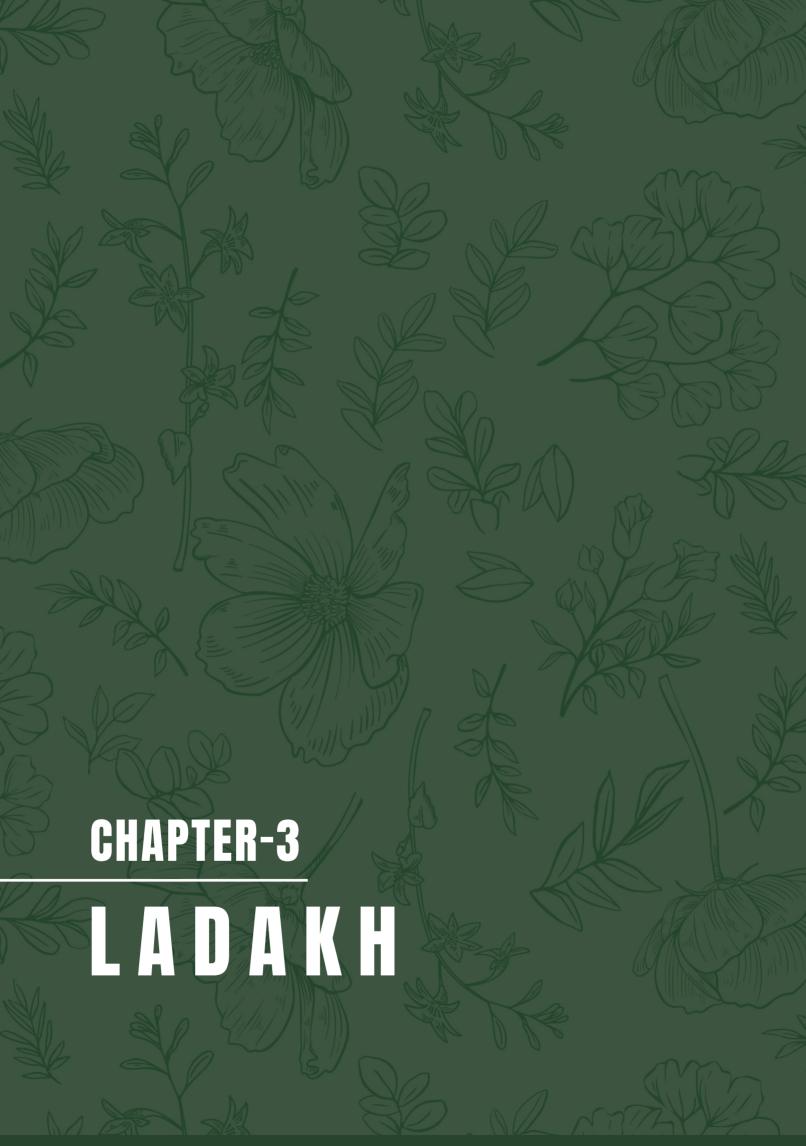
Himmotthan is working to bridge these divides by introducing technology into classrooms, providing interactive learning methods that make education more engaging and effective. Strengthening early literacy remains a core focus, ensuring that children build strong reading and mathematical skills essential for future growth. At the same time, efforts are directed toward creating joyful, child-friendly spaces that inspire curiosity, confidence, and creativity.

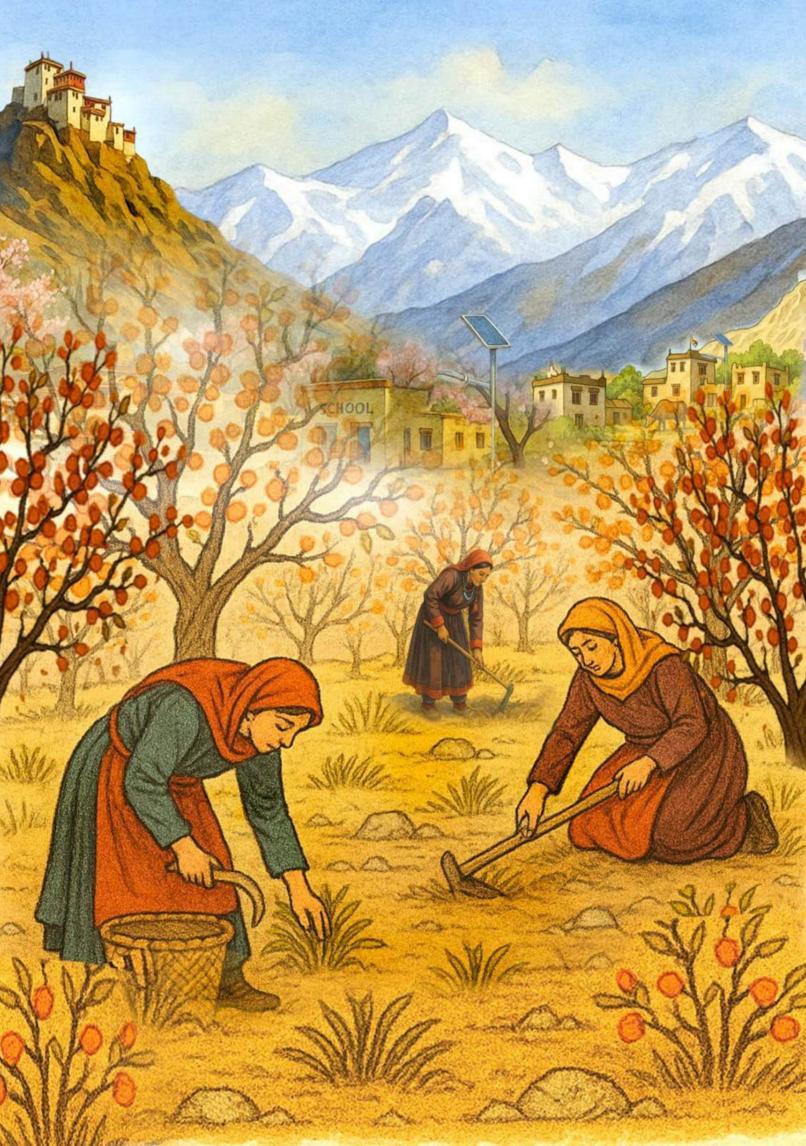
OUTCOME AND IMPACTS: (EDUCATION)



Enhancing Rural Education through Smart Infrastructure:

To strengthen educational infrastructure in rural Himachal Pradesh, Himmotthan undertook renovation work to improve access to safe drinking water, hygienic sanitation units, and conducive learning environments. In FY 2024–25, three smart classrooms were established in government schools, directly benefiting over 132 students. These upgraded learning spaces have helped improve student engagement, attendance, and teaching outcomes. The initiative also aimed to create a cleaner and safer atmosphere for children, fostering an improved overall experience in rural education systems.





INTRODUCTION

In the stark yet captivating expanse of Ladakh, Himmotthan's transformative journey began in 2016 when Tata Trusts, together with the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council and NABARD, envisioned a focused livelihood programme for this fragile region. By April 2018, the Leh Livelihood Initiative was in motion, guided by a dedicated Project Management Unit in Leh.

Over the years, interventions have been thoughtfully designed to suit the diverse landscapes and communities across 60 revenue villages in 15 administrative blocks of Leh and Karqil districts.

In the Lower Indus Valley, or Sham Valley, where apricot orchards are central to village life, farmers have seen remarkable improvements through better pest management, pruning, and solar drying, which have helped them earn higher returns from premium dried apricots.

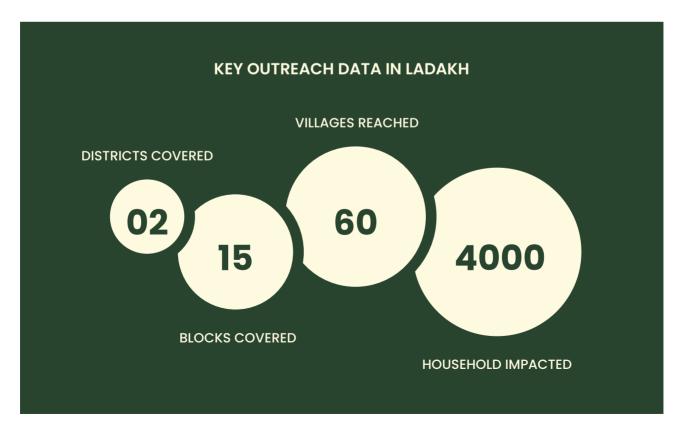
In Changthang, the Upper Indus region known for its extreme climate and pastoral way of life, wool crafts and livestock-based livelihoods have gained new strength, providing steady incomes for women artisans and herders. In the mid Indus belt, including Kharu and Rong Valleys, high-value vegetable farming and passive solar greenhouses have extended the growing season, allowing fresh produce even during harsh winters. Efforts to secure water through the renovation of reservoirs, repair of irrigation canals, and the creation of an artificial glacier now support farms in water-scarce villages.

Across these valleys, solar lamps, streetlights, and village



power plants have brightened homes, fields, and schools, improved daily life and learned for children in remote places like Chushul and Tharuk. Strengthened producer groups, village councils, and training initiatives ensure that local communities lead this journey towards a resilient and self-reliant Ladakh.

This collective progress has laid the foundation for long-term prosperity and environmental stewardship in this high-altitude region. By building skills, improving incomes, and fostering local leadership, Himmotthan's interventions continue to inspire confidence and unity. The story of Ladakh today is one of hope, innovation, and a community determined to thrive sustainably.





"Every wrinkle on her face tells a story of seasons survived, and every pea she picks whispers of a life lived close to the soil."

AGRICULTURE INITIATIVES

In 2024-25, Himmotthan' agricultural initiatives in Ladakh revitalized livelihoods across 50 villages in 15 blocks of Leh and Kargil. Improved green pea and vegetable seeds were distributed to 671 farmers in 18 villages, covering 252 acres and resulting in 756 MT of produce valued at ₹3 crore. Training on package of practices by Krishi Vigyan Kendra complemented these inputs. Integrated pest management and pruning support reached 617 households, improving care for 14,378 apricot trees. 66 solar apricot dryers installed in 10 Sham Valley villages produced 99 quintals of premium dried fruit, generating ₹49.5 lakh. Thirteen passive solar greenhouses in Kharu and Rong Valleys yielded 195 quintals of off-season vegetables.

Strengthened Farmer Producer Organizations facilitated collective marketing, ensuring fair prices and bolstering resilience.

OUTCOME AND IMPACTS: (AGRICULTURE)







Promotion of High-Value Crops

Improved green pea and vegetable seeds were provided to 671 farmers in 18 villages, cultivating 252 acres and yielding 756 MT valued at ₹3 crore. Krishi Vigyan Kendra trainings on package-of-practice techniques enhanced crop management

Solar Apricot Dryers

66 solar dryers were installed in 10 Sham Valley villages each handling 250 kg per batch and processed 99 quintals of A-grade dried apricots. This intervention reduced post-harvest losses and generated ₹49.5 lakh in additional income.

Passive Solar Greenhouses

Constructed in Kharu and Rong Valleys, producing 195 quintals of off-season vegetables (15 quintals per greenhouse). This extended the growing season into winter, enabling farmers to earn up to ₹75,000 per greenhouse.

Integrated Pest Management

IPM kits were distributed to 617 households in 20 villages, treating 14,378 apricot trees with foliar and bio-fertilisers to boost growth and disease resistance. Pruning and sanitation training for 401 farmers across 10 villages increased average fruit size from 27 mm to 33 mm, raising orchard productivity.

Orchard Development

The distribution of 2,525 apple saplings across five varieties (Gala, Red Gala, Golden Delicious, Royal Delicious, and Granny Smith), along with fertilizers, led to the establishment of 30 orchards over 7.5 acres in two villages. Additionally, budding technique training conducted in 10 villages equipped 204 farmers with grafting skills for the Raktsey Karpo and Halman apricot varieties.

Case Study: A Farmer's Journey Of Transformation

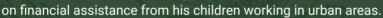


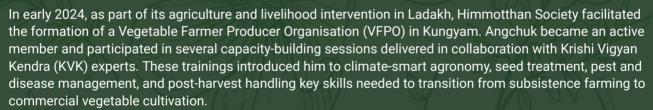
"I never imagined that my land could give me more than survival. With support and training, I've turned my field into a source of income, confidence, and pride—not just for me, but for my entire village."

— Sonam Angchuk, Farmer, Kungyam Village, Ladakh



In the high-altitude village of Kungyam in Rong Valley, Ladakh approximately 90 km from Leh agriculture has traditionally served as a subsistence livelihood. Farmers like 57-year-old Sonam Angchuk primarily cultivated barley and mustard, crops well-suited to the region's harsh climate and short growing season. However, limited market access, minimal rainfall (less than 100 mm annually), and volatile prices meant that agricultural income remained low. Prior to any external support, Angchuk's earnings were insufficient to sustain his family, making him reliant

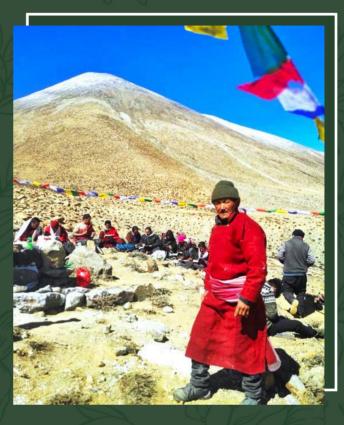




With technical guidance, Angchuk adopted green pea cultivation, a high-value crop well-suited to Ladakh's Agro-climatic conditions. Due to Ladakh's unique harvesting window (August−September), Kungyam farmers accessed premium prices in off-season plains markets. Applying the recommended package-of-practices and utilizing glacier-melt irrigation, Angchuk cultivated 1,300 kg of green peas on his plot. Through VFPO-supported collective marketing, he significantly reduced input and transportation costs, earning a net seasonal income of ₹78,000 a considerable improvement over previous year.

This transformation enabled Angchuk to invest in better seeds, reduce dependence on remittances, and strengthen his household's financial stability. Inspired by his progress, other VFPO members began experimenting with high-value crops like baby carrots and leafy greens. Angchuk now plays an active mentorship role, supporting fellow farmers with nursery management and input procurement strategies.

His success highlights the impact of community-led producer groups, market linkages, and localized training in enabling sustainable agriculture in ecologically fragile, high-altitude areas.





"She spins wool into thread, and thread into strength, weaving warmth and resilience for her mountain home."

LIVESTOCK INITIATIVES

In 2024-25, livestock initiatives in Ladakh strengthened rural incomes and diversified livelihoods through focused animal care and skilling. 18 animal health camps reached 448 dairy farmers, treating 672 milch animals with supplements and deworming, boosting milk production and herd health. Dairy farmers learned to prepare dry cheese (churphey) and milk-based soap, empowering 53 households, mainly women, to produce hygienic, marketable products. Wool craft promotion in Changthang trained 87 women artisans, including 17 master trainers, in spinning, knitting, and weaving.

By combining better animal husbandry with value addition and traditional crafts, these efforts increased household earnings, encouraged local enterprise, and improved financial independence for women, strengthening resilience in Ladakh's high-altitude villages.

OUTCOME AND IMPACTS: (LIVESTOCK)



Animal Health Services

18 animal health camps were conducted with the District Animal Husbandry Department, reaching 448 dairy farmers. A total of 672 milch animals received mineral supplements, liquid vitamins, and deworming tablets. These efforts improved animal nutrition and disease prevention, resulting in a substantial increase in milk production and better herd health.



Training on Dry Cheese (Churphey)

Training sessions on making dry cheese, locally known as churphey, were organized for dairy farmers to promote this traditional high-value product. Drying cheese in solar dryers improves hygiene and shelf life. Through this training, 29 women learned practical techniques to prepare churphey, opening new opportunities for household income.



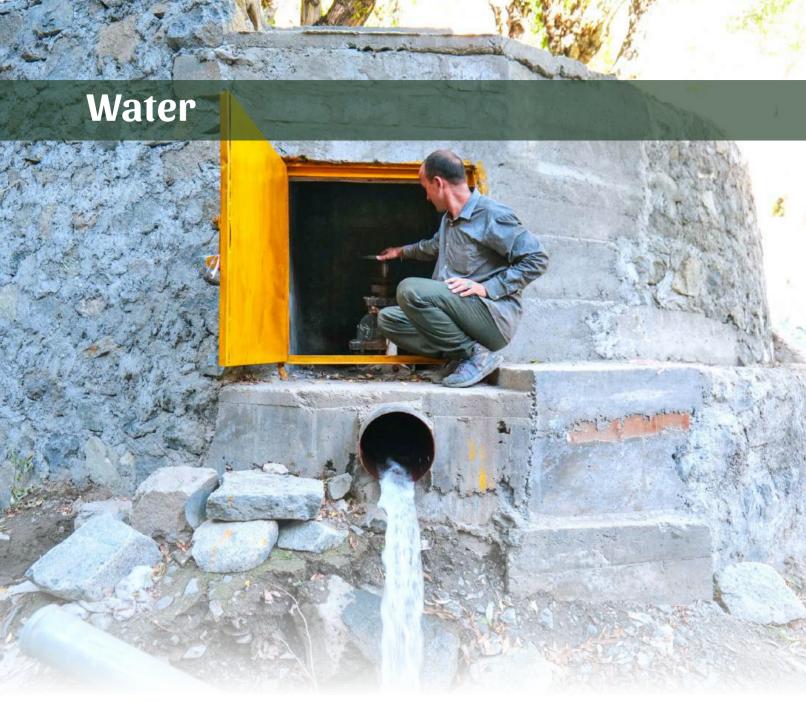
Training on Milk-Based Soap

Specialized training in producing milkbased soap was provided to diversify dairy value chains. This initiative empowered 24 participants, mainly women, to turn surplus milk into a hygienic, marketable product. By combining traditional resources with new skills, farmers can now create and sell value-added soap for extra income.



Wool Craft Promotion

Skilling efforts focused on developing wool craftbased enterprises in Changthang to strengthen the livelihoods of rural artisans. Training equipped 87 women, including 17 master trainers, in spinning, knitting, and weaving skills. This initiative aims to establish handicrafts as an alternative profession, fostering financial independence and greater selfconfidence among rural women.



"In the silence of these mountains, a full reservoir whispers promises of green fields and a future no drought can break."

WATER INITIATIVES

In Ladakh, where the land is rugged and the skies often yield little rain, every drop of water is a lifeline. For generations, farmers have battled extreme cold, vanishing glaciers, and short growing seasons with resilience but changing climates have made survival harder.

To support these communities, Himmotthan undertook critical water interventions in FY 2024–25. Six reservoirs were repaired, restoring irrigation for 199 households across 266 acres. 9 canals and 2 headworks were renovated, benefiting 143 households and 136 acres of farmland. An artificial glacier, storing 2 million litres of meltwater, now ensures water for 132 households during crucial sowing months bringing hope and stability back to these fragile mountain villages.

OUTCOME AND IMPACTS: (WATER)







Repair and Renovation of Water Reservoirs

6 existing water reservoirs were repaired and revitalized to tackle severe water shortages in Leh's villages. These community assets now supply irrigation water to 199 households, covering 266 acres of farmland. Local farmers contributed labour, ensuring community ownership and better upkeep. Improved water storage has boosted crop productivity, securing farmers' livelihoods in this cold, arid region.

Repair and Renovation of Irrigation Canals

9 traditional irrigation canals and 2 headworks were repaired to ensure steady water flow from mountain streams to agricultural fields. Stone embankments, weirs, and concrete linings prevent leaks and protect canals from floods and erosion. This renovation directly benefits 143 households, irrigating 136 acres, resulting in higher yields and reduced water loss, easing farmers' workloads.

Construction of Artificial Glacier

1 artificial glacier was built to address seasonal water scarcity worsened by climate change. This glacier stores up to 2 million litres of meltwater, providing an additional 60–70 days of irrigation during crucial sowing months. It benefits 132 households, covering 105 acres of farmland, helping farmers sustain crops despite declining natural glacier reserves, and strengthening community water security.

Case Study: Restoration In Sanith Hamlet

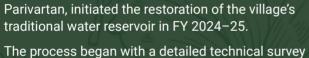


When the reservoir filled up again, it felt like life had returned to our village. Our fields are green, our orchards are blooming, and for the first time in years, we feel hopeful. It showed us that when we come together, we can change our future."

- A farmer from Sanith village



In the high-altitude hamlet of Sanith, located in Dha village of Ladakh, water scarcity had long threatened the livelihood of 15 households. With only seasonal glacial melt as a water source, residents struggled to irrigate 70 acres of farmland, including vital apricot orchards and staple crops like barley and buckwheat. Recognizing the urgent need for intervention, Himmotthan Society, with support from HDFC Bank



led by Himmotthan's engineers to assess silt buildup and structural damage. The renovation was truly community-led local farmers and youth participated in desilting, clearing vegetation, and sharing insights about seasonal water flow patterns. Skilled masons from the area were trained to rebuild eroded walls and expand the reservoir's capacity. A new gate valve was installed to enable efficient water flow control, ensuring a more reliable supply during critical sowing periods.

Despite the region's tough terrain and logistical challenges, the entire renovation was completed within just 18 days. Once restored, the reservoir reached its full 8,000 m³ capacity, ensuring uninterrupted irrigation water to all 15 households. As a result, fields that once lay fallow during peak dry months began to flourish again. Farmers reported up to 40% higher yields in apricots and staple grains, translating into better food security and increased income.

To ensure long-term sustainability, a village reservoir committee was formed with representation from each household. The committee manages routine maintenance, collects a nominal household contribution for upkeep, and receives ongoing technical support from Himmotthan. This successful intervention has sparked interest in nearby hamlets, where communities are exploring similar models under government convergence schemes.

The Sanith reservoir restoration is a powerful example of how modest investments, paired with strong community engagement and technical guidance, can transform local resilience and revive traditional water infrastructure in Ladakh's fragile agro-ecosystem.



IMPACT STUDY: LEH (LADAKH) - JJM



Achievements under Integrated Drinking Water Project-JJM - (33 villages), Leh

(As JJM started in Leh in June 2022 and ended in October 2024; so, the remaining achievements under JJM of 2024-25 – Leh are as mentioned below)

So, third-party impact assessment was conducted by the consultancy agency "SoulAce" and the below points were highlighted in the intervention area of the project "Integrated Drinking Water Project - JJM" (33 villages, Leh district of Ladakh) by Himmotthan Society.

Ladakh - JJM Impact			
岭南州	HEALTH	4% water borne diseases reported in baseline has reduced to 1.3% post endline villages.	
	ECONOMIC	80% baseline villages comes in less than 60 -minute efficiency in water fetching allows time to 94% spent 30 minutes in Endline villages for productive activities providing economic benefits.	
	COMMUNITY	42% baseline villages increased community involvement and awareness in the Endline village to 73.8% promote sustainable water management and engagement in water-related governance.	
	INFRASTRUCTURE	20% baseline villages increased to 100% Endline villages are reliable and regular access to clean water, with high installation rates of FHTCs improving living and health condition.	
†\\(\partial\)†\(\partial\)	CAPACITY BUILDING	100% increase in Endline villages on training and knowledge on WASH improves community hygiene and manage water resource effectively.	



"When hands and voices come togeather, villages grow stronger, turning harvests into hope and unity into power."

COMMUNITY INSTITUTIONS

In Ladakh's remote villages, where farming is a lifeline, communities are coming together to build stronger, self-reliant futures. Himmotthan strengthened grassroots governance through the formation and capacity-building of Producer Groups (PGs), Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs), and Village Development Councils (VDCs). These community institutions have become focal points for managing development assets, supporting livelihoods, and maintaining transparency. The marketing of dried and fresh apricots, along with green peas, was successfully routed through FPOs, enhancing profits and reducing post-harvest losses.

Plans ahead include expanding institutional coverage to new villages and integrating digital monitoring systems for better asset tracking and coordination.

OUTCOME AND IMPACTS: (COMMUNITY INSTITUTIONS)



Institution Building:

25 Producer Groups and Village Development Committees were formed and trained across 25 villages, involving 817 farmers. These institutions have strengthened local ownership and improved service delivery.

Vegetable Marketing via FPOs:

FPOs marketed 21.52 MT of green peas, generating ₹12.77 lakh in turnover, including ₹1.05 lakh profit. This benefited 70 farmers through improved incomes and market access.

Market-Based Income:

Collective marketing of 4.23 tonnes of dried and 18.56 MT of fresh apricots generated ₹48 lakh. Farmers gained better prices and timely payments, boosting confidence in collective enterprises.

Sustainability Practices:

VDCs adopted SOPs for maintaining solar systems and storage units, ensuring asset longevity and equitable use.

Innovation And Technology

CLIMATE SMART TECHNOLOGY

In the 21st century, climate change has emerged as a significant challenge to agriculture, freshwater resources and the food security of billions of people in the world. Studies on the impact of climate change have shown clear evidence for an observed change in global surface temperature, rainfall, evaporation and extreme events. It poses a significant threat to rural livelihoods by impacting food production through reduced crop yields, harvest losses, increased human-wildlife conflict, and rising production costs. In response, climate-smart technologies (CSTs) have emerged as critical tools for enhancing food security both by enabling farmers to adapt to climate-related risks and by reducing greenhouse gas emissions from agricultural practices. However, smallholder and resource-poor farmers often face barriers such as limited financial means and lack of technical knowledge, making institutional support essential for widespread adoption.

Recognizing this need, Himmotthan has introduced three key climate-smart technologies under its ongoing initiatives:

Solar-Based Hybrid Fencing System: To address the growing issue of wildlife intrusion into farmers fields, Himmotthan installed solar-powered hybrid fencing integrated with chain-link mesh, securing 210 Nali (≈10 acres) of land. This innovative solution serves as a sustainable and effective barrier, significantly reducing crop damage and human-wildlife conflict by deterring wild animals from entering farmlands. The adoption of this ecofriendly and sustainable solution not only protects crops but also ensures the safety of farming communities.

Drip Irrigation System: With water scarcity being a persistent challenge in Uttarakhand's rainfed agricultural regions, Himmotthan promoted the adoption of water-efficient irrigation practices. To enhance apple cultivation and other crops, 150 Nali (≈7 acres) of farmland has been brought under drip irrigation. This system ensures optimal use of water and nutrients, thereby improving plant health, productivity, and resilience to climate variability.

Solar Apricot Dryers: A total of 35 solar apricot dryers have been established, significantly surpassing the annual target of 15 units. This climate-smart intervention not only reduces dependence on conventional energy sources but also enhances the post-harvest management of apricots in an environmentally sustainable manner. By utilizing solar energy for drying, the technology helps in preserving nutritional quality, prolonging shelf-life, and minimizing post-harvest losses. Furthermore, it improves the marketability and income potential for local farmers, while promoting low-carbon agricultural practices in high-altitude regions.







SCALING INDIGENOUS DAIRY ENTERPRISES IN THE CENTRAL HIMALAYAS

As part of its ongoing efforts to promote sustainable rural livelihoods through decentralized, community-owned enterprises, Himmotthan Society has piloted and scaled an innovative indigenous dairy value chain in the Joshimath and Dasholi blocks of Uttarakhand. The intervention focuses on high-value product development specifically A2 ghee through the mobilization of traditional dairy practices, modern processing techniques, and market integration.

Production and Processing of A2 Ghee

In FY 2024–25, the dairy intervention led to the collection of 1,474 kg of indigenous butter, which was processed to yield 1,050 kg of pure A2 ghee a premium dairy product derived from indigenous cattle breeds known for their nutritional and therapeutic value. The processing unit was designed to maintain the purity and traceability of the product, adhering to quality standards that align with both local preferences and broader market demands.



Economic Impact and Livelihood Generation

This value chain model generated a gross turnover of ₹11.3 lakh during the year, directly benefitting 376 farmers across 42 villages. The initiative has significantly contributed to improving rural incomes by strengthening the market potential of traditional dairy products. Additionally, it provided localized employment opportunities by engaging:

- 42 butter collectors within the communities
- 3 trained technicians-cum-managers for plant operations
- Additional support staff for logistics, packaging, and coordination

Importantly, the operational model was built with a self-reliant cost-recovery structure, ensuring that all operational and human resource expenses are met through revenues, making the unit a viable, long-term rural enterprise.

Market Linkages and Commercial Partnerships

To ensure scale and sustainability, Himmotthan facilitated strategic market linkages with private sector partners such as KishanSay and other retail and institutional buyers. These partnerships ensured:

- Stable demand and regular off-take of A2 ghee
- Fair and competitive prices for producers
- Supply chain expansion into commercial and urban markets

Such collaboration enabled smallholder producers to enter value-driven markets and positioned A2 ghee as a premium, ethically sourced product from the Himalayas.

Focus on Women, Youth, and Local Enterprise Ownership

A core emphasis of this model is the empowerment of women and rural youth through livelihood and leadership opportunities. Women-led Self-Help Groups (SHGs) play a pivotal role in collection, coordination, and outreach, while youth are trained in processing and plant operations. This not only generates income but also fosters a sense of ownership and entrepreneurial capacity within the community.

Awards And Recognition

In FY 2024–25, Himmotthan received recognition across multiple domains for its exemplary work. The organization's consistent efforts in promoting rural resilience, community-led governance, and sectoral innovations were acknowledged and appreciated by esteemed national platforms. These recognitions serve as a testament to Himmotthan's impact-driven approach and its commitment to driving meaningful change in the Himalayan region.

SDG Achiever Award for Poverty Alleviation

Him Vikas Self Reliance Cooperative, Tehri Garhwal, was honoured with the SDG Achiever Award under SDG Goal 1–No Poverty organised by the CPPGG, Planning Department, Uttarakhand, recognizing its significant contribution toward poverty alleviation in the Himalayan region. This SRC was promoted by Himmotthan Society, and through sustainable livelihood initiatives, inclusive enterprise development, and strong community engagement, the cooperative has played a pivotal role in improving household income and fostering socioeconomic resilience among rural communities.



Recognition for Water Innovation

At the 10th CII Water Innovation Summit 2024, the Integrated Village Development Program (IVDP) in Uttarakhand implemented by Himmotthan Society in partnership with Titan Company was recognized as a Noteworthy Project in Water Management. This recognition was awarded under the Water Neutrality and Water Innovation segment of the prestigious CII National Awards for Water Innovation 2024. The award highlights the program's significant contribution to water conservation, springshed rejuvenation, and decentralized water governance in remote Himalayan villages. It reflects the commitment of Himmotthan and Titan towards shaping a water-secure future through sustainable, community-led approaches.







CII FPO Award for Market Linkage Excellence

Pahadi Utpaad Swayat Sahkarita, a FPO promoted by Himmotthan Society, was recognized among the Top 5 in the Market Linkage Category at the prestigious CII FPO Awards, New Delhi, a testament to its impactful efforts in strengthening farmer collectives and creating robust market linkages for Agri-produce in the Himalayan region. This recognition highlights the cooperative's commitment to empowering farmers through improved value chains and sustainable livelihood opportunities.

National Recognition by NITI Aayog

In FY 2024-25, Himmotthan Society was recognized at the national level through its inclusion in the restructured Mountain Tourism Working Group constituted by NITI Aayog for sustainable development in the Indian Himalayan Region. This nomination acknowledges Himmotthan's impactful work in the Himalayan states and positions it as a key contributor to national policy planning for sustainable tourism and rural development.

> 12016/02/01/2020-S&T NITI Aayog ment and Climate Change-GTC Division)

> > NITI Bhawan, New Delhi Dated: 17.03.2025

Office Memorandum

Subject: Re-organization of the of Working Groups/Committees on Sustainable Development in the Indian Himalayan Region

Kindly refer to the order dated 02.06.2017 regarding constitution of 'Five Working Groups on Sustainable Development in the Mountains of Indian Himalayan Region (IHR)', by NITI Aavog, to assess the key challenges, identify opportunities, and recommend actionable strategies for promoting sustainable development in the region and preparation & release of reports in the five following thematic areas:

- Inventory and Revival of Springs in Himalayas for Water Security,
 Sustainable Tourism in Indian Himalayan Region,
 Shifting Cultivation: Towards Transformation Approach,
 Strengthening Skill & Entrepreneurship Landscape in Himalayas, and
 Data/Information for Informed Decision Making by Multiple Stakeholders.

5.2. Mountain Tourism:

- Chair: Secretary, Ministry of Tourism;
 Convenor: Advisor/ Programme Director, Tourism and Culture Division, NITI Aayog;
- Members:
 - Representative (not below the rank of Joint Secretary), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC); Representative (not below the rank of Joint Secretary), Ministry of Skill and
 - Entrepreneurship Development; Director or representative of Director, Tourism Department, Govt. of J&K;
 - Director or representative of Director, Tourism Department, Govt. of
 - Himachal Pradesh; Director or representative of Director (not below the rank of Scientist G),
 - Director or representative of Director (not below the rank of Scientist G), Himmotthan, Tata Trust; Vi.
 - ICIMOD expert on mountain tourism. vii.

Collaboration & Partnerships - Acknowledgment

In the journey of rural development, no transformation is possible without the collective efforts of like-minded partners and institutions. Himmotthan extends its sincere gratitude to all its collaborators, whose steadfast support, technical expertise, and shared vision have significantly contributed to empowering communities, enhancing livelihoods, and promoting inclusive growth across the Himalayan region. From institutional donors and CSR contributors to government departments and grassroots implementation partners, each has played a vital role in shaping sustainable and impactful interventions on the ground.

INSTITUTIONAL DONORS

- Sir Ratan Tata Trust, Mumbai
- Sir Dorabji Tata Trust, Mumbai
- Tata Education Development Trust, Mumbai
- JRD Tata Trust, Mumbai
- Axis Bank Foundation (ABF)
- HT Parekh Foundation
- MakeMyTrip Foundation
- Foundation for Rural Entrepreneurship Development (FREND)
- Common Group Foundation (Samhita)
- Tata Consultancy Services Foundation
- · TCS E-service International Ltd



CSR FUNDS

- · HDFC Bank Limited, Mumbai
- Standard Chartered Bank, Mumbai
- · Titan Company Limited, Bangalore
- · Tata Consumer Products Limited
- · Eicher Group Foundation



IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS

- Association for People Advancement and Action Research (APAAR)
- Central Himalayan Rural Action Group (CHIRAG)
- Himalayan Society for Alternative Development (HIMAD)
- Kapkot Sewa Samiti (KSS)
- Sankalp Samiti (SANKALP)
- Leh Nutrition Project (LNP)





TECHNICAL AGENCIES

- Vivekanand Parvatiya Krishi Anusandhan Sansthan (VPKAS)
- Uttarakhand Livestock Development Board (ULDB)
- Uttarakhand Sheep and Wool Development Board (USWDB)
- Dr. Y.S. Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry (YSPU)
- National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship and Management (NIFTEM)
- · Punjab Agriculture University (PAU)
- CSK Himachal Pradesh Agricultural University



DEPARTMENTS (GOVERNMENT OF INDIA)

- Niti Ayog, Government of India
- Central Poultry Development Organization (Northern Region)
- Defence Institute of High-Altitude Research (DIHAR)
- Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Government of India
- Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee (MGNREGA)
- · Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA), New Delhi
- Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, GOI
- National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development (NABARD)



DEPARTMENT (STATE GOVERNMENTS)

- Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC)
- Uttarakhand Forest Resource Management Project (UFRMP-JICA)
- Department of Rural Development- State Rural Livelihood Mission (SRLM)
- Uttarakhand Forest Department
- Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA)
- Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS)
- Maharana Pratap Sports College and Hostel

INDIVIDUAL DONORS

- Mr. Darshak Shashiyada Vasayada
- Mr. C. K. Venkatraman

Voluntary Disclosure

VISION ETHICAL PRACTICES

Himmotthan being an organization which aims towards improving the lives of women have also ensured that more women talent is attracted at all levels especially at the Cluster and at the Self-Reliant Cooperative Level. Healthy policies like Prevention of Sexual Harassment are ensured at all levels through dynamic POSH Committees. The Code of Conduct & Whistle Blowers Policy has also been put in place and is monitored regularly to ensure transparency and high levels of work culture across different levels of functioning.

VOLUNTARY DISCLOSURE

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 35th and 36th were held on 09.08.2024, and 07.03.2025. Himmotthan Annual General Body Meeting was held on 09.08.2024. Travels were incurred only as budgeted in project heads. No travel costs were incurred for any other reason.

OUR STATUTORY AUDITOR

M/s Deloitte Haskins and Sells LLP (DHS), Commerz III, 30th and 31st floors, International Business Park, Oberoi Garden City, Goregaon (East), Mumbai – 400063

OUR INTERNAL AUDITOR

PKF Sridhar & Santhanam LLP, 201, 2nd Floor, Centre Point Building, Dr. Ambedkar Road, Parel, Mumbai – 400012

SOCIETY REGISTRATION DETAILS

The Himmotthan Society is registered under the Indian Societies Registration Act of 1860. The registration Number is 78/2007-2008, dated 20/12/2007. It was last renewed on 31/12/2022 and is valid till 19/12/2027 with Registration No. UK06008062020004070.

Details of Registration under the Income Tax Act, 1961 and Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) are:

- Section 12 A granted on 25/09/2008; 40(117/ Dehradun/ 2008-9/10768), Renewal granted on 28/05/2021 via Registration Number AAATH6935KE20214.
- Section 80G granted on 08/10/2008; S.No.19(52) Dehradun/ 2007-08/11261; Renewal granted on 28/05/2021 via Approval Number AAATH6935KF20214 and AAATH6935K23LK01 dated 14/02/2024.
- The Society has been registered for undertaking CSR activities, and the Registration number is CSR00000081dated 01/04/2021.
- The Society is registered under Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010 ("FCRA") vide registration no. 347900161. During the Financial Year 2023-24, FCRA authorities renewed FCRA certificate from April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2029, vide its letter dated January 01, 2024.

OUR BANKS

- · Axis Bank, GMS Road, Dehradun, Uttarakhand
- Canara Bank Ltd., GMS Road, Dehradun, Uttarakhand
- HDFC Bank Ltd., Ballupur Chowk & Anurag Chowk, Dehradun, Uttarakhand
- · Indian Overseas Bank, Kanwli Branch, Dehradun, Uttarakhand
- · State Bank of India, Main Branch, Parliament Street, New Delhi
- Uttarakhand Grameen Bank, Indira Nagar, Dehradun, Uttarakhand

AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT

HIMMOTTHAN SOCIETY

Registration No. UK06008062020004070

BALANCE SHEET AS AT MARCH 31, 2025

(Amount in Rs. Lakhs)

Particulars	Note No.	As at March 31,2025	As at March 31,2024
I. FUNDS AND LIABILITIES			
1. Member's Fund			
General Fund Earmarked Funds	3 3	83.88 43.50	83.88 38.84
2. Non-current liabilities		127.38	122.72
Other long-term liabilities	4	248.43	212.53
3. Current liabilities		248.43	212.53
Other current liabilities	5	900.89	1,220.09
		900.89	1,220.09
TOTAL		1,276.70	1,555.34
II. ASSETS			
1. Non-current assets			
Property, Plant and EquipmentLong Term Loans and Advances	6 7	248.91 2.23	213.10 3.03
2. Current assets	,	251.14	216.13
Short Term Loans and Advances	8	2.10	2.54
Cash and bank balances	9	1,023.46	1,336.67
TOTAL		1,025.56	1,339.21
TOTAL		1,276.70	1,555.34
Brief about the Entity	1		
Summary of significant accounting policies	2		
The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements	1-22		
part of the infalicial statements			

In terms of our report attached.

For Deloitte Haskins & Sells LLP

Chartered Accountants

(Firm Regn No. 117366W/W-100018)

Jayesh Parmar Partner (Membership No. 106388) Dr. Rajesh Thadani **Chairman** Dr. Vinod Kothari Secretary

For and on behalf of the Himmotthan Society

Place: Dehradun Date: August 19, 2025

Place: Dehradun Date: August 19, 2025

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"In the Himalayas, change doesn't roar, it whispers through the hands of women who plant, the feet of children who walk to school, and the voices of communities who choose hope over hardship. It is in these everyday moments that transformation takes root, and Himmotthan is humbled to walk that path, hand in hand."



Thank you for believing in the journey. We look ahead - with purpose, with people, and with the promise of the mountains.

Thank You

"Change is never built alone. Thank you for standing beside us and empowering the mountains with hope and strength."

HIMMOTTHAN SOCIETY

(Registered u/s Society Act 1860)

193, Vasant Vihar, Phase-II, Dehradun, Uttarakhand

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Design: Adarsh Khatri

