

IMI NEWSLETTER

The official newsletter of Integrated Mountain Initiative, a knowledge product supported by IHCAP and NMHS



FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

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...and more.

Greetings from IMI Secretariat!

It is with much delight that we bring out the second issue of IMI's newsletter. We saw much progress made within the NMHS project where we had 3 state roundtables. In this issue, we are also covering SMDS VII and the Conclave of the Himalayan States that followed. We also wound up the FAO project on Mountain Agriculture, the final report of which will be out very soon.

This issue also covers a brief report of the Bosch Siemens (BSH) project where four Short Term Fellows from Greece, Netherlands, Germany and India were hosted by IMI for a week long programme as they worked on developing a communication strategy for IMI.

We warmly welcome all the members of our youngest state chapter from Meghalaya - MIMDI.

Looking ahead, have an exciting period coming up with a number of events lined up with our SDC Legislators' Dialogues and a host of others.

We look forward to your sustained feedback and suggestions.

Cheers.

Golan Naulak

SUSTAINABLE MOUNTAIN DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT VII

3-4 OCTOBER, 2018

The 7th Sustainable Mountain Development Summit was held on 3rd - 4th October at Shoolini University, Solan, Himachal Pradesh. The theme “Well-being of next generation of farmers in the Himalayan region” brought into focus the central issues on mountain livelihood in relation to the changing dynamics of ecology, social dynamics and economic developments.

The SMDS saw over 200 delegates representing all the member states of the Indian Himalayan Region, stakeholders from various international, national, regional and local organizations, in addition to academicians, grassroots workers and legislators/policymakers. A noteworthy feature was the participation of New Age farmers representing the diverse Himalayan states.

The two day event witnessed a deep dive into several issues pertaining to the status of mountain farmers, and covered the potential for New Age farming and the major learnings to be incorporated in further policy formulation.

The inaugural function was graced by Shri Mahender Singh Thakur, Minister of Irrigation and Public Health and Horticulture, Government of Himachal Pradesh. He highlighted the challenges faced by the farmers and horticulturalists in the hill states and called for the adoption of new technologies and methods of farming to improve the productivity in order to enhance the livelihoods of farming communities.

The three technical sessions, namely the Ecological Drivers of Change, Social Drivers of Change and the Economic Drivers of Change were followed by the Integrative Session where the key learnings from the three sessions were discussed and action points deliberated. The concluding session was on Youth Perspectives on New Age farming in the Indian Himalayan Region.

Dr Rajiv Saizal, Minister for Social Justice, Empowerment and Cooperation, Government of Himachal Pradesh, graced the valedictory as Chief Guest. He stressed on the importance of a pan-Himalayan cooperation of the mountain states in the country.

**“Let us not seek solutions from the west; go back to our own backyards and not be ashamed of it. The answers are within”
- Devender Sharma**



Conclave of Himalayan States: Well Being of the Next Generation of Himalayan People

5th October, Hotel Peterhoff, Shimla

It was jointly organised by HIMCOSTE, IMI and Shoolini University. The Conclave was attended by Himachal Pradesh Governor Shri Acharya Dev Vrat, Shri Jai Ram Thakur, HCM Himachal Pradesh, Shri Trivendra Singh Rawat, HCM Uttarakhand. Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Shri Radha Mohan Singh, Union MoS (Home) Shri Kiren Rijuji, Deputy CM of Arunachal Pradesh Shri Chowna Mein, Members of Parliament, Ministers of Agriculture, Tourism and other senior officials from the Himalayan states.

Shri Sushil Ramola, President, IMI, gave a presentation on the key recommendations that emerged from SMDS VII. Shri Acharya Dev Vrat, Governor of Himachal Pradesh, emphasised on the urgent need to set up a separate ministry for the Himalayan States to address the common issues and needs of the mountain states which are starkly different from that of the plains.

The Conclave deliberated on three main themes identified for the Well Being of future generation of Himalayan People: Agriculture, Hydropower and Tourism. The Conclave also discussed the need to have a coherent policy for the payment of eco-system services (ESS), green bonus/green cess to the Himalayan states to compensate for the development disabilities. A holistic and integrative approach is the need of the hour to ensure that development policies are compatible with one another and addressing the needs of the mountain communities for their well being without compromising on the sustainability factor. The Conclave also focussed on opportunities for non-farm activities such as eco-tourism to improve mountain livelihoods.



Key Take Aways

- Develop People oriented green policies which encourage multiple options for livelihood and take care of carrying capacity of ecosystem
- Strategic planning for 10-15 years to provide a road map for next generation farmers with space to each state to articulate it
- Green cess/green bonus of the Himalayas to incentivize the farmers towards entrepreneurship along with infrastructural development and support
- Encourage Green investments through innovative funding mechanisms for the Himalayan agri-based entrepreneurship
- Collaboration of institutions committed to the mountain regions on National and International level to support successful experiments
- Collaboration with industries and service sectors to realise the natural assets and potential of mountain regions
- Collaboration among institutions as Himalayas share border with six countries, institutions coming together with their ideas to articulate the green development of the Himalayan region
- States coming together to realize and deliver value to the mountain people for Eco-system services
- Build Brand Himalayas – not many countries can claim that.



NMHS State Level Roundtables

Under the National Mission on Himalayan Studies project 'Understanding Mountain Peoples' Approach and Practices to Combating Climate Change in the Indian Himalayan Region: Research to Renewal and Reforms', IMI in collaboration with The Energy and Resource Institute (TERI) has been working closely with the states of the IHR. The 11 IMI state chapters along with their respective Young Researchers have been undertaking research in exploration of themes central to the changing climate in the region such as agriculture, water and livelihoods.

The core objective of the project has been to facilitate synchronicity between research, policy and practice. This has been achieved through the state level roundtables organised by the IMI state chapters. The final completion of the state roundtables were achieved with the meetings held in Uttarakhand (2nd August), Himachal Pradesh (28th August) and Meghalaya (14th September). These final three meeting along with the earlier held state meeting between March and June wrapped up the 11 roundtables covering the IHR bringing in diverse stakeholders from research, academia, bureaucracy, state departments and NGOs. These roundtables have further facilitated in providing a platform for young researchers and students to network and receive mentorship on issues of Climate change, environment and policies in the states of the IHR.

*The IMI family
welcomes our youngest
state chapter -
Meghalaya Integrated
Mountain
Development Initiative
(MIMDI)*

The youngest state chapter of the IMI family was formed and officially inaugurated in Shillong on 14th September with Tony Marak, IFS (Retd, former PCCF) as its President and Dr Debashish Das Gupta as Secretary. Other members includes Dr Vincent Darlong, Dr Shailendra Chowdhury, Mihin Dolo and Dr Sanjib Kakoti.

With SMDS VIII slated to be held in Shillong in 2019, we wish the new team all the very best and assure our full support and cooperation in the big task ahead.



BSH SHORT TERM FELLOWS 2018

20- 28 OCTOBER, 2018

Between 20 - 28th October, 2018, IMI hosted 4 Short Term Fellows from BSH. This project was facilitated by LITS Global and included senior managers of BSH from Germany, Netherlands, Greece and India.

The goal of the project was to develop a branding and communication strategy for highlighting specific development issues of the Himalayan region and visibility of IMI's work, values and vision.

IMI has been recognized as a pioneer in mountain-focused policy advocacy by various stakeholders including governments, national and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs), researchers, institutions and local communities alike. It has adopted a holistic and inclusive approach integrating the ecological, social and economic issues.

For IMI, communication and raising awareness is a component of its core activity and to become more effective in its work, it needs to build a brand around the good work already done with its unique focus and values. In short, revamping of IMI's overall strategy is of utmost importance. This will involve developing a cohesive branding and communication strategy to carry forth the vision of the organization.

The team had a series of interviews with members and partner organisations of IMI based in New Delhi during the project. The project concluded with the presentation of key findings and recommendations along with a communication toolkit.

**“The project work at IMI (Integrated Mountain Initiative) during our stay in India the last week of October was for me an incredible experience from many aspects. First of all, I had the chance to meet excellent and very dedicated persons, which have a common target! What? To make people of India proud of their Mountains! Successful and experienced professionals joined forces on a voluntary basis and created a platform, in order to bring people together and to improve quality of life. What a great approach!
- Chrysoula Ginzani, Bosch Siemens, (Greece)**





IMI SIKKIM HOLDS APPLE-ORANGE THINKSHOP

IMI's Sikkim State Chapter, Ecotourism and Conservation Society of Sikkim (ECOSS), organized "Apple-Orange Thinkshop" at the ECOSS office on 1st September

The meeting was chaired by IMI member and Lok Sabha MP, PD Rai and co-chaired by Dr. Luxuman Sharma, Associate Professor and head of Horticulture Department, Sikkim University.

The event was attended by diverse stakeholders from farming communities, government departments, academia and local community participants from Zilla and Gram Panchayats. These diverse participants shared their experiences of good practices as well as limitation to orchard cultivation. This thinkshop highlighted the issue of the declining apples and oranges in Sikkim which used to be important cash crops. The discussions brought into focus the ground realities, issues, policies, practices and the future of holistic orchard growing in Sikkim..

PRIYADARSHINI SHRESTHA DELIVERED A TED TALK ON "HOW TO LEAD A ZERO WASTE LIFESTYLE" ON 22ND JULY 2018 #TEDXGANGTOK

IMI Joint Secretary, Priyadarshini Shrestha has been associated with the Zero Waste Himalaya Group and in creating awareness and spreading the zero waste movement across the Indian Himalayan Region.



