

Institutionalising capacity building on springshed management



International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) and partners are carrying out an initiative titled ‘Development and implementation of science-based springshed management in the Indian Himalayan Region (IHR)’. The initiative is part of the project ‘Strengthening climate change adaptation in Himalayas (SCA-Himalayas)’ supported by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). The initiative seeks to build the capacity of state and local level actors for springshed management. The broader goal is to create a cadre of male and female resource persons to support and advance/scale up springshed management in the Indian Himalayan Region. The initiative follows a process-driven rather than a one-time activity approach for capacity building of organisations and individuals. It also works towards institutionalising hands-on training of trainers (ToT) courses on springshed management by collaborating with existing state level institutions like the State Institute of Rural Development (SIRD).

The initiative has already established a formal partnership with SIRD in Sikkim. In December 2022, a context- and region-specific training of trainers (ToT) was provided to key resource persons from the Forest Department (Sikkim), Rural Development Department (Sikkim and Jharkhand), UNDP, State Institute of Rural Development (SIRD) and Panchayati Raj, and Block Development Offices. SIRD took the lead role in organising the training with technical support from ACWADAM, ICIMOD and the Rural Development Department-Sikkim.

The training included classroom sessions as well as practical sessions at the Dhara Vikas sites at Parbing village near Namchi. The training covered all six steps of the springshed management

protocol that was jointly developed by ICIMOD and ACWADAM. Formation of the DPR template based on the six-step protocol was the major output of the training.

Dr Sandeep Tambe (Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forest), Ms Sarika Pradhan (Special Secretary, RDD), and Mr Yangchen D. Lepcha (Director, SIRD) were also present during the inaugural and valedictory sessions. They emphasised the importance of collaboration among different departments working in springshed management and of expanding the springshed management programme to more areas within Sikkim and beyond. The FD, RDD and SIRD plan to work together for institutionalisation of springshed management training within SIRD

To institutionalise the capacity building process in springshed management, SIRD will play the lead role from now onwards. A strategic plan will be developed to organise springshed management trainings in the Indian Himalayan states through SIRD-Sikkim in coordination and collaboration with SIRDs of respective Himalayan states.



Training participants in Sikkim learn to identify spring recharge areas.



Training participants in Sikkim learn to prepare hydrogeological conceptual layouts