

THE INSTITUTE

G.B. Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment and Development (GBPIHED) was established in 1988-89, during the birth centenary year of Bharat Ratna Pt. Govind Ballabh Pant, as an autonomous Institute of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Govt. of India. Institute has been identified as a focal agency to advance scientific knowledge, evolve integrated management strategies, demonstrate their efficacy for conservation of natural resources, and ensure environmentally sound development in the entire Indian Himalayan Region (IHR). The Institute attempts to maintain a balance of intricate linkages between socio-cultural, ecological, economic, and physical systems that could lead to sustainability in the IHR. To achieve this, the Institute follows a multidisciplinary and holistic approach in all its Research and Development programmes with emphasis on interlinking of natural and social sciences. In this effort, particular attention is given to the preservation of fragile mountain ecosystems, indigenous knowledge systems, and sustainable use of natural resources. A conscious effort is made to ensure participation of local inhabitants for long-term acceptance and success of various programmes. Training, environmental education and awareness of different stakeholders are essential components of all the R&D programmes of the Institute. The Institute functions in a decentralized manner with its HQs at Kosi-Katarmal, Almora, Uttarakhand and five regional Units, namely - Garhwal Unit at Srinagar-Garhwal (Uttarakhand), Himachal Unit at Mohal – Kullu (Himachal Pradesh), Sikkim Unit at Pangthang – Gangtok (Sikkim), North-East Unit at Itanagar (Arunachal Pradesh) and Mountain Division at MoEF&CC, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan (New Delhi).

OBJECTIVES

- ❖ To undertake in-depth research and development studies on environmental problems of the Indian Himalayan Region (IHR).
- ❖ To identify and strengthen the local knowledge of the environment and contribute towards strengthening researches of regional relevance amongst the Scientific Institutions, Universities, NGOs, and Voluntary agencies working in the Himalayan region, through interactive networking.
- ❖ To evolve and demonstrate suitable technological packages and delivery systems for sustainable development of the region in harmony with local perceptions.

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT THEMES

The R & D programmes of the Institute have been reoriented into four functional groups and ten thematic areas.

Group-1 (SED & KCB)

- Socio-Economic Development (SED)
- Knowledge Products and Capacity Building (KCB)

Group-2 (WPM, EAM & EGP)

- Watershed Processes and Management (WPM)
- Environmental Assessment and Management (EAM)
- Environmental Governance and Policy (EGP)

Group-3 (BCM, ES & CC)

- Biodiversity Conservation and Management (BCM)
- Ecosystem Services (ES)
- Climate Change (CC)

Group-4 (BTA & EP)

- Biotechnological Applications (BTA)
- Environmental Physiology (EP)



RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES

Research

- Watershed services - management and land use policy
- Rural energy options
- Ecological and economic viability of Himalayan farming systems
- Conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity
- Protected area management - issues and solutions
- Ecosystem services valuation and incentive mechanisms
- Climate change impact, mitigation, and adaptation
- SEA / EIA specific to the Himalayan region
- Disaster mitigation and management – data base and knowledge products
- Environmental management of urban areas
- Sustainable tourism
- Entrepreneurship and self employment in the Himalaya
- Indigenous knowledge, traditional lifestyle, architecture, and health care practices
- Migration- socio-economic and cultural implications
- Biotechnological interventions for environmental rehabilitation
- Resource material on mountain ecology and environment
- Capacity building, technology transfer and adoption

Developmental Options/ Programmes/ Plans

- Sustainable natural resource management
- Propagation packages of high value plants
- Integrated Eco-development Research Programme (IERP) for IHR
- Mountain specific development policies

Demonstration and Dissemination

- Eco-restoration and conservation models
- Livelihood options
- Capacity building and skill development
- Networking
- Publication/Documentation

NEW INITIATIVES

1. Himalayan Research Fellowships: *Promoting science culture by creation of dedicated future researchers*
2. Himalayan Young Researchers' Forum: *Connecting researchers to bring transformation in research culture across Himalaya*
3. Himalayan Research Mentors' Forum: *Shaping research and nurturing young minds in the Himalaya*
4. Himalayan Popular Lecture Series: *Admiring actions & opinions for sustainable development of IHR*
5. Himalayan Peoples' Representatives Meet: *Policy advocacy on sustainable development of the Indian Himalayan Region*
6. Himalayan Students' Nature Awareness Campaign: *Facilitating development of a culture of creative nature based learning*
7. Himalayan Farmers' Livelihood Enhancement Drive: *Empowering communities through new opportunities and skill*
8. Mountains Environmental Policies Repository: *Creating an environment for mutual learning and experience sharing*



R&D PRIORITIES OF THE UNITS

GARHWAL UNIT

- Integrated NRM strategies for sustainable tourism
- Land based models using multipurpose species and community participation
- Technology demonstration and training

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HIMACHAL UNIT

- Biodiversity studies in protected areas and *ex situ* maintenance of medicinal plants
- Carrying capacity assessment and ambient air quality monitoring
- Environment impact assessment/ strategic environmental assessment of hydropower and solid waste management
- Climate change vulnerability assessment

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SIKKIM UNIT

- Biodiversity conservation studies in Khangchendzonga Landscape and other sensitive areas with a focus on human dimension
- Geo-environmental assessment of land hazards and mitigation strategies
- Human dimension studies in conservation areas
- Biotechnological applications for conservation of Rhododendron species

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NORTH-EAST UNIT

- People-centered land use models for shifting cultivation areas
- Indigenous knowledge systems and natural resource management options for tribal communities
- Biodiversity conservation through community conserved areas
- Appropriate low-cost technologies for improved livelihood

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MOUNTAIN DIVISION (5th UNIT OF THE INSTITUTE)

- Sustainable and integrated development of mountain ecosystems
- Highlighting mountain issues and bringing mountain regions in the main stream of development
- Fostering upstream and downstream linkages between regions through mutual dependence based policy and planning
- Recognition and awareness regarding dependence of non-mountain ecosystems on mountains
- Development of a framework of incentives for providers of ecosystem services

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