



INCEPTION WORKSHOP

Development and implementation of science-based springshed management in the Indian Himalayan Region

23–24 August 2021 | Online via Microsoft Teams

About the workshop

It is estimated that nearly **50 per cent of the springs in the Indian Himalayan Region (IHR) are drying up**, affecting thousands of villages and hill towns that depend on spring water for domestic use and agriculture. Springs also contribute significantly to base flows in rivers, and the drying and loss of springs will affect major river systems in the Indian Himalayan Region (IHR). This two-day inception workshop is being organised to support the development and implementation of science-based springshed management in the IHR.

Objectives

- Introduce the initiative and explore opportunities for collaboration
- Share learnings from past and current work on springs in the IHR and Hindu Kush Himalaya with a focus on challenges and impact assessment
- Identify the real world needs on training, research, and decision support

Key areas of discussion

The workshop aims to have broader discussion with the state government and key stakeholders on the following key areas in springshed management –

- Challenges and best practices
- Scaling up interventions
- Research and knowledge gaps
- Decision support system (DSS)
- Gender and social inclusion

Background

Drying up of springs has increased water insecurity for many communities in the Indian Himalayan Region (IHR), which is already facing water stress due to impacts of climate change, human activities, and demographic shifts. Spring water quality has also diminished. According to a [NITI Aayog report \(2018\)](#), 40% of the rural population in the IHR do not have access to safe and adequate drinking water. Drying up of springs also has consequences for the sustainability of Himalayan landscapes and river systems, ecosystem, and biodiversity.



ICIMOD, ACWADAM, IITR and PSI jointly with government and non-government partners are implementing an action research with the aim of advancing scientific knowledge, capacity building and developing a Decision Support System (DSS) for springshed. The initiative intends to develop and promote a scientifically robust participatory methodology for springshed management and implementation of socially inclusive springshed management plans that

especially address the vulnerabilities of women and marginalised groups to improve the overall water security in the IHR. The initiative will contribute to the development and implementation of springshed management in the IHR under the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) supported project on Strengthening Climate Change Adaptation in Himalayas (SCA-Himalayas).

Agenda

All timings are in Indian Standard Time (UTC+05:30)

Day 1 – 23 August 2021

Meeting link: [Click here to join the meeting](#)

Moderated by: **Pratigya Silwal** and **Karishma Khadka**, ICIMOD

Time (IST)	Programme	Speakers
10:00–10:30	Check-in	
Session A.1 – Setting the context: Understanding the relevance and importance of springshed management		
10:30–11:25	Inaugural session	
	Welcome remarks	Pema Gyamtsho , Director General, ICIMOD
	Remarks	Corinne Demenge , Head of Cooperation, SDC India
	Remarks	Ajit Kumar Chaturvedi , Director, IIT Roorkee, India
	Setting the context	Himanshu Kulkarni , Executive Director, ACWADAM, India
	Remarks	Umakant , Joint Secretary, Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India
	Remarks by Special guest	Saloni Goel , Specialist - Climate Change, NITI Aayog, Government of India
	Remarks by Chief guest	B. V. Umadevi , Additional Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Government of India
11:25–11:40	Group Photo and break	
Session A.2 – Introduction to the initiative and links to the larger SDC project: A quick glance		
11:40–11:50	Introduction to the SCA-Himalayas Project	Divya Sharma , SDC India
11:50–12:05	Overview of the initiative	Sanjeev Bhuchar , ICIMOD and Sumit Sen , IITR
12:05–12:30	Open Q/A session	

Day 2 – 24 August 2021

Meeting link: [Click here to join the meeting](#)

Time (IST) Programme

Session B.1: What are the issues and challenges concerning springshed management scalability, capacity building and decision support system?

Moderated by: **Imran Siddique** and **Jayesh Desai**, ACWADAM; **Sukesh Bartarya**, PSI

9:45-10:00 Check-in

10:00-11:00 State wise presentations (Q/A at the end of all presentations)

- **Basu Kaushal**, Forest Department, Himachal Pradesh
- **Subash Dhakal**, Rural Development Department, Sikkim
- **Neena Grewal**, Watershed Management Directorate, Uttarakhand
- **Braja Kumar Singh**, Directorate of Environment and Climate Change, Manipur
- **TBD**, Soil and Water Conservation Department, Meghalaya
- **James Kharkongor**, Meghalaya Basin Development Authority, Meghalaya
- **TBD**, Department of Land Resources, Nagaland

11:00-11:10 Break

Session B.2 – What are the real world needs and opportunities for planning and implementing springshed management?

Moderated by: **Sanjeev Bhuchar** and **Suman Bisht**, ICIMOD; **Jayesh Desai**, ACWADAM

11:10-12:45 Discussion with key stakeholders –

- **Suresh Attri**, Department of Environment, Science and Technology, Himachal Pradesh
- **Kshama Metre**, Chinmaya Organization for Rural Development, Himachal Pradesh
- **Manish Kumar**, International Water Management Institute, New Delhi
- **Abhishek Likam**, Central Himalayan Rural Action Group, Uttarakhand
- **Debashish Sen**, People's Science Institute, Uttarakhand
- **Vinay Shankar Prasad Sinha**, TERI School of Advanced Studies, New Delhi
- **Rajashree Joshi**, BAIF Development Research Foundation, Maharashtra
- **Dipak Gyawali**, Nepal Water Conservation Foundation, Kathmandu

Open discussion on challenges, opportunities, and solutions

Session C – Co-creating a way forward for advancing springshed management science, practice and policy interface: Summary and conclusions

Moderated by- **Sumit Sen**, IITR and **Karishma Khadka**, ICIMOD

12:45 – 1:15 PM Key takeaways

- **Vishwas Chitale** and **Madhav Dhakal**, ICIMOD

Way forward

- **Himanshu Kulkarni**, ACWADAM and **Mustafa Ali Khan**, SDC India

Closing remarks

- **Nand Kishor Agrawal**, ICIMOD; **Saloni Goel**, NITI Aayog

Co-organized by: International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), Advanced Center for Water Resources Development and Management (ACWADAM), Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee (IITR), People's Science Institute (PSI)

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For further information

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