

CHEA

CENTRAL HIMALAYAN
ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION

30th
ANNUAL
REPORT
2019-20

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We **dedicate** this **Annual Report** to the community members with whom we work; the grant-extending agencies who trusted our endeavours; partner organisations who came forward to collaborate and collectively achieve a sustainable future for the generations to come; life members and Council of CHEA for handholding and mentoring our pathways to up-scale the learning captured from field actions; and finally the staff of CHEA who have served in far-flung areas as ‘catalysts of change’ to facilitate the rural communities in meeting their developmental aspirations, as well as conserve the fragile ecosystems of the Indian Himalayan region.

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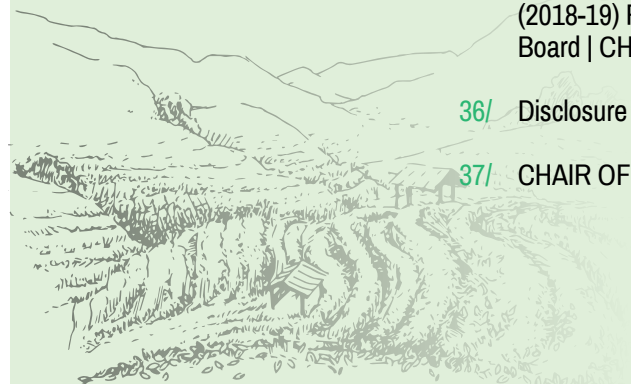
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ORGANIZATION

The Central Himalayan Environment Association, CHEA in short, was founded on October 2, 1981, on a day which has a special significance for India, being the birthday of the Father of the Nation, Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi. The society was registered soon after in May, 1982. Arguably CHEA is one of the earliest Societies founded in the Northern India which had 'Environment and Livelihood of the people of Himalayas' as its core concern.

Much water has flown in the great Himalayan rivers and the Indian Himalayas have since been a witness to much distress, conflict, degradation, demographic dynamics, political restructuring and impacts of various global revolutions and their regional and local impacts. CHEA has since espoused many mountain causes, engaged itself

PROMINENCE

- Environment
- Human Resources Development
- Livelihood and sustainable development
- Infrastructure development
- Social development
- Research and Development

THEMATIC GROUPS

- Climate Change, with special reference to Mountains and Adaptation Interventions for Mountain Region
- Rural Livelihood Initiatives in Mountain Regions for Reducing Rural Poverty
- Art, Culture and Handicrafts Promotion in Mountains
- Research and Documentation on the Mountains and the Regional Best Practices

MANAGEMENT AND MEMBERSHIP

CHEA stands with twelve members in the Council along with One Hundred and Twelve Life Members and two Institutional Members.




actively in scores of action-research on human and environmental aspects and livelihood-related projects and continues to be so involved to this day.

Since the Rio Earth Summit in 1992 with the inclusion of Chapter 13- 'Managing Fragile Ecosystems : Sustainable Mountain Development' in the UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), the importance of mountain social-ecological systems have been acknowledged for the first time on a global scale. Establishment of CHEA, let it be recalled, pre-dated the Rio Summit by more than a full decade. To ensure solution for increasing pressure on natural resource for rural livelihoods CHEA has developed strategies for strengthening grassroots environmental governance and undertaking need based action research.

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to integrate rural livelihoods and sustainable conservation practices to reduce the environmental, economic, and social vulnerabilities of the mountain people. In cooperation with regional and international partners, and working with the communities, we aim to develop and provide integrated and innovative solutions that guide policy change and inspire action to directly benefit the mountain people and their environments. The Himalayas are the principal home of glaciers and the source of water for over 1 billion people living in connected river basins. They are also extremely vulnerable to climate change. Thus, there is a critical need to guide development that incorporates and is compatible with the threat of a changing climate.

CHAIR'S MESSAGE



**Demonstration
of Appropriate
Livelihoods Options
and Strengthening
Capacities of Local
Communities in
Assessing Carbon
Accumulation
Potential in and
around Timberline
Areas”**

It is my pleasure to share with you the 38th Annual Report of the Central Himalayan Environment Association (CHEA) for the financial year 2019-20. The Annual Report exhibits our commitment towards the academic and action research for well being of the rural community residing in the far-flung areas of the Indian Central Himalayan Region.

Since its inception in 1981 by the eminent Scientist, Academicians, and Civil Activists of the region, CHEA has been working with hill communities to overcome the challenges that have emerged from both environment and development sectors. It has been working at various levels such as action research, policy advocacy, livelihood, etc.

Several ambitious research projects have been undertaken by CHEA in the last few years. It is been almost the fifth year for the ambitious multidisciplinary and multi-institutional project “Timberline and Altitudinal Gradient Ecology of Himalayas, and Human Use Sustenance in a Warming Climate” under the MoEFCC’s National Mission for Himalayan Studies. In these five years, we have seen that the research and livelihood go together and complement each other for the well beings of the community. Whereas, under the sub-project titled “Demonstration of Appropriate Livelihoods Options and Strengthening Capacities of Local Communities in Assessing Carbon Accumulation Potential in and around Timberline Areas” the community residing in the high altitude as in the villages of Makku and Sari of Rudraprayag district are developing their understanding towards measuring of carbon sequestration in their Van Panchayat managed forest. They are also venturing into protected cultivation, cultivation of mushroom, and floriculture for their livelihood.

Women of the Dhari (Nainital) and Lamgara (Almora) development blocks are well adapted to the new approach of animal husbandry, they are now soaking, chuffing, and mixing the feed of their animal and serving it on to them by using mangers. They are benefiting from the activities initiated under the DST’s TIME-LEARN funded project titled “Livelihood Improvement & Drudgery Reduction through Appropriate Livestock Technologies and Biomass Enhancement in Kumaun Himalayas”. Under the project various nutritious varieties of fodder species have been used, Artificial Insemination is common in these villages, which has been resulted in an increase in milk production and more income for the households.

Women of Self Help Group (SHGs) of village Lumti in Dharchula development block of Pithoragarh district are ready to cash the opportunity of village tourism provided by the newly developed Orchid

Park in their Van Panchayat under another multidisciplinary and multi-institutional project. The park has been developed by the Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC), Lumti with the help of the Wildlife Institute of India (WII). In the park, more than 40 orchid species have been conserved and demonstrated. CHEA encouraged the women SHGs of the village and trained them to convert this opportunity as an income generation option by developing an atmosphere for village tourism. Under the Kailash Sacred Landscape Conservation and Development Initiatives (KSL-CDI) the activities such as training of chyura value chain, entrepreneurship development of SHGs, dovetailing with other agencies and programme, etc., are been continuously organized with the support of district administration, and GBPNIHE.

CHEA with the support of its partners also working on the issue of household energy, sustainable use of natural resources, and its implication on the rural communities. The study on the use of energy at the household and village level in the high-altitude villages of Darma valley, Govind National Park, and Gangotri Landscape was conducted. Another small project titled “Clean Energy Solution for Sustainable Use of Natural Resources & Improvement of Women Health” supported by the Adobe Employee Community Fund has been under progress in three villages of Nainital district with the objective of promoting awareness on clean energy and sustainable use of natural resources among the community. CHEA is also closely working with Van Panchayats of Almora, Nainital, and Pithoragarh districts for the restoration of Himalayan Oak (*Quercus leucotrichophora*) with the financial support of Value Network Venture (VNV) Advisory, Bengaluru. Under the project, the work of direct sowing of oak seeds is under progress in the 500 ha of Van Panchayat managed forest.

CHEA is continuously working to encourage the rural community of Uttarakhand towards a climate-resilient sustainable livelihood. In this era of the COVID-19 pandemic we are altogether more committed for the well beings of the rural hill community and continuously working to minimize the impact of the pandemic.

In the end, I would like to express my gratitude on behalf of the CHEA Council and its members to all life members, the funding organizations, well-wishers, and the village community for their kind support.

Best Wishes
P.P. Dhyani

A NOTE BY THE SECRETARY



**BMCs with the help
of the Technical
Support Group (TSG)
are developing the
Peoples' Biodiversity
Register (PBR)**

Since its inception in 1981, CHEA has been always in the forefront to address the mountain issues for sustainable development. Like each passing year also in 2019-20 CHEA focused on its thematic action groups (TAGs) to promote rural livelihood based management of natural resources. Villagers residing in 20 villages of Almora and Nainital districts have been encouraged to adopt Appropriate Livestock Technologies and Biomass Enhancement to enhance their livelihoods and reduce drudgery particularly faced by hill's women. Under this DST (TIME-LEARN) project grass and legume based fodder and in-situ soil-water conservation systems have been developed in Van Panchayat as well as in private lands to ensure quality fodder production. Vaccinations and artificial insemination of cattle was also conducted under the project.

Tourism is the main economical source of Uttarakhand, and Nature based Cultural Heritage Tourism is one of the sectors of this tourism industry which has a potential for entrepreneurship and can generate significant direct and indirect employment opportunities for the rural community. Under the Uttarakhand State Biodiversity Board coordinated NMHS project various sites for the potential of village-based tourism was identified. Accordingly, various training for the communities were conducted and some homestays developed which ensure the community participation for developing nature based cultural heritage tourism in their villages.

Access Benefit Sharing (ABS) of Bioresources is another sector by which villages can be benefited in the future. With the support of GIZ the awareness regarding the ABS has been disseminated among the communities. The outcome is that five Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) formed under the project has been now functional. These BMCs with the help of the Technical Support Group (TSG) are developing the Peoples' Biodiversity Register (PBR). One Bio Processing Service Centre has been established at village Dhaspad which is now managed by the BMC of village Dhaspad.

The multi-partner and multi-institutional coordinated Indian Himalayan Timberline Research Project is one of the ambitious projects supported by MoEFCC, Govt under the National Mission of Himalayan Studies (NMHS). The project has been able to address several research questions related to the Indian Timberline.

Another research project on “Ecological Implications of Forest Fire Regime on Chir-Pine and Oak Pine mixed forests in Uttarakhand” which is funded by IERP, GBPNIHE, Almora is now in the verge of completion, under the project the various research sites in the Kumaun division of Uttarakhand has been thoroughly studied.

The efforts being made by CHEA have been appreciated in various forms, in December 2019 CHEA was awarded as Best NGO by the William Research Centre. On behalf of the CHEA council, it's all life members, and staff I extend our gratitude to the support and trust shown by all the partners, funding agencies, and communities. The CHEA team and particularly the field staff deserve special appreciation for continuously accomplishing their task, and working hard towards meeting CHEA's objectives to make it another productive year.

Subrat Sharma
Hony. Secretary

Climate Change

With special reference to the Mountains and Adaptation Interventions for the Mountain Region

While celebrating and welcoming year 2020 people of the world had no idea that a huge catastrophe of the new world is also knocking the door and within the month the buzz of some deadly virus COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus) has been all around. The government of the world begun to lock down all the social and economical activities, even citizens' basics rights also been compromised, and lockdown and social-distancing become a new order of the world. Experts and environment commentators seems the current pandemic as an opening of Pandora's Box and take it as a signal or warning for the future. They believe that climate change is all set to become the worst crisis for the earth and its inhabitants,

further, they realize that there is some sort of connection between COVID-19 and climate change, and in near future climate change increases the likelihood of COVID-19 type's pandemics.

People participation is vital to counter a phenomenon like global warming and climate change, therefore the schemes and project should be planned the way where the scope for the participatory role of common people also exist. By working in that way the earth could be sooner on the condition where it was in the 1990s and the world can also achieve all its targets under Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Since its inception in 1981 CHEA with its limited resources continuously

Timberline and
Altitudinal Gradient
Ecology of the
Himalayas and
**Human use
Sustenance in a
Warming Climate**

involved in developing and encouraging rural communities of the Indian Central Himalayan Region to prepare themselves for the fight against the impact of climate change by adopting appropriate technologies. Under its Thematic Action Groups "Climate Change with special reference to the Mountain and Adaptation Interventions for the Mountain Region" CHEA continuously endeavour for demonstration and expansion, promotion of appropriate technologies for sustainable use and management of natural resources through various action research and implementation projects.

In the series of such efforts, in 2016, CHEA initiated a multi-partners and multi-institutional coordinated project "Timberline and Altitudinal Gradient Ecology of the Himalayas and Human use Sustenance in a Warming Climate" under the National Mission for Himalayan Studies of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Gol. The project has initiated with the objective to understand the impact of climate change on Himalayan ecology and on the communities residing in the high Himalayan region.

The forest fire is another natural calamity in Uttarakhand





In 2020 it will be extended to another 120 hectares, and for that, the collection of the oak seed has been done by the **villagers of five VPs of Nainital and Pithoragarh districts**

impacting both the environment and livelihood of the people. With an increase in average temperature, the incidents of forest fire will also increase and it will become more and more devastating in the future. Considering the importance of the subject, in 2017 CHEA undertook a project to study the fire adaptational features of tree species as well as to strengthen community participation in preventing forest fires in the Himalayas, particularly in the Kumaun division of Uttarakhand state. The project has funded by the G.B. Pant National Institute for Himalayan Environment and Sustainable Development (GBPNIHESD), Kosi-Katarmal (Almora) under its Integrated Environment Research Programme (IERP). While the main objective of the project is to study the general morphological features to identify the adaptive features of the Himalayan species, it is also helping village communities and village forest councils in strengthening their capacities by creating awareness to prevent forest fires.

Mitigation Measures

Direct seed of oak has been sowed in 50 hectare area of the three Van Panchayat of Almora and Pithoragarh districts under the project "Restoration of Himalayan Oak" with the support of Value Network Venture (VNV), Bangalore. In 2020 it will be extended to another 120 hectares, and for that, the collection of the oak seed has been done by the villagers of five VPs of Nainital and Pithoragarh districts. Under the project overall 470 hectares of 32 Van Panchayats will be covered in three districts of the Kumaun region of Uttarakhand i.e., Almora, Nainital, and Pithoragarh with the collaboration of the Village Forest Council and Self Help Groups (SHGs).

Water Conservation & Harvesting

The importance of water conservation and

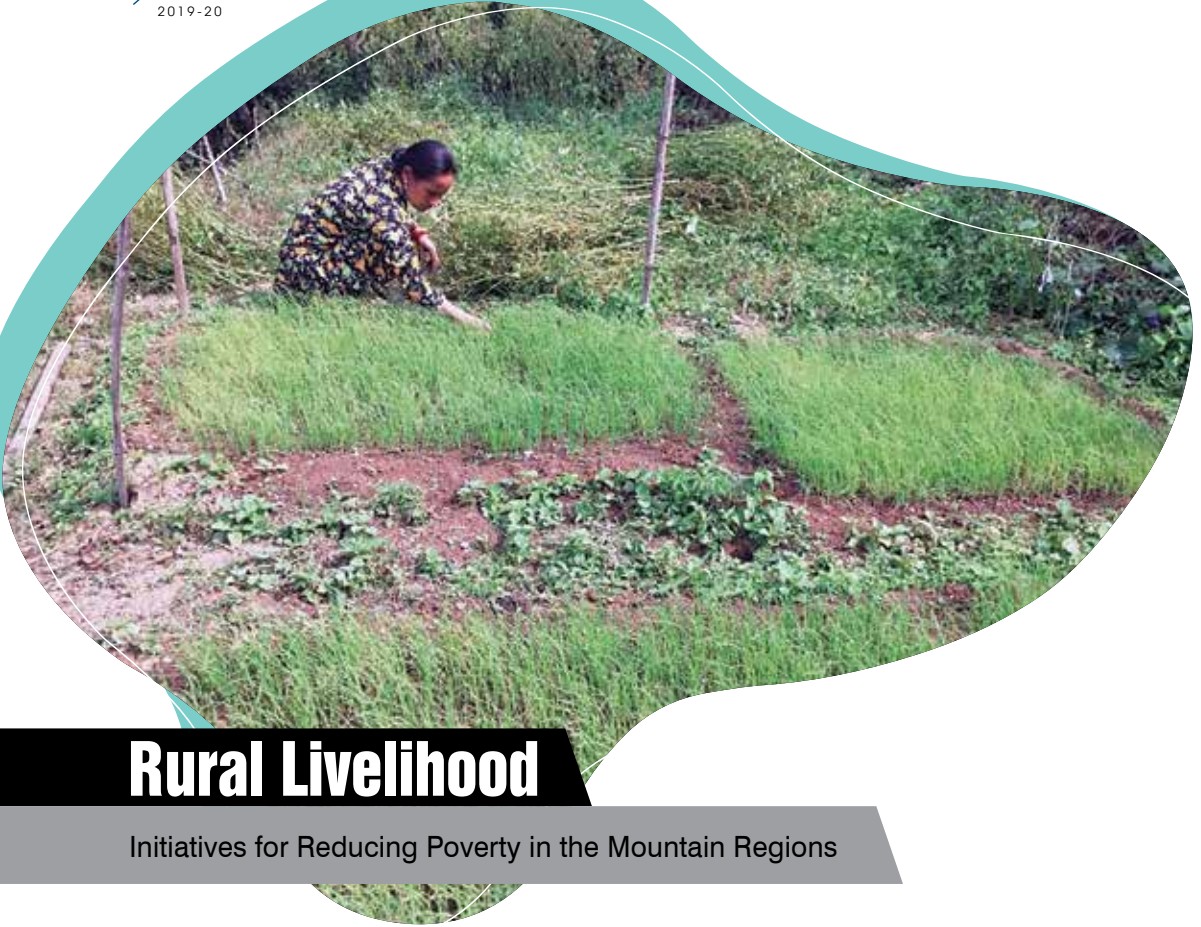
harvesting and its role in the development of the society has been explained in detail by the renowned writer and conservationist Mr. Anupam Mishar in his book “Abhi Bhi Khare Hain Talab” and in one of the chapters he describe the Chaal, Khal, Tola and Chaura of Uttarakhand and also explained how the people living in these highlands acknowledge the importance of water conservation and harvesting by naming the villages such as Uprayikhal, Ranichaura or Dugtoli etc. However, within a time community residing in these regions has forgotten their traditional knowledge of water conservation and harvesting.

In summers many villages located in these mountains faced water scarcity, government had installed numbers of hand-pumps in the

Mr. Anupam Mishar in his book “Abhi Bhi Khare Hain Talab” and in one of the chapters he describe the **Chaal, Khal, Tola and Chaura of Uttarakhand**

high altitude but with the time most of them dried and defunct. For reviving groundwater and checking run off rain water lots of integrated effort is indeed required but any initiative at the local level also has its own significance. With the help of Department of Science and Technology, Ministry of Science and Technology, (Gol), CHEA has initiated the project which is basically for enhancing sustainable livelihood through livestock management, along with water conservation, by creating and reviving traditional Khal (micro reservoirs) and Khanti (contour trenches). Micro-reservoir (MR) or Khal and Contour-trench (CT) or Khanti facilitates groundwater recharge through the infiltration of surface runoff in the soil, therefore, these MRs and CTs have been created in 14 villages. 535 Khals (MRs) and 9220 Khantis (CTs) have been created covering 48 hectare of area. During the project implementation overall 5339 cubic meter area has been covered under micro-reservoirs and contour trenches which have been storing 5339 kiloliters of water.





Rural Livelihood

Initiatives for Reducing Poverty in the Mountain Regions

The COVID-19 pandemic exposes the world preparedness to counter and protect their people from any unwanted extraordinary situation. The pandemic has almost collapsed the health system of the world even developed countries are the most affected by the pandemic. Countries are failed on both front they neither able to restrict the spreading of the virus nor the great recession. As all the economic activity was lockdown it has directly impacted millions of workers working both in organized or unorganized sector. During the period millions of migrants return to their home. Uttarakhand has also witnessed the large inflow of its people, however, Uttarakhand considered it as a reverse migration and policy makers taking

it as opportunity developing a policy and the programme for employment generation by which the future migration can be limited. Rural hill of Uttarakhand has potential to generate the opportunities of livelihood and employment for its people however, by ensuring sustainable use of the natural resources. The thematic action group “Rural Livelihood Initiatives in Mountain Region for Reducing Rural Poverty” of CHEA addressed the issue of livelihood of rural communities by adopting sustainable development model. In 2017 CHEA was entrusted by Watershed Management Directorate, Dehradun as Agri business Support Organization (ABSO)-GRMAYA – II for Almora division. Considering the importance of generating livelihood

opportunities in the higher Himalayan region the component of livelihood as sub project has been also included in the NMHS supported multi partner multi intuitional coordinated projects.

Livestock Management

The importance of Livestock in the livelihood of rural community of Uttarakhand is immense and more than 70% families are engaged in animal husbandry. In 2017 CHEA initiated the project “Livelihood Improvement & Drudgery Reduction through Appropriate Livestock Technologies and Biomass Enhancement” in 20 villages of Dhari (Nainital) and Lamgarah (Almora) development blocks with support of Department of Science and Technology, Ministry of Science and Technology, Gol under its TIME-LEARN programme. The overall objective of the project is to develop the grass and legume based fodder and in situ soil- water conservation system in community forests (Van Panchayats) and private lands for quality fodder production. Encouraging and demonstrating the appropriate management techniques for reducing fodder wastage is also being carried out among the selected households.

Nutritious fodder grass: 20 ha area has been covered by nutritious fodder grass (10 ha each during first and second year). The fodder varieties such as Rai (*Lolium perenne*), Broom (*Bromus inermis*) and Dolani/Tall Fescue (*Festuca arundinacea*) have been demonstrated in project’s Van Panchayats and private land. In villages Kaltani and Thaat the villagers collected 8 kg of fodder grass seed and sowed it in close vicinity.

Manger: To enhance milk production, promotion of feeding the cattle sprouted nutritious fodder among the selected beneficiaries has been demonstrated. 35 mangers have been constructed. Community



Livelihood Improvement & Drudgery Reduction through Appropriate Livestock Technologies and Biomass Enhancement





it has positively changed the mindset of the community to approach the concept of **keeping fewer cattle with more production of milk and for reducing the drudgery**



are using manger as well as now they are feeding their cattle sprouted nutritious fodder and also practising chaffing, soaking and mixing the fodder. The activity has significantly reduce the wastage of fodder.

Vaccination and Artificial Insemination: Since inception of the project all about 2250 cattle have been vaccinated for curing different diseases (FDM disease). Till the project period 105 cabs were born after the

AI in the project area. The technical services of vaccination have been availed through the veterinary department. However, the results for enhanced milk production from crossbreeds are yet to come, although it has positively changed the mindset of the community to approach the concept of keeping fewer cattle with more production of milk and for reducing the drudgery. The



purpose of the activity is to ensure additional income from the dairy sector in future for diversifying the option of income and to have better livelihood.

Farm-based Livelihoods

When CHEA initiated activities as ABSO in the project villages under the GRAMYA-II project, the poly houses were not too popular among the farmers and if there some existed were not in use up to the capacity. In initial phase the farmers whom had poly houses were encourage for utilizing poly house for raising nursery and for cultivating high value crops and others had been motivated by generating awareness about the benefits of polyhouses and also organized training to now-how



In Makku and Sari (Rudraprayag) total of 2.5 hectare has been covered under **Marigold benefiting 50 households**

villagers worth INR 15 lacs including direct income of INR 2.82 lacs from 44 households. The result of promotion of floriculture in project villages both in Dhauladevi development block under GRAMYA-II project and at village Makku and Sari under IHTP-NMHS are encouraging. Alone in the villages of Dhauladevi development block total 3.2 hectare has been covered under the Marigold and sold about 12611 kg of flowers having sale value of Rs. 4.97 lacs. Beside Marigold, Lilium has been also cultivated in polyhouse. Total 60 farmers' families have been directly benefited from the initiative. In Makku and Sari (Rudraprayag) total of 2.5 hectare has been covered under Marigold benefiting 50 households. The purpose of initiating the floriculture with Marigold is that it is easier to cultivate with little technical knowhow that could easily convince the farmers for

of technical issues of the poly house. At present around 415 polyhouses has been established in the project area and the overall 1.30 hectare area has been covered with the opportunity to increase the productivity by 6 to 8 time rather than open-field cultivation. The main crop growing under the poly houses in the area are Tomato, Capsicum, and Cucumber in Kharif season while Pea, Cabbage, and Leafy vegetables in Rabi season having total sale value of Rs. 3143368/-.

Villagers of Makku and Sari in Rudraprayag district are also well versed of using polyhouses and growing vegetables inside it. In 2019-2020 vegetable harvested by the

Women work only 1 to 2 hours per day for producing the Prasad and in 2019 they have **produced 193 kg of Prasad which have sale value of Rs. 37635/-**



demonstrating it. Besides the crop has more shelf life and hardy with the potential to grow almost round the year.

Off Farm Livelihoods

In 2018, the initiative of developing the Prasad using locally available Amaranthus (Ramdana) through women FIGs has been taken up under the GRAMYA-II project. Initiative of Holy Prasad in Jageshwar Dham temple is now regularly providing income to the women FIG. However, various changes have been taken in accordance to the feedback received from the customers and shopkeepers. Women work only 1 to 2 hours





Total 121 Farmer Interest Groups (FIGs) has been formed, and two (02) cooperatives have being registered under **Self Reliant Cooperative Act, 2003 as umbrella institutes to support the village level institutions i.e., FIGs**

per day for producing the Prasad and in 2019 they have produced 193 kg of Prasad which have sale value of Rs. 37635/-.

Promotion of Agribusiness

For promoting the value chains, to enhance the quality and quantity of different products, Value addition, Processing, Branding, Packaging and for Marketing, the construction of a multi-facility centre i.e., Agribusiness Growth Centre (ABGC) has been

almost completed at the centrally located place in Gram Panchayat Falyat (Almora).

At present, certified seed collection, packaging, and marketing work is in progress from the ABGC. A total of 1111 families are directly involved in various activities of agribusiness, and to sustain their activities, contribution towards inputs and market services has resulted in developing a financial pool among different FIGs. Although the agribusiness activities have undertaken in 100 selected villages, the remaining villages i.e., other than ABSO villages has also been supported through the inputs and technical assistance for surplus production.

Total 121 Farmer Interest Groups (FIGs) has been formed, and two (02) cooperatives have being registered under Self Reliant Cooperative Act, 2003 as umbrella institutes to support the village level institutions i.e., FIGs. The groups are linked with banks and have saving of INR 29.20 by FIGs, and INR 2.58 lacs fund has been generated by the cooperatives. The financial development



in these FIGs and Cooperatives leads to hopes of sustainability in the coming years as it has been proved by the cooperative “Paharpani Utpadak Evam Vipran Self Reliant Cooperative” of Dhari development block formed under the GRMAYA-I. The Paharpani cooperative is well managed since its establishment and at present it have total 637 mebers and it has generated the fund of INR 5.32 lacs.

Certified Seed Production

Seed production of millets, pulses and grains has been initiated under GRAMYA II in selected villages of Almora. In 2019-20 around 26,069 kg of certified seed of Finger millet, Barnyard millet, Amaranthus, Maize, Paddy, Wheat, Mustard, Garlic and Lentil have been produced by 39 farmers. Seed production provided an opportunity for a premium, and through which income of the farmers has been increased on per unit

In 2019-20 around 26,069 kg of certified seed of **Finger millet, Barnyard millet, Amaranthus, Maize, Paddy, Wheat, Mustard, Garlic and Lentil** have been produced by **39 farmers**

area basis. It is also provide the recognition as well as self reliance to the farmers. The productivity and rate increase due to quality seed and premium price for certified seed. The activity of production, collection, cleaning, packaging, transportation has been managed by the farmers’ cooperative.





Art, Culture and Handicrafts

Promotion in the Mountains

Nature Based Agro & Cultural Heritage Tourism Development

Nature and Agro-Based Cultural and Heritage Tourism (responsible tourism with a focus on agro-based diversity) have been identified as an important option with a high potential to become a sustainable mode of livelihood, it also reduces the negative impact on biodiversity, and creates the opportunities for youths. To promote the nature and heritage based village tourism, 10 homestays has been initiated in Almora and Pithoragarh as pilot. In Almora 3 villages of Jageshwar complex (Almora) i.e., Jageshwar, Kujagunth, and Dhaspad were identified for piloting the concept under Gramya II. The 2 villages are located in proximity to pilgrimage place



Jageshwar where the flow of tourists/pilgrims is around 1.25 lacs annually. 3 homestays has been developed in the Gangolihaat to take advantage of the opportunity offered by the Gangolihaat Heritage Complex. And 4 homestays developed in village Lumti of Lower Gori Ganga region by considering the potential of the Orchid Park developed in the Van Panchayat by the Bio diversity Mannagement Committee of Lumti with support of Wildlife Institute of India (WII) under the project “Mainstreaming Landscape Approach for Biodiversity Conservation, Improved Livelihoods and Ecosystem Health in Kailash Sacred Landscape Part of India” funded under NMHS. All these villages are rich in terms of diverse and niche agriculture crops, natural, cultural, spiritual, and sacred values and offer a variety of opportunities for tourism development like nature-based tourism, agro-based village tourism, and heritage tourism. It provides significant opportunities for communities to get involved in the Nature-Based Agro and Cultural Heritage Tourism industry.

Bamboo Handicrafts of Uttarakhand

CHEA is involved with bamboo artisan since 2013 by implementing various project with the support of various funders and now it is become one of the core activities of the CHEA which has been incorporated through most of its livelihood projects. Encouraging artisans to adopt new technologies and appropriate sustainable model by conducting training and marketing linkages to revive the craft under various projects is the main objective. Since 2018 under the GRMAYA II project team working with the artisans of village Dauligar and the artisans are now trained and producing small and decorative items such as flower vases, lamps, dustbins, jewellery boxes, etc. The marketing of these craft has been facilitated through Jageshwar Dham temple committee and Artisan Group. During



Mainstreaming Landscape Approach for Biodiversity Conservation, Improved Livelihoods and Ecosystem Health in Kailash Sacred Landscape Part of India

2019-20 the overall sale value of the bamboo items was INR 48,690 /-. Apart from this, under NMHS supported Indian Himalayan Timberline Project, five members artisan group of Makku village has developed their skills through regular training and are now creating diverse crafts. In all income of INR 76,000 has been generated by the group and they are now more confident about gaining better returns from the activity in future.



Research and Documentation

on the Mountains and the Best Regional Practices

Timberline and Altitudinal Gradient Ecology of Himalayas and Human Use Sustenance in a Warming Climate

The research project “Timberline and Altitudinal Gradient Ecology of Himalayas and Human Use Sustenance in a Warming Climate” is now in its fifth year. In 2016 the coordinated project entrusted to CHEA by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India under its ambitious programme National Mission for Himalayan Studies to address the key issues of tree-line responses to climate change. For the research project five institutes/organizations (i.e., G.B Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment (GBPNIHE), University of Kashmir, Kumaun University, Wildlife Institute of India (WII), and Birbal

Sahni Institute of Paleobotany (BSIP)) and 10 Principal Investigators (PIs) came together and partnered with CHEA.

The underlying philosophy of the project follows the basic understanding that to capture variation occurring in the Himalayas makes generalizations representing the region, multisite and long term studies are required. Therefore, the project focuses on three study sites located in Kashmir, Uttarakhand, and Sikkim, which broadly encompasses much of the range of variations in climate and vegetation across the Himalayan East and West Arc. The project consists of 6 components i.e., (i) Timberline Mapping, (ii) Temperature Lapse Rate (TLR) and Precipitation Gradient, (iii) Vegetation



21 research scholars under the PIs are working hard to fulfill the objectives of the project

and species diversity along elevational gradient, (iv) Phenology, (v) Tree Water Relations, and (vi) Livelihood Intervention.

21 research scholars under the PIs are working hard to fulfill the objectives of the project. The data collected has been shared through poster presentations and several presentations were made at different platforms to share the findings of the project. A special issue of Tropical Ecology was also devoted to the studies conducted under this project and 14 research papers were published for wider dissemination. Under the project for sharing the learnings and

research output and to benefit the diverse stakeholders, an interpretation centre has been established at Dehradun.

Fire Adaptation Features of Important Tree Species of Himalayas and Strengthening Community Participation in Preventing Forest Fires

Forest fires have become more frequent and intense in much of the world due to interactions between drought and land use, which lead to a reduced moisture content of fuels (Cochrane 2003, Settele et al. 2014). Apart from the release of tons of carbon and damage to other environmental, and recreational amenities, wildfires are a threat to human lives and wildlife (Davidenko and Eritsov 2003; FAO 2005). On average, about 6,70,000 km² of forest land (about 2% of the world's forested areas) are burned each year (van Lierop et al. 2015). About 67.5 million ha of forests (55% of the forest cover) is being subjected to burning each year in the country (Gubbi 2003).

The study to understanding of forest vegetation patterns along with the adaptive traits adopted by plant species to adapt themselves against fire was initiated in 2017 with support of GBPNiHE (then GBPNiHESD). The project sites for research were located



in the Nainital district of Kumaun Himalayas and lie between 1000-1800 m elevations. The sites were thoroughly surveyed and selected in three different forest types on the basis of the fire history of the sites, i.e., (i) *Pinus roxburghii*-*Quercus leucotrichophora* (Pine-oak) forest; (ii) *Pinus roxburghii* Sarg (Pure-pine) forest; and (iii) *Shorea robusta*-*Pinus roxburghii* (Sal-pine) forests. Mostly the south and southwest aspects experienced the fire situation in the selected sites while the northern slopes were less affected by fires during the summers.

Strengthening of ABS Mechanism through Development of Value Chain of Bio resources in identified districts of Kumaun (Almora, Pithoragarh), Uttarakhand

Bio-resources constitute an important source of livelihood for millions of people from forest fringe communities across the world. The potential of these resources has been underestimated since ages due to the lack of awareness among the stakeholders and appropriate knowledge about management and usage of bio-resources. This had resulted in the improper management of bioresources and its rapid depletion.



Strengthening the implementation of policy, legislative, and administrative measures for biodiversity conservation and management is part of the National Biodiversity Action Plan. But so far, very few of the Access Benefit Sharing (ABS) agreements have resulted in the benefit-sharing with local communities. For the ABS to meet the biodiversity conservation objectives, fair and equitable sharing of benefits need to incentivized local stewardship for biodiversity conservation.

The main aim of the GIZ supported project is to explore potential bioresources, availability, existing mechanism of supply chain inclusive of value addition, and scope for ABS. The assessment of bio-resources having the potential of ABS and value chain development has been carried out in two districts of the Kumaun region; Almora, and Pithoragarh along with the potential to pilot

Bio-resources constitute an important source of livelihood for millions of people from forest fringe communities across the world



the selective bioresource value chain leading to effective ABS.

BMCs formed under the projects are gradually working towards to strengthen their capabilities and act as the facilitator to the villagers. In this context, BMC Dhaspad of Almora and BMC Jamrari of Pithoragarh had prepared the proposal and submit to GIZ with the support of CHEA for the solar dryer and unit for oil extraction respectively. On the basis of that with the financial support of GIZ solar dryer has been installed at village Dhaspad and a unit of oil extraction has been established at village Jamrari. All five BMCs are working towards preparing the “Peoples’ Biodiversity Registered (PBR)” of their villages and closely working with the Technical Support Group (TSG) for developing it and some of them are in the final stage of preparing the PBR.

Energy Baseline- Identification, Demonstration and Implementation of Climate Smart and Energy Efficient Solutions to Reduce Stress on Natural Ecosystems

The Government of India and United Nation Development Programme (UNDP) are implementing an ambitious program in the high altitude of the Himalayas “SECUR Himalayas – Securing livelihoods, conservation, sustainable use restoration of High Himalayan Ecosystems” to ensure the conservation of locally and globally significant biodiversity, land and forest resources in a high Himalayan ecosystem while enhancing the lives and livelihoods of local communities. Under the program CHEA and Emergent Venture India Pvt. Ltd (EVI) jointly conducted a study on the present status of energy uses and the potential for climate-smart and energy-efficient solutions. The study was conducted in the three different landscapes of Uttarakhand i.e., (i) Govind Landscape (Govind wildlife National



Park and Sanctuary) Uttarkhashi; (ii) Gangotri Landscape, Uttarkashi; and (iii) Darama Landscape (Darma Valley), Pithoragarh.

First Late Dr. Pushkin Phartiyal Memorial Lecture

On 29th July 2019, the first Late Dr. Pushkin Phartiyal Memorial Lecture was organized with the support of GBPNIHESD, Kosi-Katarmal (Almora) at HRDC-UGC, Kumaun University, Nainital. The topic of the memorial lecture was “Preserving the Biodiversity and Natural heritage of Nainital”, in this event prominent environmentalist Dr. Ajay Rawat and the historian Prof. Shekher Pathak share their experiences and views, the speakers also remember the contribution of the Late Dr. Pushkin Phartiyal for the overall development of Himalayas. During the memorial lecture, a session on the Emerging issue from Climate Change Risks for Uttarakhand and Consultation of the carrying capacity of Hill Station was also conducted.

International Day for biological Diversity celebration

On 22nd May 2019 the International Day for Biological Diversity was celebrated between the students of Bharatiya Shaheed Sainik Vidyalaya (BSSV), Nainital. On this occasion, the renowned Nature photographer and Environmentalist Padma Shree Mr. Anup Sah delivered the Lecture/Presentation on the biological diversity of Nainital and surroundings.

Project 2019-20

Project	Funder/Partner	State/ District	Development Block
Fire Adaptation Features of Important Tree Species of Himalayas and Strengthening Community Participation in Preventing Forest Fire	GB Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment and Sustainable Development (GBPNIHESD), Kosi-Katarmal, Almora under its Integrated Eco-development Research Programme (IERP)	Uttarakhand	-
Identification, demonstration and implementation of climate smart and energy efficient solutions to reduce stress on natural ecosystems in selected project landscapes of SECURE Himalaya project in Uttarakhand	Emergent Ventures India Pvt Ltd (EVI)	Uttarakhand	-
Livelihood Improvement & Drudgery Reduction through Appropriate Livestock Technologies and Biomass Enhancement in Kumaun Himalayas	Department of Science and Technology (Seed Division), Ministry of Science & Technology, GoI	Almora	Lamgara
		Nainital	Dhari
Mainstreaming landscape approach for Biodiversity Conservation, Improved Livelihoods and Ecosystem Health in Indian part of Kailash Sacred Landscape)	NMHS-SBB Coordinated project State Bio-diversity Board	Pithoragarh	Dharchula, Gangolihat, Bin
Restoration of Himalayan Oak	VNV Advisory, Bangalore	Almora,	Lamgara
		Nainital	Dhari
		Pithoragarh	Bin
Strengthening of ABS mechanism through development of Value Chain of Bio resources	The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ)	Almora, Pithoragarh	-
SUNRAISE - Sustainable Natural Resource Use in Arctic and High Mountainous Areas.	University of Bremen, Germany and Erasmus+ programme of the European Union	Indian Himalayan Region	-
Timberline and Altitudinal Gradient Ecology of Himalayas, and Human Use Sustainance in a Warming Climate	GBPNIHESD under National Mission for Himalayan Studies (MoEFFCC)	Pan Himalaya	-
Uttarakhand Decentralized Watershed Development Project (GRAMYA – II)	Watershed Management Directorate, Dehradun	Almora	Dhauladevi
Uttarakhand Forest Resource Management Project (UFRMP)	Uttarakhand Forest Department under JICA	Tehri Garhwal	Bhilangana, Jakhnidhar

Note: The aforesaid list of projects during 2019-20 is in alphabetical order and does not represent any preference.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To Members of Central Himalayan Environment Association (CHEA)

REPORT ON THE AUDIT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Opinion

We have audited the Balance sheet, Income and Expenditure Account & Receipt and Payment Account of **Central Himalayan Environment Association** for the period ended 31 March 2020.

In our opinion, and according to the information and explanations given to us, the accompanying said financial statement, including a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, give a true and fair view of the financial position and the financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with the Accounting Standards issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI).

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with the Standards on Auditing (SAs) issued by ICAI. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the entity in accordance with the Code of Ethics issued by ICAI and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code of Ethics. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Key Audit Matter

We have determined there are no Key Audit Matters to communicate in our report.

Other matter

CHEA is the Project Management Unit for implementing project titled, "Timberline and Altitudinal Gradient Ecology of Himalayas, and Human Use Sustenance in Warming Climate", which is implemented through 08 external agencies which are government bodies. We have not audited the expenditure amounting to Rs 57,29,985.01 incurred by the partner agencies, and have relied upon the utilization certificates audited by the internal audit department of the partner agencies.

Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation of these financial statements that give a true and fair view of the financial position, financial performance and cash flows of the entity in accordance with the accounting principles generally accepted in India. This responsibility

includes the design, implementation and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and presentation of the financial statements that give a true and fair view and are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the entity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the entity or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so. Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the entity's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about the entity's presentation and fair representation of the financial statements and that the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with SAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to

Influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements
the entity's presentation and fair representation of the financial statements

As part of an audit in accordance with SAs, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion.
- Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the entity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit. We also provide those charged with governance with a statement that we have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, and to communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence, and where applicable, related safeguards.

For Manish Khanna & Co.

Chartered Accountants

Firm Registration Number : 008584C

Manish Khanna, FCA. DISA(ICAI)

Partner

Membership Nos- 077858

Place: Nainital

Dated : 18th December 2020

UDIN: 21077858AAAAA07210

Grant -in -aid for the year ended 31 March 2020

S#	Name of grant	Opening Balance 01.04.2019	Amount received during current year	Amount spent during current year	Closing Balance 31.3.2020
	Preservation of environment (including watershed and Forest)				
1	Fire adaptation features of important tress species of Himalayans and strengthening community participation in preventing forest fire funded by IERP, GBPNIHESD	20,662.00	3,57,602.00	3,21,776.38	56,487.62
2	"Chyura Based Value chain Development in Cluster of Villages of Pithoragarh" funded by BADP	-	3,66,773.00	3,66,773.00	-

3	“Identification, demonstration and implementation of climate smart and energy efficient solutions to reduce stress on natural ecosystems in selected project landscapes of SECURE Himalaya project in Uttarakhand”, funded by EVI	-	13,600.00	4,71,435.00	(4,57,835.00)
4	Description of Area for Oak Acorn Sowing by VNV	-	3,70,000.00	3,55,329.00	14,671.00
5	Strengthening Van Panchayats with respect to Biodiversity Conservation and Rural Livelihood Improvement in the Western Himalayas for DMU-Tehri Dam-I, Forest Division, Tehri by JICA	(62,297.00)	14,70,791.00	14,08,494.00	-
6	Patterns of changes in forest vegetation along environmental gradients in the Himalayas. By INSA	-	4,58,724.00	4,58,724.00	-
7	Mainstreaming Landscape approach for Biodiversity Conservation, Improved Livelihoods and ecosystem health in Indian part of Kailash Sacred Landscape funded SBB-NMHS	1,60,413.00		6,14,552.50	(4,54,139.50)
8	Sustainable Natural Resource use in Arctic and high Mountainous area by SUNRAISE	6,03,147.29	33,46,652.44	18,01,512.36	21,48,287.37
9	Kailash Sacred Landscape Conservation and Development Initiative (KSLCDI) funded by ICIMOD	3,80,379.03	-	-	3,80,379.03

10	Strengthening of ABS mechanism through development of Value Chain of Bio resources in identified Districts of Kumaon (Almora, Pithoragarh) Uttarakhand by GIZ	(2,12,911.00)	-	29,930.00	(2,42,841.00)
11	Uttarakhand Decentralized Watershed Development Project by Almora Division funded by UPWDP	33,401.58	27,17,393.00	31,36,376.94	(3,85,582.36)
12	Timberline and Altitudinal Gradient Ecology of Himalayas, and Human Use Sustenance in Warming Climate by GBPNIHESD	1,19,03,526.64	19,51,455.00	99,39,500.91	39,15,480.73
13	Livelihood improvement and drudgery reduction through appropriate livestock technologies and biomass enhancement in Kumoun Himalayas by DST	2,08,406.64	10,35,494.94	10,49,476.70	1,94,424.88
Total		1,30,34,728.18	1,20,88,485.38	1,99,53,880.79	51,69,332.77

Balance Sheet as on 31st March 2020

Accounts

Central Himalayan Environment Association

Balance Sheet as on 31st March 2019

Liabilities	Current Year (RS)	Previous Year (RS)
Corpus Fund	1,40,97,138	1,36,12,819
Capital assets - assets funded by internal accruals	2,53,55,714	2,53,55,641
Capital Reserves - assets funded by donor agencies	63,38,689	51,55,582
General Reserves	84,98,853	77,72,033
Unspent grants	51,69,333	1,30,34,728
Sundry Creditors	11,70,451	4,24,902
Total	6,06,30,177	6,53,55,705
Assets		
Fixed Assets - assets funded by internal accruals	2,53,55,714	2,53,55,714
Fixed Assets - assets funded by donor agencies	63,38,689	51,55,737
(Note : Assets are stated at cost. Please refer significant accounting policy on accounting of fixed assets)		
Current Assets, Loans and Advances		
Deposits with banks	2,49,63,854	2,11,59,608
Interest and implementation cost receivable	3,58,832	22,55,285
Advances including income tax recoverable	36,13,089	1,13,79,361
Security Deposit (endorsed in favour of Government Authorities)	0	50,000
	6,06,30,177	6,53,55,705
Signed on Behalf of CHEA		
Chairman :	-	-
Secretary:		
Executive Director :		
Manager Accounts and Administration :		

Central Himalayan Environment Association (CHEA)Receipts and Payments Accounts for the year ended as on 31st March 2019

Receipts	
Opening balance in bank	54,57,638.98
Income	
Interest	32,40,110.00
Implementation charges for executing grant	1,47,146.00
Total	33,87,256.00
Project Funding	
Foreign Contribution Grants	33,46,652.44
Government Grants	83,58,232.94
Other Non foreign Contribution & Non government Grants	3,83,600.00
Total	1,20,88,485.38
	-
Operational Receipts	1,00,10,219.4
	-
Grand Total	3,09,43,599.73
Payments	
Environmental activity	55,000.00
Administrative Expenses met from income	2,82,436.31
Income tax deducted at source	30,947.00
Total	3,13,383.31
Project Funding	
Foreign Contribution Grants	23,02,877.36
Government Grants	1,65,50,125.37
Other Non foreign Contribution & Non government Grants	3,55,329.00
Total	1,92,08,331.73
Closing balance	
Cash in bank	1,14,21,884.69
Grand Total	3,09,43,599.73

Publications

CHEA has undertaken a wide range of publication to capture field lessons, findings of various action researches and training manuals for capacity building of the rural communities.

1. Books/ Booklets - 39 The first publication "Environment Regeneration in Himalayas – Concepts and Strategies was made in 1985, edited by Prof. J. S. Singh, eminent ecologists, followed by series of publication on contemporary issues)
2. Training manual - 31 (covering various topics of Appropriate Technologies in Horticulture, Water Conservation and Harvesting, Animal Husbandry, Fodder Development, Irrigation Technologies, Pre and Post Harvesting, Beekeeping etc.)
3. CHEA Bulletin Vol. - 1 to 11
4. Research Papers – 51 published in various peer reviewed journals and accepted in national and international workshops/ seminars
5. Event and workshop reports -15
6. Case Studies on Climate Change Adaptation, rural livelihoods, art handicraft and culture -16

The aforesaid publications are available on request and details of most of them are available on www.cheaindia.org/publication.php

Council Members (2018-19)

CHAIR:

Dr. P. P. Dhyani, Vice Chancellor, SDSU University, Badshahithaul, Tehri and formerly Vice Chancellor SGRR University, Dehradun & Director, Govind Ballabh Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment (GBPNIHE), Kosi Katarmal, Almora.

VICE CHAIR:

Mr. Anup Sah, (Padam Shree) Horticulturist & Nature Photographer, Nainital.

SECRETARY:

Dr. Subrat Sharma, Scientist, GBPNIHE, Kosi, Katarmal, Almora.

JT. SECRETARY:

Prof. Uma Malkania, Professor Environmental Science & Ex-Dean CBSH, G. B. Pant Agri & Tech University, Pantnagar.

Dr. Ashish Tewari, Associate Professor, Department of Forestry and Environment Science, Kumaun University, Nainital.

COUNCILLOR:

Mr. Sushil Bahuguna, Output Editor, NDTV, Delhi
Dr. Deepak Bhatt, Head, Dept. of Geology PGDAV College, Dehradun, Uttarakhand.

Prof. S.P.S. Mehta, Professor, Department of Chemistry, Kumaun University.

Dr. B.R. Pant, Associate Professor, Geography Department, MBPG College, Haldwani.

Prof. S.C. Garkoti, Pro Vice Chancellor, JNU, New Delhi

Dr. S. P. Sati, Research Officer, HNB Central University, Srinagar, Garhwal, Uttarakhand.

Prof. G.L. Shah, Retired Professor, Department of Geography, DSB Campus, Kumaun University.

Research Advisory Board

Chairperson:

Dr. G.S. Rawat, Dean, Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, Uttarakhand

Member Secretary:

Executive Director (Ex Officio), Central Himalayan Environment Association (CHEA), Nainital

Member:

Dr. Navin Juyal, Ex-Scientist, Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmadabad, Gujarat

Dr. G.C.S. Negi, Scientist-F, G.B. Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment (GBPNIHE), Kosi-Katarmal, Almora

Dr. Amit Pande, ICAR-National Fellow, ICAR-Directorate of Coldwater Fisheries Research, Nainital, Uttarakhand

Prof. Jeet Ram, Department of Forestry and Environmental Sciences, D.S.B. Campus, Kumaun University, Nainital

Prof. C.M. Sharma, Veer Chandra Singh Garhwali Uttarakhand University of Horticulture & Forestry, Bharsar, Pauri, Uttarakhand

Prof. P.C. Tiwari, Department of Geography, D.S.B. Campus, Kumaun University, Nainital

Advisor:

Dr. Eklabya Sharma, FNA, Director Programme Operations, International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), Nepal.

Prof. R.S. Tripathi, FNA, Emeritus Scientist, National Botanical Research Institute (NBRI), Lucknow.

Special Invitee/Advisor:

Prof. S.P. Singh, FNA, Formerly Vice Chancellor, H.N.B. Garhwal University.

CHEA Team

Akanksha Joshi	Mohit Malkani
Amit Mittal, <i>PhD</i>	Narendra Singh
Anil Kanwal	Naveen Bisht
Ashish Kumar	Naveen Joshi
Deepa Upadhyaya	Neema Rautela
Deepika Adhikari	P. S. Nagarkoti
Devendra Singh	Pammi
Dhiraj Joshi	Pankaj Tewari, <i>PhD</i>
Dhirendra Joshi	Pawan Kumar
Dixit Pathak	Pratap Dhaila, <i>PhD</i>
Ganesh Lal	Ram Singh
Girish Chand Joshi	Ramesh Chandra Pandey
Girish Chandra Joshi	Ripu Daman Singh
Harshita Joshi	Satish Joshi
Krishna Kumar Tamta <i>PhD</i>	Surendra Bhandari
Kundan Bisht	Surabhi Gumber
Manoj Negi	Vinita Verma
Mohan Bhatt	

112 Life Members of CHEA, representing academia, university, social work and institutions, contributes through extending their voluntary services to CHEA's programme and interventions on regular basis and forms the core competency of the organisation.

Governance

- All the members of the Governing Council are unrelated to each other by blood and marriage.
- The Executive Director is not related to any member of the Governing Council by blood and marriage.
- Elections to the Governing Council are held as per the rules of the Society and in accordance to the constitution and memorandum of association of the organisation. After three terms each members go for a “cooling off” period.
- No members of the Governing Body received any remuneration during the year.
- The Governing Body met more than thrice in the last year with the requisite quorum.
- Minutes of the meeting were documented, read out and approved in the subsequent meeting and were also circulated in advance.
- The General Body of the Society approved the Annual Report and the audited statement of accounts.

Our Statutory Auditor

Manish Khanna, FCA, DISA (ICA)

Our Legal Status, Accreditation and MoU

Central Himalayan Environment Association (CHEA) is a Society registered under the Indian Societies Registration Act of 1860. Registration No. 222/1982-83., dated 2nd October, 1982.

Central Himalayan Environment Association (CHEA) is authorized to receive foreign contributions as per the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act 1976.

CHEA is registered under Sections 12A and 80G of the Income Tax Act, 1961, and is a not for profit entity.

CHEA is accredited as Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (SIRO), by Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, Government of India.

CHEA has Memorandum of Understanding with Department of Forest and Environment Science, Kumaun University, Nainital for collaborated action research.

CHEA has Memorandum of Understanding with G.B. Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment and Sustainable Development (GBPNIHESD), MoEFCC, GoI, Kosi-Katarmal, Almora for Lab-to-Land approach.

CHEA is Founder Member of Himalayan River Alliance (HIRA), a South Asian Alliance for working on livelihood and environmental issues of Ganga and Brahmaputra River Basin.

CHEA is Member of Mountain Partnership, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations.

CHEA is Member of Global Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture (Facilitation unit based at FAO).

CHAIR OF CHEA



Late Shri A. D. Moddie
(1982-1988)
Formerly ICS & Founder
Member of ICIMOD



Late Shri D.P. Joshi
(1988-2006)
Formerly PCCF, UP



Prof. A.K. Pant
(2006-2009)
Formerly Director, Birla Institute
of Applied Sciences



Late Dr. R.S. Tolia
(2009-2013)
Formerly Chief Secretary
& Chief Information
Commissioner, Uttarakhand



Late Prof. T.S. Papola
(2013-2015)
Formerly Chairman, 14th
Finance Commission,
Uttarakhand



Prof. S.P. Singh
(2015-2018)
Formerly VC, HNB Garhwal
University, Srinagar



Dr. P.P. Dhyani
(2018- continue)
Vice Chancellor, SDSU University,
Badshahithaul, Tehri and Formerly
Vice Chancellor SGRR University,
Dehradun & Director, GBPNIHE,
Kosi Katarmal, Almora.