



ICSSR North-Western Regional Centre, Chandigarh
sponsored
National Seminar (Hybrid Mode)
on

**Promoting Sustainable Livelihoods in the North-Western Himalayas:
Fostering Convergence among Research, Practice and Policy**

May 27-28, 2023 (Offline); May 29, 2023 (Online)



ORGANISED BY

Research & Development Cell, and Department of Geography,
Government Degree College, Shahpur, Kangra, HP

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

Regional-cum-Facilitation Centre, (Northern Region I) of National Medicinal Plant Board,
Ministry of Ayush, Government of India, Joginder Nagar, Mandi, HP.
Central University of Himachal Pradesh



VENUE

Shahpur Parisar of Central University of Himachal Pradesh

The Seminar Context

Mountains cover 24% of the land area, and are home to 12 % of the world population providing a number of vital ecosystem services. But accelerated anthropogenic interventions coupled with global macro processes such as climate change and globalization in mountains have not been just adversely affecting the effectiveness of these eco-system services, but the livelihoods of mountain communities too have got severely jeopardized. To illustrate, in the context of the Himalayas, poverty incidence is one-third compared to one-fourth of the national average. This situation calls for a mountain-specific poverty reduction programme that will be able to ensure sustainable livelihoods for economically, socially, and politically marginalized people including millions of indigenous people living at remote inaccessible locations, depending on natural resources, amidst rigid socioeconomic inequities, conflicts, gender inequities and caste/ethnicity-based discrimination.

On the other hand, a convergence among policy, practice, and research has been found essential for livelihood promotion for communities but it has largely been found absent. Researchers have been accused of largely being interested in building their academic profile and boosting their careers and not so much in providing customized solutions. As a result, most of their works are random, contingency-based, piecemeal, and non-programmatic. On the other hand, livelihood promotion policies are rarely based on evidence and are largely being made hurriedly typically in response to short-term pressures from one or more stakeholders or exigencies engendered by national or supranational agencies. At the same time, researchers and livelihood practitioners rarely communicate with each other. Collaborative research agenda is rarely formulated, and participatory approaches are rarely adopted. There is the apathy of researchers towards application. Practitioners perceive researchers as people who sit in the ivory tower completely cut off from the grassroots realities. Therefore, it is important to create a platform or mechanism where practitioners, researchers, and policymakers come together and understand each other's needs and requirements, share observations and findings and plan participatory research designs, frameworks and strategies.

The proposed event attempts to: bring stakeholders on a common platform, give them a space to voice their concerns and priorities; to facilitate the forging of a working relationship ultimately leading to a productive collaboration.

SUB-THEMES

- **Understanding community livelihoods in the North -Western Himalayas**
 - ✓ Status of mountain livelihoods in terms of availability, adequacy, quality
 - ✓ Livelihoods for specific groups: Dalits, Women, Tribals, Persons with special needs
 - ✓ Political economy of livelihoods
 - ✓ Socio-cultural dimensions of livelihoods
- **Dynamics of livelihood transformation in the North -Western Himalayas**
 - ✓ Climate change and livelihoods
 - ✓ Neoliberal policies and livelihoods
 - ✓ Technological innovations and livelihood
 - ✓ Digital transformation and livelihood
 - ✓ Livelihoods in the context of natural disasters and extreme weather events

- **Critiquing Current initiatives for livelihood promotion**

- ✓ Government initiatives such as NRLM
- ✓ Initiatives led by community-based organizations
- ✓ Initiatives supported by private entities and corporates
- ✓ Initiatives supported by the multilateral agencies such as UNDP

- **Livelihood sector in focus I: Tourism**

- ✓ Implications for mass tourism in mountains
- ✓ Case studies of responsible tourism initiatives
- ✓ Community based rural tourism
- ✓ Wellness and herbal tourism

- **Livelihood sector in focus II: Medicinal and Aromatic Plant**

- ✓ Issues pertaining to sustainable collection and cultivation practices
- ✓ Best practices in convergence
- ✓ Supply chain management in MAP sector
- ✓ Benefit sharing mechanism
- ✓ Quality concerns in MAP sector

- **Other key sectors of mountain livelihoods**

- ✓ Horticulture-based livelihood opportunities
- ✓ Livestock-based opportunities
- ✓ Forest-based opportunities
- ✓ Urban livelihoods
- ✓ Art and Crafts

- **Culture and livelihood interface**

- ✓ Role of culture in livelihood promotion in mountains
- ✓ Cultural economy in Himalayas: Prospects and Challenges
- ✓ Leveraging cultural tools and expressions for livelihoods
- ✓ Mountain Livelihoods in folk and contemporary literary expressions

- **Promoting livelihoods for special populations**

Dalits, Adivasis, Women, Minorities, Persons with Disability, Migrants, Forest dwellers, People in resource deficient regions (e.g., Changar)

- ✓ Status
- ✓ Challenges
- ✓ Way forward

- **Livelihood research in the mountain context**

- ✓ Current status of livelihood research
- ✓ Key research gaps in livelihood sector
- ✓ Challenges of doing research in the mountain context Methodological innovations

- **Public policies for livelihood promotion**

- ✓ Dynamics of policy making for mountain livelihoods
- ✓ Evidence based policy making: key challenges
- ✓ Legislative frameworks for livelihood promotion such as Forest Rights Act
- ✓ Framework for scaling up livelihood initiatives

- **Role of technology for livelihood promotion**

- ✓ Digital transformation
- ✓ Best practices
- ✓ Challenges
- ✓ Way forward



Participation formats

- **Paper presentations**

Participants can present a research paper for 10-12 minutes on a topic linked with the conference theme. One session of 90 minutes will not have more than 4-5 presentations in order to provide ample time for discussions and afterthoughts.

- **Thematic symposia**

A group of three experts can choose to propose a symposium on various dimensions of a theme for a duration of 90 minutes including presentations and interaction. For example: three agencies who have leveraged technology for promoting community livelihoods could share their experiences in one symposium.

- **Workshops**

You can propose for 90 minutes session on an issue of practical importance for Researchers, Government officials or grassroot-level practitioners. Examples of probable workshop themes: How to scale up green livelihoods? How to conduct research for understanding livelihood security or climate change adaptation? How to claim rights over forests?

- **Colloquium for research scholars**

This session would be for current and aspiring research scholars interested in livelihood research. They can share their ideas and proposals in front of experts who, in turn, can enrich them with their insights and guide them regarding methodological frameworks.



Instructions for delegates

- Abstracts of the proposed papers/workshops/symposia may be submitted at shahpurseminar@gmail.com by 7 May, 2023 in about 200 words (Font style: Times New Roman; Font size: 12) with name, affiliation and contact details of author/s.
- Along with notification of acceptance, you will receive further information regarding payment process and submission of full paper.
- Conference Fee
 - Online payment before the Seminar:
For UG and PG students: INR 200; For research scholars: INR 500; For others: INR 1000.
 - Spot registration on the Seminar Day
For UG and PG students: INR 300; For research scholars: INR 700; For others: INR 1200.
- Important dates: Submission of abstract: 07 May, 2023
Submission of full paper: 15 May, 2023
- For further details and updates, please keep visiting Seminar webpage:
<https://gdcshahpur.in/Conference.html>
- For any clarifications, send email to shahpurseminar@gmail.com or Call 9816624520.

About organizers

GOVERNMENT DEGREE COLLEGE, SHAHPUR

Located on NH 154 our (Pathankot-Mandi road), our college is 70 Kms away from Pathankot and 30 kilometres from Dharmshala and Kangra, historical cities having rich cultural heritage. Established in the year 2006, our college has undergone first cycle of accreditation by NAAC. The college offers various undergraduate courses across three faculties, namely, Arts, Science and Commerce. Largely coming from the rural areas, the college caters to the need of the students of economically deprived section and girl students who make three fourth of the total strength of the college. Presently around 1800 students are pursuing their degree from the institution.

RCFC (NR-I) JOGINDER NAGAR

Regional Cum Facilitation Centre (Northern Region-I) of National Medicinal Plants Board (under the Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India) is one of seven such Regional Cum Facilitation Centres (RCFC). It covers the States/UTs of Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi and Chandigarh. Like other RCFCs, it provides service window for growers of Medicinal Plants for supporting cultivation; provides handholding support to stakeholders in terms of technology dissemination, training, authentication of raw material, data compilation and maintenance etc. It works in close co-ordination with concerned State Medicinal Plants Boards and also provides training in formulation of projects of Medicinal Plants Cultivation and Development. Presently, it is being headed by Dr. Arun Chandan of Research Institute in Indian Systems of Medicine (RIISM), Joginder Nagar, Dist Mandi, H.P.

CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF HIMACHAL PRADESH

The Central University of Himachal Pradesh was established under the Central Universities Act 2009, and became functional in 2010. Its jurisdiction extends to the whole state of Himachal Pradesh. With its headquarter at Dharamshala, academic activities are being run from Dhauladhar Campuses at Dharamshala and Shahpur, and Sapt Sindhu Campus at Dehra. It has thirty three teaching departments/Centres across twelve different schools. Presently, more than 2100 students are enrolled in the University under various programmes such as Under-graduate, Post-graduate, MPhil, and PhD. Additionally, it also offers two B.Voc. programmes, Six PG Diploma Courses and thirteen Certificate Courses.

OUR KNOWLEDGE PARTNERS



Organizing Team

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Sh. Rakesh Pathania
(Offg. Principal)

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Convenor

Dr. Sachin Kumar

Co-convenors

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