

Summit discussed Himalayan climate issues and Spring-Shed Management

Scientists, government officials, planners and media professionals working on the Himalayas ecosystem shared their experiences of understanding the mountains and related climate factors at a two-day Himalayan Summit on Climate Change organized during 27 November to 29 November 2019 at the 10th CMS Vatavaran International Film Festival & Forum on Environment & Wildlife, at Dr Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi.

The experts discussed Vulnerable and Risk Assessment in Indian Himalayan Region (IHR), State Level Training Programme in IHR, and ways of Enhancing Knowledge on Spring-Shed Management in IHR as well as the Indian Himalayas Climate Adaptation Programme (IHCAP).

Dr Akhilesh Gupta, Head, SPLICE, DST said that the IHCAP has been very successful and DST is looking forward to working with Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) in long term.



Dr Gupta mentioned that media workshops organised across the Indian Himalayan region by CMS under DST-SDC collaboration, has greatly helped sensitizing media personnel about climate change and its impact on Himalayan ecosystem. He added that a DST-SDC Media Fellowship scheme has been very popular among media personnel. A good number of articles came out of this programme on Climate Change Impacts & Adaptation in the Indian Himalayan Region.

DST is coordinating two, out of eight national missions under “National Action Plan on Climate Change” (NAPCC). These are the National Mission on Sustaining the Himalayan Ecosystem (NMSHE) and the National Mission on Strategic Knowledge for Climate Change (NMSKCC).

NMSHE is evolving suitable management and policy measures for sustaining and safeguarding the Himalayan ecosystem along with developing capacities at the national level to continuously assess its health status.

Dr Akhilesh Gupta and Ms. Marylaure Crettaz, Head Swiss Cooperation office, Embassy of Switzerland in India released two knowledge products -- the Manual on Adaptation to Climate Change in the Indian Himalayan Region & the Comprehensive Report on Springs in the Indian Himalayan Region.

Dr Akhilesh Gupta mentioned that the training manual brought out is an outcome of hard and sustained work done by DST, SDC and NABCONS teams. He hoped that the manual will be an authentic reference document for future training programmes organised for Indian Himalayan Region in climate change adaptation.



Experts recommended a multi stakeholder platform for data sharing, connecting different stakeholders working on the Himalayan ecosystem. They also recommended need based capacity building and mapping of Himalayan springs. Many of the experts working on Spring Shed Management highlighted the need for identifying local priorities and a community driven approach for management of springs. They suggested DST's active involvement in this.

Dr Nisha Mendiratta, Associate Head, SPLICE, DST, said that several initiatives have been taken by DST under NMSHE. She said that Climate Change cells and Task Forces have been set up to build capacity for adaptation planning of Himalayan region.

This 2-day Summit was organized by Indian Himalayas Climate Adaptation Programme (IHCAP) - a project of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), and is being implemented in partnership with the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India.