

FINAL REPORT

Project Name: “Dissemination, Scouting, documentation and evaluation of Innovations and traditional knowledge from Almora district, Uttarakhand”(Sept 2017-Aug 2018)

Organisation: Chintan International Trust. Uttarakhand

1. Context

We are working in the middle himalayan ranges in India at an altitude of 1600m -1800m.

Conditions of living are quite difficult , with areas remote and inaccessible , facing high level of forest and other natural resource degradation. People have come up with ‘Human Adaptation mechanism’ or Traditional knowledge, to overcome these challenges posed by nature and human induced factors. This immense body of knowledge is the culmination of people’s continuous experimentation, observation and experience gained through their continuous interaction with their surroundings. Weather pattern changes , especially over the past few years, is also posing serious challenges to people’s life and livelihood, which is primarily based on natural resources , which is highly climate sensitive in nature. People

are coming up with innovations based on their traditional wisdom and knowledge to address these issues and are adapting to the changes and impact as a result.

2. Objective

1. Documentation, Raising awareness and Acknowledging the streak of innovation existing within people, based on their knowledge systems and wisdom. to address issues relating to their livelihood, health and food security.

3. Findings

32 Villages were visited over a period of one year in **3 districts**, Almora, Nainital and Pithoragarh, covering **6 blocks** were covered. In these 6 blocks, total 32 villages were visited and **85 innovators** were interviewed. But prior to the interviews, interaction with villagers was considered very important to orient and discuss the issue with them. This helped the team understand the innovative areas, identify, followed by scouting people. Therefore the activities helped in :

1. Understanding the process of identifying innovations and documenting them.
2. Scout and Identify innovations and their creators, holders and practitioners
3. Document innovations, including complete details on their process of preparation, and impact etc

A. Activities

1. Details of Innovations scouted, identified and documented over the period of one year, is as follows:

Total innovations documented: 180

Human health innovations : 135

Veterinary innovations : 33

Innovation relating to Agriculture :6

Innovation relating to Engineering :6

2. Subject of innovations -

a. Innovators relating to Health- Human and Animal
76 health innovators/ experts were identified and interviewed. Of these 42 were women and 34 men innovators.

76 innovators contributed to total 168 health related innovations. Of these, 135 were related to human health while 33 were related to veterinary health.

Herb samples :

Samples collected so far : 2 -herbs-human health related-

1. Soo ki jad (stomach ache)
2. Sakin ki chal (nasoor)

Of 135 human related health problems, herbal samples of 30 problems were collected, while 9 samples were collected of 33 veterinary related health problems.

b. Innovators relating to Agriculture and Engineering are 6 and 3 respectively. Of the 6 innovators relating to Agriculture ,

2 are women while 4 are men. In Engineering , all the 3 are men.

Areas covered :

Villages visited and covered: 32, with 11 villages in the Almora district, 8 villages in Nainital and 13 villages in Pithoragarh district. Some of the villages were Malla gehna, Gajar, Talla gehna, Tola, Mangru, Kafli khan, Dunar, Kotila and so on.

b. Documentation of creative ideas existing amongst school children

Besides these, 2 schools were visited during the project period. One was the Inter college in village Malla Gehna in the district of Nainital, 100 innovative ideas were documented by children from class 6th to 12th. 175 children participated.

Likewise,39 innovations were documented by children in an Inter college in Almora district.

So in total 139 innovative ideas were documented.

Copies of children's entries have already been sent to NIF Dehradun office.

**c. Study on innovative chulhas :Chintan and Daksh chulha
Identification of beneficiaries for dissemination of Stoves-
Chintan stove/chulha and Daksh stove/chulha**

6 beneficiaries were identified during the period. All were women-6. This covers both the districts - Nainital and Almora.

3 Chintan chulhas were distributed

and 3 Daksh chulhas have been distributed till the end of the project.

Broad highlights of the study on the working of Daksh and Chintan chulhas are as follows:

Daksh chulha was found to be very effective with respect to the time involved in cooking, indoor air pollution (which is much less with this chulha). It is portable. It uses all types of wood.

Chintan chulha was also found to be very effective. Being portable, it can also be moved from one place to another place easily, is not very heavy either. A chimney has also been attached which channelises smoke out of the room. It also uses all kinds of wood, including wet and dry woodland all shapes and sizes. This saves much time of women, since all kinds and types of wood can be used.

Another very important advantage in using chintan chulha is that the heat produced during the cooking process, is used for heating water. This saves on fuel wood. Like Daksh chulha, chintan chulha too saves on time utilised in cooking food.

d. Workshops on dissemination of documented innovations in the area of health, agriculture and technology

These workshops were held in the month of June 2018 and August 2018 (detailed report in Hindi attached).

In the first workshop(detailed report attached) held on 20th June 2018, at least 30 people participated including innovators from the community. Community primarily came from Almora and Nainital district. Discussion was held on the importance and relevance of traditional knowledge in the area of health, agriculture, technology and so on. Innovators in different areas, shared their knowledge and innovations in the meeting. They had even brought samples of different herbs along with them. Of 30 innovators who attended the meeting, 18 were women and 12 were men. Majority of the innovators belonged to Dalit castes. Total participants were 35.

In the second workshop held in Aug 2018, 36 people participated, with 31 innovators. Of these, 16 were women while 15 were men.

4. Challenges :

1. Issue is slightly difficult to understand and document. Hence it took us some time to understand it before we could begin the documentation
2. Overtly , engineering innovations do not seem to be as many as health related innovations, but they do exist and will require some more time and effort to be scouted and documented.

3. Agricultural and forest related work was at its peak from the month of August '17 till the month of November and early December '17. This didn't allow us much time for meeting people and for documentation till the second week of December, last year.
4. Chintan's working area is in two districts -Almora and Nainital and our team is quite small. This also poses several challenges especially relating to traveling.
5. Financial support being extended only for travel and activities, but no compensation to people engaged in the documentation, is not sustainable.

Output and Outcome

1. Improved awareness and understanding, amongst the team and community, on the innovations by local people relating to health, agriculture and engineering to address their needs and requirements
2. Data base on the innovations relating to health comprising details of innovators and innovations, including both veterinary and human health
3. Data base on the innovations relating to agriculture and engineering comprising details of innovators and innovations these areas.

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