

DH KRISHI jica



Vol. 02, No. 03 April-May, 2024

INHOUSE NEWSLETTER OF HP CROP DIVERSIFICATION PROMOTION PROJECT-II













HIMACHAL PRADESH CROP DIVERSIFICATION PROMOTION PROJECT (PHASE-II), JICA-ODA, HAMIRPUR (H.P.)

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VIVIDH KRISHI



Vol. 02, No. 03

April-May, 2024

INHOUSE NEWSLETTER OF HP CROP DIVERSIFICATION PROMOTION PROJECT-II

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(Vividh Krishi is a Bimonthly Newsletter of H.P. Crop Diversification Promotion Project, Phase-II, JICA-ODA for internal circulation among the stakeholders, only. Number of copies printed are 1000, only.)

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"Farming Forward: Key Achievements and Plans for the New Financial Year"

I am truly delighted to introduce the latest edition of our bimonthly magazine, which serves as a showcase of the remarkable progress and groundbreaking innovations within the realm of agriculture. As we step into the Financial Year 2024-25, we set our sights on ambitious new targets to drive our project objectives forward.

Our initiatives for this year include a wide array of farmer support activities including capacity development through trainings, workshops, exposure visits, demonstrations etc. Further we are also focusing on technological upgradation such as Vegetable promotion, livelihood support activities, provision of farm machinery, poly houses and poly tunnels to enhance agricultural productivity. The Nutrition Improvement Program and the SHEP approach will remain pivotal to our strategy. Additionally, we will continue to focus on Production Management and Value Realization Plans (PMVRP) to ensure that our efforts translate into tangible benefits for the farming community.

Currently, at various Project Management Units (PMUs), 105 no. works are in progress and the tendering process for another 100 no. subprojects will be completed. A total of 184 no. micro plans have been formulated and the crop diversification plan will be implemented in the first batch of 100 no. subprojects. As of May, 269 no. KVAs were formed, with 221 no. registered. Additionally, 220 no. online baseline surveys were completed, covering 14042 no. families.

Volume-II of our bimonthly magazine encapsulates the essence of our activities, highlighting key achievements and milestones. This includes project progress, exposure visit, visit of JICA Review Mission etc. From community development projects to innovative technological solutions, this volume is a testament to our dedication and the collaborative efforts of all our partners and stakeholders.

I am genuinely proud of what we've accomplished as a team. Our commitment to excellence has not only met but surpassed expectations. As we step into the upcoming FY let's carry this momentum forward with new project targets. May the new FY usher in fresh opportunities, sustained growth and even greater success.

On behalf of the Himachal Pradesh Crop Diversification Project (PHASE-II), I extend my best wishes to our patrons in the JICA, the Government of India, the Government of Himachal Pradesh, the farmers, our staff, the experts and the service providers for the new FY 2024-25. Together, let's achieve even greater heights in our mission to revolutionize agriculture.

Dr. Sunil Chauhan Project Director

1. Project Progress

1.1 Progress w.r.t. Minor Irrigation Infrastructure Works

A. DPMU HAMIRPUR

The DPMU Hamirpur has targeted to develop 54 no. of irrigation schemes. Out of these, DPRs for 47 no. subprojects have already been prepared, demonstrating a proactive approach to project planning. Among these prepared DPRs, 31 no. have been reviewed and recommended by the Project Management Consultancy (PMC) and approved by the SPMU. Following the approvals, tenders have been floated for 27 no. of these subprojects and 18 no. of these tenders have already been awarded. Currently, active execution is in progress for 14 no. subprojects, showcasing significant ongoing efforts and strong momentum in the implementation of these initiatives.







B. DPMU PALAMPUR

The DPMU Palampur is actively working to develop irrigation schemes across 98 no. of subprojects. Till now, they have completed DPRs for 85 no. subprojects and PMC has reviewed and recommended 54 no. of DPRs. All these 54 no. DPRs stand approved by the SPMU. In alignment with these approvals, tenders have been floated for the same 48 no. of subprojects, leading to the successful awarding of contracts for 33 no. subprojects. This achievement underscores significant progress in their initiative. Furthermore, the execution phase is currently underway for 31 no. of these subprojects, highlighting a consistent and determined effort towards the realization of these irrigation schemes.





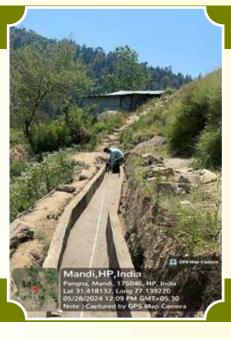


C. DPMU MANDI

The DPMU Mandi has been actively developing irrigation schemes across 86 no. of subprojects. By May, 2024, DPRs have been completed for 84 no. of these subprojects. Notably, 54 no. DPRs have reviewed and recommended by the Project Management Consultancy (PMC) and approved by the SPMU. Tenders have been floated for 38 no. subprojects. Contracts have been awarded for 36 no. subprojects, indicating significant progress in implementation. Currently, active execution is underway for all 36 no. of these subprojects, demonstrating tangible outcomes from the DPMU's efforts.







D. DPMU SOLAN

The DPMU Solan is actively developing irrigation projects across 58 no. of subprojects, showcasing its commitment to agricultural infrastructure enhancement. As of May, 2024, DPRs were finalized for 49 no. subprojects. PMC has reviewed and recommended 38 no. of DPRs for approval and 38 no. of DPRs reviewed by the SPMU. Presently, 32 no. subprojects are undergoing the tendering process. Contracts have been successfully awarded for 24 no. subprojects and active execution is underway for 24 no. subprojects, highlighting tangible progress in agricultural development.







1.2 Progress w.r.t. KVA Formation, Registration, Baseline Survey, SDP Preparation & Review

A. DPMU HAMIRPUR

Under the DPMU Hamirpur, various BPMUs have formed 49 no. KVAs and registered 43 no. subprojects under the H.P. Society Act, 2006. By May 2024, baseline surveys were conducted for 53 no. subprojects. Additionally, 41 no. Subproject Development Plans (SDPs) have been prepared, with 31 no. receiving approval from the PMC. Out of these, 26 no. SDPs have been successfully uploaded to the online portal.



B. DPMU PALAMPUR

Up to May, 2024, significant achievements have been made under the DPMU Palampur. KVAs have been formed for 82 no. subprojects, with 64 of them registered. Online baseline surveys have been completed for 58 no. subprojects. Subproject Development Plans (SDPs) have been prepared for 48 no. subprojects, with 33 no. receiving PMC approval. Out of these, 31 no. SDPs have been successfully uploaded to the online portal.



By May, 2024, DPMU Mandi has made significant progress. They have formed 83 no. KVAs, with 69 no. of them successfully registered. Online baseline surveys have been completed for 69 no. subprojects and Subproject Development Plans (SDPs) have been meticulously prepared for 60 nos. of these. Out of these, 42 no. SDPs have received PMC approval and 37 no. have been uploaded to the online portal.

D. DPMU SOLAN

As of May, 2024, substantial progress has been made, with 55 no. KVAs formed, 45 of which have been registered. Online baseline surveys have been completed for 36 no. of subprojects, covering 1,722 households. Subproject Development Plans (SDPs) have been prepared for 35 no. subprojects, with 25 no. receiving PMC approval. Out of these, 19 no. SDPs have been successfully uploaded to the online







2. Progress on Special Programmes

2.1 Exploring Agri-Innovation in Assam and Meghalaya Introduction:

In pursuit of enhancing agricultural innovation and entrepreneurship, officials from the Himachal Pradesh Crop Diversification Promotion (Phase-II) project, funded by JICA-ODA, embarked on an illuminating journey to Assam and Meghalaya from April 22nd to 27th April, 2024. Under the proposal "Exploring Agri-Innovation, Himachal Pradesh Officials' journey to Assam and Meghalaya," the objective of this expedition was to delve into the agricultural landscapes of these two states, nestled in the enchanting North Eastern region of India.



Visit Highlights:

During their visit, the Himachal Pradesh officials explored a range of innovative agricultural practices and entrepreneurial ventures in Assam and Meghalaya. On 23rd April, they visited startups in Guwahati, including Esah Tea, which specializes in artisanal organic teas and utilizes ecofriendly cotton tea bags and Building Brightcrop Agro, a pioneer in organic farming with over 800 acres of certified farmland. In Shillong, on 25th April, the officials visited the Megha-LAMP project in Umdiengpho village, learning about women's initiatives in potato cultivation under the Integrated Village Community Scheme (IVCS) and the MegLIFE project, which focuses on community-based forest management and livelihood improvement. The officials also experienced culinary innovation at Orange Roots, a vegetarian restaurant run by Khasi women, inspiring ideas for agri-tourism in Himachal Pradesh. Finally, on 26th April, they visited the Central Academy of Forest State Service in Burnihat, Assam, to gain insights into JICA-aided projects and strategies for Farmer Training Centers.



Key Insights:

The journey to Assam and Meghalaya provided the Himachal Pradesh officials with key insights into the region's agricultural landscape and innovative practices. They observed the diverse terrains, from Assam's lush tea gardens to Meghalaya's terraced slopes, highlighting the blend of tradition and innovation that defines the local farming community. The visit showcased a range of agricultural practices, from traditional organic methods to advanced precision technologies, emphasizing the region's commitment to sustainability. Interactions with successful agri-based startups like Esah Tea and Building Brightcrop Agro demonstrated the transformative power of technology in agriculture. These engagements offered valuable lessons on leveraging funding, support and incubation centers to boost agri-entrepreneurship in Himachal Pradesh, laying the groundwork for future strategic initiatives in agricultural innovation.



Conclusion:

This visit provided Himachal Pradesh officials with invaluable insights into agricultural innovation and sustainable development in Assam and Meghalaya. By fostering collaborations between government bodies, startups and developmental organizations, this initiative paves the way for inclusive growth and holistic well-being in rural communities under HPCDP (Phase-II).





2.2 Visit of JICA-India Mission to Himachal Pradesh Crop Diversification Promotion Project (Phase-II), JICA-ODA, Hamirpur, Himachal Pradesh

The JICA review mission, conducted from 1st to 3rd, May 2024, aimed to provide support to farmers engaged in the Himachal Pradesh Crop Diversification Promotion Project (HPCDP) and assess the project interventions of Phase-I and Phase-II, alongside visiting renowned enterprises within the agricultural sector.

The mission comprised esteemed members including Ms. Oota Masami, First Secretary (Food and Agriculture), Embassy of Japan, New Delhi; Mr. Wakamatsu Eiji, Senior Representative, JICA India; Ms. Kato Maria, Representative, JICA India; Ms. Inagaki Yukari, Representative, JICA India; and Ms. Vengurlekar Nishtha, Development Specialist, JICA, India. Upon their arrival on 1st May, 2024, they were warmly welcomed by the Project Director, Dr. Sunil Chauhan and other officials at Dharamshala Airport in Kangra district.



Day 1: 1st May, 2024

The JICA Review Mission commenced their visit by moving to the Collection Centre in Sidhbari, constructed in 2018 during Phase-I of the Himachal Pradesh Crop Diversification Promotion Project and now managed by the Chamba Kangra Tribal Honey Farmer Producer Company Limited. The mission lauded the company's dedication to rural development through sustainable agricultural practices, praising the advanced honey processing facilities and effective market linkages.

Following this, the Mission visited the Tenacious Bee Collective in Jia Kangra, led by Director Mr. Kunal. He highlighted the collective's efforts since 2018 in training farmers in modern beekeeping techniques, reviving traditional methods and empowering women through Self-Help Groups (SHGs). The mission noted the collective's success in improving bee populations, honey quality and farmer incomes.

The day continued with inspections at the subproject sites,FIS Choo Nala Kuhal in Sagoor village and FIS Gartuhal Kuhal in Bir village. The mission reviewed ongoing construction and extension activities, interacting with farmers to gather feedback on the new irrigation systems. The day concluded with a visit to the collection center and retail outlet in Paprola, managed by the Baijnath Pragatisheel Kisan Utpadak Producer Company Limited. The mission discussed strategic initiatives for maximizing farmer incomes through sustainable practices and efficient market linkages.







Day 2: 2nd May, 2024

On the second day, the Mission visited the Shiitake Cultivation Training Centre (SCTC) in Palampur, where they were briefed on advanced cultivation methods such as bag cultivation, which has significantly improved yields and reduced production time. The mission recognized the center's impact on local farmer incomes and the potential for sustainable mushroom farming in the region.

Subsequently, they visited Hill Sprouts, an Agri-tech startup in Drang, led by founder Ms. Bharti Bhuria. The mission reviewed the innovative TOT-based precision farming system developed for high-value crops like strawberries, blueberries and saffron. They were impressed by the twelve-level soil-based vertical farming setup, microcontroller-based sensor array for data collection and automated moisture control mechanism. The startup's efforts in engaging local farmers and capacity-building initiatives were praised, highlighting its significant contributions to sustainable agriculture.

Later, at the State Project Management Unit (SPMU) headquarters in Hamirpur, the mission attended a review meeting with project officers to evaluate progress, plans and outcomes. They launched two state-level workshop reports and IEC Vol-I, acknowledging the achievements and discussing strategies for future improvements.

Day 3: 3rd May, 2024

The final day began with a visit to the Principal Market Yard, Solan (Apple Market) at Kather, as part of the Himachal Pradesh Crop Diversification Project (HPCDP) Phase-II. The team met with officials from the Himachal Pradesh State Agricultural Marketing Board (HPSAMB) to discuss the ongoing upgrades funded by JICA, which include new auction sheds, a toilet block, parking area, check post, trader shops, high mast lights, and an electrical room. They also toured the market yard, observing the infrastructure improvements designed to enhance the trading, grading, and storage of agricultural produce. Discussions highlighted the impact of these upgrades on facilitating better market access for farmers from various districts and improving the efficiency and capacity of the market, especially during peak seasons. Construction of the Principal Market Yard, Solan (Apple Market) at Kather commenced on 20th May, 2022, with an investment of ₹ 9.71 crore. The market yard was officially inaugurated on 1st August, 2023 by Hon'ble Chief Minister, Sh. Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, GoHP. The mission concluded with a meeting with Worthy Secretary of Agriculture and Worthy Director of Agriculture.













3. Technical Intern Training Programme (TITP)/ Specified Skilled Worker (SSW) in Phase-II of HPCDP

The MoD activity 2.2.8 "Programme for Next Generation" with an outlay of ₹3.00 Crores for the youth from Phase-II subprojects. TITP/SSW programme as this programme aims at exposing young farmers/ agripreneurs to the advanced agricultural practices, modern technologies, innovative interventions, fostering knowledge & skill enhancement in Japan thereby leading to employment generation.

The JICA, India has concurred to add TITP/SSW programme as one of the additional constituents to said activity. The Project proposes to undertake execution of the TITP/SSW through the Himachal Pradesh Kaushal Vikas Nigam (HPKVN) by defining due term of reference in this regard and signing of MoU. Furthermore, the process of procuring Sending/Supervising Organizations is a collaborative effort between the HPCDP and HPKVN.

In the 5th Executive Committee meeting, the proposal to undertake the TITP/SSW programme through HPKVN was approved.

The Managing Director, HPKVN have constituted an eight-member committee for the following purpose:

- 1. Preparation and finalization of Terms of Reference (TOR).
- 2. Preparation/ framing and finalization of Request for Proposal (RFP) document.
- 3. Evaluation of bid/proposals for shortlisting and selection of "Sending Organization".
- 4. Framing a draft Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to be signed with the selected firms. Dr. Ravinder Chauhan, DPD (MPH), has been nominated as the representative from the HPCDP (Phase-II), JICA-ODA, Hamirpur

150 from state to undergo farming training in Japan

OUR CORRESPONDENT

HAMIRPUR, JANUARY 13

As many as 150 young farming enthusiasts from the state are set to undergo training in agriculture in Japan under a JICA programme. The trainees would be free to work and stay there if they choose to do so, said JICA project director Sunil Chauhan today.

He said that the initiative is part of a Rs 68-crore start-up programme launched by Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu. He explained that the JICA is a Japan-backed scheme that helps farmers in crop diversification. The new scheme will help farmers receive international training and work experience.

Chauhan further shared that the farming enthusiasts would be sent to Japan for training in batches of 25 peo-

TRAINEES TO GET

The trainees will receive \$\fi1\$ lakh as stipend during the training period and the choice to settle in Japan for good

ple each till 2026.

He said that the aspirants will first undergo training under a programme of the Skill Development Corporation in the state and then be screened for training in Japan. An aspirant must have cleared Class XII in any stream. The interns will also be educated about Japanese laws, culture and language before they leave for Japan for three to five years. The trainees would receive Rs 1 lakh as stipend during the training period and a choice to settle in Japan for good.



हिमाचल भास्कर 14-01-2024

कृषि का प्रशिक्षण लेने डेढ़ सौ युवाओं को प्रदेश सरकार जापान भेजेगी

शिमला | राज्य सरकार युवाओं को रोजगार देने के लिए 2026 तक युवाओं को कृषि का प्रशिक्षण लेने के लिए जापान भेजेंगे। कृषि क्षेत्र से युवाओं को रोजगार देने की यह अनोखी और बडी पहल होगी। जापान सरकार की एजेंसी जाइका से वित्त पोषित हिमाचल फसल विविधिकरण प्रोत्साहन परियोजना के तहत यह हिमाचल के इतिहास में कृषि क्षेत्र से पहला कदम है। इसके तहत हर साल 20-25 उन सभी युवाओं को जापान में आधुनिक कृषि का प्रशिक्षण देने के लिए भेजा जाएगा जो परियोजना के तहत चिन्हित की सिंचाई योजनाओं के क्षेत्र विशेष से संबंध रखते हों और इनके माता पिता इन सिंचाई योजनाओं के तहत आने वाले इलाके के स्थायी निवासी होते हुए प्रगतिशील कृषक हों। परियोजना निदेशक डॉ. सुनील चौहान ने बताया कि 2026 तक अलग अलग बेच में करीब डेढ़ सौ युवाओं को सरकार जापान भेजेगी। चरणबद्ध तरीके से होने वाले इस चयन में शुरुआती चरण के सलेक्शन में इन युवाओं को कौशल विकास निगम छह माह का शुरुआती प्रशिक्षण राज्य में ही देगा।

4. COLLECTION CENTER/ RETAIL OUTLET AT PAPROLA, DISTT. KANGRA, H.P.

The collection center & retail outlet at Paprola, Distt. Kangra, H.P. was constructed in Phase-I of Himachal Pradesh Crop Diversification Promotion Project in the year 2017 with total outlay of ₹ 36.77 Lakhs. In order to operationalize this infrastructure, it was decided by the Executive Committee of Himachal Pradesh Agriculture Development Society to hand over the same to the existing FPOs, KVAs, Farmer Federations, SHGs, FPCs, etc. In accordance with the decision of EC, the same was handed over to the Baijnath Pragatisheel Kisan Utpadak Producer Company Limited on terms & conditions approved by the steering & monitoring committee notified by the Govt. for the said purpose. Brief overview of the FPC engaged for operationalization of CC Sidhbari is as under: -

Baijnath Pragatisheel Kisan Utpadak Producer Company Limited

About Farmer Producer Company

The Baijnath Pragatisheel Kisan Utpadak Producer Company Limited is a registered Farmer Producer Company (CIN No. U01114HP2023PTC009966) established on 19th March, 2023 under Center Sector scheme 'Formation and Promotion of 10,000 FPOs' by Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India with its registered office at Village Tharu (Paprola), Tehsil Baijnath, District Kangra (H.P.). The organization aims at maximization of farmers' farm income with sustainable agricultural practices, creating a strong network of farmers and promoting a conglomerate approach. The FPC is engaged in storage, processing and retailing of off-season vegetables, pulses like mash & rajmash and cereals like wheat, maize & barley, etc. This FPC is not only limited to agricultural production, but also activities like collection, grading and processing of wool, milk collection, bottling and selling on daily basis with a combined farmer's base of 450 members. The wool procured by the FPC is being exported to other countries.

Detail of Assets with FPC

S. N.	Name of Machinery	Quantity(No.)	Value (₹ in lakhs)
1.	Packaging Machine	1	0.22
2.	Weighing Balance (100 Kg)	3	0.45
3.	Weighing Balance (1kg)	1	0.06
4.	Milk Analyzer	1	0.35
Total			1.08

Assets handed over by HPCDP-JICA to the FPC

A Collection Center along with retail outlet constructed under HPCDP, Phase-I, have been handed over on dated 15.06.2023 to the FPC. Collection center is being used for storage of locally procured agriculture produce. Apart from this, it is being used for cleaning, grading, processing and packaging of agriculture products. Retail outlet is used by FPC for sale of agriculture products. About 5-6 Self-Help Groups (SHGs) formed under Himachal Pradesh Crop Diversification Promotion Project, Phase-I are also associated with this Farmer Producer Company.

Detail of products procured by FPC :

Details of various products procured by FPC since taking over CC from 15th June, 2023 is as under:

S. N.	Name of product	Quantity	Value (₹ in lakhs)
1	Wheat	70 qtl	1. 69
2	Rice	20 qtl	0.70
3	Rajmash	80.17 qtl	12.03
4	Potato	93.5 qtl	2.80
5	Maize	50 qtl	1.35
6	Soybean	2 qtl	0.06
7	Deshi Ghee (Cow)	1.1 qtl	0.88
8	Deshi Ghee (Goat)	70 kg	0.70
9	Wild Honey	80 kg	0.64
10	Alsi	50 kg	0.05
11	Milk	120 ltr/day	4.668
12	Kodra	3.5 qtl	0.425
13	Wool	500 qtl	30.00
14	Seera	1.11 qtl	0.20
15	Red Rice	2 qtl	0.32
16	Deshi Tea	30 kg	0.114
17	Nuggets	20 kg	0.064
Total			55.00

Market linkage and Sale

Marketing of products is being carried out by the FPC through Retail Outlet at Paprola. The FPC is procuring off -season vegetables, pulses etc. from remotest areas of Himachal Pradesh like Bara Bhangal, Chota Bhangal and Lohardi there by facilitating the farmers of that area. The sheep wool is being procured and exported to other countries. With a total export value of ₹ 30.0 lakh, the FPC has extended its wool market to United States of America making its reach to the international level. Apart from this, recently, 95-100 litres of milk on daily basis are being collected by the FPC which is then bottled and sold for @50-60 per litre in the surrounding local region. Despite being a recent entity, the FPC is currently earning ₹ 2.0-2.5 lakh per month from the daily activities.

Way Forward and further linkage with farmers of HPCDP and the FPC

Baijnath Pragatisheel Kisan Utpadak Producer Company Limited is an emerging entity and aims at creating a farmer base of more than 600 members. Following an amalgamating approach, this FPC has set its targets to increase the export of wool, extension of milk collection and processing activities, efficient production, collection and marketing of high-quality vegetables, pulses etc. Therefore, the linkage of farmers with the FPC may aid them in following ways:

- Market Access: The FPC has already established links ranging from domestic to international market which provide an organized market for the farmers
- Capacity Building: FPC can organize training programs where the advanced farmers can demonstrate their vital experience related to farming to the other farmers, which will enhance their knowledge and entrepreneurial skills.
- Financial Support: Farmers may get assistance in accessing credit, subsidies etc. through the members of the FPC. Seeds are also distributed by the FPC which can also be considered as a financial support.
- On farm procurement: FPC procures directly from the farm which cuts the transportation and loading-unloading cost of the farmers and thus, they can get good price for their product as any intermediary is not involved.

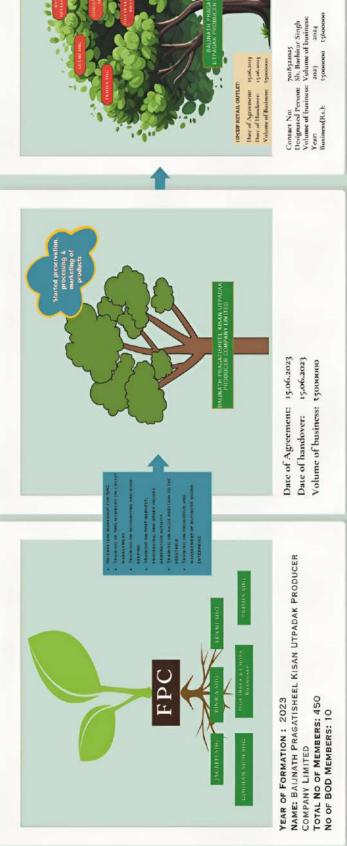
Conclusion

The linkage of farmers with the FPC holds significant promise for enhancing sustainability and profitability of the farmers. FPC can provide solution to many problems which are faced by the farmers at a grass root level. It can provide access to an organized market for marketing of the products of farmers. Collaboration between government agencies, NGOs, financial institutions and other stakeholders is essential to promote this linkage effectively and ensure its long-term success.

BAIJNATH PRAGATISHEEL KISAN UTPADAK PRODUCER COMPANY LIMITED

Supported by

HIMACHAL PRADESH CROP DIVERSIFICATION PROMOTION PROJECT



BUSINESS ASSOCIATIONS:

Larmi SHG Teidus SHG PRGs (Bara A Chasa Nungal) Jugatiti SHG Blirma SHG Coolhan Sidh SHG

TRISHA SHG

Sub Project:- FIS Tang Bodhal Year of Formation:-2016 President:- Smt. Radha Devi Contact No.:- 86795 81573 Members:- 12

LAXMI SHG

Contact No.:- 98822-36648 President: - Smt. Jyoti Devi Sub Project:- FIS Raglo Year of Formation:- 2013 Members:- 12

GODHAN SIDH SHG

Year of Formation:- 2013 President:- Smt. Purnima Devi Contact No.:- 98179-99604 Sub Project:- FIS Hartada Members:-14

BINWA SHG

President:- Smt. Chandresh Kumari Contact No.:- 98160-50434 Sub Project - FIS Gabli Kuhal Year of Formation:- 2019 Members:- 05





















Moving forward for the Progress of Farmers through Crop Diversification