



Chirag

Central Himalayan Rural Action Group

Go to the people,
Live among them,
Learn from them,
Love them.
Start with what they know.
Build on what they have.
But of the best leaders,
When their task is accomplished,
Their work is done,
The people all remark,
'We have done it ourselves'.

Chinese proverb



Our vision

To be a catalyst for the creation of a society rooted firmly in the principles of dignity, justice and solidarity.

Our mission

Chirag's mission is to improve the quality of life of rural people – especially the poor and women – in the Central Himalaya. We try to do this through interventions in health, education and natural resource management, and by providing access to diversified livelihood options. We promote the sustainable ownership and management of common resources by the community.

THE YEAR IN RETROSPECT

Human resource is increasingly becoming a crucial aspect especially in the development sector. The programs are becoming technically and socially more complex and there is increasing demand from various stakeholders to demonstrate impact. Delivery of quality products and services which was used as a yardstick of success till a few years ago is not considered satisfactory anymore. With the growing influence of corporate in the development sector through Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), the manner of understanding development issues and assessing the impact of development programs is undergoing a rapid change. It is important that NGOs and civil society organizations recognize the changing scenario and adapt themselves adequately to face these challenges. With increasing demand for quality development professionals in CSR offering much higher monetary benefits, the human resource constraint for NGOs is only going to get worse. Under this rapidly changing scenario, it is imperative that we constantly work on improving our internal capacities and keep bringing innovations into our interventions. Inducting young professionals from across the country and investing in capacity building of local youths is therefore of critical importance.

Chirag is fortunate to have a team of capable and committed field staff who has considerable understanding of the development issues of the region, excellent rapport with the community and a proven track record of facilitating successful implementation of different programs over the past 30 years. Our field staff is our strength and as an organization we will continue to invest in building their capacities. This year we initiated the process of doing technical as well as behavioural training programs for our staff which we plan to intensify.

We continued our efforts at strengthening and deepening our relationships with existing partners. Our relationship with ACWADAM, HIMMOTTHAN Society, ARGHYAM, Berkeley Reafforestation Trust, Rajeshwar and Susheela Dayal Charitable Trust, Ernst and Young Foundation, Rajiv Gandhi Foundation and UNDP's small grants project (COMDEKS) got strengthened. We started a new programme on Education in partnership with HIMMOTTHAN Society. During the year we built a new a partnership with THE HANS FOUNDATION which is supporting Spring Recharge Initiative. A new partnership on Education Water Sanitation and Hygiene (E-WaSH) in partnership with HIMMOTTHAN Society with support from Tata Water Mission is getting established. We are also in the process of building partnership with the CSR wing of Tata Motors.

Chirag's footprints in spring recharge increased with The Hans Foundation supporting recharge of 25 springs in Takula block of Almora district. In addition to recharge, the project also has a component of providing piped drinking water to the community. To improve our technical expertise and understanding of hydro-geology of Himalayan springs, in addition to getting continued support from ACWADAM, we entered into an agreement with IIT Roorkee for supporting us in data analysis and installation of hydrological equipment. We are also collaborating with Peoples Science Institute (PSI) on understanding water quality issues. Spring recharge is an area which is becoming one of Chirag's flagship programs and with our enhanced expertise and understanding which has few parallels in the country we are poised to becoming a resource agency in the region.

Partnership with SBI Youth For India Fellowship program has been an exciting feature for us this year. A total of 5 Fellows are working with us on different projects. We are excited about this initiative as it provides opportunity to educated youths to spend a year in understanding and addressing the issues facing rural India. We hope that some of them will continue to work on these issues and make it their life's mission.

The fruit processing unit set up with support from UNDP's small grants project, processed over 17 MT of temperate fruits in the first year of commercial operation. A variety of specialized fruit spreads and fruit drinks were made with encouraging results. In the HIMMOTTHAN Society supported Education program, innovative Teaching Learning Materials (TLMs) and pedagogical tools are being developed in partnership with Magic Bus, Delhi and CLR, Pune. The initial response from the field is very encouraging. Chirag's school continued to innovate and experiment with new methods of teaching but more importantly continued to build characters and instill values in young minds.

Kumaun Grameen Udyog (KGU) has been creating sustainable livelihoods for the rural poor for over two decades now. KGU's model has proved that one can create competitive products of high quality with local artisans and that business and social sustainability can go hand in hand. KGU continued to support Chirag's School and Hospital. This is a unique model and has few parallels in the country.

Canada India Village Aid (CIVA) which has been our partner since inception, ended it's activities and closed down their office in December 2015 which deeply saddened us. We have cherished our partnership with CIVA and gratefully acknowledge the support and encouragement that we received from them over the past 30 years. As a goodwill gesture they gave us a lumpsum donation for which we are extremely thankful to them.

To celebrate our illustrious journey, we initiated the process of celebrating our Annual Day which falls on 29th July in all our area offices as well as at our head office in Simayal. It is a part of our bond building process and helps people connect with each other. For the new members, it gives them an opportunity to get a glimpse of our heritage and to reiterate the commitment to our core values as well as to take pride in being a part of this exceptional organization. We intend to restart our annual retreat to reinforce our bonding.

The quality of our field staff is our strength and together we will face all the challenges that come our way and I am confident that we will come up trumps in the end.

Ujjal Ganguly
Executive Director

September 2016

OVERVIEW

Despite rapid urbanization and increased opportunities in industry and service sectors, natural resource based livelihoods is still the mainstay for the rural communities of Kumaun. Over 30 years of development work has convinced us that to impact the lives and the livelihoods of the community there is no alternative to working on conservation and management of soil, water, forests and adopting sustainable agricultural practices. With the youths showing little interest in natural resources, our challenge in the coming years will be to bring the focus back on these issues and involve the community in conservation and management of natural resources.

The quality of education especially primary education is a matter of serious concern. The learning levels in most schools in the region remain low. With a weak foundation at the primary level, children rapidly lose interest in studies and eventually drop out or else continue to get degrees without learning much. It is sad to note that education which is the nucleus around which the social and economic development of a country hinges is being largely neglected.

Creating sustainable livelihood options for the youths of the region is a pressing need. Youths are increasingly trying to seek livelihood opportunities in the industry or in the services sector in the cities. However with inadequate skill sets they end up getting low paying jobs which creates frustration and heartburn among them.

Our interventions aim to address some of these challenges. Our livelihood program creates livelihood opportunities for the local youths through handicraft, and fruit processing activities. We source culinary herbs and apricot kernels to generate additional sources of revenue for the local community. Our agriculture produce cooperatives aim to provide better rates to the farmers than the existing mandi rates. Through a variety of livelihood initiatives we attempt to create enough livelihood opportunities for local communities so that they do not have to migrate to the cities for alternative options.

Our spring recharge program simplifies scientific knowledge of geo-hydrology and trains local youths in using this knowledge for planning recharge and restoration activities. Our village water committees discusses issues related to equity in water distribution, rights of women in decision making process and community responsibilities in operation and maintenance of water harvesting structures. Our forestry programme makes van panchayats

and van suraksha samities the node through which all the activities related to forestry and fodder are implemented. Our school has created an innovative and child-centric approach to learning which is both fun and enriching. We constantly innovate and experiment with TLMs and pedagogical tools. We partner with experienced organizations in the field of education to develop interesting teaching learning modules which significantly aides learning without being stressful. Our Bal-shikshak program have taken the innovative teaching learning methods to a large number of government primary schools which creates an environment of fun filled learning in the region. Our hospital has given access to quality health services at affordable price for the local community.

Our partnership with SBI Youth For India for their fellowship program is an exciting new initiative. The program provides opportunity to bright young people to spend a year working on various development projects. This year we had 5 fellows working on education, water and livelihoods. The initial results are encouraging. This can be an excellent platform for attracting young talents who can bring new perspectives and solutions to the issues facing rural India.

Despite all our credible work over the past 30 years for which we should justifiably feel proud of ourselves, we are aware of the fact that there is still a long way to go and the journey has only begun. The challenges confronting us are humungous and we need to constantly evolve and find innovative solutions to these challenges. The community involvement is going to be at the core and our ability to excite and involve the community in taking interest and ownership of the issues and take responsibility of preserving the community resources will be our key challenge for the years to come.

Another area of focus for us would be on nurturing and building the next line of leadership within the organization. This will ensure that over the next few years we will have a cadre of young leaders who can effectively take over the mantle from the senior members and carry the spirit, philosophy and values into the next generation.

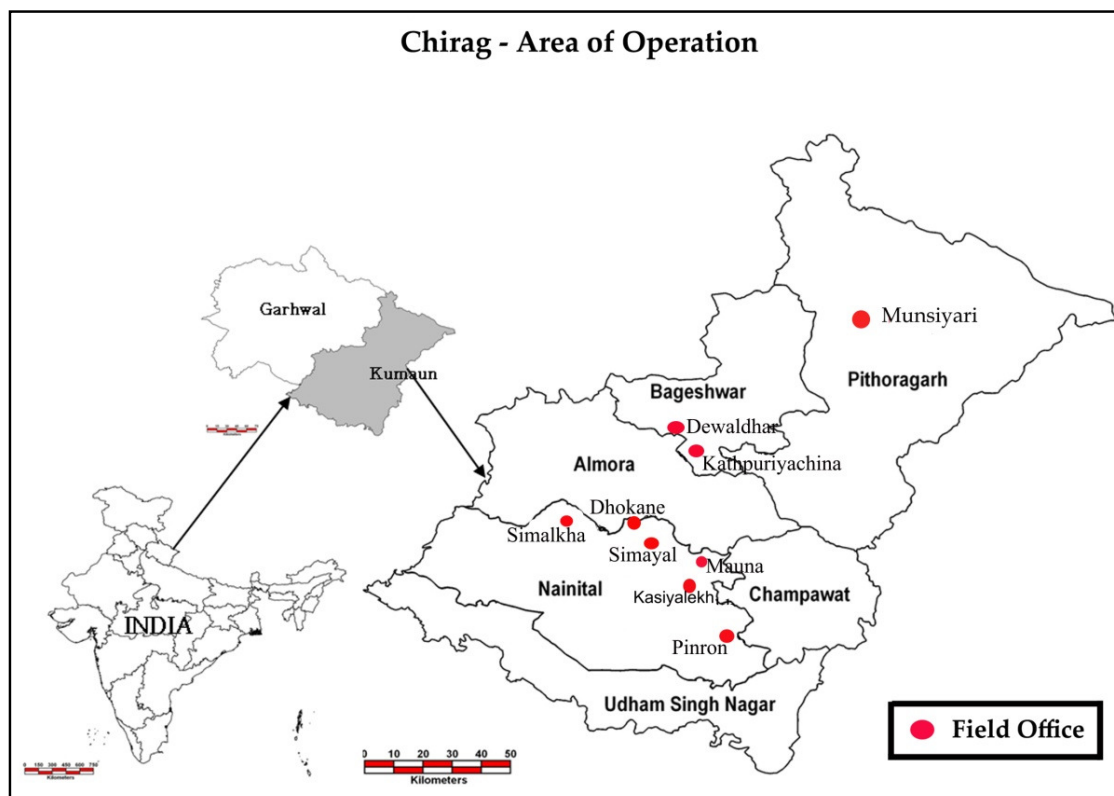
AREA OF OPERATION

Chirag currently works in 206 villages in 9 blocks spread over 4 districts of Kumaun region of Uttarakhand. We work in four blocks of Nainital district, three blocks of Almora district and in one block each of Bageshwar and Pithoragarh districts. We work with 15,850 households impacting over 85,000 people in different areas of our operation.

This year we initiated our work in Takula block of Almora district, in partnership with The Hans Foundation. This initiative focuses on Spring Recharge and Water Distribution. Under the project which is for a period of three and a half years, we will recharge 25 springs and set up a system of piped water distribution in 19 villages benefitting over 1300 households.

The table and the map below give an overview of our area of operation:

Area	District	Block	Village
Reetha	Nainital	Ramgarh	23
Kashyalekh	Nainital	Ramgarh, Dhari	14
Mauna	Nainital	Bhimtal	13
Takula	Almora	Takula	19
Pinron	Nainital	Bhimtal	
		Ramgarh,	20
Dhokane	Nainital, Almora	Betalghat	
		Hawalbagh,	
		Tarikhet	36
Simalkha	Nainital, Almora	Betalghat	22
		Tarikhet	
Kathpuriyachina	Bageshwar	Bageshwar	41
Munsiyari	Pithoragarh	Munsiyari	18
Total 9	4	9	206



Our experimental farms at Simayal and Dewaldhar continue to do varietal demonstrations and provide better planting materials to farmers of the region. In addition, the farms also provide quality seedlings for our forestry program.

From this year onwards we are making a conscious effort to expand our work in newer areas in Kumaun region which are considered underdeveloped and gradually phase out of the old areas like Reetha and Kasiyalekh. We will continue to provide assistance to village level institutions in these areas and actively work on improving the quality of primary education through our support to Government primary schools.

WHAT WE DO

EDUCATION

Our primary school support program is being implemented in 65 Government primary schools with support from Rajeshwar and Susheela Dayal Charitable Trust and Tata Trusts. Under the program, 25% of the cost of Bal-shikshaks (auxiliary teachers) is contributed by the community. The total number of children benefitting under this program is 2371 out of which 53% are girls. Bal-shikshak program has come a long way from appointing para-teachers in the initial years to ensure that the schools are opened regularly, to reaching a stage now where child-centric teaching-learning approach and innovative teaching learning methods are used in these schools through them. Our Bal-shikshaks teach children of class 1st and 2nd as well as run school library for classes 3rd, 4th and 5th.

Area-wise school and student enrollment details under given the table below:

S.No.	Area	No. of Schools	Boys	Girls	Total Enrollment
1	Reetha	07	112	147	259
2	Kasiyalekh	12	265	264	529
3	Mauna	10	173	191	364
4	Dhokane	11	175	179	354
5	Simalkha	07	133	138	271
6	Katpuriyachena	15	205	283	488
7	Pinro	03	049	056	105
	Total	65	1112	1258	2371

To bring in new concepts in pedagogy and innovation in Teaching Learning Materials (TLMs) we collaborated with two new organizations namely Center for Learning (CLR), Pune and Magic Bus, Mumbai who have proven skills in these areas. While CLR has expertise in teaching English Language, Magic Bus has demonstrated excellent results in teaching different concepts through sports. Both have developed innovative modules. Their resource persons are training our staff and Bal-shikshaks in delivering these modules effectively. 'Aao Angrezi Seekhen'a module developed by CLR, Pune, focuses on improving English speaking skills while 'Sports for Development': concept ualized by Magic Bus, aims at building livelihood based life skills and awareness regarding formal education, health, gender and self-expression through a designed play curriculum.

Through the Bal-shishaks who are the key change agents, we aim to improve learning levels in Government primary schools by introducing improved pedagogy, effective library engagement and developing locally relevant Teaching Learning Materials (TLMs). The program is also making concerted efforts to involve Government teachers through regular school contact, training on subject knowledge and pedagogy. In addition, Chirag lays stress on strengthening of school management committees (SMCs), specifically supporting the committees in making school development plans and monitoring the learning levels of children.

The collaborative approach of our education program focuses on making development of school and the children a community concern. Studies indicate that improvement in learning outcomes is dependent on improved classroom involvement as well as on greater community involvement in governance and management of schools. With the child and community at the centre, various meeting cum workshops are organized with the SMCs to help them fulfill their roles and responsibilities in improving the quality of education. Cross-visits of SMC members to other schools that have better functioning SMCs are also organized at regular intervals.

Families voluntarily contribute to support this program. During the year, the community contributed Rs.4.25 lacs to support Bal-shikshak's remuneration which was paid to them over and above the amount paid to them from the project.

The area-wise community contribution details are given in the table below:

S.No.	Area	No. of Schools	Community Contribution (in %)	Chirag Contribution (in %)
1	Reetha	7	25.31	74.69
2	Kasiyalekh	12	31.45	68.55
3	Mouna	10	24.72	75.28
4	Dhokane	11	24.71	75.29
5	Simalkha	7	23.30	76.70
6	Katpuriyachena	15	25.85	74.15
7	Pinro	3	32.99	67.01

During the year, the following activities were undertaken with the Bal-shikshaks:

- To strengthen the capacity of the SMCs, 5 training were organized at the area level. In all, 134 SMC members and 28 Chirag staff attended the training. The aim of the training was to make them aware of their roles and responsibilities as member of SMC.
- Regular sessions for 'Let's Speak English' were organized with support from Centre for Learning Resources (CLR), Pune. The sessions were attended by Bal-shikshaks, Government teachers, officials from the education department and Chirag staff. The objective of these sessions was to familiarize the Bal-shikshaks, Government teachers and Chirag staff in using the 'Let's Speak English' modules so that they can administer them in their classrooms effectively.
- Bal-Melas and summer camps were organized in different areas involving students from all the 65 Government primary schools supported under our primary education program. In the melas and camps, children from different schools interacted and learnt from each other. Cultural programs were done by children that mostly depicted the current issues being faced by us and the possible ways of addressing them. The focus was to make every child participate and help children bond with each other.

- Visits were organized to the schools where the Bal-shikshaks have been able to create an environment of joyful learning. The other Bal-shikshaks observed the methods and techniques used and took back the learning for using in their respective schools.
- Acknowledging the importance of Government support for creating impact on a scale, several meetings were held with officials of the education department both at the district as well as at the block level to introduce the objectives of the education program and the innovations being tried under the program and to seek their active support.
- An exposure visit for the members of the education team was organized in February 2016 to Jaipur. They interacted with the functionaries of Bodh Shiksha Parishad, Digantar and Pratham, three of the leading NGOs in the field of education. They learnt about the pedagogical practices being followed by these organizations and also interacted with students and teachers in their project areas and came back with renewed energy and fresh ideas.

Kavita Kapil-Bal-shikshika at Mauna

Kavita was teaching at Shishu Mandir when she was invited to sit for a test for the post of Bal-shikshak at Mauna. She started her journey with CHIRAG and Mauna school in October'15. From being uncomfortable with the poor learning level of primary students at the school, Kavita has come a long way by achieving quality learning in her class. She has a brilliant rapport with the children who were initially scared of her. A good understanding of the community has helped immensely. SMC of her school is active and has a 100% monthly attendance.

All her sessions are activity based. She believes that children can only learn when they are happy and in a state of mind to receive something. Imposing any kind of information or lesson on a child is erroneous and damaging. She is very close to them and loves spending time with young learners, and sees this opportunity as the best part of being a Bal-shikshak. She is very happy with the learning opportunity that she is getting through the workshops and trainings. According to her the trainings helped her in coping with her discomfort with poor learning levels. Now she believes that every child will and can learn at his/her own pace and the teachers' job is to be patient and to facilitate the process.

She wishes to continue her journey as an educator and plans to pursue B.Ed in the near future.

Scholarship for Girls

Increasing the schooling attainment of girls is a challenge in much of the developing world. Chirag's girl scholarship program seeks to help girls from disadvantaged section of the society studying in classes 6th to 12th in completing their schooling. The scholarship program covers the cost of their stationery, text-books, uniforms, school fees and also monitors their health through periodic medical check-ups. In addition, the girls are given tuition support for the subjects they feel they need extra help in. For building community involvement, stationery and uniforms are distributed to the girls through the gram-panchayats at the village. At present Chirag is supporting 82 girls spread across 57 villages in Nainital, Bageshwar and Almora districts.

The class-wise breakup of the girls supported under this program is given in the chart below.

Following activities were undertaken during the year under the Girl Scholarship Program:

Meetings & Visits

Monthly meetings and visits were done at schools and homes of the girls supported under this program. The aim of these meetings is to meet the parents/teachers of the girls, talk to them about their educational and emotional needs and assist them in providing requisite support to them. These meetings help in understanding the educational requirement of the girls as well as health and other requirements and seek ways to address them.

Bi-Annual health check-ups

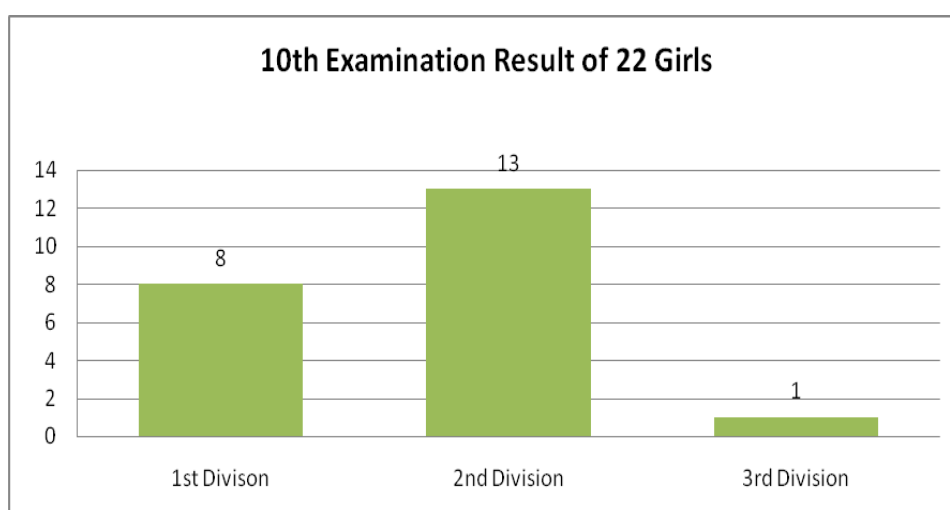
All the girls covered under this program receive a thorough medical check-up once every six months. Their hemoglobin levels, height and weight are monitored. An overall check-up ensures that those with substantial ailments are identified for follow-up. If a girl is found to be anemic or under weight, her nutrition and dietary issues are discussed with her parents and suitable options based on the economic conditions of the family are suggested by Chirag doctors.

Residential Education Camps

Residential camps are organized for the girls studying in classes 8th -11th. The objective of these camps is to provide them with tuition support in subjects that they require help in. In addition, through these camps other critical life cycle issues related to peer-pressure, sex and gender stereotypes, anxiety, parental and societal pressure, time management and health issues are discussed at length and the girls are suitably counseled.

Out of the 82 supported students, 22 girls appeared for their class 10th examination this year. Out of the 22, 8 girls secured first division while 13 girls passed the examination in second division. Only 1 girl passed with third division.

The breakup of the class 10th results of the supported girls is given in the chart below:



Case study: Kiran Raikwal from Simayal Village

Kiran Raikwal, is from Simayal village. Her father deserted her and her mother and married another woman. Kiran's mother had to move in with her elderly parents taking Kiran with her. Her mother's unmarried aunt is also dependent on Kiran's grand parents and stay with them. Kiran and her mother are regularly mis treated as they are considered an unwanted burden. Under the condition Kiran's studies suffered.

Seeing Kiran's situation, the village panchayat recommended her for Chirag scholarship in 2010. After passing a test, Kiran was chosen to join the scholarship program while she was in class 6th. The scholarship had helped Kiran continue her studies and she is now in class 11th. Kiran has improved in all her subjects and has now taken the lead in her class. Along with her studies, Kiran also helps her mother with the housework. She borrows and reads English books from Chirag library. Kiran wants to continue her studies and take up a job. She wants to provide financial support to her mother.

Chirag School

Chirag School aims to provide quality education in a fear-free environment to children from the rural areas at a reasonable cost. At present 116 children, 52 boys and 64 girls are enrolled in the school from pre-school through class 5. The learning in the school is facilitated by 11 teachers and a resource volunteer.

The school believes in providing experiential learning to its students and in order to ensure personal attention to all students, the number of students per class is capped at a maximum of 18. The school has a building each for the pre-primary and the primary section and a separate one for the office. The rooms of the primary block are converted into learning spaces for different subjects. The school also has a computer lab, two small libraries and a teachers' resource room to help teachers develop learning materials for children.

Chirag School is inspired by the philosophy of J. Krishnamurthy and is mentored by teachers from the Rishi Valley School. During the year, workshops were conducted for the teacher's professional development on the pedagogy of language, mathematics and science. A few teachers from the Rishi Valley School visited the school and worked with the teachers to improve their teaching-learning skills. Our teachers also had the opportunity to interact with and learn from volunteers from Teach for India and Azim Premji Foundation. In addition to the organized workshops, the Principal of the school conducted various sessions with the teachers on child psychology and on teaching learning methods.

In the spirit of holistic development of the child, the school's curriculum is designed to give equal importance to academics, sports, music, drama, arts and nature conservation. Apart from the school based initiatives on extra-curricular activities the students attended workshops conducted by external resource persons and volunteers. Some of these included a drums workshop, a road show organized by The National Geographic channel, a puppet making and theatre workshop and a story telling and creative writing workshop. The school also celebrates the local festivals with the students to keep indigenous traditions alive.

Exposure visits were organized for the students in which the younger students were taken to the Nainital Zoo while an overnight camp was organized for the senior students to encourage team building.

Two health camps were organized for the students in which more than 70 students were examined. The children were given de-worming and iron-calcium tablets. A dental checkup was also done for the students and the parents were informed about dental issues related to their wards.

In April 2016, 13 students graduated from class 5, of which, 2 students joined Kendriya Vidyalaya while 2 students each joined Navodaya Vidyalaya and Aarohi Bal Sansar. A few students have joined private schools in Bhimtal and Haldwani while the rest are continuing their education in the neighborhood government schools.

Chirag School tries to involve the parent community as much as possible. Regular parent teacher meetings are conducted to inform the parents about the progress of their child and acquaint them with the philosophy of the school. The teachers also conduct home visits in order to build a rapport with the parents, inform them about their child's progress and take feedback from them. The school also has an active School Management Committee that meets regularly to assist in better management of the school.

In addition, the school is also actively involved with the Bal-shikshak program. Last year, many Bal-shikshaks visited the school to observe classrooms and learn from the teachers in order to replicate some of the good practices in the Government schools. Chirag School will continue to act as a learning center for students and teachers and strive to improve the level of education among the rural community.

NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Despite rapid urbanization and expanding opportunities in rural Kumaun over the past decade or so, natural resources like forests, fodder, soil and water continue to play a critical role in the lives and livelihoods of the people and are still the primary source of their livelihood. It is thus crucial to find ways and means of sensitizing the community to the importance of natural resources and actively involve them in their conservation. Chirag's efforts have been focused on building and strengthening community institutions around natural resources and make them the primary stakeholders in their conservations. Most of our efforts have been in supporting community institutions in taking up natural resources management initiatives.

Forestry & Fodder

Community forestry, cultivation of fodder on commons and efforts to recharge springs require soil and water conservation efforts. For initiating forestry program on a common land, emphasis is laid on protection of the sites and on physical measures to conserve soil and water in the first year. Fodder, shrubs and grasses are planted along the contours to aid conservation and improve the soil quality for better germination and survival. In the following year, saplings of broad-leaved species, particularly fodder varieties are planted. Chirag's forestry program focuses on strengthening village institutions through regular capacity building programs like Van Mahotsavs and Banj Bachao Abhiyan along with institutional capacity building programs. We work directly with village level institutions like van panchyats and van suraksha samities to build their stake and ownership of the plantation site and encourage them to take active part in their protection. Currently our Forestry & Fodder program is operational in six field areas namely Reetha, Kasyialekh, Kathpuriyachina, Simalkha, Dhokane and Seraghat. During the year our forestry program covered a total of 162 hectares while fodder grasses were planted in 105 hectares both in common as well as in private lands.

The key activities undertaken in 2015-16 are as under:

- 72,562 seedlings were grown by 27 nursery persons.
- 57,962 saplings were planted in van-panchayats in 90 hectares across 25 villages.

- 46,835 direct seeds were sown in 72 hectares.
- To build community participation, 457 meetings were conducted during the year in all the 52 project villages with Van Panchayats and other village level institutions in which 1066 community members participated.
- A total of 23 environment awareness camps were organized in which 1087 community members participated across all our project areas.
- 356 quintals of fodder grasses were planted in 73 hectares on common land while 164 quintals of fodder grasses were planted in private land in 32 hectares.
- A benefit of Rs. 866,200 accrued to the community from 4,331 quintals of grasses which was harvested, valued at Rs. 200 per quintal.

Soil and Moisture Conservation (SMC)

We believe that soil and moisture conservation go hand in hand and for creating an impact, none of them can be done in isolation. Reductions in surface run-off by building suitable structures or through changes in land management practices help reduce soil erosion. Similarly, reducing erosion will usually involve preventing splash erosion or formation of crusts or break down of structures all of which will increase infiltration and help in water conservation. Our forestry program for instance cannot become effective unless there is enough moisture and soil depth. Soil moisture conservation measures are thus the backbone of all natural resource management programs. Also simply planting seedlings cannot bear fruit unless there is enough moisture in the soil. Our emphasis hence has been to take up SWC work in all of our Forestry and Fodder plantation areas to ensure better germination and survival. During the year we undertook soil and water conservation activities in 21 villages covering 124 hectares of common and private land.

Activity	Unit	Quantity
Hand Pump Renovation	No.	1
Spring Renovation	No.	5
Protection Wall	Mts.	7.05
Terrace Leveling on Cultivated land	Sqm.	6983.75
Terrace Leveling on Barren land	Sqm.	764
Terrace Bund	Rmt.	1245.4
Khaal	Cum.	406.21
Khaal Repair	Cum.	25
Drainage for Khaals	Rmt.	406.5
Loose Boulder Checkdam	Rmt.	4.5
Gully plug	Rmt.	9.8
Sub Surface Checkdam	Rmt.	9.75
Brushwood Checkdam	Rmt.	8
Percolation Pit	Cum.	837.74
Contour Trench	Rmt.	1843.5
Deep Recharge Pit	No.	550.24
Contour Trench Repair	Rmt.	40
Contour Terrace	Rmt.	3559
Rain Water Harvesting Tank	No.	27
Diversion Wall	Rmt.	0
Plantation	Rmt.	500

Spring Recharge Program

Communities in the Himalayan region are heavily dependent on natural springs for their water requirements especially drinking water. These natural springs are points of discharge of ground water onto the surface of the earth. They are a product of rain water that infiltrates the ground surface and moves following the underground geological structure.

Since springs are dependent on rainfall, the change in rainfall pattern affects the springs. In addition, any structural change like building of roads and construction of houses affects the geological structure which in turn impacts the discharge in the springs. Several studies have shown that there is a gradual reduction in the discharge of some springs while some have completely dried up over the past 25-30 years which is a cause of serious concern.

Taking this into consideration, Chirag pioneered the work of recharging natural springs in Kumaun in 2009. In partnership with ALSTOM Foundation, we initiated our work in 46 springs. The work involved mapping the geology of the area around the springs to identify the recharge area and using engineering as well as vegetative methods to reduce the scale of runoff and enhance infiltration. Technical assistance in understanding the geology was provided by ACWADAM, Pune. The impact of the work was analyzed using the discharge data collected from the hydrological equipment placed at these locations as well as from community perceptions from the villages. The overall results were very encouraging. An example of the discharge data collected is given below:

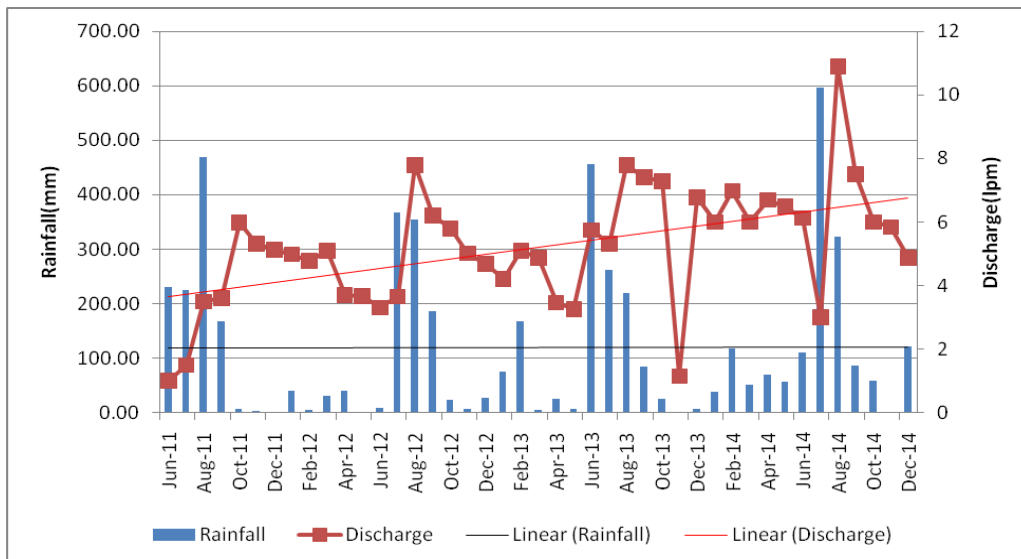


Fig: Rainfall-discharge data of MallaTejdhara (work completed in December 2011)

In 2013, Chirag entered into a partnership with **Arghyam**, a Bangalore based funding organization to work on 70 springs covering 1622 households in 54 villages. This project in addition to recharging 70 springs also focuses on creating community awareness on ground water management and conducting advocacy workshops to take the learning to the policy making levels. So far, recharge activities have been completed in 35 springs while capacity building work on building village level institutions are in progress.

Looking at the success of our work in spring recharge and increased capacities within the organization, **The Hans Foundation**, a funding organization based in Delhi expressed interest in supporting our spring renovation work. In October 2015 we signed an agreement

with the Hans Foundation to work on recharging 25 springs in Takula block of Almora district. Along with recharge of 25 springs, the project has provision for laying piped water distribution system for ensuring convenient access to drinking water in each of these villages. The project which will be completed over a period of three and a half years is expected to benefit over 1300 households spread across 19 villages. So far, the initial activities on strengthening the water committees have been completed in 10 springs. The implementation work in these 10 springs will begin in October 2016 along with the institution building work in the remaining 15 springs.

Partnerships and Capacity Building

Chirag has close to 8 years' experience in working on spring recharge and has a wealth of data and knowledge on the subject. However, we realize the need to develop a much deeper understanding of the phenomenon of natural springs. To develop scientific understanding of spring behaviour through hydrology, geology and analysis of spring discharge and precipitation data, Chirag entered into partnerships with technical institutions like Advanced Centre for Water Resources Development and Management (ACWADAM), Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Roorkee and Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE). In partnership with ATREE we studied the behavior of Ramgad stream in relation to two springs at Nathuwakhan and Supi which feeds the stream. The study is being conducted to assess the relationship of the discharges in the springs to that of the stream using automatic rain-gauges and water level recorders. The data collection is in progress.

The result of the analysis of the data collected so far is depicted in the graph below. The graph shows a strong correlation between the increased discharges in the springs to that of the stream.

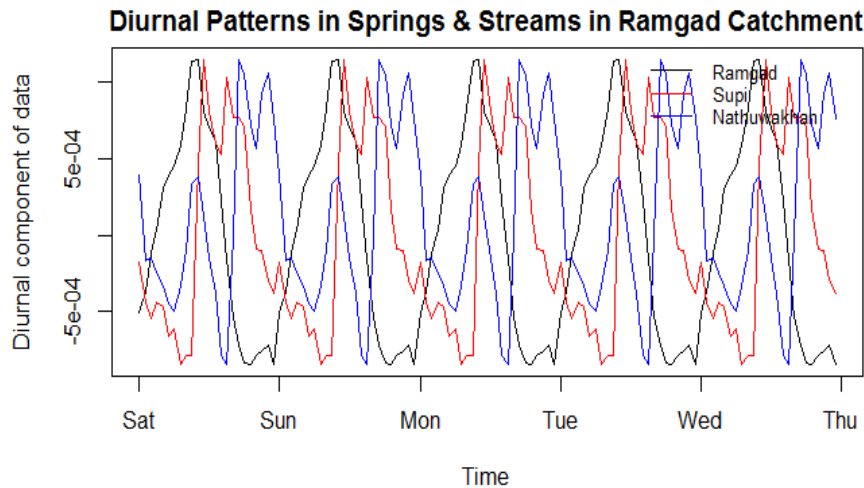


Fig: Diurnal patterns of Supi and Nathuwakhan springs alongside Ramgad stream

Studies are done on the data collected from springs for different trends and patterns with respect to different factors like spring type, catchment area, land use etc. with partners like ACWADAM, IIT Roorkee and ATREE. A study of 3 micro-watersheds in Takula area was initiated this year with an aim to map the geology of the area which can help us understand the aquifer properties. To address the issue of water quality, we entered into a partnership with Peoples' Science Institute (PSI) Dehradun, to establish a water testing laboratory at Simayal. This will help us monitor the water quality on 8 parameters across different seasons.

LIVELIHOOD

Rural Livelihood (Cooperatives)

To reduce the influence of middlemen and to ensure a better return for agri-produce especially for the small farmers, Chirag facilitated the promotion of 7 cooperatives in the program areas. The cooperatives have a membership of 587 covering 16 villages. To ensure that the benefits accrue to the women, the office bearers are all women. However to elicit better participation and involvement in the decision making process, from this year we have started involving men as well. The cooperatives though not entirely successful in it's efforts, have managed to reduce the involvement of middlemen and intermediaries significantly.

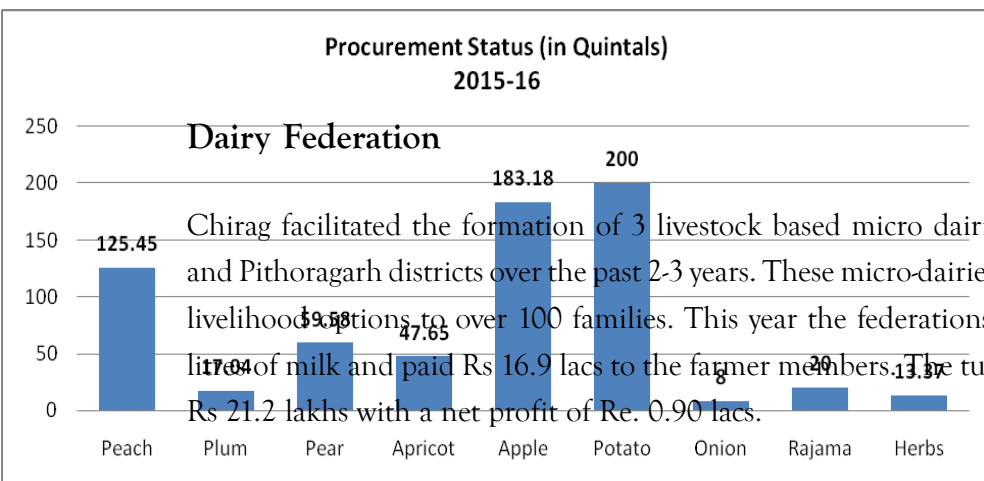
To bring in more professionalism Chirag facilitated the formation of Mukteshwar Kisan Producer Company Limited (MKPCL) which comprises farmers from the region as well as office bearers of the cooperatives. This initiative is being supported by NABARD. The Producer Company was registered on 8th October 2015 under section IX of the Company's Act and currently has 100 shareholders and 5 board members. Gradually all the activities of the cooperatives will be undertaken through MKPCL. The primary objective of the producer company is to improve the livelihood of the local farmer especially small farmers, by providing them access to different markets and help them realize a better rate by shortening the marketing chain and through improved grading and packaging. Since inception, MKPCL have set up two procurement centers and have been marketing the produce under their own brand name. This has resulted in better returns to the farmers. To build ownership, MKPCL is planning to provide crop and cattle insurance to it's members and have initiated discussions with various insurance companies.

The key activities undertaken through the cooperatives in 2015-16 are as under:

- A total of 432 quintals of fresh fruits were procured from 87 farmers spread across 16 villages. These were marketed and sold through the cooperatives. The total turnover was Rs 5.5 lacs out of which the cooperatives made a net profit of Re 0.97 lacs.
- To provide easy access to quality agri-inputs, agri-implements and items of everyday use to the community, Chirag facilitated the formation of 4 Common Facility Centres (CFCs) in our field areas in Reetha, Simalkha, Kathpuriyachina and Seraghat. The first two are located in Nainital district while the other two are located in Bageshwar and Pithoragarh districts respectively. In the 1st year of it's operation the CFCs did a turnover of Rs 8.79 lacs with a net profit of Re 0.31 lacs.
- Over the past 8 years, the cooperatives have facilitated the procurement of high yielding potato seed (Kufri-Jyoti) from Lahaul- Spiti Patato Grower Cooperative in Manali and made it available to the local farmers at a small premium. This year, 200 quintals of Kufri-Jyoti seeds were procured through the cooperatives and sold to 165 farmer members. The total turnover was Rs 6.3 lacs out of which the cooperatives made a net profit of Re. 0.52 lacs.
- As a crop failure mitigation strategy, cultivation of culinary herbs is being promoted especially on marginal land. Initially, women were encouraged to cultivate herbs only on small plots of land. In the past few years, an increase in demand from Kumaun Grameen Udyog and few other buyers have led to more farmers cultivating herbs. Over the years, culinary herbs have been generating steady alternative income for

the farmers. Regular training was conducted on the best practices of growing culinary herbs and on effective drying techniques. A solar dryer proto type was also built to showcase an alternative method of drying that was cheaper, and less time and labor consuming. During the year, a total of 1337 kgs of dried herbs were procured from 125 farmers of a total value of Rs 1.5 lacs giving them an additional income of Rs. 1200 each.

The Table Below Depicts the Procurement through the Cooperatives in 2015-16:



Cattle Feed Unit

The Parvatiya Pashupalak Sangh at Reetha is a federation of 15 Self Help Groups from five villages. Chirag facilitated the formation of the federation which is run and managed entirely by the women for taking up alternative livelihood activities. The federation produces cattle-feed using locally available crops. The objective is to make quality cattle-feed available to the local dairy farmers at a reasonable price. During the year 122 quintals of

Chirag facilitated the formation of 3 livestock based micro dairies in Nainital, Bageshwar and Pithoragarh districts over the past 2-3 years. These micro-dairies have provided alternative livelihood options to over 100 families. This year the federations procured around 60,000 litres of milk and paid Rs 16.9 lacs to the farmer members. The turnover during the year was Rs 21.2 lakhs with a net profit of Re. 0.90 lacs.

cattle-feed was produced and marketed through the federation which was worth Rs 2.44 lacs. The federation made a net profit of Re 0.16 lacs.

Ayurvedic Veterinary Medicine Unit

The Gau PalakSangha federation facilitated by Chiragat Dhokane was formed in 2009 with members drawn from 4 Self Help Groups. Currently members from 17 Self Help Groups are involved with this federation. The federation produces ayurvedic veterinary medicine from locally available herbs and medicinal plants. During the year, 101 kgs of ayurvedic medicine were produced and sold which was worth Rs 2.40 lacs. The federation made a net profit of Re 0.23 lacs.

Case Study of Hema Bisht : What work can a 8th pass like me do?

Do-do bacche hue, upar se bhains ke liye roz jangal se ghaas lana lakdi lana, aur ghar ka pura kaam; 8-pass mein kya likhai padhi kar paungi ab main?" (With two kids to look after, and to get fodder grass and firewood from the forest; what work can a 8th pass like me do now? she asked when offered to start working at the dairy).

The elder women in the village taunted her for working in the market full of men, and shamed her for managing a dairy. Now with a turnover of over 7 lacs per annum, the same women ask her if their daughters-in-law can get some work in the dairy. It's an irony how people's attitude change with success.

Starting from her house located at the top of the hill, she starts her day's journey on foot at 6:30 every morning to reach the market. Some people said, "Gaun ki aurat in sehron ki aurat ki tarah kaam thodi na kar payangi" (women in the village can't work like those in cities), while others pointed fingers at her saying, "jab ye grahakon ko jawab hi nahi de sakti, toh ye kaam kaise kar payegi" (when she can't answer the customers, how will she work), but, contrary to everyone's expectations Hema kept persevering. After failing in high school, an early marriage and 12 years of married life with two children, she picked up a pen for the first time after joining work in Saraswati Dairy, an enterprise run by Saraswati Swayatt Sahkarita a woman's co-operative comprising villages around Garampani, Nainital.

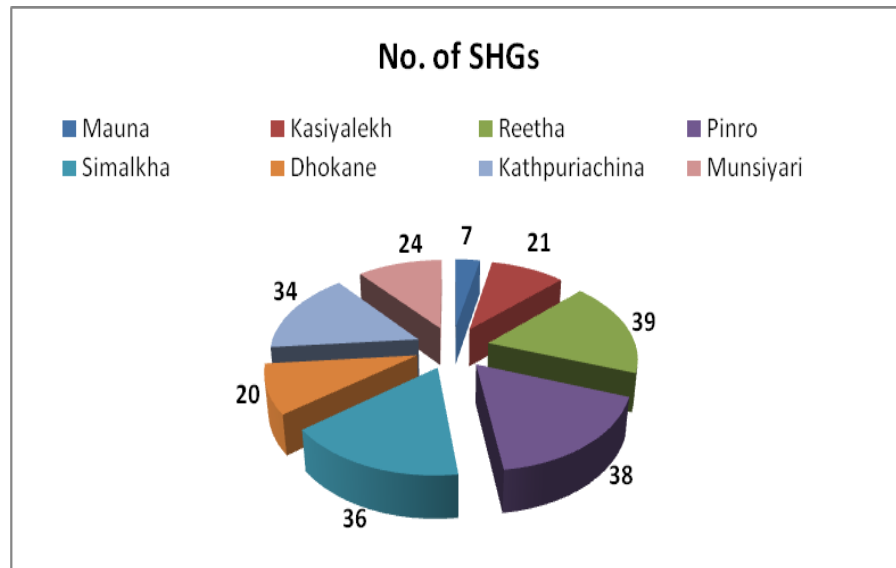
When asked about how her life has changed since she started working, she giggles and says "Couple of my front teeth were missing, I got them fixed with my first salary and now I don't have to cover my mouth every time I talk to someone". It is uncommon for women in rural households to indulge in personal care beyond the absolute necessities. It is only when they become financially self-dependent that they start to cater to their personal needs. She started her journey with the women's co-operative 3 years ago and now she contributes to the household expenses. Both her children go to school and she takes care of their education expenses. There is a glint in her eyes as she talks about her investments in jewelry and a life insurance policy "I have already started saving for my daughter's marriage" she declares with a smile.

Hema's colleagues laugh at how 3 years ago she didn't even know which shop to buy soap from!. "Today, I can go to the bank alone with thousands of rupees and have no problem, but back then, I was scared to even go alone to a nearby shop to buy provisions. I always asked someone to accompany me", she says giggling like a young girl. She is now a confident woman who handles customers with panache, keeps track of every penny and manages her professional work and household chores, all at the same time. Today she is happy and says she is grateful to Chirag for helping her become independent and confident and make a niche for herself and get acknowledged by the society.

Micro-Finance

We work with 236 Self Help Groups (SHGs) with a total membership of 2525. The average member per SHG group is 10. The combined savings of these groups is Rs.51.17 lacs. Most of the SHGs have got Cash Credit Limit (CCL) from banks. The average savings per member in the older groups in Reetha, Kasiyalekh and Mauna areas are in the range of Rs. 2500-3000, while the average saving per member in the relatively newer SHGs in Kathpuriyachina and Dhokane areas are between Rs.1500-2000. The total inter-loans availed during the year was Rs. 61.27 lacs. Many households have taken loans from SHGs to purchase livestock, take up agriculture related activities, address health issues and for providing better education to their children. Regular training for capacity building of SHG members are done on accounting. In addition, training on various income generation activities are also undertaken to help them earn additional income through these activities.

The area wise break-up of SHGs is given in the table below:

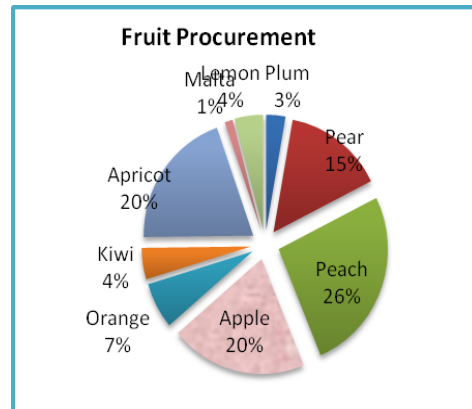
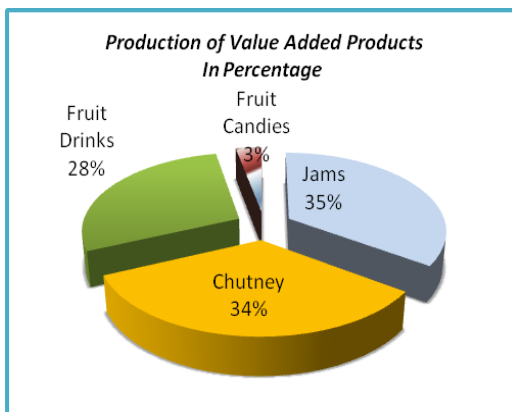


Fruit Processing Unit

During the year, the fruit processing unit procured and processed 16.6 tons of temperate fruits. With these fruits around 10.5 tons of pulp was produced. The temperate fruits included Plum, Pear, Peach, Apple, Kiwi, Apricot, Orange and Malta. To improve the quality of fruit products, a senior food technologist who recently retired from Mother Dairy's Fruit and Vegetable division was hired as a consultant. The results have been very encouraging.

During the year we produced 1.3 tons of specialty jams and 0.8 tons of savory chutnies. The unit added new products such as orange marmalade, fruit drinks (Apricot, Lemon, Malta) and fruit candies (Peach, Plum, Pear) to its product line. A new line of preservative free natural jams were also introduced. With over 20 different kinds of products, the unit made a profit of 2.69 lakhs during the year. Marketing which is mainly handled by Kumaun Grameen Udyog (KGU) also improved as we reached out to regular and bulk buyers who buy our products on a monthly basis. This has significantly contributed to the revenue of the unit. These marketing linkages have also increased visibility of our products and trust of the customer. As the unit increased its' volumes of sales, the local farmers have found a profitable market for their 'C' grade fruits.

The details of fruits purchased and products made during the year is depicted in the charts below:



Agriculture Extension:

The primary objective of our agriculture extension program is to improve the productivity of crops. We believe that the best strategy for mountainous areas with limited accessibility is to work on sustainable agriculture which requires low external inputs. Our agri-extension program has strived to introduce indigenous inputs and agricultural practices which are low cost and can be easily adopted by the farmers.

Our action research project with select crops has shown promising results. We experimented with improved varieties of wheat, onion, pigeon pea and paddy (for the low lying areas) in Kathpuriachina area of Bageshwar district. The varieties were specially developed by Vivekanand Krishi Anusandhan Kendra. The results have been extremely encouraging. For the coming year, a large number of farmers have shown interest in adopting these varieties along with improved agricultural practices. Agriculture experts regularly visited the area and provided technical guidance.

During the year, we expanded the area under VL-907 variety of wheat in 2 new villages. Over 200 farmers were involved. VL-907 variety was sown in 28.5 hectares and the average yield was 40 quintals/ha which is 10 quintals more than the average yield of the traditional varieties. In these 7 villages all the wheat growing farmers have adopted VL-907 variety which apart from being better yielding is also disease resistant.

Similarly the VL-3 variety of onion which we tried with 124 farmers was also very successful. The average yield was 200 quintals/ha which is 3 times more than the production from local varieties. The experiment with VL-1 variety of pigeon pea has not been as successful. We experimented this with 90 farmers and the average yield was 10.5 quintals/ha which was only 3%-5% more than the existing varieties. However to create value addition at the local level we have facilitated the setting up of a pulse processing unit through the local cooperative. This will ensure better value capture by the farmers.

High yielding Basmati variety, Pusa-1509 was promoted in low lying areas with 33 farmers. The average yield was 42 quintals/ha which is considered very good. This is a new product as basmati is traditionally not grown in the region. The idea was to see whether this variety of basmati rice can be grown in the region successfully. The results have encouraged the farmers and in the coming year, over 100 farmers have expressed interest in growing Pusa-1509 variety of basmati rice.

Animal Husbandry

Animal Husbandry has been one of the core areas of Chirag's interventions since inception. Over the years apart from breed improvement, we have also worked extensively on improved fodder and feed management practices. The breed improvement services in particular have been promoted as Business Development Services (BDS) to make it sustainable. Chirag identifies local educated youths and provides para-vet training. It supports their costs for 2-3 years after which they can sustain themselves from the service fee collected from the farmers. The program has resulted in reduction of breeding period and an increase in milk production by almost two-folds. Through this initiative we have ensured that veterinary care services are made available to the farmers at their doorsteps at a reasonable cost while at the same time creating gainful livelihoods options for local youths near their homes. These para-vets earn anywhere between Rs 6,000 to Rs 8,000 per month.

At present there are 8 community para-vets who provide veterinary care services to over 150 villages. Their income comes from the fees collected from the community for the services. Apart from the veterinary care services, the para-vets also provide valuable information to the farmers on balanced diet, feeding practices and improved cattle sheds.

The activities done under Animal Husbandry Program in 2015-16 are as under:

- During the year 1463 Artificial Insemination (AI) were done both on cows and buffaloes. Increasingly, there is a higher acceptance of artificial insemination among the community and a significant proportion is now willing to try and more importantly pay for it which was considered a taboo till recently
- A total of 69 veterinary camps were held during the year in which 2892 cattle were treated by visiting veterinary doctors. The para-vets have gradually earned the trust of the farmers and they approach the para-vets more readily for various services including vaccination.
- 28 farmers were provided with animal husbandry package consisting of a cattle trough, a chaff cutter and modification of their cattle shed at a subsidized cost
- 26 improved milch animals were purchased and distributed to 26 households across 9 villages at a subsidized cost.

Uttarakhand Post-disaster Livelihood Project

This was the second year of 'Uttarakhand Post Disaster Livelihood Programme (UPDLP)' which is being implemented in Munsiyari block of Pithoragarh district with the support of Himmatan Society. The aim of the programme is to generate livelihood options for the 2013 disaster affected families through both on-farm and off-farm activities and to improve the quality of life of 643 disaster affected households in 15 villages of 'Walthi' cluster of Munsiyari block. Our primary focus has been on promoting livestock based micro-enterprises, strengthening of community based institutions and promotion of horticulture and culinary herb based enterprises.

The Following activities were undertaken in the project in 2015-16:

- Successfully constructed 11 Biogas of 2 cubic meters each in 6 disaster affected villages.
- 13 cross-bred cows and 4 improved buffalos provided to the beneficiaries for promoting dairy based livelihoods.
- For improved livestock management, facilitated the construction of 23 cattle-sheds and 10 goat-sheds. In addition, for improved vegetable production, helped construct 7 poly-houses.
- 2 livestock based micro dairies were established. This year, 59,507 litres of milk was procured from 55 farmer members. The dairies did a combined turnover of Rs 7.24 lacs and made a net profit of Re. 0.65 lacs. Part of this profit will be distributed to the farmers as bonus.
- 10 backyard poultry units were established which are being successfully run by the community.
- To increase fruit production in the cluster, over 1000 seedlings of high yielding varieties of Apple and Peach were planted in over 3 hectares involving 20 families.
- For improving fodder availability in the cluster, 6,550 fodder saplings of Napier and Auns grasses were planted in over 10 hectares. These are hardy species of fodder grasses and will continue to yield fodder for 3-4 years without replanting.
- For providing breed improvement and veterinary care services locally, 2 community para-vets were trained and placed in the cluster.

HEALTH

Community Health was Chirag's flagship program 30 years ago when we initiated our work in the area. Though the conditions have improved significantly over the past three decades, getting access to quality health services at a reasonable cost is still a challenge for the common man. Through our hospital and our preventive health program we strive to create awareness regarding the key ailments in the region and provide quality and affordable curative health services to the rural poor especially women and children. Our preventive health care measure is centred around the Kasyalekh area where we continue to provide training and capacity building support to Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA) workers and Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANMs) in 25 villages. ASHA workers and ANMs help by improving information dissemination, generating awareness and providing better mother and child care services to the community. In addition, they also identify the patients requiring medical services and refer them to our hospital and discourage them from going to the quacks which is a common practice in these areas.

Curative Health

Through our hospital established in 2009 at Sargakhet, we aim to provide affordable health services to all in the region with a special focus on women and children. The hospital also provides emergency services.

The hospital has an equipped laboratory, an X-ray facility, an ECG machine, treatment rooms, delivery rooms, dental services and a general ward of six beds and two private rooms. There are trained doctors in ayurveda, modern medicine and dental services. We are fortunate to get continued support of Doctor Ruma Mukherjee who provides voluntary service.

During the year the hospital provided services to over 4,953 out patients. Out of these, 37 patients were admitted in the hospital for further treatment. Four deliveries were done in the hospital while three deliveries were successfully done at homes with the help of hospital staff. We conducted 4,240 pathological tests and did 700 X-rays. In all, 8 health camps were held in the villages. A total of 441 patients were treated in the camps.

In collaboration with 'Aarohi', an organization with expertise in medical services, we conducted 12 camps at our hospital especially for poor people in which apart from general health check-ups, ante-natal and post-natal services and ultrasound facility were provided to the patients. A total of 1103 patients benefitted from the camps.

The detailed break-up of different services provided by Chirag Hospital during 2015-16 is given in the table below:

Chirag Hospital	2015-16
Outpatients	4953
Patients admitted	37
Deliveries at Hospital	4
Deliveries at Home (attended by health staff)	3
Ante-natal care	109
Fracture /Dislocation treated	290
Ayurvedic treatment	1708
X Ray	700
Pathology tests	4240
Dental Patient	197
No. of camps	8
No. of patients treated in camps	421

KUMAUN GRAMEEN UDYOG

CHIRAG began to realize the need for income generation projects in Kumaun in the early 1990s. As a result, CHIRAG established a separate organization called Kumaun Grameen Udyog (KGU) in 1996 which focused on enhancing the livelihoods of the local community. The main objective of setting up KGU was to create a professional organization which focuses on product development, skill building and marketing rural produce. KGU is registered as a section 8 company, and is mandated to use the profit generated from its' business for community development in the region. Over the past 20 years since it was established, KGU has grown substantially by investing in product value chains and developing a niche market for its products. All the products made by local artisans and

procured from local farmers are sold under the brand name of '**Kilmora**'. Providing fair and sustainable livelihood options to people in the area is at the core of KGU's business strategy. KGU has been successful in achieving this by:

- Involving marginalized sections of the community especially women and small farmers.
- Building skills among local community.
- Developing contemporary products of high quality.
- Building strong market linkages.

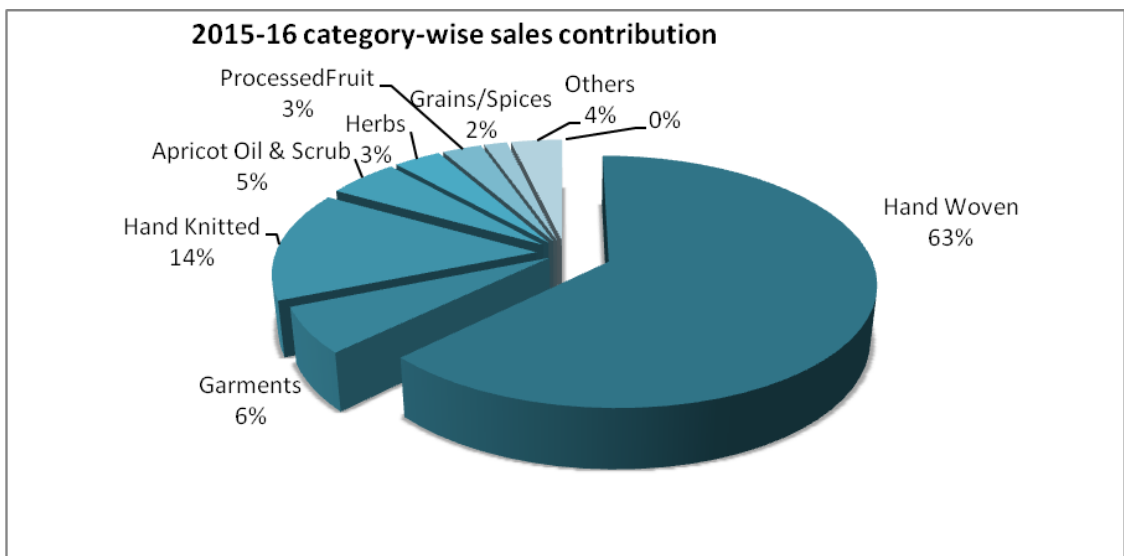
KGU has a full time staff of 19, most of whom are from the local community. It works with over 350 artisans (weavers and knitters) who derive steady income from this activity all through the year. In addition, it sources agri-produce like fruits, apricot seeds, culinary herbs, spices, pulses and grains locally and provides supplementary income to over 700 households.

KGU has been striving to keep pace with the contemporary market and provide high quality locally made products without compromising the core objective of generating livelihoods for poor and marginalized. The efforts of KGU were recognized and it was selected for the Tata Trusts-Harvard University South Asia Institute (SAI) Social Innovation Grant in February 2016. The grant is for setting-up electronic inventory management systems for KGU's products. This will help KGU to streamline its operations and will be a stepping stone for expanding its work which in turn will benefit more artisans and farmers.

The growth potential of KGU is evident from year-on-year increase in sales. The sales for 2015-16 was Rs 17.2 million as against Rs. 13.9 million in 2013-14 an overall growth of 24% over the last two years.

The table below gives the category-wise sales break-up of KGU during 2015-16.

Category	Sales (INR)
Hand Woven	10,773,564
Garments	1,030,493
Hand Knitted	2,474,897
Apricot Oil & Scrub	880,015
Herbs	588,673
Processed Fruit	490,526
Grains/ Spices	286,719
Others	632,882
Total	17,157,769



This year KGU contributed Rs 28.33 lakhs to Chirag hospital and school. This is a unique model and has few parallels anywhere in the country. This social enterprise not only provides sustainable livelihood opportunities to local artisans and farmers, but also contributes to overall development of the region by supporting education and health care facilities for the rural poor of the region.

THE TEAM

In March 2016, there were 127 people working full time in Chirag. Out of this 111 work in different programs, 5 are support staff and 11 work in administration and finance. The proportion of women staff is 33%. A large proportion of these development professionals have been with Chirag for over a decade and have made invaluable contribution in achieving our goals and making a difference to the lives of thousands of families and lighting the lamp of hope in countless households. We at Chirag are proud to have such a dedicated and committed team.

The staff breakup is given in the following table.

Staff Breakup

	Programme	Support	Administration and Finance	Total
Women	40	00	02	42
Men	71	05	09	85
Total	111	05	11	127

GOVERNANCE

There are 25 members on Chirag General Body of which 6 form the Governing Board duly elected by the General Body. The Governing Board members are:

Mr. Radhesh Lall	Chairperson Engineer and Entrepreneur
Ms. Kamla Bhasin	Member Gender Specialist, Activist, Founder- member of Jagori
Dr. Prashant Upadhyaya	Member Pediatric surgen, Graphic Designer and former Executive Director of Chirag
Dr. Malavika Karlekar	Member Ethnographer, worked with Centre for Women's Development Studies
Ms. Radha Ahluwalia	Member Managing Director, International Market Assessment
Mr. Keshav Desiraju	Member Former Secretary, Government of India

OUR PARTNERS

Chirag remains indebted to the following organisations:

Institutions

ACWADAM	TATA Trusts
A & A Book Trust	CEDAR
B2R Technologies Pvt. Ltd.	ARGHYAM
Berkeley Reafforestation Trust	Give to Asia
Canada India Village Aid	Kumaun Grameen Udyog
Ernst & Young Foundation	Kurve Wustrow
NABARD	M.G. SHAHANI & Co.
Peva bai Moti Ram Shahani Trust	The Hans Foundation
Rajeshwar and Susheela Dayal Charitable Trust	COMDEKS -UNDP
Rajiv Gandhi Foundation	India Education Collective (IEC)
Himmotthan Society	State Bank of India

Individuals

Ashish & Deepa Arora	Ashish Mukherjee
Arundhati Deosthale	Dr. Ruma Mukherjee
Deepika Mahajan	Murli Krishnan
Chetan Mahahan	Avnesh Verma
Arvind Kumar	Ajay Kumar Sharma
Gita Krenek	Padmaja Pragada
Siddhartha Menon	Himanshu Mishra
Nikhilesh Senapati	Indra. S
Mohan Chandra Kabdwal	

Interns & Volunteers

Siddharth Lakhan Pal	Ambedkar University, Delhi
Sonu Kumar	Azim Premji University, Bangalore
Annanya Mahajan	University of London, Delhi
Neha Sharma	Lady Irwin College, Delhi
Geeta Negi	G.B. Pant University, Pantnagar
Mariya	Michigan University, America
Tyler	Michigan University, America
Torrey Wyatt	Michigan University, America

SBI Youth For India Fellows

Prometheu Tyagi	SBI Youth of India Fellow
Nafeesa Usman	SBI Youth for India Fellow
Gyan Prakash	SBI Youth for India Fellow
Nuzhath M Syed	SBI Youth for India Fellow
Anjana Rathore	SBI Youth for India Fellow

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

No Annual Report can be complete without acknowledging the support and trust of various people and institutions. The results that we have achieved would not have been possible neither would our lives be the same without the contribution and support of these remarkable institutions and individuals who continued to inspire and enlighten us.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to Siddhartha Menon of Rishi Valley School for providing valuable insights in refining our vision, setting long term goals and networking with different people and institutions for training and capacity building support to our education program.

We would like to thank Tanuj Shah for taking time out from his busy schedule and providing training inputs to our teachers on teaching mathematics.

We would like to thank Hemant Sharma for providing support in organisational capacity building and providing strategic support to our education program.

A special thanks to Chetan Mahajan for his support to our School. Renu Khanna deserves special mention for providing training and pedagogical support to our teachers.

Our heartfelt thanks to Lakshmi Lall, Dr, Ruma Mukherjee, Ashish Arora and Gita Krenek for their continued support.

A special thanks to Dr. Rajesh Thadani for his strategic inputs and encouragements despite stepping down from Chirag Governing Board.

We would like to acknowledge the support of the people of the area where we work who continue to tolerate us, challenge us and inspire us. Our heartfelt thanks to all those individuals and institutions who continue to repose faith in us.

Finally our Governing Board and General Body for their vision, guidance and direction.

ANNEXURE 1 : VOLUNTARY DISCLOSURE

In the spirit of transparency, Chirag voluntarily discloses the following information:

Governance

- None of the members of the Governing Board are related to each other by blood or marriage.
- The Executive Director is not related to any member of the Governing Board by blood or marriage.
- Elections to the governing Board are held as per the rules of the Society. However, no policy of rotation of members of the Governing board is followed.
- No members of the Governing Board received any remuneration from Chirag during the year.
- The Governing board met more than twice in the last year with the requisite quorum.
- Minutes of the meeting were documented, read out and approved in the subsequent meeting but were not circulated in advance.
- The General Body of the Society approved the Annual Report and the Audited statement of accounts.

BENEFITS TO STAFF

Gross Salary and Benefits	Men	Women	Total
(Rupees per month)			
Less than 5,000	0	0	0
5,000 - 10,000	43	26	69
10,000 - 15,000	28	13	41
15,000 - 25,000	10	02	12
more than 25,000	04	01	05

Note: Gross salary includes all benefits payable by the organisation.

STAFF REMUNERATION (GROSS MONTHLY SALARY+ BENEFITS IN RUPEES PER ANNUM)

Highest paid full time regular staff	Rs. 768,072/- per year
Lowest paid full time regular staff	Rs. 78,144/- per year

Note: This includes basic salary, cost of living allowance, provident fund (including Chirag's contribution), medical benefits, medical and accidental insurance and scholarship. All figures are correct as on 31st March 2015.

COST OF TRAVEL

Total cost of international travel incurred by Chirag during the year - NIL

Total cost of national travel incurred by Chirag during the year- Rs. 78,055/-

OUR STATUTORY AUDITOR

R Balasubramanian
Partner
S Ramanand Aiyar and Co.
708 Surya Kiran Building,
19 Kasturba Gandhi Marg,
New Delhi-110001

OUR BANKERS

- State Bank of India
- Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation of India Ltd.
- Uttarakhand Gramin Bank
- Almora District Cooperative Bank Ltd.

Registration Details

- The Central Himalayan Rural Action Group (Chirag) is a Society registered under the Indian Societies Registration Act of 1860. Registration No. 16928, dated 29th July 1986.
- The Central Himalayan Rural Action Group (Chirag) is authorized to receive foreign contributions as per the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act 1976. Registration No. 231650446, dated 5th July 1987.
- Chirag is registered under Sections 12A and 80G of the Income Tax Act, 1961.
 - Section 12A - No. CIT-VI/TE (276)/86/1292 dated 9/1/1987
 - Section 80G-No. DIT (E) 2007-2008/C245/1918 dated 21/09/2007

ANNEXURE II: ACCOUNTS**Central Himalayan Rural Action Group
Balance Sheet as on 31st March 2016**

	Current Year (Rs)	Previous Year (Rs)
Liabilities		
Corpus Fund	41,029,137	40,584,887
Reserve Fund	10,170,749	4,636,741
Fixed Assets Utilisation Fund	19,027,501	20,631,186
Transport Fund	526,144	526,144
Reafforestation Fund	644,512	644,512
Chirag Education Fund	555,833	733,172
Current Liabilities	7,152,119	4,367,065
	79,105,995	72,123,707
Assets		
Fixed Assets	19,027,501	20,631,186
Investments	41,036,428	40,586,428
Current Assets, Loans and Advances		
Cash, Bank Balance and Term Deposit	18,571,355	10,099,727
Loans and Advances	466,711	802,366
Security Deposit (endorsed in favour of Government Authorities)	4,000	4,000
	79,105,995	72,123,707

Signed on behalf of Chirag
Chairperson: Radhesh Lall
Member: Prashant Upadhyaya
Executive Director: Ujjal Ganguly
Manager Accounts and Administration: B K Kabdwal

In terms of our report of even date annexed
For S Ramanand Aiyar and Co.
Chartered Accountant
Registration No. 000990N

R Balasubramanian
Partner
New Delhi
M No. 080432

Central Himalayan Rural Action Group
Receipts and Payments Accounts for the year ended as on 31st March 2016

Receipts	Current Year (Rs)	Previous Year (Rs)
Balance as on 1st April 2015	17,141,891	10,253,774
Project Funding		
Foreign Contribution	7,041,958	2,325,573
Local Contribution	25,143,970	17,501,793
Rural Health Services	1,250,403	1,271,351
Donations	1,365,207	1,037,692
Interest	1,668,679	1,177,728
Others	2,694,400	13,085,292
	56,306,308	46,653,203
Payments		
Canada India Village Aid (CIVA)	118,228	379,953
Berkeley Reafforestation Trust	521,621	509,222
The Hans Foundation	738,921	-
Room to Read	-	1,356
Rajiv Gandhi Foundation (RGF)	-	87,227
Other Payments (FCRA)	62,898	1,830,657
Sir Ratan Tata Trust (for- Natural based Livelihood Project)	2,550,138	2,396,635
For Maximizing Mountain Agriculture Programame	1,287,599	991,003
Himmotthan Society (IFLDP)	57,728	700,310
For Uttarakhand Livelihood Restoration Programme (ULRP)	2,165,914	2,893,473
For Central Himalayan Livestock Initiative(CHLI)	3,599,205	138,158
For Central Himalayan Education Initiative (CHEI)	2,814,928	-
For Integration of Microfinance (IME)	247,027	-
NABARD	605,396	707,376
For FPO's - Nainital	339,318	-
For FPO's - Bageshwar	52,205	-
Rajeshwar & Susheela Dayal Charitable Trust	2,199,690	2,765,033
Ernst & Young Foundation (E&Y)	911,784	582,950
For Social Renewal Programme	926,545	559,464
International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI)	-	1,287,276
ARGHYAM	2,687,020	2,986,636
Rajiv Gandhi Foundation (RGF)	220,413	159,717
Community Development and Knowledge Management for the Satoyama Initiative	582,836	997,780
Rural Health Services	998,122	1,467,813
Chirag School	474,108	952,469
Other Payments	6,932,037	7,116,804
Balance on 31st March 2016	23,506,609	17,141,891
	56,306,308	46,653,203

Central Himalayan Rural Action Group
Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended as on 31st March 2016

Income	Current Year (Rs.)	Previous Year (Rs.)
Project Funding		
Foreign Contribution	7,041,758	2,325,573
Local Contribution	25,006,570	17,501,793
Donations	920,957	537,692
Rural Health Services	1,250,403	1,271,351
Interest	1,603,362	7,693,273
Others	2,299,832	2,014,724
Projects in Progress	4,367,065	4,833,926
	42,489,947	36,178,332
Expenditure		
Canada India Village Aid (CIVA)	188,223	379,953
Berkeley Reafforestation Trust	521,621	509,222
Room to Read	-	1,356
The Hans Foundation	670,891	-
Rajiv Gandhi Foundation (RGF)	-	87,227
Other Payments (FCRA)	62,896	1,830,657
Sir Ratan Tata Trust (Small Grant Programme)		
For- Natural Resource based Livelihood Project	2,550,138	2,396,635
For- Maximazing Mountain Agriculture Program	1,287,599	991,003
Himmotthan Society (IFLDP)	57,728	700,310
For Uttarakhand Livelihood Restoration Programme (ULRP)	2,225,914	2,833,473
For Central Himalayan Livestock Initiative (CHLI)	3,599,205	138,158
For Central Himalayan Education Initiative (CHEI)	2,742,799	-
For Integration of Microfinance (IMF)	247,027	-
NABARD	605,396	707,376
Rajeshwar Susheela Dayal Charitable Trust	2,169,935	2,737,228
For FPO's -Nainital	339,318	-
For FPO's -Bageshwar	52,205	-
Ernst & Young Foundation (E&Y)	911,784	582,950
For-Social Renewal Programme	926,545	559,464
International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI)	-	1,161,350
ARGHYAM	2,687,020	2,871,994
For 3rd Spring Partner Initiative Meet	1,498,350	-
Rajiv Gandhi Foundation (RGF)	220,413	159,717
India Education Collective (ICE)	137,400	-
Community Development and Knowledge Management for the Satoyama Initiative	518,003	(-61,320)
CEDAR	-	-
Rural Health Services	941,212	1,480,145
Chirag School	409,129	918,419
Other Payments	6,132,090	8,997,651
Total Expenditure	31,565,446	29,982,968
Available Funds	10,924,501	6,195,364
Appropriations		
Transferred to project in progress	7,152,119	4,367,065
Surplus for the year transferred to Reserve Fund	3,772,382	1,828,299
	10,924,501	6,195,364

Ajay Singh Bisht
 Anand Singh Bisht
 Anil Chandra Binwal
 Anil Kumar Keshari
 Anita Arya
 Anoop Singh Bisht
 Asha Sah
 Bachi Singh Bisht
 Bahadur Singh Mehra
 Balam Singh Negi
 Basanti Bisht
 Bhagat Singh Thapliyal
 Bhaskaranand Joshi
 Bhim Singh Negi
 Bhupal Singh Bisht
 Bhupal Singh Jeena
 Bhuwan Chandra Pant
 Bhuwan Singh Negi
 Bimla Bisht
 Binod Kumar Pandey
 Bipin Kumar Kabdwal
 Bipin Kumar Negi
 Birendra Singh
 Bishan Singh Raikwal
 Champa Pandey
 Chandan Singh Bisht
 Chandan Singh Chamiyal
 Chandan Singh Mehta
 Chandra Shekhar Joshi
 Deep Chandra Kandpal
 Deepa Joshi
 Devendra Singh Nayal
 Dharmanand Kabdwal
 Dinish Pandey
 Diwan Chandra
 Diwan Ram
 Diwan Singh Mehta
 Dr. Champa Kumari Rao
 Dr. Mahendra Singh Bisht
 Dr. Rinku Dutta
 Durga Bisht
 Ganesh Singh
 Ganga Joshi
 Geeta Bisht
 Girish Chandra Budhani
 Girish Rama Verma
 Govind Singh Bisht
 Harendra Singh Nayal
 Harish Chandra Arya

Harish Chandra Palaria
 Hema Bisht
 Hemlata Tiwari
 Jagdish Mishra
 Jaswant Singh Bisht
 Jitendra Singh Bisht
 Kailash Chandra Joshi
 Kalawati Pandey
 Kalpana Bhoj
 Kamla Bisht
 Kanchan Arya
 Keshar Singh
 Keshav Dutt Joshi
 Khushal Singh Bisht
 Kiran Bisht
 Kishore Singh Rautela
 Krishana Chandra Bhandari
 Krishana Kumar
 Krishana Kumar Nayal
 Kuldeep Kumar Thapliyal
 Kunti Bisht
 Kusum Rawat
 Kusum Tiwari
 Lakhan Singh Rautela
 Lakshami Biroria
 Lal Singh Dangwal
 Lalit Mohan Tiwari
 Lalit Mohan Tiwari
 Lata Harbola
 Leela Pant
 Madhavi Devi
 Mahendra Singh Bisht
 Mahendra Singh Bisht
 Mahendra Singh Raikwal
 Mamta Arya
 Mamta Kandari
 Mamta Mer
 Manju Kholia
 Maya Pandey
 Meera Bisht
 Mohan Singh Bisht
 Mohan Singh Bisht
 Mukesh Singh Bisht
 Munni Bisht
 Munni Tamta
 Naveen Chandra Bhatt
 Neema Arya
 Om Prakash Pandey

Pan Singh Bisht
 Pan Singh Mehta
 Pankaj Singh Shahi
 Poonam Negi
 Pooran Singh Raikwal
 Prakash Chandra
 Pratap Singh Bisht
 Prayag Dutt Bhatt
 Prema Tiwari
 Pritam Singh Rautela
 Puja Bisht
 Pushpa Devi
 Pushpa Gaira
 Pushpa Negi
 Raghvendra Singh Bisht
 Rajani Mehta
 Rajendra Singh Bisht
 Rajendra Singh Dangwal
 Rajendra Singh Jeena
 Rajesh Nayal
 Ram Singh Bisht
 Ramkishan Singh
 Ramesh Chandra Palaria
 Ravindra Singh Bisht
 Rekha Chhimwal
 Rohit Ranjan
 Sanjay Joshi
 Sarika Samdani
 Shankar Singh
 Suman Das
 Sundeep Dutt Bhatt
 Sundar Lal
 Sundar Singh Nayal
 Sunil Kumar Bhoj
 Sunil Kumar Tamta
 Surendra Singh Negi
 Suresh Kumar
 Tara Chandra
 Tara Singh Bisht
 Tej Singh Adhikari
 Thakur Singh
 Tulsi Negi
 Ujjal Ganguly
 Umakant Sharma
 Uttam Singh Jeena
 Vanshika Vohra
 Vijay Pratap Negi
 Vikas Kumar
 Vikram Singh Raikwal



Chirag

Central Himalayan Rural Action Group

Village Simayal

PO Nathuwakhan 263158

Nainital District

Uttarakhand

+91 5942 285738

+91 9412085732

info@chirag.org

<http://chirag.org>

