

Press Release

RMDD Organizes Regional Workshop on Reviving Himalayan Springs

On the request of the Royal Government of Bhutan and the Government of Meghalaya and Nagaland, the Rural Management and Development Department, Government of Sikkim jointly with the German Technical Cooperation (GIZ) has organized a study tour on “Experience Sharing on Reviving Himalyan Springs in Sikkim”. The Bhutan delegation was lead by Shri Singay Dorji, National Coordinator of the UNDP-GEF programme. The participants also include selected officials from the states of Meghalaya and Nagaland. The study tour comprises a day long orientation followed by a 3-day study tour to South and East Sikkim where the outstation guests will be visiting the field sites, which will be followed by a wrap up meeting on 5th July, 2014.

The study tour started with an experience sharing workshop for the 25 outstation participants in Gangtok on 1st July, 2014. The workshop was presided over by Shri D. R. Nepal, Secretary-RMDD who shared the joint concern regarding the drying up of springs across the Himalyan landscape and the Sikkim Dhara Vikas initiative which is underway. Shri. Kenneth Pala, Sr. Technical Expert, GIZ shared the objectives of the CCANER project and the objectives of this experience sharing workshop.

Various field functionaries from Sumbuk, Kaluk, Namthang, Rhenock and Namchi shared their field experience in implementing the Dhara Vikas initiative and the achievements so far. The Dhara Vikas handbook which was published recently was used as a training aid to elaborate on the concept of recharge area, design of recharge structures, micro-location, steps in dhara vikas and monitoring and evaluation.

The outstation guests were very grateful that the Government of Sikkim organized this workshop and shared the learnings of the Dhara Vikas initiative with them. Based on the learnings, they were also energized to take up revival of Himalayan springs in their respective states and countries. The expected outcome is to prepare a follow up action plan to expand the Dhara Vikas initiative to the other two north-eastern states with the active support of GIZ and in Bhutan.

