

**Consultation Workshop of States of the Himalayan Region 2016
under NMSHE and Launch of IHCAP Phase 2**
10-11 March 2016, New Delhi

A two day 'Consultation Workshop of States of the Himalayan Region 2016 under NMSHE and Launch of IHCAP Phase 2' organized jointly by the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India and Indian Himalayas Climate Adaptation Programme (IHCAP) of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) on 10th and 11th March, 2016 in New Delhi. Representatives from Himalayan States, several ministries of Government of India, officials of DST and SDC, senior scientists, experts and academicians working on varied areas of Himalayan ecosystem, climate change experts, civil society organisations and various bilateral and multilateral agencies participated in the workshop.



(L-R): Dr. Akhilesh Gupta, Head, SPLICE and Climate Change Programme, DST, Prof. Ashutosh Sharma, Hon'ble Secretary DST, Dr. Linus von Castelmur, Hon'ble Ambassador of Switzerland to India and Bhutan, Dr. Nisha Mendiratta, Director, Climate Change Programme, DST releasing report during the inaugural session.



Participants during the session

The aim of the workshop was to initiate discussions for development and implementation of training programme in the Himalayan states for integrating climate change concerns into state level development planning and building capacity for climate change adaptation; development and implementation of a framework for assessing vulnerability, risks and hazards; and developing an outline of the awareness programmes for the masses on climate change in the Himalayan states. The workshop also marked the formal launch of the Indo Swiss bilateral IHCAP Phase 2 (2016-19).

The workshop started with a welcome address by Dr. Akhilesh Gupta (Head and Advisor), SPLICE- CCP, Department of Science and Technology, Government of India. He informed the participants about the background of the workshop, progress achieved under NMSHE and the ongoing collaboration with Switzerland under IHCAP. This was followed by a brief address by Dr. Mustafa Khan (Team Leader,

IHCAP PMU) on key achievements of IHCAP Phase 1 (2012-15) and objectives of the second phase (2016-19).

In his address, Dr. Linus von Castelmur, Hon'ble Ambassador of Switzerland to India and Bhutan, expressed his happiness towards the implementation of IHCAP as a technical and knowledge partner of NMSHE of the Government of India and announced the launch of IHCAP Phase 2.

Prof. Ashutosh Sharma, Secretary, Department of Science and Technology, Government of India in his address stated that the Indo-Swiss collaboration has been beneficial for both the countries as it provides opportunity to learn from each other's expertise especially in less explored areas related to mountain ecosystem. Prof. Sharma appreciated the cooperation being extended through IHCAP and added that emphasis must be laid on research which responds to the needs of the society.

The dignitaries released a few publications brought under DST-SDC collaborations. These include; 'Understanding the Synergy Between National Mission for Sustaining the Himalayan Ecosystem and SAPCC's from Himalayan States', 'Comparative Analysis of SAPCCs from Himalayan States' and 'Synthesis Report Climate Vulnerability, Hazards and Risk:An Integrated Pilot Study in Kullu District, Himachal Pradesh' were released on the occasion. A brochure on the National Mission for Sustaining the Himalayan Ecosystem was also released.

Dr Nisha Mendiratta, Director, Climate Change Programme, SPLICE, DST proposed a vote of thanks.

The various sessions held during the workshop were a step towards bringing the scientists working on different Himalayan ecosystems and state level senior government officials together and developing synergy between them. The future course of action for Himalayan States and Task Forces for implementing NMSHE Mission objectives and the role of IHCAP in supporting the implementation as technical and knowledge partner was discussed during the two days of deliberations.