

**Launching Workshop of
Task Force on Himalayan Agriculture under the
National Mission on Sustaining Himalayan Ecosystems (NMSHE)
held during June 4 - 5, 2015 at ICAR-Directorate of Coldwater Fisheries Research
(DCFR), Bhimtal, Nainital, Uttarakhand.**

The Zonal workshop was organized to launch the Task Force on Himalayan Agriculture under the National Mission on Sustaining Himalayan Ecosystems (NMSHE), supported by the Department of Science & Technology (DST), New Delhi under the chairmanship of Dr. Mohan Kumar, ADG (NRM), ICAR, New Delhi on 4-5 June, 2015 at ICAR-DCFR. The workshop was convened by Dr. A.K. Singh, Director, ICAR-DCFR and coordinated by Dr. Prem Kumar, Senior Scientist, ICAR-DCFR and Dr. S. Ali, Scientist (SS), ICAR-DCFR. The workshop was attended by Dr. P.K. Mishra, Director, ICAR-IISWC, Dehradun, Dr. A. Pattnayak, Director, VPKAS, Almora, Dr. B.L. Attri, Station Incharge, ICAR-CITH, Mukteswar, Dr. A.B. Pandey, Station Incharge, ICAR-IVRI, Mukteswar and 35 Scientists from ICAR-IISWC, Dehradun, ICAR-CAFRI, Jhansi, ICAR-CITH, Mukteswar, ICAR-IVRI, Mukteswar and ICAR-DCFR, Bhimtal. Task Force on Himalayan Agriculture is comprised of multidisciplinary team for this important activity as part of the NMSHE under the National Action Plan for Climate Change. There are six partners in the TF-6 representing different sectors of Agriculture. There are 3 nodal centres *viz.* Northeastern Himalayas led by ICAR Research Complex for NEH, Barapani, Lower & Middle Himalaya led by IISWC, Dehradun and Cold desert Himalayas led by CAZRI, Regional Centre at Leh. In his welcome address, Dr. Mohan Kumar described the concept of NMSHE and its different components and work elements. He emphasized on the challenging task of the ICAR team to develop and demonstrate climate resilient farming system for the Himalayan agriculture. Dr. P.K. Mishra, Director, ICAR-IISWC, Dehradun, explained the importance of the project in context of the Himalayan region. He emphasized on the deliverables to be achieved as output of the project and responsibilities of the coordinators. He also stressed upon developing area-specific interventions for climate resilient farming systems which can serve as models for replication at other places under climate change scenario. Dr. A. Pattnayak, Director, ICAR-VPKAS, Almora stressed upon the climate change and its long term effects on pristine Himalayan ecosystem. He emphasised on predicted breeding programme for crop improvement under the climate change scenario. Dr A K Singh, Director, ICAR-DCFR, Bhimtal advocated the importance of climate resilient models and predictions in context of changing climatic conditions. He also highlighted the importance of germplasm cataloguing, in context of climate change in the Himalayan region.



Dr. N.K. Sharma, Principal Scientist & Head, ICAR-IISWC, Dehradun and Principal co-ordinator of the NMSHE, TF-6 briefed about the overall concept and responsibilities of each partner in the project. The thematic presentation on different components and work elements of the NMSHE was given by the lead scientists from nodal institute ICAR-IISWC, Dehradun. The open discussion was held to finalize different work elements and requirements of the data



collection and development of hotspots for the climate resilient farming systems comprised of agriculture, horticulture, livestock and fisheries as an integrated system. The workshop was followed by field visit on 5th June, 2015 for selection of hotspot for developing climate resilient farming systems.