

Integrated Fodder and Livestock Development Project (IFLDP)

Lead Organisation: Himmotthan Society
(www.himmotthan.in)

Geographic Spread: 224 villages in 6 districts of
Uttarakhand, India



Key Message:

Livestock development can be enhanced as a sustainable form of livelihood in rural areas through the three-pronged approach of improvement of feed and fodder, animal health and breed improvement, and strengthening of local institutions such as livestock-based microenterprises.

Need

Livestock forms an integral part of the rural economy. In rural Uttarakhand, livestock contribute to household income and family nutrition besides producing the much needed biomass and draught power for agricultural operations. However, livestock rearing practices are significantly constrained by an acute, seasonal fodder shortage, lack of improved livestock breeds, rare use of modern feeding practices, non-availability of fundamental animal health infrastructure, poor livestock management practices leading to poor animal health, inbreeding and lack of breed improvement, and non-existent marketing facilities. In particular, acute shortage of fodder has become a chronic problem.

Response

The Integrated Fodder and Livestock Development Project (IFLDP) is designed around 3 focal areas: a) feed cultivation and research, b) animal health and breed development, and c) local institution and market development. Focused on community development, the project has developed more than 255 Livestock Producer Groups (LPGs) with over 2300 members.

Drivers of the Initiative

Local economy: The initiative builds sustainable supply of quality feed and fodder along with improved management practices, and collective marketing of milk to tap local markets. Such practices help in boosting the local economy.

Value to customer: Improving the genetic potential of livestock provides higher valued products to customers.

Objectives

- To enable better livestock management

- To increase availability of fodder for livestock through establishment of fodder resource banks in each project area
- To facilitate improvement in breeds and health
- To create Livestock Based Micro-Enterprises and improve technical capabilities of the micro-dairies by giving them and training them in using proper testing equipment

Stakeholders Involved

Women Livestock Rearers: The initiative seeks to work with women who take care of livestock. It aims to involve women in all levels of work in rearing livestock, including fodder production, livestock rearing and collective marketing of dairy and livestock based products. Women are organised into federations so that they can collectively execute these tasks.

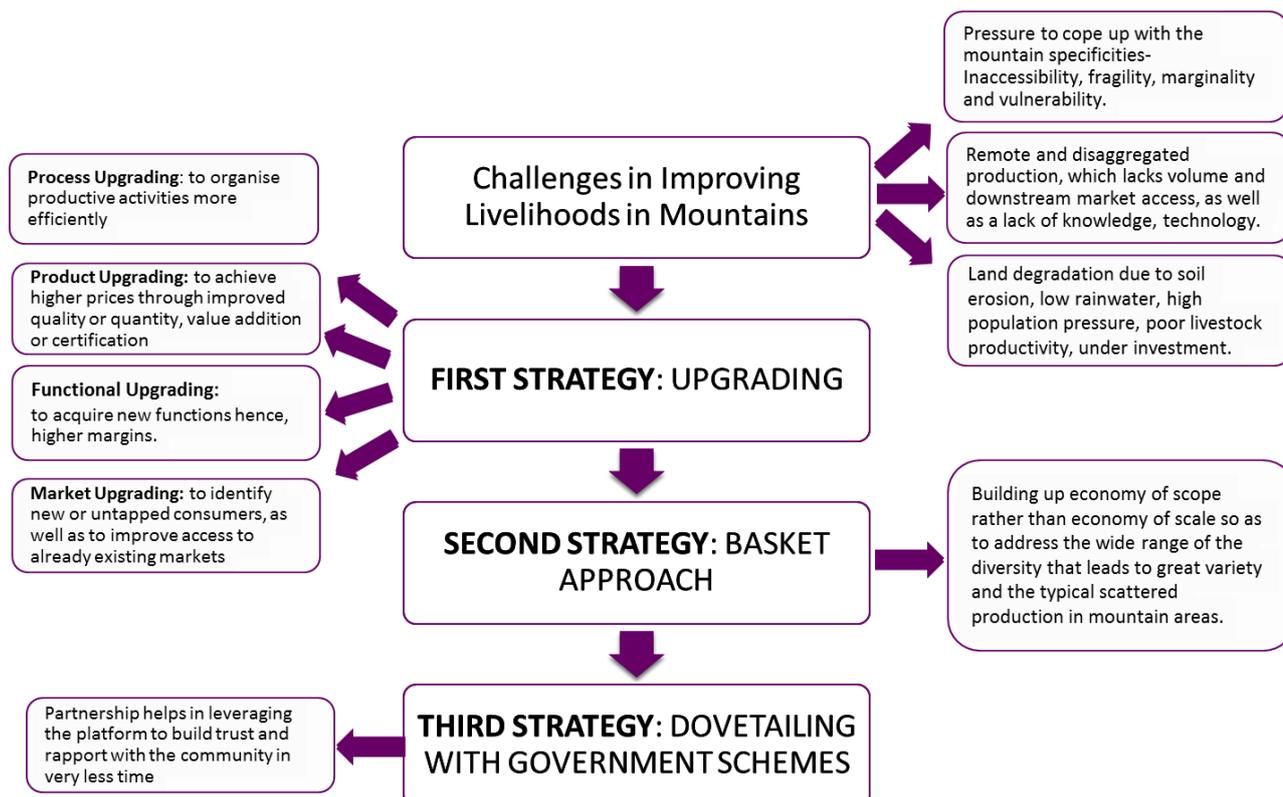
Himmotthan Society: The IFLDP is a three-year long project initiated by the Himmotthan Society with the aim to promote rural livelihoods and enhance incomes through institutions and funding agencies.

Innovative Features

The focus areas of the initiative include:

- Research on dual purpose wheat and barley crops that can produce green fodder in scarcity periods
- Development of a paravet model that can provide livestock health services to farmers in remote locations
- Development of a tool to assess feed situation and systematically prioritise feed technologies to address nutritional gap in animals
- Improvement of the genetic performance of local goats through selective breeding

The Process



Overcoming Barriers

Value chains in mountains are different from those in plains as they are influenced by a set of specificities which provide comparative advantages, but at the same time present challenges in reaping the higher returns. These specificities, such as the availability of unique and niche products and services, limited accessibility, fragility, diversity, and marginality, have a strong impact on value chain analysis and the selection of value chain development options. These specificities were carefully considered while making value chain interventions lest these interventions expose mountain communities to even more vulnerability.

Environmental Benefits

The initiative encourages the conservation and building up of natural resources, such as forest lands, that support rural populations. It also employs vaccines and other biotechnologies to protect smallholder livestock assets.

Social Benefits

The initiative reduces poverty through application of technical, social and institutional research knowledge of livestock-based livelihoods.



Economic Benefits

Animal husbandry being central to the livelihood of a large section of the rural population, the initiative helps people enhance their incomes significantly through livestock development.

Governance-related Benefits

The initiative dovetails with government schemes such as MGNREGA to enhance the productivity of forest lands for fodder purposes. This has created a successful demonstration to motivate government departments to explore and capitalise upon government schemes to build community assets, especially natural resources.

