



ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

2025 - 2026

A Year of Community Resilience, Rural Livelihoods & Scientific Awareness

SOCIETY FOR TECHNOLOGY & DEVELOPMENT

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About This Report

The Society for Technology & Development (STD), Mandi, Himachal Pradesh, works at the intersection of rural livelihoods, disaster resilience, health, and scientific awareness. This report presents a consolidated account of the programmes, workshops, exposure visits, and community initiatives undertaken by STD and its partners during 2025-26, reflecting the organisation's continued engagement with government departments, research institutions, and grassroots communities across Himachal Pradesh and beyond.

Over the course of the year, STD's work spanned disaster risk reduction, climate resilience, agriculture and farmer producer organisations, wool-based livelihoods under a UNDP-supported project, health and de-addiction, and the promotion of scientific temper through the wider Gyan Vigyan and People's Science network.

26

Programmes & Workshops

1,425

Families Assisted with Relief

~3,000

FPO Shareholder Members

215Delegates at HGVS State
Conference

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01 Training Workshop on Forest Fire and Fire Safety

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION • District Disaster Management Authority, Mandi | 24-26 April 2025 | HP Forest Academy, Sunder Nagar

A three-day training workshop on forest fire and fire safety was organised by the District Disaster Management Authority, Mandi, at the Himachal Pradesh Forest Academy, Sunder Nagar. The workshop aimed to impart the skills and knowledge required for the prevention and control of forest fires, ensuring the safety of life and property. STD participated actively in the proceedings.



02 Training under the Mahak / Integrated Agriculture Scheme

AGRICULTURE & LIVELIHOOD • Horticulture Department | 1 June 2025 | Nagwain

A training session was conducted under the Mahak/Integrated Agriculture Scheme of the Horticulture Department, organised by Dr Sarla Shashni, Coordinator, GB Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment (Mohal, Kullu). Forty farmers from the Sundernagar and Balh blocks of Mandi district participated at the Farmers' Group, Nagwain, receiving practical knowledge and demonstrations on the processing and preservation of fruits and vegetables.



03 Exposure Visit by the Arunachal Pradesh State Rural Livelihoods Mission (ArSRLM)

INSTITUTIONAL EXCHANGE • 3-6 June 2025 | Mandi & Kullu Districts

A twenty-member delegation of district- and block-level officials from the Arunachal Pradesh State Rural Livelihoods Mission (ArSRLM), led by State Mission Manager Mr Gyamar Tata, undertook a three-day livelihood exposure visit to the Mandi and Kullu districts of Himachal Pradesh. The visit underscored the potential for long-term collaboration between the two states, with STD assuring full support and expressing willingness to assist in replicating similar initiatives in Arunachal Pradesh.



04 Hands-on Training for CSK HPKV Final-Year Agriculture Students

CAPACITY BUILDING • 31 May - 15 June 2025 | STD Agro-Processing Facility, Nagwain

STD, Nagwain, hosted final-year students from the College of Agriculture, CSK Himachal Pradesh Krishi Vishwavidyalaya, Palampur, under their Agro-Industry Attachment Programme. During the fifteen-day training, students gained practical exposure at STD's Farmer Agro-Processing Unit, developing insights into agro-based value-addition technologies, rural enterprise development, renewable energy applications in agro-processing, and the operation of farmer-centric processing units.



05 Consultative Workshop on Anticipatory Climate Action

CLIMATE RESILIENCE • ICIMOD - CEEW - SDMA | 4-5 July 2025 | Shimla

STD took part in a consultative workshop on fostering anticipatory action to climate and socio-economic risk at the sub-national scale in the Hindu Kush Himalayan region, organised jointly by ICIMOD, CEEW and the State Disaster Management Authority.



06 All India People's Science Network — Executive Committee Meeting

NETWORK & ADVOCACY • 13-14 July 2025 | HKS Bhawan, New Delhi

STD participated in the 2nd Executive Committee meeting of the All India People's Science Network, where deliberations focused on future campaigns on education, health, environment, social justice, gender and scientific temper, along with the associated plan of action.



07 Workshop on Scientific Awareness in the Context of Environmental Challenges

SCIENCE & SOCIETY • STD & Himachal Gyan Vigyan Samiti | 20 August 2025 | GGS Senior Secondary School, Mandi

A joint workshop and seminar on the theme “Scientific Awareness in the Context of Environmental Challenges” was organised at Guru Gobind Singh Senior Secondary School, Mandi, by STD and Himachal Gyan Vigyan Samiti, drawing active participation from students, parents and teachers.

Dr Vijay Vishal, President, STD, spoke on the life and contributions of Dr Narendra Dabholkar, highlighting his lifelong struggle against religious malpractice, hypocrisy and superstition, and his efforts to promote rational thinking and scientific temper in society.



08 Workshop on the Impact of Climate Change on Health and Agriculture

CLIMATE RESILIENCE • 30-31 August 2025 | Swaraj Sadan Auditorium

A two-day meeting-cum-workshop on the impact of climate change on health and agriculture was jointly organised by the Department of Economics, Maharshi Dayanand University, and the Haryana Gyan Vigyan Samiti, with participation from leading activists of the All India People's Science Network (AIPSN), the Northern Zone of Bharat Gyan Vigyan Samiti, and STD Himachal Pradesh. The workshop facilitated in-depth discussions on climate-induced health risks, agricultural vulnerability, and the need for people-centric scientific interventions.



09 Humanitarian Assistance to Disaster-Affected Families

DISASTER RELIEF • 13-23 September 2025 | Ten blocks of Mandi District

Under a humanitarian relief programme, essential materials were distributed to 1,425 disaster-affected families across the Siraj, Karsog, Churag, Nihri, Gohar, Balichowki, Sadar, Joginder Nagar, Gopalpur and Dharampur blocks of Mandi district, addressing shelter and basic needs following extreme rainfall events. Relief materials included tarpaulins, family health and hygiene kits, and clean drinking water kits.

The programme was implemented with the cooperation of Emicare India, Mumbai, in coordination with STD and the Himachal Gyan Vigyan Samiti team. Dr Kishore Khosla, Vice Chairman, and the Secretary of the organisation were present during the distribution. Inaugurating the programme, Mr Abhijeet Chatterjee, Coordinator, Emicare India, highlighted the widespread hardship caused by excessive rainfall across Himachal Pradesh and reaffirmed his organisation's commitment to humanitarian support.



10 Foundation Day Celebration — Farmer Producer Organisation (FPO), Dharampur

AGRICULTURE & LIVELIHOOD • 27 September 2025 | Coinciding with the International Co-operative Year 2025

FPO Dharampur celebrated its foundation day, coinciding with the International Co-operative Year 2025. With a membership of nearly 3,000 shareholders, FPO Dharampur has been instrumental in organising farmers to collectively address common challenges, pool resources, and leverage collective strength to improve access to emerging market opportunities. STD participated in the foundation day function.



11 CAT Consortium — Agro-Ecology Transformation Programme (Pangi Landscape)

PROGRAMME DEVELOPMENT • Governing Council Deliberations

Governing Council members Mr Vijay Vishal, Dr Kishore and Mr Joginder participated in the initial official meeting of the CAT Consortium, deliberating on consultant selection, anchor-organisation processes, short-listing criteria and confirmation of landscape allocations. STD was invited to submit a proposal for developing an agroecological, landscape-level investment and implementation plan for the Pangi area.

Following an eligibility-related query raised by the CAT Accounts Branch, the proposal was routed through Future Integrated Resilience through Innovation LLP (FIRI), which was subsequently awarded to the consultant organisation. CAT has expressed its intention to engage STD/SFD as an Implementation Organisation in future programme phases.

12 Brainstorming Workshop and Field Visit

NETWORK & ADVOCACY • AIPSN, MP BGVS, Eklavya & MPVS | 25-27 October 2025 | Bhopal

STD representatives took part in the AIPSN Brainstorming Workshop hosted by MP BGVS, Eklavya and MPVS, which included a field visit to NABARD-supported Tribal Development Programmes in Horticulture implemented by MPVS in Block Ghodadongri, District Betul, Madhya Pradesh. The visit — attended by Dr Kishore, Mr Joginder Walia and Dr Subash, Secretary, MPVS, along with MPVS staff — provided valuable exposure to community-based horticulture and tribal livelihood models.



13 Drug-Free Awareness Campaign through Street Plays

YOUTH & SOCIAL AWARENESS • Mandi Saksharta Evam Jan Vikas Samiti & Himachal Gyan Vigyan Samiti | November 2025 | Across Mandi District

A series of street plays (Nukkad Nataks) were organised across all blocks of Mandi district under the Drug-Free Awareness Campaign. The “Yuva Bachao” Kala Jatha team, in collaboration with STD, delivered impactful performances at educational institutions and community locations, including Lohara (Balh Block) and Government Senior Secondary School, Kaned, Dhanotu, highlighting the harmful effects of substance abuse and encouraging collective action against the growing drug menace.



14 Inception Workshop — Wool Processing and Development Project, Uttarkashi

WOOL & LIVELIHOOD (UNDP) • UNDP Biodiversity Finance Initiative | 11 February 2026 | Dehradun

An inception workshop on the Wool Processing and Development Programme was held at the Uttarakhand State Biodiversity Board, Dehradun, under the UNDP Biodiversity Finance Initiative. The project “Support for Wool Processing and Development in Uttarkashi District, Uttarakhand”, jointly submitted by STD and the Association for Social & Environmental Sustainability (ASES), Uttarakhand, has been sanctioned by UNDP India for a duration of twelve months. The initiative aims to establish a roadmap for transforming traditional wool processing into a resilient, biodiversity-friendly and income-generating enterprise.



15 Workshop on Smart Management and the GeM Portal

CAPACITY BUILDING • MSME (RAMP), DIC Mandi | 17 February 2026

STD attended a workshop on smart management and the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) portal, organised under MSME (RAMP) by the General Manager, District Industries Centre, Mandi, with support from the Ministry of MSME, Government of India, and the Department of Industries, Government of Himachal Pradesh.



16 Workshop on Ham Radio and Community Radio

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION • State Disaster Management Authority | 25 February 2026 | HIPA, Shimla

A one-day workshop organised by the State Disaster Management Authority at HIPA, Shimla, examined information broadcasting through Ham Radio and Community Radio as alternative channels of communication during emergencies. Mr Chetan Kumar represented STD at the workshop — an initiative expected to prove valuable during future emergency response efforts.



17 Exposure Visit cum Training on Wool Processing and Development

WOOL & LIVELIHOOD (UNDP) • UNDP-funded Project | 14-18 March 2026 | STD Field Station, Nagwain

Under the UNDP-funded Wool Processing and Development Project, a five-day exposure visit was organised at the STD Field Station, Nagwain, for women artisans from Uttarkashi, Uttarakhand, aimed at enhancing their knowledge of wool processing, natural dyeing, handloom-based product development and traditional textile enterprises.

The visit included stops at the Bhuttico Production Centre and Gulab Shawl Industry, where participants observed the complete wool value chain — from fibre processing and weaving to branding, packaging and marketing — gaining insight into artisan-led production systems, pricing and sustainable business models. Participants highlighted the need for advanced design training, improved spinning and yarn-processing equipment, and stronger marketing support for wool-based enterprises in Uttarkashi.

Special appreciation is due to all resource persons, host organisations, and Field Coordinator Mr Sandeep for ensuring the successful execution of the programme.



18 Field Visit Report with the UNDP Team

WOOL & LIVELIHOOD (UNDP) • 4-8 June 2026 | Uttarkashi District

A three-day field visit was conducted with the UNDP team to assess the current status of wool processing, handloom activities and community institutions, and to explore the potential for strengthening eco-tourism and wool-based livelihoods in Uttarkashi district. The visit included interactions with government officials, self-help groups, cooperative members, wool producers and village communities to understand existing challenges and identify opportunities for sustainable development.



19 Entrepreneurship Development Programme (EDP)

ENTREPRENEURSHIP • DIC Mandi & NITCON Limited | 10-12 April 2026 | Mandi

A three-day Entrepreneurship Development Programme was organised under the RAMP Project by DIC Mandi and NITCON Limited, bringing together around thirty participants including FPO members, entrepreneurs and SHG members. The training covered business planning, financial management, marketing strategies, government schemes, DPR preparation, and the use of AI for branding and marketing, with participants presenting their business ideas for expert evaluation.



20 Health Workshop and Healthcare System Exposure Visit

HEALTH & WELL-BEING • Jindal Global University | 1-4 June 2026 | STD Field Station, Nagwain

A workshop on health issues was organised by Jindal Global University at the STD Field Station, Nagwain, examining community health concerns, access to healthcare services, public health challenges, and strategies for strengthening healthcare systems. As part of the workshop, a visit to the Civil Hospital, Nagwain, enabled detailed discussion with health staff on the challenges facing the regional healthcare system, the difficulties communities face in accessing services, and the operational and resource constraints of the Himachal Pradesh Health Department — offering valuable insight into ground realities and potential areas for strengthening community health services.



21 Workshop on Drug De-Addiction and Substance Abuse Prevention

HEALTH & WELL-BEING • Rehabilitation Centre, Chandigarh | 17-20 June 2026 | STD Field Station, Nagwain

A workshop on drug de-addiction and substance abuse prevention was organised by the Rehabilitation Centre, Chandigarh, at the STD Field Station, Nagwain. Participants engaged in discussions on the causes and impacts of addiction, community awareness strategies, rehabilitation approaches, and the role of families and institutions in supporting recovery, providing a valuable platform for sharing experience and exploring measures to promote a healthier, drug-free society.

22 KSSP Activist Exchange Programme

NETWORK & ADVOCACY • 21-25 June 2026 | STD Field Station, Nagwain

The KSSP Activist Exchange Programme provided a platform for discussions on Panchayati Raj Institutions, education, healthcare, self-help groups, and handloom-based natural products. Participants exchanged experience and explored community-led approaches for sustainable development and social empowerment.



23 HIFLO-App / HiFlo-DAT Research Collaboration

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION • 9 July 2026 | With visiting scientists from the United Kingdom

An interactive meeting was held with scientists from the United Kingdom, led by Dr Richardson, on the Apada Sahayak app — an academic-civil-society disaster risk reduction initiative currently focused on Kullu district, Himachal Pradesh, developed under the HIFLO-App / HiFlo-DAT research collaboration.



24 21st State Conference — Himachal Gyan Vigyan Samiti

NETWORK & ADVOCACY • 10-12 July 2026 | Solan | 215 delegates from all 12 districts of Himachal Pradesh

The 21st State Conference of the Himachal Gyan Vigyan Samiti brought together 215 delegates from all twelve districts of Himachal Pradesh. The conference resolved to strengthen the Yuva Bachao Campaign against drug abuse, establish Citizen Education Centres, advance the Future of India Campaign, and work over the next three years on education, health, climate change, gender equality and the promotion of scientific temper. Joginder, Ramesh and Chetan represented STD at the conference, contributing to the exchange of ideas and experience with delegates from across the state.



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25 AIPSN National Executive Committee Meeting

NETWORK & ADVOCACY • 18-19 July 2026 | New Delhi

At the AIPSN National Executive Committee meeting, plans were discussed for a year-long “Future of India” campaign encompassing cultural performances (Jatha), people's reports, exhibitions, dialogue booklets, festivals and social media outreach (“Mere Ghar Aa ke Dekho”), through which issues of scientific temper, climate change, education, health, gender, social justice and livelihood will be carried among the people.



26 Eco-Printing and Product Development Training

WOOL & LIVELIHOOD (UNDP) • 20-26 July 2026

An Eco-Printing and Product Development Training was conducted to equip participants with practical skills in natural dyeing, eco-printing techniques, and the development of value-added woollen products using locally available natural resources.



27. Internship Programme from UPES Dehradun:

A student from University of Petroleum and Energy Studies, Bidholi, Dehradun, Mr Tarun Chauhan, B.Tech Computer Science, completed his two-month internship in our organization from 1st June to 31st July. During this period, he was actively involved in various organizational activities, with a key highlight being my participation in the Keralam Exchange Program, where he contributed to coordinating and supporting the program's on-ground activities. Alongside this, he was also responsible for managing day-to-day office work, including handling documentation, correspondence, and administrative tasks that helped ensure smooth functioning of the office.



Acknowledgements

STD gratefully acknowledges the cooperation and support extended by its institutional partners and collaborators through the year, including the District Disaster Management Authority (Mandi) and the State Disaster Management Authority; Arunachal Pradesh State Rural Livelihoods Mission (ArSRLM); the GB Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment; CSK Himachal Pradesh Krishi Vishwavidyalaya, Palampur; ICIMOD, CEEW and SDMA; the All India People's Science Network (AIPSN) and Himachal Gyan Vigyan Samiti; Emicare India; the CAT Consortium; MP BGVS, Eklavya and MPVS; UNDP India and the Association for Social & Environmental Sustainability (ASES), Uttarakhand; DIC Mandi and NITCON Limited; Jindal Global University, KSSP, Kannur, Rehabilitation Centre, Chandigarh; AIPSN/BGVS and the University of Petroleum and Energy Studies, Dehradun. Their continued partnership has been central to the initiatives detailed in this report.

Way Forward

Building on the year's engagements, STD looks forward to deepening its work on wool-based livelihoods in Uttarkashi under the UNDP-supported project, strengthening disaster preparedness and anticipatory action across Himachal Pradesh, and expanding its role as a potential Implementation Organisation with the CAT Consortium in the Pangti landscape, while continuing its long-standing contribution to the Gyan Vigyan movement's campaigns on education, health, climate change, gender equality and scientific temper.