

# **Letter of Understanding**

(2014 - 2017)

between the

**State Project Management Unit (SPMU),**  
Department of Rural Development,  
Government of Uttarakhand

and the

**Himmotthan Society,**  
Dehradun, Uttarakhand

Signed on  
**4<sup>th</sup> of March, 2014**

At  
**Dehradun, Uttarakhand**



उत्तराखण्ड UTTARAKHAND

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This Letter of Understanding is made at Dehradun, this 4<sup>th</sup> day of March 2014, between the State Project Management Unit, Department of Rural Development, Government of Uttarakhand, hereinafter referred to as the "SPMU", and the Himmotthan Society, hereinafter referred to as "Himmotthan", for an initial period of three years.

**Background:** Himmotthan has been backed and supported by the Tata Trusts (mainly the Sir Ratan Tata Trust or SRTT) in its pro-poor programmes in the central Himalayan region including Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh, since its establishment in 2007. An MoU between the SRTT and the State of Uttarakhand was jointly signed on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of May 2004, valid for a period of ten years, while the State Government is agreed in principle to extend the period of MoU for another ten year period, toward working collaboratively in the field of rural development in the State, with activities to be implemented through Himmotthan. Currently, Himmotthan is working in over 500 villages of 56 blocks of 9 districts of Uttarakhand State. It is implementing on the ground through 25 Partner Organizations (not for profit, non – government as well as governmental organizations) and its own field teams. Through its activities Himmotthan supports efforts for the development of society in several fields including Agriculture, Livestock, Water, Sanitation, Education, Forest Resources, Micro-Finance and Community Development. Himmotthan also raises funds within India and from overseas towards activities in the rural regions of the State.

The State Project Management Unit (SPMU), a registered society under the aegis of Department of Rural Development Government of Uttarakhand, was

established as an autonomous and independent society in the year 2002. The society was created to serve as a special purpose vehicle for monitoring evaluation, coordination, convergence and smooth implementation of centrally and state sponsored poverty reduction schemes and programmes at State level.

The business of the society is run by its General Body (GB) and Executive Committee (EC). Hon'ble Chief Minister is chairperson of GB while the EC is headed by the Additional Chief Secretary & FRDC Govt. of Uttarakhand. The EC of the society is empowered to approve the systems and policies of the society. The GB and EC members comprise of senior level officers of the Government of Uttarakhand, representatives of banks and other institutions.

The State Mission Management Unit (SMMU) of USRLM is established within the society, which is headed by State Mission Director/Secretary Rural Development and a full-time Chief Executive Officer (CEO). The CEO is being supported by a full-time Additional CEO and a team of senior level professionals and thematic experts.

The State Project Management Unit (SPMU), has been designated by the State Government to anchor and implement the National Rural Livelihood Mission in Uttarakhand. Hence the **SPMU** is currently implementing the **Uttarakhand State Rural Livelihood Mission** in the State. The USRLM, following from the National Rural Livelihood Mission, aims to reach out to all rural poor families, linking them to sustainable livelihoods opportunities. The programme will nurture them till they come out of poverty and can enjoy a decent quality of life. To achieve this, the programme will put in place dedicated and sensitive support structures at various levels. These structures will work towards organizing the poor, building their capacities and the capacities of their organizations, enabling them access to finance and other livelihoods resources. The SRLM will target the poor and poorest of poor households, and take them out of poverty by building capacities, financial muscle and access, and self-managed self-reliant institutions; through placement in jobs, and nurturing them into remunerative self-employment and enterprises. The institutions of the poor gradually take charge of supporting their members being in control of their livelihoods, lives and destiny.

The core belief of the National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) is that the poor have innate capabilities and a strong desire to come out of poverty. They are entrepreneurial, an essential coping mechanism to survive under conditions of poverty. The challenge is to unleash their capabilities to generate meaningful livelihoods and enable them to come out of poverty. The first step in this process is motivating them to form their own institutions. They and their institutions are provided sufficient capacities to manage the external environment, enabled to access finance, and to expand their skills and assets and convert them into meaningful livelihoods. This requires continuous handholding support. An external dedicated, sensitive support structure, from



the national level to the sub-district level, is required to induce such social mobilisation, institution building and livelihoods promotion.

**Purpose:**

The SPMU and Himmotthan jointly agree to work towards implementing the Uttarakahnd SRLM and making it a success. In this joint venture -

1. Himmotthan will provide the SPMU with technical support and expertise towards the implementation of the UK-SRLM. In this regard, Himmotthan will initially provide the SPMU with two Experts – (i) Human Resources Expert (ii) Institution Building and Community Building Expert, for an initial period of 6 months. This technical assistance may be extended and expanded depending upon the progress of the scheme. These Experts will strategize and assist the SPMU to develop and implement the long term programme of the SRLM.
2. Himmotthan currently has 32 Community based Federations, with over 800 woman's self-help groups across 56 blocks in 9 districts of Uttarakhand. Himmotthan will link selected SHGs, as far as feasible, to the SRLM schemes, especially for accessing working capital for livelihood promotion activities.
3. Himmotthan will submit a list of potential CRPs (Community Resource Persons) to the SPMU for training across the State.
4. Himmotthan will collaborate with the SPMU to take up a Block level programme in Karnprayag Block of Chamoli district, in the first phase and Dharchula of District Pithoragarh, in the second phase for field implementation of the SRLM.

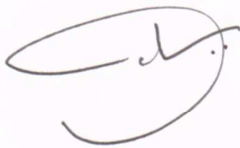
**Period:**

3 years, starting from the date of signing of this document.

**Procedure:**

For the implementation of this joint mandate of the SPMU and Himmotthan, both parties will work together through the following process, which will evolve and develop with time:

1. The SPMU will have representation on the State Level Steering Committee of the Himmothana Pariyojana which is implemented by Himmotthan in Uttarakhand, at which it will present the progress of the programme.
2. Himmotthan will have representation on the Executive Committee of the SRLM as a special invitee.
3. SPMU will document and maintain the attendance and performance of the Experts from Himmotthan who are placed at the SPMU. The monthly attendance will be submitted by the SPMU to Himmotthan, on the basis of which the Experts monthly emoluments will be released. A bimonthly (once in two months) performance report of the Consultants will also be submitted to Himmotthan, which will also be linked to the release of future emoluments.



4. Joint meetings of the SPMU and Himmotthan will be held on a quarterly basis for the review of programme activities.
5. Joint progress reviews of the Himmotthan community institutions which are linked to the SRLM will be carried out following a pre-decided annual schedule.
6. Himmothan will support administrative costs (staff and related costs only) for implementation of NRLM in the two selected blocks of Uttarakhand, wherein the USRLM will support community based interventions through NRLM which will include- IBCB for CBOs/ CSOs, RF and CIF support, interest subvention, Infrastructure and Marketing Fund support, skill development and placement projects.
7. The SPMU will carry out annual reviews of the activities in Karnaprayag block of District Chamoli and Dharchula block of District Pithoragarh, where Himmotthan will be managing the field implementation.

In summary of the purpose of this LOU, it is the desire of both Parties to take this opportunity to jointly work on rural development issues of Uttarakhand, specifically through the USRLM programme, and to seek opportunities for future collaboration.



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