

“Vigyan Gram”

1. Introduction:

The State Council for Science, Technology & Environment, Shimla is playing a vital role in coordinating and catalyzing the use of Science and Technology for the development of the State. It has developed facilities and expertise to provide vital inputs for implementation of the programs at community and micro watershed levels. The State Council is harnessing the potential of space technology, popularization of science, dissemination of appropriate technology, environment protection and preservation and conservation of biodiversity and disaster management in the State.

The State Council realizes the importance of promising technologies and therefore, strongly perceives the need for large scale demonstration and establishment of Technology Resource Centres in rural and marginal areas of the State. These Centres known as “Vigyan Gram” could address these challenges comprehensively. The “Vigyan Gram” concept aims to involve the Himachal Pradesh Council for Science Technology & Environment (HIMCOSTE) more directly in the development of model villages. By adopting villages under this initiative, the HIMCOSTE would have the opportunity to directly benefit all sections of a village community in an integrated, efficient and participatory fashion. The idea behind the “Vigyan Grams” is to establish a place, which could act as a centre for technology transfer and be a bridge between Laboratories in the State and the houses in the villages. These “Vigyan Grams” could provide options for improving the yield of potential farm produce, income generation from off-farm activities as well as conservation and efficient management of existing natural resources through implementation of appropriate technologies for sustainable rural development in the State.

2. Objectives:

A model “Vigyan Gram” project would have the following important objectives:

- 1) Demonstrations of improved/ alternative and already available hill specific technologies in the “Vigyan Grams” at selected field sites.
 - 2) Development of a frame work and participatory research approaches for self sufficiency within in the system on short and long term basis.
 - 3) Capacity building through training/ live demonstrations/ field exercise of target groups on a regular basis.
 - 4) Guidance and support for field implementation of technology and subsequent monitoring, evaluation, follow-up and adoption.
 - 5) Make the model village a “hub” that could attract resources for the development of other villages in its vicinity.
 - 6) Contribute towards socio-economic empowerment by engaging all sections of the community towards a comprehensive village development.
 - 7) Create and sustain a culture of cooperative living for inclusive and rapid development.
- The overall goal of these “Vigyan Grams” would be to train and build capacities of local farmers and other user groups and to make them adopt some of the promising,

low cost, hill specific rural technologies. This is being done with the hope that improved capacities of local farmers would help widespread adoption of rural technologies and thus expand the limited existing livelihood generation opportunities in remote and far flung isolated areas of the State.

3. Methodology:

As per the latest Census (2011), there are more than 20,690 villages in Himachal Pradesh, and more than 3243 Gram Panchayats (GPs). In the first phase, one village each shall be selected in **Chamba, Kullu, Mandi, Shimla and Sirmour districts.**

For the implementation of Vigyan Gram scheme of the Himachal Pradesh Council for Science, Technology & Environment, the Rural Development Department was asked to provide a list of two poorest panchayats in each of the five districts selected for the implementation of this program, viz., Chamba, Kullu, Mandi, Shimla and Sirmour.

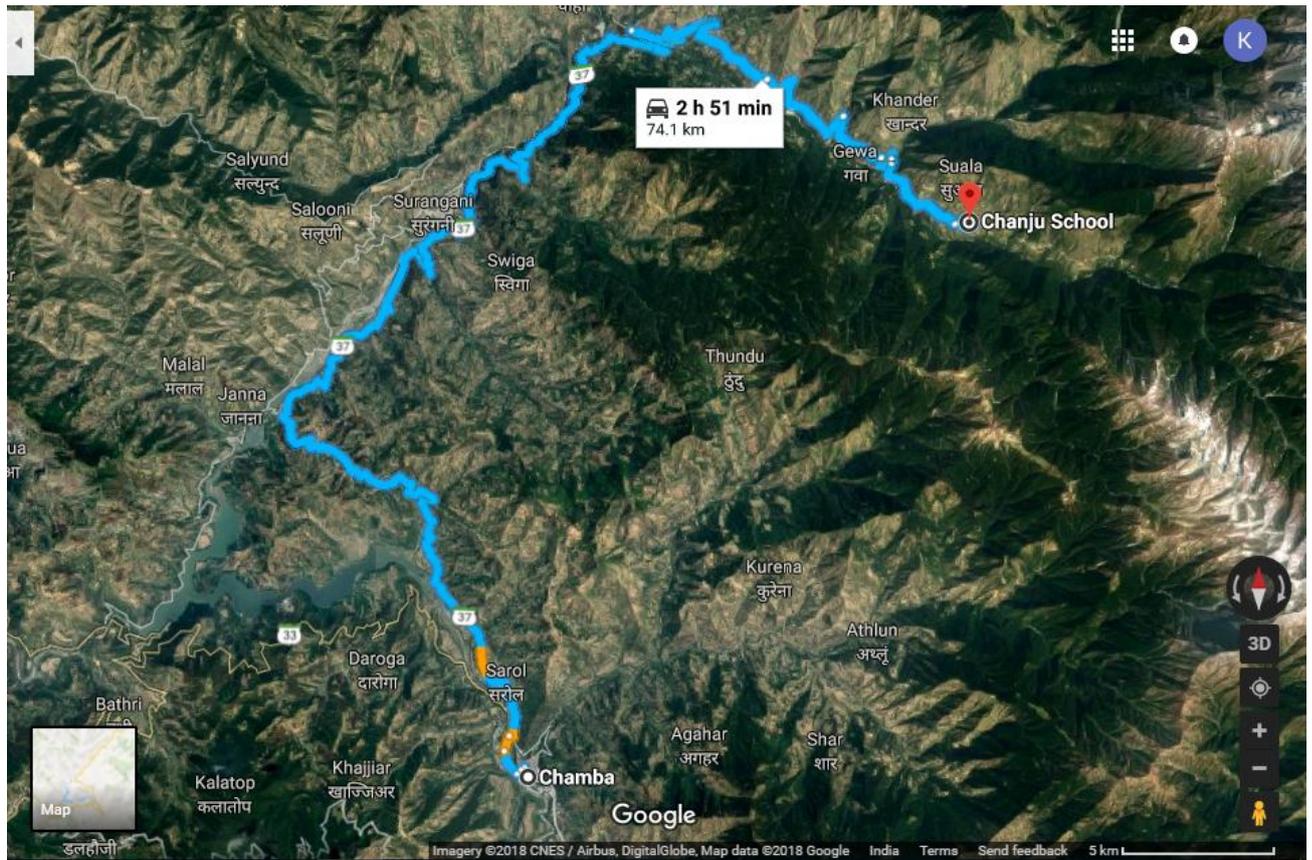
The information has been received from the DRDA offices about poorest panchayats in these five districts, and is tabulated as under:

Sr. No.	Name of the District	Name of the Panchayat	Name of the Block
1.	Chamba	Chanju	Tissa
		Khajuwa	Tissa
2.	Kullu	Mohani	Banjar
		Hallan-I	Naggar
3.	Mandi	Kadhar	Drang
		Ghat	Seraj
4.	Shimla	Piplidhar (Bainsh)	Basantpur
		Tangnu Janglik	Chhohara
5.	Sirmaur	Taali Bhujjal	Rajgarh
		Matal Bakhog	Rajgarh

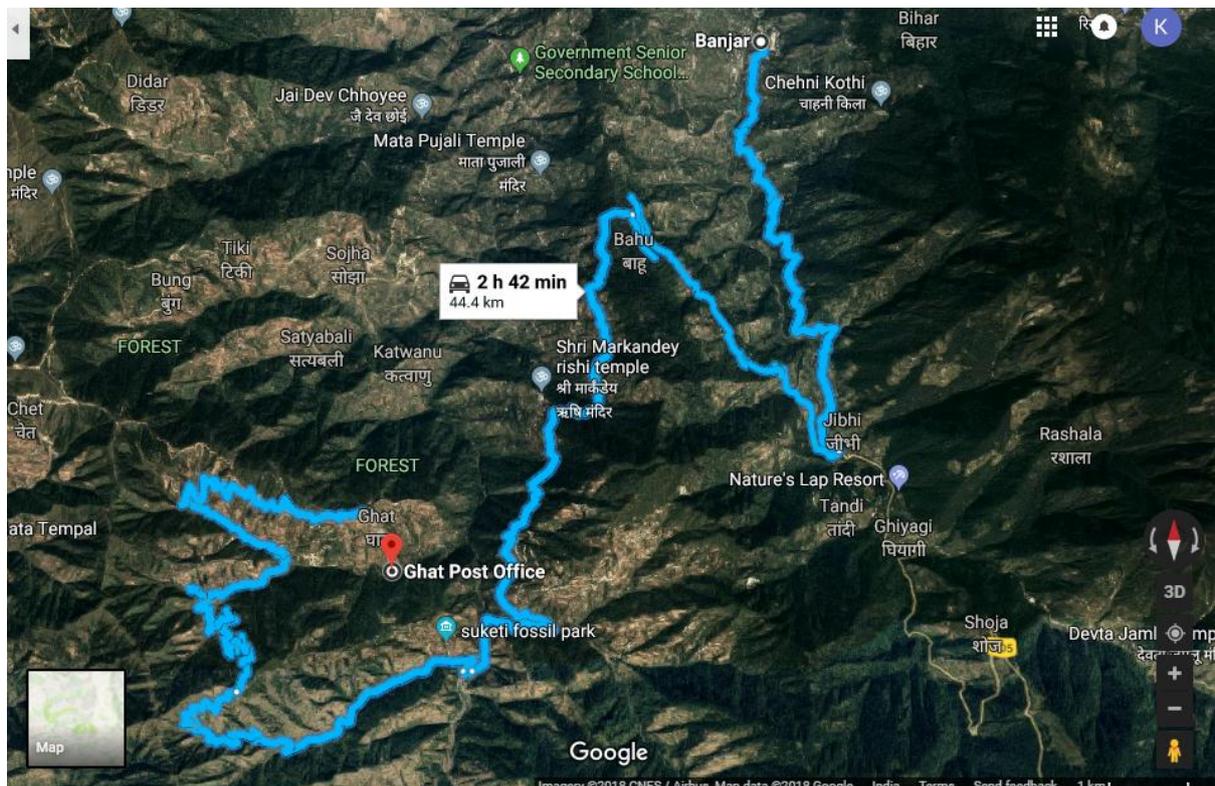
On the basis of no. of BPL population, altitude and road accessibility of area following five panchayats have been selected for demonstration of various scientific technologies:

Sr. No.	Name of the District	Name of the Panchayat	Name of the Block
1.	Chamba	Chanju	Tissa
2.	Kullu	Mohani	Banjar
3.	Mandi	Ghat	Seraj
4.	Shimla	Piplidhar (Bainsh)	Basantpur
5.	Sirmaur	Matal Bakhog	Rajgarh

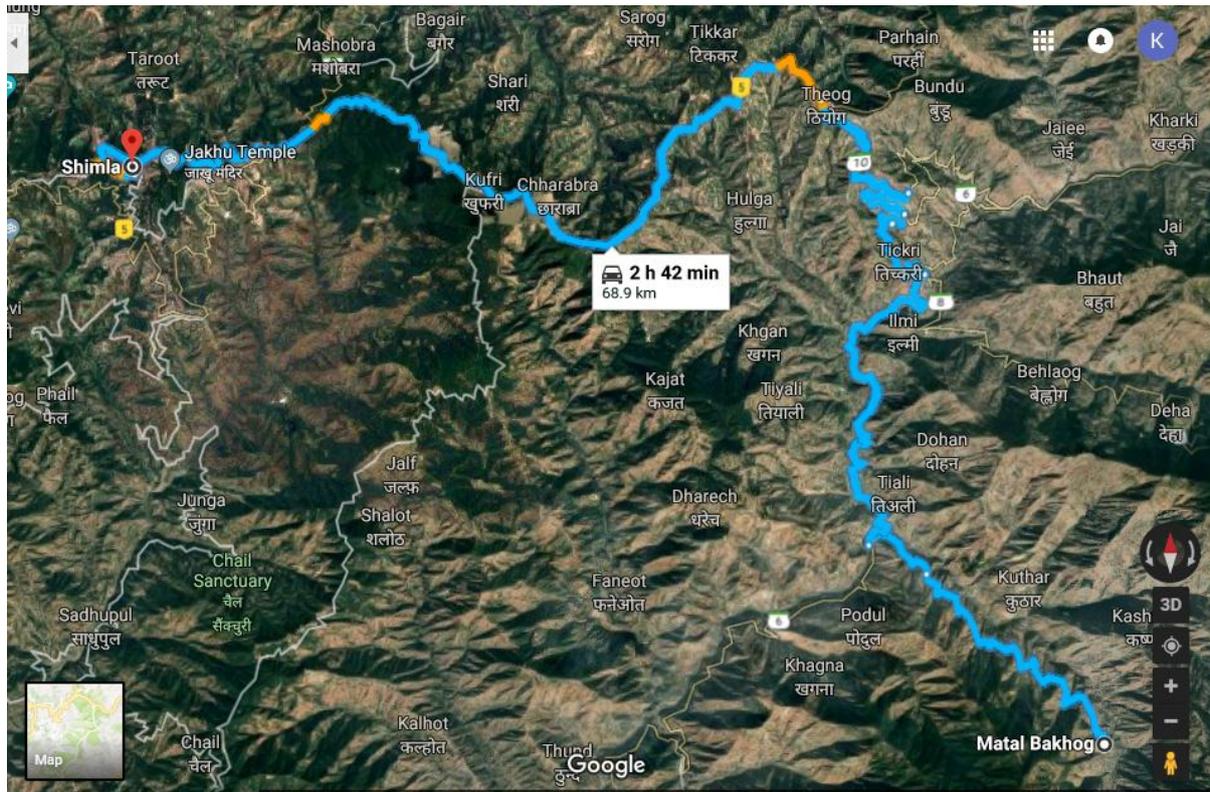
Chanju School, Tissa, Chamba



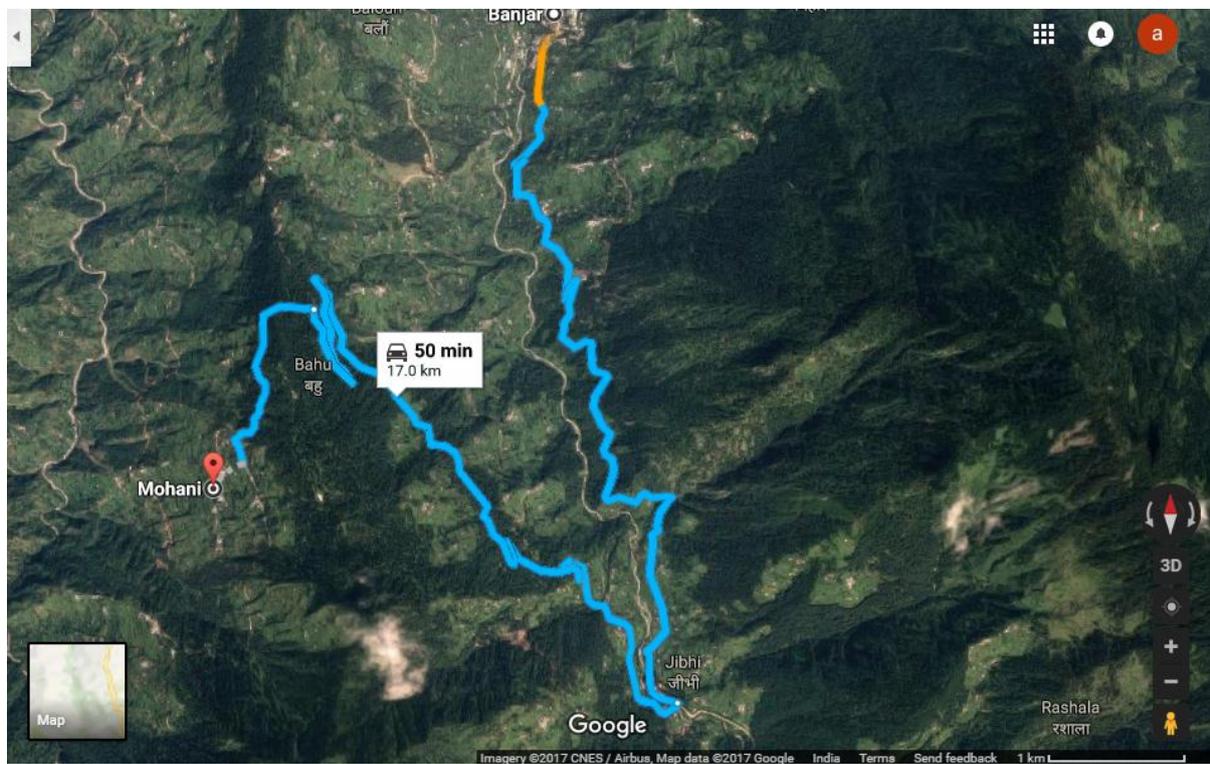
Ghat Post Office, Seraj, Mandi



Matal Bakhog, Rajgarh, Sirmour



Mohani, Banjar, Kullu



Piplidhar, Basantpur, Shimla

