**Abstract**

The Indian Himalayan Region (IHR) like other ecological regions of the world is facing significant challenges whiledealing with the adverse impacts of climate change.The Indian Himalayan Region is impacted by climate change in terms of its socio-economic, biological and geophysicalsystemsthat includeagriculture, hydro-geological resources, forests, biodiversity, food, energy, health, tourism and livelihood. The vulnerability and risk associated to these sectors and communities varyacross the region depending upon the degree of susceptibility and ability to cope with the adverse impacts. In order to address adaptation needs and to reduce the vulnerability of the communities living in potentially affected regions, the National Mission on Sustaining Himalayan Ecosystem (NMSHE) being implemented by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) is targeting an integrated vulnerability and risk assessment covering the Indian Himalayan Region (IHR). The assessment will serve as an important basis for prioritizing, planning and implementing adaptation measures at district or sub-district level.

DST has established State Climate Change Cells (SCCCs) in 11 out of 12 States of the Indian Himalayan Region for implementingNMSHE related State CC Action Plans. One of the major objectives of these SCCCsis toassessvulnerability and risk at sub-district level and develop a seamless pan Himalayan vulnerability maps.

The paper presents DST’s efforts to develop a framework of vulnerability assessment for the IHRand initiatives to build capacity and create public awarness at the State level.