

Innovations awarded under State Innovation Award Scheme for 2016-17

- 1. A stem cutting propagation technology in capsicum, tomato and cucumber:** The Department of Vegetable Science and Floriculture, CSK HPKV-Palampur has developed a stem cutting propagation technology in capsicum, tomato and cucumber which can be easily adopted by the farmers for multiplication of promising planting material to reduce the cost of farmers/ growers in purchasing costly hybrid seed & to popularize stem cutting propagation technique in HP. With escalating prices of hybrid seeds for protected cultivation, this new technology can be the best alternate to the growers. Plants raised from cuttings produce early flowers reducing transformation period from vegetative to reproductive phase & hence produce early crop. From a single plant, number of rooted cuttings can be produced hence reducing cost for the farmers. Cost of cultivation will also be reduced, thereby increasing the profit margins.
- 2. Mission for on-time text book delivery project of Elementary Education Department:** Tech-enabled real time review & monitoring via online tracker, whatsapp groups & IVRS calls to track textbook distribution to school level is being done under this activity. The challenges of massive logistical operation of providing free textbooks to students often lead to delays. This comprehensive drive was to ensure on-time delivery of textbooks to all schools at the beginning of the academic session 2017-18. The initiative helped tackle major logistical challenges, geographic conditions as several regions remain cut-off due to heavy snow-fall & following of two separate academic sessions (winter & summer-closing). The joint venture of Department of Education & HPBOSE systematized the supply chain process (timely availability at Book Distribution Depots, streamlining movements, mission mode communication & textbook tele-helpline etc.) of delivering textbooks to schools. Technology played a key role as a facilitator to achieve its aim through tech-enabled real time review & monitoring via online tracker, whatsapp groups & IVRS calls to track textbook distribution to school level. This initiative has seen great success. More than 16 lakh books have been distributed to 5300 winter closing schools in the state at the beginning of academic session commenced in February, 2016.

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3. **Domestic Solar Water Heating Panel for Mountains (Solar Hamam)** prepared by Himalayan Research Group(HRG), Core Group-DST: This Solar Hamam can be fabricated at Village level with raw materials easily available at village level using simple coils made of Aluminium alloy, thermocol and black paint mixed with special kind of wood charcoal. This is also compatible in sub zero conditions and for places located at a height of 2000 metres or above. This will help in reducing carbon emission consideration and is eco-friendly thereby saving environment. It can warm 18 liters of water upto 80°C to 85°C within 45 minutes of full sun and subsequently warm water can be taken out after an interval of 30 minutes. This equipment is simple to use and will be saving 3 hours of manpower daily of collection of woods from the forest. This will help in saving environment to a great extent. In this way carbon emission can be reduced and air pollution will be checked. Local rural artisans can be easily trained in fabrication and installation of mountain solar water heating panels.
4. **Har Hath Ko Kaam** campaign of Prisons & Correctional Services department, Himachal Pradesh: Under this campaign, number of welfare activities for the inmates were started by skilling and providing employment in fields like handloom, bakery, tailoring, vermin-composting, painting, beautician, welding, prison orchestra, pehal stores, book café at ridge etc. As a result of these efforts, 2837 prisoners were provided wages of Rs 80.00 lakh during 2016-17. The modern day emphasis in the prisons is more on reformation & rehabilitation than on incarceration providing them job opportunities inside and outside the prisons, changing the attitude of society towards prisoners & bringing them in main stream society. The prison administration is also working with several NGOs like Art of Living, Rotary Club of India, Brahamkumaris, Umang Foundation, etc. to engage civil society in the process of reformation & rehabilitation of these inmates. In the year 2016-17, 2837 prisoners were provided wages to the tune of Rs 80.00 lakh by creating greater work opportunities for them. Their mental and spiritual health is better and attempts of escapes from the prisons have been minimized and there is greater likelihood that on their release from prisoners they will return to main stream society as its useful members.