

## **Self-employment Opportunities Created by the Common Facility Centre**

Himalayan Action Research Centre (HARC) has taken the initiative to form a Common Facility Centre for creating opportunities for economic development and to increase technical capability of the farmers. The Common Facility Centre is not extending help to any one particular group or organization but is helping all the groups and organization that are active in the area. Technical knowledge imparted by the Centre to the various farmer organizations has helped the farmers to expand their business.

HARC through the Common Facility Centre is extending help to the fruit processing units, modern farming machines, information dissemination, business expansion along with technical help to all the Self Help Groups (SHGs) and Federations of Yamuna Valley in Uttarkashi district. The Common Facility Centre has helped the Farmer Federations to increase their business manifold. More than 4000 members from these federations have taken up the initiative to increase crop diversification, production, quality and income through business.

The Women Self Help Groups are being provided with products for processing. Due to this intervention, Rawai Mahila Bahuddesiya Swayat Sahkari Samiti Ltd., comprised of 213 members and 17 SHGs, has increased their business to Rs 10 lakh within two years. Small farmers are being helped in procuring farm machines like foot sprayer, machines for sowing seeds, grafting kit, grading machine, packaging machine, plastic crates etc. at a reasonable rate. More than 1000 farmers have benefited from this intervention. This has also helped to reduce the cost of production and marketing. More than 40-50 magazines and new information are available in these Centres.

Under the business expansion intervention, discussions are held regularly with different business organizations, financial institutions, agri-input companies to help the farmer organization streamline the business. Daily business information are made available through the website. This has helped the federations to market fruits and vegetables more than Rs 4 crores every year. Under technical intervention programme, technical training, exhibition and educational trips are being organized on a regular basis, which has helped them to increase the production and their business in a systematic manner.