The two day seminar on the theme “Rural Development: Present Scenario and Future Challenges” was inaugurated in the Conference Hall of Hotel Holiday Home, Shimla by the Hon’ble Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh Prof. P.K. Dhumal. The winner of Ramon Magsaysay Award, Dr. Rajender Singh, presided over the inaugural function. There were about 500 guests including the delegates and guests on this occasion. The winner of the Ramon Magsaysay Award, Dr. Rajender Singh, presided over the inaugural function. There were about 500 guests including the delegates and guests on this occasion. Prof. P.K. Dhumal highlighted various schemes initiated in the State like Doodh Ganga and Deen Dayal Upadhyay Kisan Bagwan Samridhi Yojna. He appreciated the efforts of YSD for holding such a seminar on an important issue that will go a long way in order to attain self-reliance in this hilly state. Dr. Rajender Singh, while delivering his presidential address, cautioned the youth of the state to have sustainable means and use of resources that are depleting very fast. He also presented a river policy to the Chief Minister of H.P. for the rivers in the state of Himachal Pradesh. He called upon the student to face the challenge and be an agent of change and said that while attaining development it is important to conserve the sustainable means and use of resources that are conserved for the future also. In the inaugural function many educationists and other prominent personalities were present. They include Prof. K.R. Dhiman, Vice Chancellor of Dr Y.S.Parmar UHF, Dr. S.K. Sharma, Vice Chancellor CSKHPKV, Dr. S.K. Sharma, Vice Chancellor CSKHPKV, Palampur, Dr. K.R. Dhiman, Chairman, HPSSSB, Hamirpur, Prof. P.K. Khosla, Vice Chancellor Shoolini University, Solan, Sh. Suresh Bhardwaj (MLA Shimla), Sh. Tejwant Negi (MLA Kinnaur) and Dr. Ram Lal Markanda (MLA Lahaul Spiti) were present. The seminar was formally inaugurated on 26th March 2011 at 12.00 noon by lighting a lamp and then Sarswati Vandana was performed by the students of HP University, Shimla. The technical sessions started at 3:00 P.M and two parallel sessions have been conducted simultaneously in the main hall and the Dragon Hall of the Hotel Holiday Home. Technical Session 1 on the theme Resource Management and Rural Technologies was held in the Conference Hall and had been chaired by Prof. K.R. Dhiman (V.C.UHF, Nauni Solan). He also delivered the Keynote on the theme, in which he highlighted the need of natural resource based farming system for the rural development. After the key speaker Dr. Ankur Sharma of CSK HPKV Palampur presented the paper on Haematological Profile of some livestock species. Dr. R.L. Sharma, Associate Professor of Govt. College Chaura Maindan, Shimla-4 presented the Status of CPR’s in rural economy. Dr. Jatinder Kishtwaria in her paper presented a glimpse of some women friendly tools that can help to reduce drudgery. The paper on Climate Resilient Practices in rural areas and use of Indigenous Technical Knowledge (ITK) was presented by Dr. Manmohan Singh, Director Weather Department of CPRI. Fifth speaker was Harpal Singh of UHF Nauni who presented his paper on Pushkarmool (Potential medicine and Aromatic Plant) Dr. D.R. Thakur was the last to speak in the session who talked on Rural Traditional Techniques in stored grain pest management. The session ended with a vote of thanks to the chair and a
memento has been presented to Prof Dhiman by the organisers.

The parallel session on the same theme was held in the Dragon Hall and it was chaired by Prof. S.K. Sharma Vice Chancellor of CSK HPKV, Palampur. He delivered his Key address which focuses on plant genetic resources for enhancing farm income. He said that Indian gene centres is one of the 12 mega centres of the world. In addition to the Key speakers 8 papers were presented in the session. The speakers include Dr. Y.S. Dhaliwal, Prof. of CSK HPKV Palampur, Dr. Arun Sharma, HPKV, Dr. Inder Dev IGFRI Regional Station Palampur, Dr. Dinesh Krofa CSK HPKV Plampur, Meena Thakur CPRI Shimla, Dr. Som Dev Sharma UHF Nauni, Solan & Dr. Jujhar Singh UHF Solan. The Chairman thanked speakers for their research initiatives.

The technical session on Resource Management and Rural Technologies continued in the next session as well, and the session was chaired by Prof. P.K. Khosla and Co-chaired by Sriniwas Joshi (Rtd.IAS). In his Key address Prof. Khosla talked regarding formulation of Bio-tech policies and the need of 2nd green revolution. He was of the view that processing should be established where the raw material is produced. The other speakers in the session were Dr. K.D. Sharma of UHF Solan, Dr. I.D. Sharma UHF Solan, Dr. Raj K Thakur UHF Solan, Dr. S.K. Bhardwaj UHF Solan, Sh. Shrikant Patwardhan, Director Santulan NGO (Thane Maharashtra), Dr. Amit Vikram of UHF Solan, R.S. Sapehia (Solan) and Naveen Kumar of CSK HPKV Palmpur. The technical session on the theme of Rural Administration was held in the Dragon Hall simultaneously and was chaired by Prof. J.K. Chauhanji, Chairman HPSSSB Hamipur. He delivered a key address in which he focussed on the emerging role
of women in Panchayati Raj System and emphasized the need to strengthen the grass-root level democracy. He mentioned of several committees like Balwant Rai Mehta, Ashok Mehta and National Prosperity plan for women etc. and highlighted the initiatives of these committees in order to strengthen the role of women. Apart from the Key speakers following delegates presented their research findings.

Anjali Dewan of St. Beds Shimla presented a paper on Rural Women and Environment Conservation. Mahila Vikas Avem Sashaktikaran Ki Sambhavnaen: Svayam Sahayta Samooh Ke Sanderbh Main was presented by Inder Singh Thakur of Govt College Sanjauli, Shimla-6 Dr. Jatinder Kishtwaria presented her second paper titled “Rural Women: An Eco Investment Destination in Himachal “ The 3rd Session (fifth in all) on Rural Development Schemes & Programmes was started in the main hall and was chaired by Dr. R.N. Batta IAS and Director Rural Development and it was Co-chaired by Shrikant Patwardhan Director Santulan an NGO based at Thane Maharashtra. The Key speaker Dr. R.N. Batta highlighted the different schemes of State govt. as well as Govt. of India like MNREGAs, PMGSY, and NRHM etc. He emphasized on the issue that how these schemes have been proving beneficial to the rural society of Himachal Pradesh. The other presenters in the session were Dr. D.K. Vatsa (Palmpur), Mr. Vijay Chaudhry Research Scholar, Dept. of Laws H.P.U. Dr. Tulsi Raman Sharma, Associate Professor G.C. Sanjauli, Dr. Joginder Saklani of PG College Solan, Dr. Y.C. Gupta, Professor Dr YS Parmar UHF Solan, Sh. Lalit Mohan (Education Dept. H.P.U) and Dr. Mridula Sharda Associate Professor G.C. Chaura Maidan, Shimla-4. In the end Chairman also made it a point to elaborate the initiatives being taken by the government. After this session the cultural evening has been held which was Tabla Vadan by Neeraj Shandil and Sitar Vadan by Gagan. This was a soothing experience after long academic deliberations of the day. The proceedings of the second day (27th March 2011) started at 10:00 with the technical session on Peoples Participation & Changing Role of Rural Societies. The session was chaired by Prof. S.P. Bhardwaj, Vice Chancellor Manav Bharti University Solan, and was Co-chaired by Prof. S.K. Chauhan Professor of Forestry at UHF Nauni Solan. The key speaker emphasised on the development of horticulture for rural upliftment and self reliance. Dr. Sanjeev K. Chauhan talked on sustainable and Eco-efficient Short Rotation Forestry: An answer to Climate Change. In addition to these four more papers were presented by Dr. K.S. Verma (UHF Solan), Sanjay, Vinod Kumar of MLSM College Sundernagar, Dr. Surender & Dr. Balan (CRRID), Dr Sanjay Sindhu and Miss Sujata of Law Dept, H.P.U.Shimla and representative of NGO based at Sidhbari H.P. The last technical session on Rural Tourism was chaired by Prof. Shashi Dhiman Vice Chancellor of Himachal Pradesh Technical University and the Key note address was given by Prof. S.P. Bansal, Director Vocational Studies and IIHS HPU Shimla. He emphasized that rural tourism has become most important element in rural development policies and it can address many of present day problem through strong community involvement. In addition to the key speakers four more papers have been presented on the theme by Mrs. Jayoti Sood Research Scholar HPU, who spoke on Rural Empowerment for poorest. The other speaker was Mr. Jaswinder Research Scholar Tourism studies, HPU who presented paper on Sustainable Rural Tourism for Community Development. Mr. Brajesh Sharma Research Scholar, Dept of Laws, HPU dealt with Women & Rural Development in his research presentation and the last to speak was Dr. Prashant Gautma, Asstt. Professor Punjab University Chandigarh, who talked on Rural Tourism- an Eco investment destination in Himachal Pradesh. [caption id="attachment_705" align="aligncenter" width="500" caption="Dr. R.N. Batta delivering Key Note adress in one of the technical sessions"]

[caption] After the last technical session
A valedictory function has been held in the main hall of Hotel Holiday Home. This was attended by the gathering of about 300 persons. Dr Rajeev Bindal ji Hon’ble Health Minister Govt of Himachal Pradesh was the Chief Guest of the closing ceremony and he appreciated the YSD for taking such a big initiative in its infancy stage and has touched all the areas for taking up the work through the NGO. Prof Rajnish Arora Vice Chancellor of Punjab Technical University gave the valedictory address and he said in his address that our traditions are our strengths and it is because of our check on our wants that the Nation has progressed but we have to use the resources in such a way that its use is prolonged for future generations. The development without the thought for future is dangerous and today the talk of development without destruction has attained the centre stage and this is the sustainable development and it can be achieved only if we have sustainable consumption pattern. Before the valedictory address a brief report of the two day seminar was presented by Dr Dev Dutt Sharma, Chairman Dept of Geography Himachal Pradesh University in which he highlighted that more than 70 research papers had been received by the academic committee and out of this 46 research papers were presented in 7 technical sessions. The function came to an end with the vote of thanks proposed by Dr Chandermohan Parsheera, Coordinator of the seminar. Dr Jai Dev Astt. Coordinator of the seminar conducted the proceedings of the closing ceremony. After vote of thanks all were asked to rise on their seats for National Anthem. This was followed by Lunch.

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