

#### **Point IV: Norms set by the Institute to discharge its functions**

All research and developmental activities of the Institute are essentially multi-disciplinary in nature, and based on a conscious effort to interlink natural and social sciences to promote sustainable development of the Indian Himalaya, preserving the fragile ecosystems, indigenous knowledge and customs, and in harmony with the perceptions of the local inhabitants. At the initial stage the activities of the Institute were classified into different core programmes rather than individual subject/discipline based units. During the XIth Plan the Institute reoriented its activities as Development Research Institute to initiate more stakeholder need based studies.

The Institute is poised to take a leading role in the development of Himalayan region in the XIIth Plan period. The institute would aim at increasing the internal integration and Institutional collaborations, and building its own competence. For the purpose of strengthening this process, entering into MoUs for collaborative research would be adopted. The Institute will focus on institutionalization (both process and partnership) of research projects by creating appropriate models (design) which emanates as knowledge product with well framed mechanism for partnership along with methods/steps for implementation and information dissemination. It would strengthen state/area specific manpower to facilitate proper interaction with state governments and local organizations. Since the GBPIHED is expected to address a variety of environmental and socio-economic issues of regional, national, and international importance, a major responsibility of the Institute is to serve as the science arm of the MoEF for IHR. The Institute proposes to undertake research and development activities in following six identified thematic areas divided into **three Functional Groups** for the plan activities.

- 1. Watershed Processes and Management (WPM)**
- 2. Biodiversity Conservation and Management (BCM)**
- 3. Environmental Assessment & Management (EAM)**
- 4. Socio-Economic Development (SED)**
- 5. Bio-Technological Applications (BTA) and**
- 6. Knowledge Products and Capacity Building (KCB)**