Dear Sir/Madam,

You would probably agree that many springs in our Himalayan region are drying up resulting in water shortages during summers. These springs not only are a major source of water for domestic use and livelihoods in the Himalayan Mountains but also moderate flood peaks and recharge mountain streams. Springs are the heritage of mountainous communities hence regenerating them is critical. Many of us are engaged in reviving them. While working in this region many of you may have observed the steep slopes consisting of highly fragmented and fractured rocks. These are not conducive to formation of large underground aquifers. Looking at such geological complexities, even the IWMP steering committee and the planning commission have mentioned in the **‘Common Guidelines for Watershed Development Projects’**that hydro geological studies have to be an important component of DPR.

PSI has assisted the Government of Sikkim to initiate springshed development in drought-prone villages. It has been working in Thanakasoga Panchayat since 2010 (with the financial support of Arghyam) to promote Participatory Groundwater Management (PGWM) practices which include hydro geological studies. These interventions have regenerated springs and have led to an improvement in the availability of water in the selected villages. The concept of PGWM can be successfully applied in different geological locations.

But a rapid extension of this approach is required to end the water woes of groundwater dependent rural populations in the Himalayan region. This is possible only through community-led actions for groundwater management. To achieve this goal, PSI is organizing its ***Ninth* *Training Workshop on Participatory Groundwater Management*** under Arghyam’s sponsorship from ***June 9-23, 2015*** in Dehra Doon. **The details are mentioned in the attached announcement document**.

**I request you to recommend participants for the proposed training programme and support this initiative of keeping the heritage of springs alive in the Himalayan region.**