



CENTER FOR FRUITFUL INDIA

Promoting the cultivation of fruit trees for healthy people and planet



CFI Research Grant Planning Workshop

16-18 June 2026
Jain Hills, Jalgaon

Sudhir Verma
16-06-2026

1. Project Snapshot



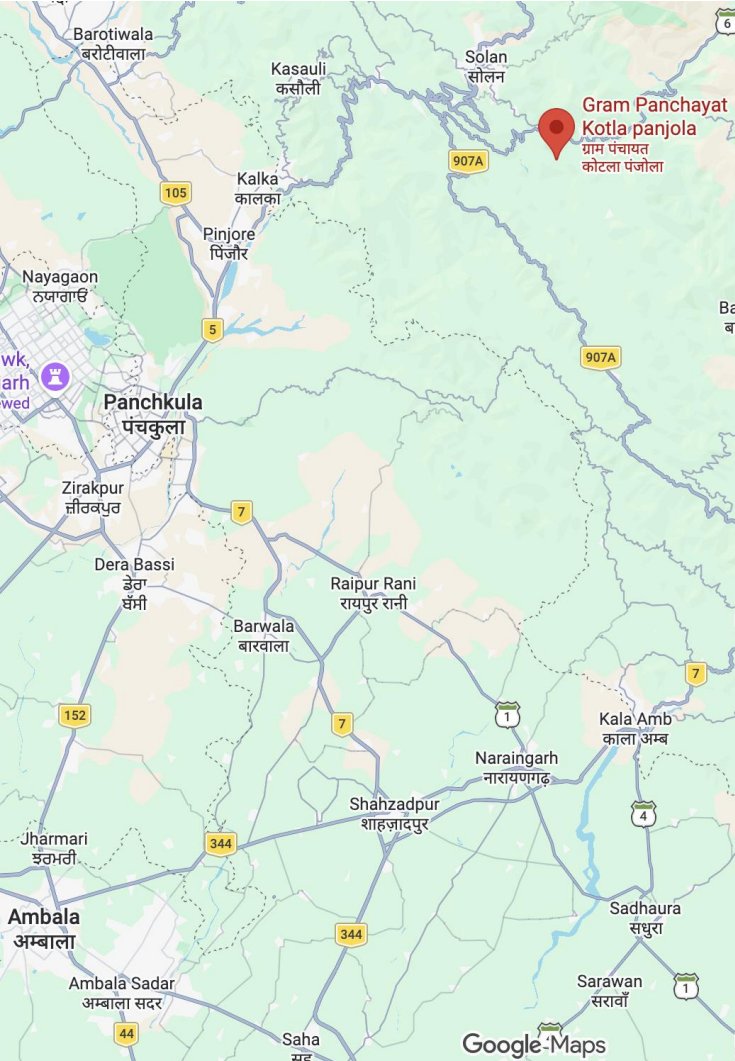
- Project title: **Agroecology for Nutrition and Resilience: Scaling Natural Farming for Sustainable Fruit Production**
- Institution: **Dr. Y. S. Parmar University of Horticulture & Forestry, Nauni, Solan**
- Principal Investigator: **Sudhir Verma, Principal Scientist (Soil Science)**
Co-PIs : Dharminder Kumar, Head, KVK Chamba
Kiran Thakur, Asstt Prof (Fruit Science), UHF
Neha Dhiman, Scientist (Fruit Science), UHF (KVK Chamba)
Narender Negi, Sr Scientist (Fruit Sci), ICAR-NBPGR (RS Shimla)
- Project duration: **3 years (15th May 2026 until 14th May 2029)**
- Budget: **₹ 20 lakhs**
- Project location(s):
 - **Kotla Panjola in Pachhad Block of District Sirmaur (HP)**
 - **Guwadi in Tissa, District Chamba (HP) (Aspirational district)**

2. Landscape, problem statement & target communities

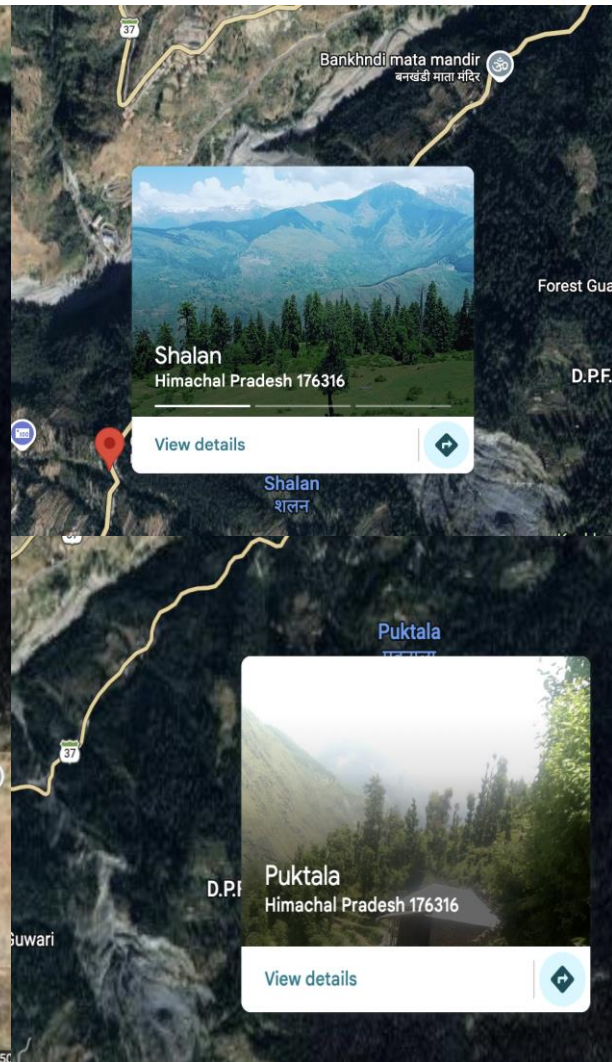
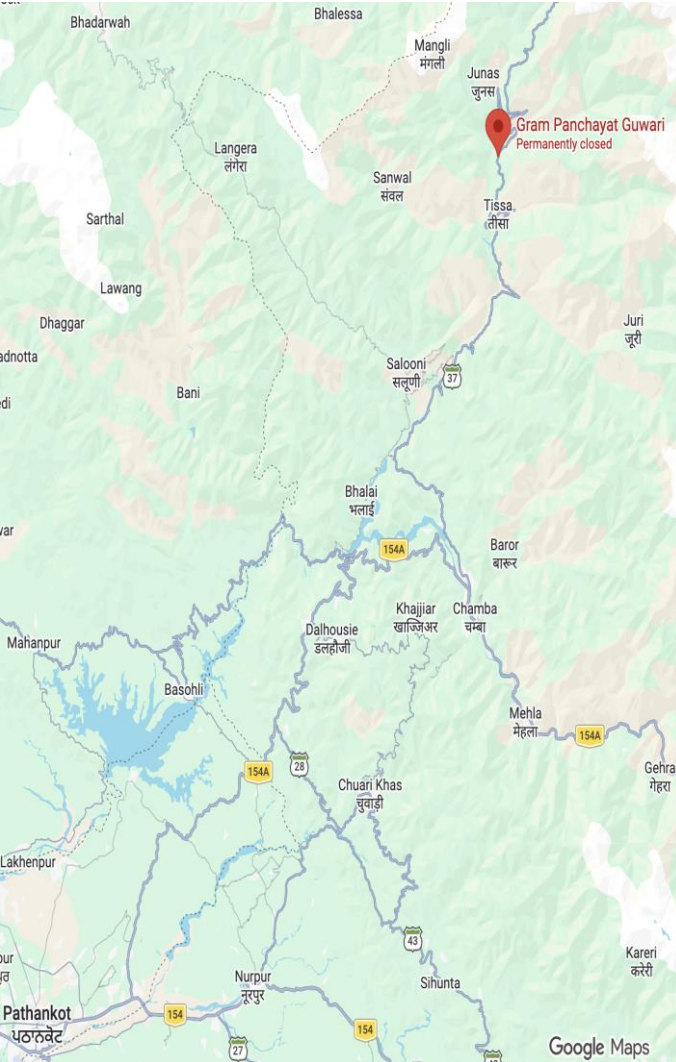


- Agroecological context
 - **Kotla Panjola in Pachhad Block of District Sirmaur** - Sub-Tropical Low Hill Zone, moderate temperatures, annual rainfall ranging from 900–1100 mm, soils in this region are generally loamy to sandy loam, moderately fertile
 - **Guwadi Panchayat in Tissa (Aspirational Block), District Chamba** - Sub-Temperate, Sub-Humid Mid-Hills Zone, relatively higher rainfall 1000–1300 mm annually, cooler temperatures and occasional snowfall in winter, soils are shallow to moderately deep & loamy
- Key challenges being addressed: **low dietary diversity, soil degradation, high input costs**
- Target beneficiaries: **100 households**
- Project landscape: Areas characterized by **undulating terrain, small and fragmented landholdings, and rainfed farming systems.**

Kotla Panjola Panchayat in Sirmaur (HP)



Guwadi Panchayat in Tissa, Chamba (HP)



3. Year-1 Implementation plan



Baseline survey

(HDDS, fruit consumption frequency, soil fertility status, use of agrochemicals)

Beneficiary selection

(Women farmers, youth, SC/ST)

Awareness programmes

(Natural farming and nutrition)

Site Selection

(Bunds, wastelands, etc.)

Soil nutrient status

(Before plantation)

Fruit plantation

(Multilayer model)

4. Fruit Species and production models



- **Key fruit species promoted**
 - Apple, Peach, Pear, Plum, Apricot, Kiwi, Persimmon, Walnut, Guava, Cherry, Strawberry.
- **Production systems to be demonstrated**
 - Multilayer fruit cultivation (nutrition gardens), bund planting with intercrops (legumes & Vegetable)



5. Year-1 Targets and deliverables :



Key Performance Indicator	Target (Absolute number)
Villages covered	Kotla Panjola (Sirmaur) - 4 Guwadi (Chamba) - 6
Households reached	100
Women beneficiaries	33%
Youth beneficiaries	25
Trees planted	1000+
Fruit species promoted	11
Trainings planned	8

6. Collaboration Opportunities (Offer and Ask)



What we can offer	Support we need
Natural farming models	Baseline survey schedule
Quality planting material of temperate fruits	Nutrition monitoring tools
Soil health assessment	Monitoring and Evaluation support

7. Baseline, MEL and Next Steps :



- Baseline Indicators:

- Household Dietary Diversity
- fruit consumption frequency,
- soil organic carbon,
- use of agro-chemicals.

- Next Steps

Baseline → Awareness programmes → Fruit plantations → Capacity building → Monitoring

8. Budget summary, risk & mitigation strategy:

Cost Description	Budget (USD)	Budget (₹)	Year 1 (₹)
Personnel	7,500	6,82,500	2,73,000
Supplies & Services, including Planting material and field trials	7,430	6,76,130	2,70,452
Travel (only project related)	1,500	1,36,500	54,600
Monitoring, documentation and publication	1,300	1,18,300	47,320
Training & awareness Workshops	1,700	1,54,700	61,880
Field days	550	50,050	20,020
Overhead/Administration charges (10%)	1,998	1,81,820	72,728
Total	21,978	20,00,000	8,00,000

Risk Category	Risk Level	Mitigation Strategy
Climate variability	High	Diversification, mulching, bio-inputs
Water scarcity	High	Mulching, water harvesting
Pest/disease surge	Medium	NF concoction sprays
Farmer adoption	High	Champion farmers, field demonstrations
Temporary yield loss	Medium	Intercrops, market linkages
Implementation delays	Medium	Regular monitoring

Collaborations with
KVKs and ATMA

Convergence
Activities of KVK Chamba



Thanks