

Justification for selection of proposed forest land (9994m² i.e. 12-7-0 bigha) for diversion to the name of CSIR- IHBT Centre for High Altitude Biology at Tandi, Near DIET office, Tehsil-Keylong, District-Lahaul - Spiti (H.P.)

The proposed site comprising of 9994m² (or 12-7-0 bigha) has been selected on the basis of its strategic location. This location is near District Institute of Education and Training (DIET) on the roadside (Tandi - SansariNallah highway maintained by Project Deepak, BRO), with a helipad constructed just across the road. It's also the area where our temporarily established research centre's office-cum-laboratory complex (1 bigha area) is located.

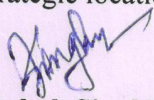
The location of site not only offers better connectivity for research station's posted staff and other visiting staff, but also is highly suitable for interaction with local people and district administration officials. Its location is at a centre place accessible to local people from Myad, Pattan, Ghar, Tod, Tinan valleys covering all the areas of Lahaul sub-division.

At our laboratory complex, we have already established incubation centre for empowerment of farmers and local people viz., essential oil extraction unit, food processing and preservation unit, tissue culture facility, seed banks, germplasm conservation centre, soil and plant physico-chemical analysis laboratory. With the use of these facilities, we are regularly providing training to local farmers, youth and women groups, in collaboration with district administration line departments. Because of this location site being in the vicinity of DIET, good opportunity exists to train young people from tribal areas of Pangi and Lahaul & Spiti. Further, the proposed facilities such as cold storage facility for floriculture will immensely benefit the farmers who are growers of floriculture crops. It is also proposed to construct a training hall, farmer's hostel and demonstration sites for local people for disseminating technological know-how. Our proposed centre will benefit and empower unemployed youth and women with enhancing their skills on latest technologies and providing scientific know how on cultivation of medicinal plants and floriculture crops and value addition of native produce.

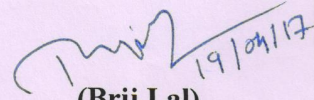
Besides, the selected site is also very important because of helipad located just a few meters away and therefore could be visited in early summers for growing of important medicinal plants when snow at Rohtang blocks roads to Lahaul.

Selecting this site will also avoid relocation of our established pre-fabricated complex to faraway place which will incur a lot of efforts and project costs.

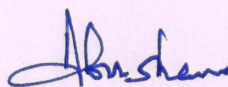
Needless to mention that to accelerate our research and extension activities, this land, which is placed at a strategic location, is required for achieving our objectives of reaching to the tribal society.



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