



Creating a Global Mountain Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS) Workshop

14 – 19 April 2019
Ranikhet, Uttarakhand, INDIA

Rationale

This workshop is part of the activities of the [Mountain Partnership Products Initiative](#) (MPP), organized by the Mountain Partnership Secretariat (MPS) with the financial support of the Italian Development Cooperation.

The MPP initiative is a voluntary labelling scheme that aims at strengthening the value chain of mountain products while developing the capacity of producers to improve the quality, marketing and distribution of their products, and preserving their traditional knowledge. Launched in 2015, the MPP initiative promotes sustainable food systems, agrobiodiversity and innovation in mountain areas, to add value to traditional farming systems.

In order to strengthen the MPP Initiative and expand its geographical scope, the participating farmer groups and civil society organizations have requested the MPS to support them in adopting a standard assessment and monitoring procedure that is affordable and sustainable.

The [Participatory Guarantee System \(PGS\)](#) was identified by the members as the most appropriate and sustainable mechanism for such purpose. IFOAM-Organics International recognizes PGS as a credible guarantee system especially appropriate for organic, ecological and agro-ecological producers serving local and domestic markets. In 2017, about 241 PGS initiatives existed in 66 countries with at least 300'000 farmers involved and 75'000 producers certified.

As part of the MPP initiative, the first workshop for “the creation of a global Mountain PGS” will take place in Ranikhet, Uttarakhand, India, from 14 to 19 of April 2019, organized in collaboration with [IFOAM-Organics International](#) and the [Pan Himalayan Grassroots Development Foundation](#), member of [the PGS organic council of India](#).

Objective and participants

The workshop aims to create a strategy for the development of a global mountain-specific PGS and to enhance the capacities of the MPP partners to implement it. To bring the participants to a good level of understanding of PGS so that they may be able to participate in the design and implementation of the Mountain PGS in their own context.

A group of MPP partners and other key representatives among farmer groups and producers' organizations of all global mountain regions will be invited to participate in the workshop.

Existing PGS experiences around the world will be presented and discussed among the participants to identify common features and similar challenges, aiming at understanding how the PGS concept can be applied to the MPP initiative and how specific mountain-related criteria can be introduced in a PGS to create an innovative global mountain PGS, ensuring and continuously improving the quality of organic mountain farming systems.

The outcomes will be: 1) the “Draft guidelines and standards for the creation of a global mountain PGS”, which will be refined in a follow-up workshop to be planned with the support of the MPS, 2) the Ranikhet declaration a formal pledge capturing participants commitment towards the implementation of the global Mountain PGS process, and 3) an individual action plan for the design and implementation of PGS in the specific context of every participant within the next 6-12 months.

Venue:

The workshop will take place at the Main Outreach Program Office of the Pan Himalayan Grassroots Development Foundation (PHGDF), Ranikhet, Uttarakhand, India.

Dates:

14 – 19 April 2019

Tentative Agenda:

Participants will gather in Ranikhet for a period of three days. Presentations and discussion sessions will be combined with field interactions with PGS producer-groups from the mountains. Alongside, there will be inputs on: procurement, storage, packaging, labelling and transportation of farm products to distant urban markets.

Day 1: Arrival in Delhi

Day 2: Reach Ranikhet by afternoon; Introductions & Orientation

Day 3: Participatory Guarantee Systems - Identifying common needs and challenges

Day 4: Visioning a Mountain PGS

Day 5: Criteria for Mountain PGS and implementation strategy

Day 6: Return to Delhi and leave for own countries

Terms of reference of task force on “Mountain PGS” and funding of participation for workshop

Tentative criteria for the selection of participants:

- Geographic representation;
- Local/Regional Organization that works with producers’ organization and can take the lead during the process
- Experienced with PGS (30% of participants)
- MP membership
- Excellent command of English

The participants receiving financial support by the MPS will be required to sign “**the Ranikhet declaration**” a formal pledge, which will be published in the MP website, indicating their commitment towards the implementation of the Mountain PGS process. In particular, they will commit to:

- Initiate a dialogue with local groups and institutions, including the government, to create a set of standards/criteria for the creation of a Mountain PGS in their mountain region;
- Provide a workplan for the establishment of a mountain PGS by end 2019;
- Prepare an awareness-raising campaign before and during the process;
- Convene a national/regional workshop by end 2020 (to be discussed with MPS);
- Establish a Mountain PGS in their specific mountain region by end 2021

Draft Program Workshop
“Creating a Global Mountain Participatory Guarantee System”
 14-19 April 2019
 Ranikhet, Uttarakhand, India

Date	Duration	Topic
14 April	Individual arrival of participants at Delhi/Overnight Stay	
Introductions & Overview of Workshop		
Day 1 15 April Mon	05:00 am	Pick-up at the Hotel Alpina
	06:00 am	Travel from Delhi to Ranikhet/Reach by 3 pm
	03:00 pm	Lunch on Arrival
	05:00 to 05:10 pm	Welcome Address by Anita Paul of Grassroots
	05:10 to 06:00 pm	Introduction of Participants (5 minutes each)
	06:00 to 06:30 pm	Overview of workshop and the Mountain Partnership Products Initiative by the MPS
	06:30 to 06:45 pm	Holistic Mountain Development - Experiences from the Field by Kalyan/Anita Paul of Grassroots
	06:45 to 07:00 pm	Wrap Up Session
PGS - Identifying Common Needs & Challenges		
Day 2 16 April Tue	09:00 to 10:00 am	Why PGS? Overview of Global PGS by Federica Varini, IFOAM - OI
	10:00 to 11:00 am	PGS in Mountain Ecosystems <i>PGSOC and PGS in Indian Himalayan Region by Anita/Kalyan Paul of Grassroots</i>
	11:00 to 11:30 am	<i>Tea/Coffee Break</i>
	11:30 to 12:30 pm	Visit to Umang Producers Company
	01:00 to 02:00 pm	<i>Lunch Break</i>
	02:00 to 03:00 pm	PGS in Mountain Ecosystems (II) <i>PGS Experiences in Kyrgyzstan by Asan Alymkulov and in Mongolia by Nazgrach Undrakkh</i>
	03:00 to 05:30 pm	Group work: Country Specific Situational Analysis & Challenges: Based on Pre-Arrival Data Sheets facilitated by Grassroots
		<i>Tea & Coffee to be served during the session</i>
	06:00 to 07:00 pm	Group Work presentation and & Wrap Up Session

Visioning a global Mountain PGS		
Day 3 17 April Wed	09:00 to 01:00 pm	Field Visit to meet Local Groups of women farmers involved with PGS/Value Chain
	01:00 to 02:00 pm	<i>Lunch Break</i>
	02:00 to 03:00 pm	Reflections on the Field Visit
	03:00 to 04:00 pm	What documents are needed: examples of PGS documentations and procedures by Grassroots
	04:00 to 06:30 pm	Linking Mountain Farm Gates to Markets by Carlo Murer
		<i>Tea & Coffee to be served during the session</i>
	06:30 to 07:30 pm	Open Session followed by Screening of Videos
Mountain PGS & Implementation Strategy		
Day 4 18 April Thu	09:00 to 10:00 am	Discussion on Standard Operating Principles of Mountain PGS and the Ranikhet Declaration
	10:00 to 11:00 am	Designing your own PGS: reflections to plan the way forward
	11:00 to 11:30 am	<i>Tea & Coffee Break</i>
	11:30 to 1:00 pm	Implementing PGS - Organisational Reflection, Vision and Plan of Action Preparation by each organisation and presentations
	01:00 to 02:00 pm	<i>Lunch Break</i>
	02:00 to 04:00 pm	Road Map for the Future
	04:00 to 04:30 pm	<i>Tea & Coffee Break</i>
	04:30 to 05:00 pm	Adoption of Ranikhet Declaration
	05:00 to 6:00 pm	Wrap-up, evaluation and final question
19 April	05:00 am	Leave Ranikhet for Kathgodam Train Station – reach Delhi by 2:30 pm

List of participants

FAMILY NAME	FIRST NAME	email	Country	Organization / Affiliation	function
Alymkulov	Asan	alymkulov.asan@gmail.com	Kyrgyzstan	FOD Bio KG	trainee
Banzragch	Undrakh	map.poag@adra.org.mn	Mongolia	AGRA Mongolia	trainee
Chaman Salas	Gabriel Edgardo	allymishky@gmail.com	Peru	Redar	trainee
Geringer	Michelle	michelle.geringer@fao.org	Switzerland	Mountain Partnership Secretariat	co-organizer
Grussu	Giorgio	giorgio.grussu@fao.org	Italy	Mountain Partnership Secretariat	co-organizer
Gurmet	Rigzin	mail@ledeg.org	India	Ladakh Ecological & Environment Group Ladakh (LEDEG)	trainee
Jamangulova	Aida	aidajam@mail.ru	Kyrgyzstan	Agency for Development Initiative	trainee
Murer	Carlo	carlo.murer@ecornaturasi.it	Italy	NaturaSi	trainer
Pandya	Manishabahen Niranjan	asiafarmersforum@sewa.org	India	Self Employed Women's Association SEWA	trainee
Pascual Quiroz	Alberto Enrique	apascual@mail.com	Panama	Fundacion CoMunidad	trainee
Paul	Anita	apaul@grassrootsindia.com	India	Pan Himalayan Grassroots Development Foundation	Trainer/ co-organizer
Paul	Kalyan	kpaul@grassrootsindia.com	India	Pan Himalayan Grassroots Development Foundation	Trainer/ co-organizer
Phanwar	Joshua	joshua.phanwar@gmail.com	India	Bethany Society	trainee
Shahi	Brikha Bahadur	birkha.shahi1@gmail.com	Nepal	Federation of community Forestry Users Nepal (FECOFUN)	trainee
Tamang Lama	Umesh Kumar	umesh.lama@yahoo.com	Nepal	OWF	trainee
Tran	Hoai Manh	viethavnfu@gmail.com	Vietnam	Vietnam Farmer Union (VFNU)	trainee
Varini	Federica	f.varini@ifoam.bio	Italy	IFOAM OI	trainer