

Uptake and Commercial Sustainability of Watermill-Based Energy Services

***Client:** Department for International Development (DFID), under Knowledge and Research (KaR) Energy Programme.*

***Partners:** IT Power, UK; IT Power India; Watermillers Association*

The project is enabling a self-sustaining watermill upgrade industry to become established in the Indian Himalayas, by researching and implementing finance facilities for investing millers and ensuring new systems address the socio-economic needs to strengthen their communities. The project follows on from the work completed under KaR 7658: *Low-cost watermill upgrades for income generation* in 2001 which transferred two low-cost, standardised technical solutions to a local manufacturer to upgrade the traditional mills, the first, a 1 kW 'new gharat' system improving milling output by 3 times at a capital cost of only \$150 and the second, a 4-6kW open crossflow system for multi-purpose agro-processing at around \$3000 total project cost.

The project implemented 7 pilot schemes in the Chamoli district of Uttaranchal using loan finance from Winrock which the millers are now paying back. The technology is working well and is providing low-cost, local agro-processing services to the communities involved. Further details can be found at www.itpower.co.uk/watermills.



This follow-on project undertook the necessary R&D to support the long-term commercial and socio-economic success of the technical solutions demonstrated under R7658, putting into practice the recommendations from several previous KaR studies.

For further information please contact: Drona Upadhyay, IT Power, Manor House, Lutyens Close, Basingstoke, Hampshire, UK. Email: drona.upadhyay@itpower.co.uk; Tel: +44 (0) 1256 392700.