

## **Officials from Bhutan Government visits Sikkim to Study Dhara Vikas “spring revival” initiatives of RM&DD**

A study visit lead by the Internal Centre for Mountain Development (ICIMOD) and ACWADAM - Pune along with a 15 member team from various Ministries and Institutes of Bhutan visited Sikkim from 06<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> November, 2017 to study the “Dhara Vikas springs and spring shed management initiatives of RM&DD”.

The team was lead Dr. Aditi Mukherjee, Theme Leader, Water and Air – ICIMOD – Nepal and Shri Nidup Tshering from Bhutan Government. A day long workshop organized by MGNREGA Cell – RMDD was held at Gangtok on 7<sup>th</sup> November, 2017 where in a technical presentation on the springs shed management was shared with the team. Mrs. Sarika Pradhan, Additional Secretary cum PD- MGNREGA chaired the technical session along with other officials from RM&DD.

This was followed by a 2 days field visit to Dhara Vikas sites in South District. The team first visited Perving Dovan where the team had the opportunity to see the work on ground. The technical experts from the Department briefed the delegates on various aspects of spring shed management like the recharge area identification, geo-hydrological aspects and monitoring of springs. Similarly the team also visited the dhara vikas site at Chemchay under Namchi Division and Dolling Lake where lake revival works were carried under Ravangla Division. The team interacted with the villagers and the field functionaries at the block office.

The delegates of Bhutan from various Ministries have also visited Sikkim on a similar study tour in the past. This unique initiative of the Government of Sikkim has been studied by several mountain countries like Bhutan, Nepal and the model is being replicated in this neighboring countries.



*The team from Bhutan interacting with the officials of RM&DD Perving Dovan*