Annexure A: The Framework of Cooperation:

Area 1: Ensuring Energy Security and Enhancing Alternative Technologies

OBJECTIVE a. Enhance Access to Affordable and Reliable 'Energy Services for All' through Cleaner Energy Resources and Technologies
Activities:

1. Strengthen/Create mechanisms for sharing of information and good practices
2. Collaborate to build institutional capacity in enhancing universal access to cleaner energy

OBJECTIVE b. Promote Diversification in the Supply and Use of Cleaner Energy Resources
Activities:

1. Increase use of renewable energy resources and technologies
2. Promote diversification of energy mix in end-use services/application including transport sector

OBJECTIVE c. Explore Opportunities and Impact of Regional Connectivity for Electricity and Natural Gas
Activities:

1. Assess requirement for development of regional power transmission grid
2. Assess requirement for development of regional natural gas pipeline

OBJECTIVE d. Enhance Energy Efficiency
Activities:

1. Foster collaboration to develop institutions to promote efficient use of energy
2. Collaborate to develop standards and labeling to promote efficient use of energy
3. Build regional human resource capacity for energy efficiency improvement

OBJECTIVE e. Mainstream Climate Resilience in Energy Systems
Activities:

1. Establish network to share climate information
2. Establish an Eastern Himalayan Institution on Climate Change and Energy
3. Establish mechanisms to conduct research on impact of climate change on energy system and energy demand
4. Promote incorporation of climate change adaptation strategies in energy planning

Area 2: Securing the Natural Freshwater Systems of the Himalayas

Activities:

1. Enhancement of ecosystem management practices to minimize the impacts of climate change induced disasters
2. Develop effective approaches and actions concerning disaster management
3. Promotion of traditional water conservation techniques coupled with modern methods to increase water use efficiency
4. Lessons, good practices and appropriate technologies shared in the region to improve water use efficiency for effective adaptation
5. Networking of national centres of learning and institutes for related capacity building
6. Dissemination of success stories and best practices on climate change adaptation
7. Sharing of related knowledge products for improving the understanding of climate change impacts on water resources in the region

Area 3. Ensuring Food Security and Securing Livelihoods

OBJECTIVE a. Ensure Adaptive Approach to Improve and Sustain Food Production
Activities:

1. Establish mechanisms for sharing relevant material (including stress tolerant) related to genetic resources and breeding materials for research and development (germplasm for plant, animals, fish, and microbes)
2. Exchange of information on trans-boundary pest and diseases including weeds (plant, livestock, fish)
3. Establish mechanisms for 'regional early-warning systems' related to food security (production, supply & demand) and natural disasters
4. Promote natural resource conservation for food security

OBJECTIVE b. Promote Equitable Access to and Utilization of Nutritious Food for Vulnerable Communities
Activities:

1. Promote gender equity in food and nutrition interventions
2. Promote mechanisms to strengthen Food Standards and safety measures for the member countries
3. Share and establish models for implementing sustainable community nutrition programmes
4. Devise mechanism for transfer and sharing of post harvest technologies-processing, handling, storage etc

OBJECTIVE c. Establishment of Regional Mechanism for Information Generation, Knowledge Sharing and Capacity Building
Activities:

1. Develop platforms for exchange of researchers and scientists, students, food and agriculture officials, and farming communities
2. Share best management practices for improving input use efficiency including water, increasing irrigation efficiency, and extension services
3. Strengthening Regional Cooperation in Agricultural Research and Development
4. Promote, document, and strengthen indigenous knowledge and practices in agriculture
5. Institutionalize sharing of weather and climate related information including the *development of sub regional web-based portals*

Area 4. Securing Biodiversity and Ensuring its Sustainable Use

OBJECTIVE a. Secure Connected Landscapes for Enhanced Ecosystem Resilience (create an interconnected mosaic of conservation spaces across the Eastern Himalayas)

Activities:

1. Identify potential Community Conservation Areas (CCAs) to ensure regional connectivity
2. Use existing frameworks for designating CCAs
3. Share success stories and 'best environmental practices' from partner countries including but not limited to creation of fora and fostering harmonization of frameworks across the region
4. Identify corridor bottlenecks and prioritize actions for implementation
5. Strengthen control of invasive species through sharing of best management practices and information
6. Designation/establishment of a regional pest reference center (with pests defined as insects and diseases and not wildlife)
7. Establish a network of gene-banks in the region and develop protocols for sharing information and genetic material

OBJECTIVE b. Ensure Sustainable Use of Biodiversity for Poverty Alleviation and Income Generation

Activities:

1. Share knowledge on bio-prospecting, propagation and harvesting, markets and 'best practices' to promote sustainable use.
2. Promotion of alternative technologies for efficient utilization of biological resources.
3. Promotion of value-addition technologies (local products)
4. Strengthen community capacity building programs and information sharing within communities

OBJECTIVE c. Establishment of Regional Mechanism for Information Generation, Knowledge Sharing and Capacity Building

Activities:

1. Develop and adopt common standard protocols for information generation and sharing (establishing chain of long-term monitoring sites)
2. Establishment of mechanisms for 'early-warning systems' related to biodiversity (pests, diseases, impending droughts)
3. Initiate long-term joint research projects to monitor impacts of climate change on biodiversity
4. Development of a biodiversity portal for Eastern Himalayas
5. Establish a 'biodiversity-climate change' specialist network for the region
6. Establish institutional linkages to facilitate joint research and monitoring programs