

Gravity ropeway has been introduced for the first time at Dhari-Kalogi for economic connectivity

# Way to prosperity

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Rural Technology Action Group (RuTAG) is introducing gravity ropeways in the state to bolster rural-urban connectivity, especially economic connectivity. This improved gravitational ropeway system for remote hilly areas of Uttarakhand has been developed by IIT, Roorkee, and HARC.

Gravity ropeway is very simple and convenient tool for transportation of fruits and vegetables harvested from orchards on hill tops to road heads for marketing at lower regions.

The sustainable development of rural areas requires a holistic approach, integrating economic, environmental and socio-cultural issues with human values as the base. This can be brought about by combining formal and informal production sectors of rural areas, on which majority of the state's population survives.

"Synergy and collective coherence between the voluntary and government agencies is the most critical factor in the implementation of upgraded rural technologies," says Dr. Anil Joshi who is working with RuTAG to develop low voltage transmission network for micro turbines (Gharats) in Uttarakhand, through HESCO, and IIT, Delhi.

The RuTAG, Uttarakhand, came into existence in April 2004 and since then has



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undertaken several significant network activities, with other technical institutions, voluntary agencies, government organisations and village industries.

To bridge gaps and to provide necessary coordination and synergy between various science and technology NGOs, institutions, ministries and departments, principal scientific aAdviser (PSA) to the government of India, took an exceptional initiative to create a Rural Technology Action Group (RuTAG) for the state of Uttarakhand with a mandate to identify problems of the rural sector, and to generate a sustainable technology base by blending of appropriate modern science and technology of traditional values and knowledge.

The gravity ropeways initiative is a pioneering one in Uttarakhand. One of the first to be set up was at Dhari-Kalogi (Naugaon), Uttarkashi. Others are being planned for many places in the interiors and Mussoorie which is likely to change many things.