

## Project Update: February 2017

### Winter Season

Winter data was collected according to the project schedule commencing with the questionnaire survey from 1<sup>st</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> December 2016 involving respondents who are possessing good knowledge about *Nardostachys jatamansi*. Villagers and local collectors, forestry personnel and other officials from related institutions were the participants. Field data collection was set to begin for winter season in the start of 2<sup>nd</sup> week of January 2017 which happened to dismay as plant samples could not be easily analysed for desired parameters due to mass perished shoots of the snow and frost covered plants. It has clearly shown that jatamansi is perennial in its reserved underground rhizome and not the shoots. Nevertheless, field work was extended until the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of February 2017 for complete data collection overcoming the hurdle with careful observation.

Dedicating to the success of questionnaire sampling was therefore prioritised in obtaining favourable and sufficient information as field data supplementation. Information based on plant's ecology, habitat, use and harvest pattern, trend of species occurrence and respondents view on continued sustainable supply of jatamansi was extracted up to much satisfaction. The whole team maintained decency and decorum for proper communication while interacting and questioning being aware of the sensitivity of certain questions.

It was too much amazement that some aged and illiterate people among other local villagers are bountiful knowledge holder where knowhow of the plant was shared from growth and abundance of target plant to the field of conservation and sustainable harvest of it.



Top: Conducting questionnaire. Bottom: *N. jatamansi* growing against the snow and frost.