

Experiences in Sustainable Agriculture and Natural Resource Management in the Mid-hills of Nepal: Out-scaling the Lessons

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This article largely relates to innovative approaches and technologies deriving from two projects:

- the SDC-IDRC funded People and Resource Dynamics Project (PARDYP), implemented by the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) and partners in five watersheds in the Himalayan Hindu Kush;
- the work of the SDC-funded Sustainable Soil Management Programme (SSMP, implemented by Helvetas-Intercooperation), which focuses on improving soil fertility and farm management for promotion of food security and better livelihoods in the mid-hills of Nepal.

In 2007, inspired by the above two successful programmes spanning the mid-hills of the Hindu Kush Himalayas, ICIMOD and SSMP collaborated in preparing 30 NEPCAT (Nepal Conservation Approaches and Technologies) fact sheets describing some of the most promising and relevant approaches and technologies arising from their work with mountain farmers. These fact sheets have been prepared in both hardcopy, the sheets being enclosed in a folder and as software on a CD-rom.

Each four sided sheet is prepared on the basis of the format used by WOCAT - the World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies, which is a global network of soil and water conservation specialists that facilitates the sharing of knowledge on soil and water management. Regional offshoots of WOCAT include HIMCAT (Himalayan Conservation Approaches and Technologies) for the Himalayas and now NEPCAT for Nepal.

The aim of these fact sheets is to enlarge the range of options for natural resource management and encourage growth of an open network of institutions and organisations in Nepal and the region to share information on their experiences with different technologies and related approaches.

The fact sheets are designed to support the efforts of rural development, especially in the Himalayan mid-hills, and provide impetus and ideas for decision makers and development actors at the planning and extension level. To be directly appropriate to the land user and farming households, the fact sheets need to be adapted and then translated into the appropriate local language - and this is being undertaken in the near future in Nepal by SSMP, the Sustainable Soil Management Programme.

To enlarge the audience for the HIMCAT and NEPCAT approach, ICIMOD has recently provided training in Bhutan on the compiling of land resource and conservation information in the WOCAT format and is undertaking an introductory workshop in December 2008 in Kathmandu, Nepal, as a precursor to a similar training in Nepal.

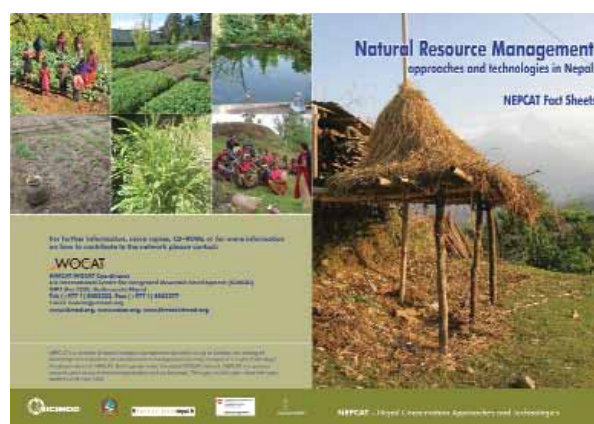
The Fact Sheets

The first batch of fact sheets prepared by ICIMOD and SSMP number 30, covering both technologies and approaches.

Table 1: NEPCAT technology and approach fact sheets.

Subject area / fact sheets	Lead agency	Technology(T) / Approach(A)
Agroforestry		
Polypit nursery	ICIMOD	T
Conservation agriculture		
Legume integration	SSMP	T
Grazing land management		
Rehabilitation of degraded communal grazing land	ICIMOD	T
Local initiatives for rehabilitating degraded communal grazing land	ICIMOD	A
Gully Rehabilitation		
Gully plugging using check dams	ICIMOD	T
Landslip and stream bank stabilisation	ICIMOD	T
Integrated watershed management for landslip and stream bank stabilisation	ICIMOD	A
Manuring / composting		
Improved cattleshed for urine collection	SSMP	T
Improved compost preparation	SSMP	T
Better quality farmyard manure through improved decomposition	SSMP	T

Improved farmyard manure through sunlight, rain and runoff protection	SSMP	T
Black plastic covered farmyard manure	ICIMOD	T
Urine application through drip irrigation for bitter gourd production	SSMP	T
Pest management		
Organic pest management	SSMP	T
Terraces		
Improved terraces	ICIMOD	T
Improving terraces with farmers	ICIMOD	A
Traditional irrigated rice terraces	ICIMOD	T
Vegetative strips/cover		
Cultivation of fodder and grasses	SSMP	T
Water harvesting/management		
Drinking water quality improvement through conservation measures	ICIMOD	T
Community efforts for improving drinking water quality	ICIMOD	A
Low cost drip irrigation	ICIMOD	T
Participatory action research on drip irrigation	ICIMOD	A
Low cost micro-sprinkler irrigation	ICIMOD	T
Plastic-lined conservation pond to store irrigation water	ICIMOD	T
Rooftop rainwater harvesting system	ICIMOD	T
System of rice intensification (SRI)	ICIMOD	T
Evaluation of the system of rice intensification (SRI) through participatory research and development	ICIMOD	A
Other		
Farmer to farmer diffusion	SSMP	A
Farmer-led experimentation	SSMP	A
Farmer field school on integrated plant nutrient systems	SSMP	A



For further details or information on the fact sheets and the projects from which they derived, please visit the following websites:

ICIMOD <http://www.icimod.org> - from where the fact sheets can be downloaded
 Helvetas Nepal <http://www.helvetasnepal.org.np>
 Intercooperation <http://www.intercooperation.ch>
 SDC <http://www.sdc.org.np>
 WOCAT <http://www.wocat.org>

For hard or soft copies of the fact sheets, please contact one of the following:

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Download the fact sheets from:
<http://dev.icimod.org/elibrary/index.php/search/publication/518>

Two examples of the front covers for one approach and one technology fact sheet are provided below.



An Approach fact sheet

A Technology fact sheet

