Poverty Alleviation in Mountain Areas of China
Narpat S. Jodha, Binayak Bhadra, Narendra R. Khanal, and Jürgen Richter (eds)

Poverty Alleviation in Mountain Areas of China
Proceedings of the International Conference held from 11-15 November, 2002, in Chengdu, China
Foreword

Today the Chinese economy is perceived as one of the economies of the future. China has much to be proud of, and its people have worked hard to build prosperity and a bright future for coming generations. In terms of economic development, China’s progress is well charted, and yet its government still has a deep concern about the many who remain poor, an overwhelming number of whom live in mountainous areas and who are often left on the fringes of the mainstream economy. How to bring these people into the mainstream of development is an overriding concern of China’s development professionals and was the main focus of this conference on ‘Poverty Alleviation in Mountain Areas of China’ held in 2002 from November 11th to the 15th in Chengdu.

Poverty in mountain areas is not a new concern for China. In the winter of 2000 (January 31st-February 4th), a conference was held on ‘The Anti-Poverty Experience in China’s Himalayan Region.’ From the proceedings of that conference and the contributions to this one, it can be seen that Chinese development professionals are investing a great deal of effort into the eradication of absolute poverty from Chinese mountain areas.

The organisers of this conference include the Institute of Mountain Hazards and Environment (IMHE), Chengdu, China; InWEnt Capacity Building International, Germany (formerly DSE); The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), each of which has a long-term mission to work towards the alleviation of poverty. The various approaches of these organisations, the knowledge their professionals brought to the conference on development in mountain areas, the issues raised, and strategies for not only the survival of but also the prosperity of the mountain poor made the conference a rich experience.

In this current collection, the organisers have drawn on the experiences of Chinese researchers who have examined the root causes and incidences of mountain poverty, as well as professionals pursuing strategies for its alleviation. The environment as well as the management of natural resources, including human resources, are identified as critical areas and examples have been drawn from other countries in the Hindu Kush-Himalayan region. From agriculture, off-farm income generation and enterprises to huge infrastructural investments that involve the internal relocation of huge populations, the conference participants discussed and examined a wide range of options for and experiences in poverty alleviation in mountain areas, particularly in China.
Many individuals helped to organise the conference and to prepare this document. On behalf of the principal organisers we would like to acknowledge the work of Jürgen Richter, Narpat S. Jodha, Narendra R. Khanal, and Binayak Bhadra in bringing these papers together and contributing to the technical editing. The work of Li Tianchi and Qiao Jianping for the Chinese paper contributions was valuable. The staff who looked after the facilitation of the conference were Maria Gerster-Bentaya, Annegret Schmidjell and Niko Von der Luehe from Germany and Frank Jie Ding from China. Other staff involved from outside China were Petra Kade from Germany and Angeli Shrestha from Nepal. The conference would not have been possible at all without the enthusiastic support of the staff of IMHE and, in particular, Gao Meirong who is working on the Chinese edition of these proceedings. Other staff from IMHE were Zhang Dan, Chen Ningshen, Chen Xuehua, and Zhou Daqiong. On behalf of all the organisers, we would like to acknowledge their invaluable input and thank them for it.

In keeping with the best traditions of our institutions, we are pleased to present this current document so that the proceedings of the conference can be of wider use to those whose concern and commitment are to the alleviation of poverty in mountain areas, in general, and in China in particular. For this reason the proceedings will be published in Chinese also.

Hans Pfeifer  Ganesh Thapa  Qiao Jianping  J. Gabriel Campbell
Director of  Reg. Economist  Director of  Director General
Department  Asia & the Pacific Institute  IMHE  ICIMOD
InWEnt  IFAD  ICIMOD
Preface

The conference on ‘Poverty Alleviation in Mountain Areas of China’ organised by the Institute of Mountain Hazards and Environment (IMHE), Chengdu, China; InWEnt Capacity Building International, Germany (formerly DSE), The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) took place from November 11th-15th, 2002, in Chengdu, China.

This conference came ten years after the conference on ‘The Anti-Poverty Experience in China’s Himalayan Region’ in 1992 and draws on the progress made since that time and the debate on this important issue that received dynamic impetus from the conference held on ‘Growth, Poverty Alleviation and Sustainable Resource Management in the Mountain Areas of South Asia’ (January 31st- February 4th 2000).

Whereas the principal focus of all three conferences is poverty in mountain areas, this current document examines the problems in Chinese mountain areas in particular. It looks at the causes and incidences of poverty and strategies for alleviation in general in the first six of its twenty chapters. These set the scene, Chapter 1 looks at the conference and the paper topics as a whole, and a regional perspective is brought to bear by placing China in the context of first the Asia Pacific Region (Chapter 2) and the Hindu Kush-Himalayan Region (Chapter 3), before looking at mountain areas of China, nature and causes of poverty and the importance of development indicators in the context of mountain development. The latter discussion is useful, since it has often been argued that the usual development indicators are not of much value in terms of mountain areas.

Within twenty discrete chapters, there is a broad, rich range of topics drawing on experiences from the Indian Himalayas and the mountains of Bhutan to illustrate methods of poverty alleviation that might be of relevance to mountain areas placed thousands of miles apart. There is an interesting mix of ideas woven together in terms of income-generating strategies that range from agricultural transformation into off-season crops and non-timber forest products and livestock husbandry to a strategy for mountain tourism that is geared to community development. Infrastructure is dealt with in both the micro-and macro sense. In view of the human resource aspect an attempt has been made to examine the need for education of mountain people per se, and the difficulty of providing schools for children against the competing demands to help families make ends meet, the value of children’s labour, and the inability of families to afford proper schooling. The final chapter deals with IFAD’s approach to alleviation of
poverty in the mountain areas of China and, in this respect, gives the donor’s view and experience of working in such a vast region.

No collection on mountain poverty would be complete if one or other author had not discussed the issue of adequate compensation by mainstream economies for the use of mountain resources. This is a debate that is bound to arise time and again as we look at means to solve the seemingly insurmountable problems of alleviating the poverty of mountain areas.

This volume gives one a striking impression of the tremendous scale of the problem, the vastness of Chinese mountain areas, and the density of its heterogeneous and culturally diverse populations that bring home to the reader the expanse of these mountain worlds within a vast country. The commitment of the government and peoples of China and their painstaking efforts to erase the lines that divide the have from the have-nots are represented in these pages. There is much to learn from this collection, and many ideas that can be further developed not only by development professionals but by policy-makers and planners dealing with similar issues to those faced by their counterparts in China.

Perhaps no collection of papers, no matter how varied or broad in scale, can do justice to the problems of the poor of mountain areas in China, nor the immense efforts made by its committed development professionals to overcome them. It is, however, an offering in the right direction and, as such, is a tribute to the organisers, the participants, and their constituents: the very poorest of the poor.

Narpat S. Jodha  
Binayak Bhadra  
Narendra R. Khanal  
Jürgen Richter
Acronyms and Abbreviations

ACAP = Annapurna Conservation Area Project
ADB = Asian Development Bank
AKRSP = Aga Khan Rural Support Programme/Pakistan
APPA = Appreciative Participatory Planning

CAS = Chinese Academy of Sciences
CBE/s = Commune and Bridge Enterprise/s
CBO = Community Based Organisation
CBS = Central Bureau of Statistics
CCTV = China Central Television
CIFOR = Center for International Forestry Research
CNY = Chinese yuan
CPR = common property resource
CSO = Central Statistical Organisation

DFID = Department for International Development
DPCSD = Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development
DPP = District Partners Programme
DSE = Deutsche Stiftung für internationale Entwicklung (The German Foundation for International Development), now InWEnt

EPW = Economic and Political Weekly
ESF = Environmental Services Facility

FDI = foreign direct investment
FG = food grain
FG = functional groups
FITs = free independent trekkers
FYP = Five Year Plan

GDI = Gender-related Development Index
GDI = Gender Development Index
GDP = Gross Domestic Product
GEM = Gender Empowerment Index
GIS = Geographical Information Systems
GNI = Gross National Income
GNP = Gross National Product
GR = growth rate
HDI = Human Development Index
HIV/AIDS = human immuno-deficiency virus/acquired immuno-deficiency syndrome
HKH = Hindu Kush-Himalayas
hm = hectare metre
HM = His Majesty
HP = Himachal Pradesh
HPMC = Himachal Pradesh Horticultural Products Marketing and Processing Corporation Ltd.
HRD = human resource development
IARI = Indian Agricultural Research Institute
IBP = Intensive Banking Programme
ICARDA = International Centre for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas
ICIMOD = International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development
IDS = Integrated Development Systems/Nepal
IFAD = International Fund for Agricultural Development
IFPRI = International Food Policy Research Institute
IGU = International Geographical Union
IIPS = International Institute for Population Sciences
IMHE = Institute of Mountain Hazards and Environment
InWEnt = Internationale Weiterbildung und Entwicklung gGmbH (Capacity Building International, Germany)
ISRIC = International Soil and Reference Information Centre
IT = information technology
IUCN = World Conservation Union
IYM = International Year of Mountains
LRT = light rapid transit
LUCC = land use and land cover change
M&E = monitoring and evaluation
MCPW = Micro-credit Project for Women
MDG = Millennium Development Goals
MNC = multinational corporation
MOA = Ministry of Agriculture
MW = mega watt
NF = non-farm
NGO = non-government organisation
NPC = National Planning Commission/Nepal
NR = Nepalese rupee
NRB = Nepal Rastra Bank/Nepal
NREP = National Rural Employment Programme
NRM = natural resource management
NSDP = net state domestic product
<table>
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<th>Definition</th>
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<tr>
<td>NSS</td>
<td>national sample survey</td>
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<tr>
<td>NTFP</td>
<td>non-timber forest product</td>
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<td>OGL</td>
<td>Open General License</td>
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<tr>
<td>ORS</td>
<td>oral rehydration solution</td>
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<td>PCI</td>
<td>per capita income</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PCRW</td>
<td>Production Credit for Rural Women</td>
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<td>PLG</td>
<td>Project Leading Groups</td>
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<td>PMO</td>
<td>project management office</td>
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<td>PPP</td>
<td>purchasing power parity</td>
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<tr>
<td>PRA</td>
<td>participatory rural appraisal</td>
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<tr>
<td>R &amp; D</td>
<td>research and development</td>
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<tr>
<td>RCC</td>
<td>rural credit cooperatives</td>
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<td>RCCU</td>
<td>rural credit cooperative unions</td>
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<td>RLGP</td>
<td>Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme</td>
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<tr>
<td>RMB</td>
<td>Renminbi (another term for the yuan)</td>
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<td>RSRF</td>
<td>Rural Self-reliance Fund</td>
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<td>SALT</td>
<td>Sloping Agricultural Land Technology</td>
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<td>SAPAP</td>
<td>South Asian Poverty Alleviation Programme</td>
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<td>SAPPROS</td>
<td>Support Activities for Poor Producers/Nepal</td>
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<tr>
<td>SEPA</td>
<td>State Environmental Protection Administration</td>
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<td>SEWA</td>
<td>Self-employed Women’s Association</td>
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<td>SFDP</td>
<td>Small Farmer’s Development Programme</td>
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<td>SNV</td>
<td>Netherlands Development Organisation</td>
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<tr>
<td>STD</td>
<td>sustainable tourism development</td>
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<td>STDC</td>
<td>Sustainable Tourism Development Committee</td>
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<td>TRPAP</td>
<td>Tourism for Rural Poverty Alleviation Project</td>
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<tr>
<td>TVE</td>
<td>township and village enterprise</td>
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<tr>
<td>UN</td>
<td>United Nations</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNCED</td>
<td>United Nations Convention (Conference) on Environment and Development</td>
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<td>UNCSDD</td>
<td>United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development</td>
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<td>UNDP</td>
<td>United Nations Development Programme</td>
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<td>UNEP</td>
<td>United Nations Environment Programme</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNESCO</td>
<td>United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation</td>
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<td>UNFPA</td>
<td>United Nations Fund for Population Activities</td>
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<td>USD</td>
<td>United States dollar</td>
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VAM = Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping
VDC = Village Development Committee
VDP = village development plans
VIG = village implementation groups

WCB = Water Conservancy Bureau
WCED = World Commission on Environment and Development
WF = Women’s Federation
WFP = World Food Programme
WTO = World Trade Organisation
WTTC = World Travel and Tourism Council
WWF = World Wildlife Federation

ZEL = former Centre for Food, Rural Development and the Environment, DSE, now InWent, Div. for Rural Development, Food and Consumer Protection
Glossary

mu  one fifteenth of a hectare
RMB yuan  Reminibi, the word for Chinese currency.
           The largest units is the yuan. In 2002, 1 USD = 8.27 yuan
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