

## Founding of ICIMOD

ICIMOD is the first International Centre in the field of mountain area development. It was founded out of widespread recognition of the alarming environmental degradation of mountain habitats and the consequent increasing impoverishment of mountain communities. A coordinated and systematic effort on an international scale was deemed essential to design and implement more effective development responses based on an integrated approach to mountain development and mountain environmental management.

The establishment of the Centre is based upon an agreement between His Majesty's Government of Nepal and the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) signed in 1981. The Centre was inaugurated by the Prime Minister of Nepal in December 1983, and began its professional activities in September 1984, with the support of its founding sponsors:

**HMG Nepal, the Government of Switzerland,  
the Federal Republic of Germany, and UNESCO**

The Centre, located in Kathmandu, the capital of the Kingdom of Nepal, enjoys the status of an autonomous international organisation.

### Participating Countries of the Hindu Kush-Himalayan Region

- o Nepal
- o India
- o Bhutan
- o Bangladesh
- o China
- o Pakistan
- o Myanmar
- o Afghanistan

CONSTRAINTS  
and  
OPPORTUNITIES



Look at natural and technical processes in a river  
to determine if mountain development management



Collecting water is hard work, especially for women and children



Separating roads on steep slopes difficult to construct,  
hard to maintain



Expensive water development and works add to the  
burden of water in the mountains



Locations and times adding some significant  
disturbance of roads in the mountains



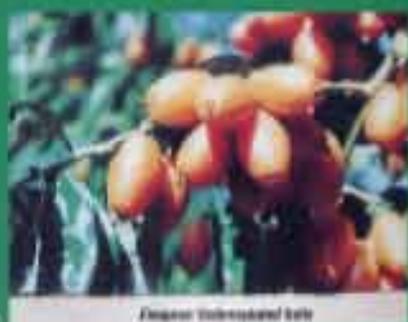
Stabilization of highly eroded mountain slopes is a  
major challenge



Maximizing soil-based water



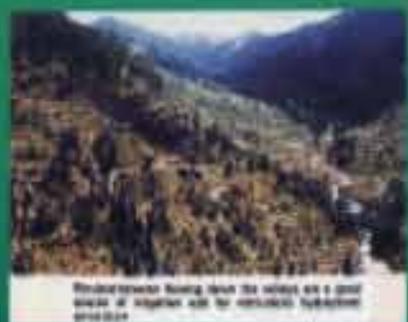
Mountain water



Foreign water-based fruits



Traditional water user needs marketing support to take  
full advantage



Resilient farmers living above the valley are a good  
source of information and for community hydrological  
production



Water power is a promising source of energy in the water  
sector