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## **Agricultural Transformation Processes in the Mountains of Nepal: Empirical Evidence from Ilam District**

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# Agricultural Transformation Processes in the Mountains of Nepal: Empirical Evidence from Ilam Districts

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*MFS Series No. 97/3*

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International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development  
Kathmandu, Nepal

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# Preface

Applied research on mountain agriculture's sustainability and unsustainability dynamics has been an important undertaking for the Mountain Farming Systems' Programme of ICIMOD since 1988. It was made possible, to some extent, through the constant support of Ford Foundation to the MFS Programme for its project on 'Strategies for Sustainable Mountain Agricultural Development', which was implemented in three phases.

The objectives of the present phase of the project (1994-96) focus on improving the understanding of the transformation processes and sustainability of mountain agriculture in the Hindu Kush-Himalayan (HKH) region (the Indian Himalayas and Nepal). This was accomplished by collecting empirical evidence through conducting field studies on cash crop dominated farming systems in the Indian Himalayas of Himachal Pradesh and Sikkim and in the mountain district of Ilam in Nepal.

This is the third in a publication series of the findings of case studies that ICIMOD conducted on Agricultural Development Processes and Sustainability in the HKH. The first is MFS 96/2 on Himachal Pradesh and the second is MFS 97/2 on Sikkim.



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Shiva Sharma

# Abstract

Preface

Acknowledgements

The present study was undertaken in the Ilam District of Nepal to examine the effects of mountain agricultural development processes on livelihood options of local farmers. The micro evidence suggests that transformation processes in agriculture have led mainly to cultivation of high-value cash crops and livestock. It shows that the types of production options selected in the process of transformation have been the same in both the study areas (transformed and non-transformed).

The three most important primary factors that have propelled agricultural transformation in Ilam are farmers who are innovative and aware, availability of a range of options with appropriate technological backstopping, and infrastructure linking the local markets to markets outside. Road facilities are fundamental to raising the educational levels and receptiveness of the farmers and essential for providing market access to the products and inputs for production.

Public Institutions

Markets and Hat Bazars

Development Indicators

Ilam and Neighbouring Districts Compared

## 3. Socioeconomic Profile of Farm Households

3.1

3.1.1

3.1.2

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