

Mountain Farming Systems



Discussion Paper
Series No. MFS 96/1

EDUCATION, RESEARCH AND SUSTAINABLE MOUNTAIN AGRICULTURE PRIORITIES FOR THE HINDU KUSH-HIMALAYAS

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International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development
Kathmandu, Nepal
1996

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ISSN 1024 - 7548

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First Printed in 1996

Reprint in 1997

Published by

International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development

G.P.O. Box 3226

Kathmandu, Nepal

Typesetting at ICIMOD Publications' Unit

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EDUCATION, RESEARCH AND SUSTAINABLE MOUNTAIN AGRICULTURE

PRIORITIES FOR THE HINDU KUSH-HIMALAYAS

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January 1997

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PREFACE

The Mountain Farming Systems' Division of ICIMOD is engaged in a long-term programme of Strategies for Sustainable Mountain Agriculture. Among the four main thrust areas, one focus is on the Institutional Strengthening Needs of the HKH Region for Sustainable Mountain Agricultural Development. Since 1992, the institutional strengthening programme activity has been fully supported by the Government of the Netherlands. The key elements of this programme activity included assessing and strengthening the institutional capacities in regional member countries with respect to their functioning and with relevance to sustainable mountain agricultural development.

Farm education and research were given special attention under the institutional strengthening activity. In addition to reviewing the current situation of the HKH agricultural research and education institutions, different approaches were adopted to strengthen capacities in these institutions. To open up a regional platform for cooperation among education and research institutions of the eight Hindu Kush-Himalayan countries, a **'Regional Consultation on Education and Research for Sustainable Mountain Agriculture'** was organised from January 23rd to 26th 1996 in Kathmandu, Nepal. The eighty-five participants at this meeting included Vice Chancellors of universities in the Hindu Kush-Himalayas; Heads of agricultural research institutions, both national and provincial; and experts from government extension and development agencies, donors, and International Agricultural Research Centres. The main goal of this meeting was to provide an opportunity for sharing experiences and identifying priority areas for regional cooperation. In this respect, the meeting was a great success and recommendations were made for follow-up at both national level and at international level by ICIMOD.

This discussion paper, **'Education Research and Sustainable Mountain Agriculture: Priorities for the Hindu Kush-Himalayas'**, was the key research paper presented at the beginning of the meeting to give the background for other presentations and subsequent deliberations. By publishing this and other issue papers from the consultation meeting in the MFS Discussion paper series, ICIMOD seeks to share the knowledge gained with a wider audience. This current paper should be of interest to all those who are working with or are concerned about the state of education on and research in sustainable mountain agricultural development.

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