

## FORESTRY – FARMING LINKAGES IN THE MOUNTAINS



T.B.S. Mahat

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The consideration of forests as a part of the mountain system, in some cases leading to its closure in order to make the land "productive", is slowly changing into better understanding, not only of the historic relationship between forests, livestock and agricultural productivity, but also of the many ways in which forests and their products contribute directly to the livelihood and economic sustainability of the mountain people.

The present book stems from the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) research and advisory program on forest sustainability. It also shows the high degree of interlinkage and integration in any form of

mountain activity. It is the authors' intention to provide a synthesis of current research and to provide a practical framework for the development of forest management plans in mountain areas.

We would like to express our appreciation to the professional participants of the 1992-93 workshop and the 1994-95 workshop, who were assisted by the same people who gave their practical contribution to the workshop.

It is hoped that this book will contribute to the development of a better understanding of the complex interactions between forests and other mountain resources, and that it will provide a practical framework for the development of forest management plans in mountain areas.

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IN THE MOUNTAINS**

**T. B. S. Mahat**

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The consideration of forests as a free and abundant resource, in some cases waiting to be cleared in order to make the land "productive", is slowly changing into deeper understanding, not only of the intimate relationship between forests, livestock and agricultural productivity, but also of the many ways in which forest and tree products contribute directly to the food and income requirements of the mountain people.

The present joint study by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) documents and provides examples of these relationships. It also shows the high degree of flexibility and adaptation to new levels of

resource scarcity shown by the mountain communities themselves. However, it points to the urgency of external support and new investments if widespread human suffering and ecological damage is to be avoided.

We wish to express our recognition of the value of this study by Dr. T.B.S. Mahat with the professional participation of Mr. J-P. Jeanrenaud and Mrs. R. L. J. Shrestha, and our gratitude to the many people who gave their time and contribution to the document.

It is hoped that the study will stimulate interest in the rehabilitation of upland areas through investment in forestry activities as an integral part of a diversified mountain economy.

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Nepal-Australia Forestry Project, Stage-2  
Panchayat Forest  
Panchayat Protected Forest  
Small Forestry Development Programme  
Total Digestible Nutrient  
Tree Seed Unit  
United Nations Development Programme  
United States Agency for International Development  
Metric Tonne

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This paper has evolved out of the earlier ICIMOD working papers on the subject which, because of the unconventional nature of the subject matter chosen, has been a rather complex and difficult task. The author is indebted to Mr. J-P. Jeanrenaud and Mrs. R.L.J. Shrestha, his colleagues in this study, who provided valuable assistance through research and contribution on the earlier working papers. Mr. J-P. Jeanrenaud has not only provided material for this paper, particularly to the sections on Daphne Paper, Bamboo and Allo Cloth, but has also made a valuable contribution to the better understanding of Nepal's lesser known forest resources for rural income generation by way of his already published work on Daphne (Lokta) paper making in Nepal. Mrs. R.L.J. Shrestha provided the economic analysis and

other material, in particular the case studies of the Nepal-Australia Forestry Project, Medicinal Plants Development and Mushroom Farming.

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The views expressed in this paper are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the views of ICIMOD or FAO.

## ABBREVIATIONS

ADAB	Australian Development Assistance Bureau
ADB/HMG-N	Asian Development Bank/ His Majesty's Government of Nepal
APROSC	Agricultural Projects Services Centre
BLU	Big Livestock Unit
c.	ca., circa, about
CBS	Central Bureau of Statistics
FAO/UN	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
HK-H Region	Hindu Kush-Himalaya (Mountain) Region
HMG-N	His Majesty's Government of Nepal
ICIMOD	International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development
Kabhre	Kabhre Palanchok
KHARDEP	Koshi Hill Area Rural Development Project
NAFP-2	Nepal-Australia Forestry Project. Stage-2
PF	Panchayat Forest
PPF	Panchayat Protected Forest
SFDP	Small Farmers' Development Programme
TDN	Total Digestible Nutrient
TSU	Tree Seed Unit
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
mt	Metric Tonne

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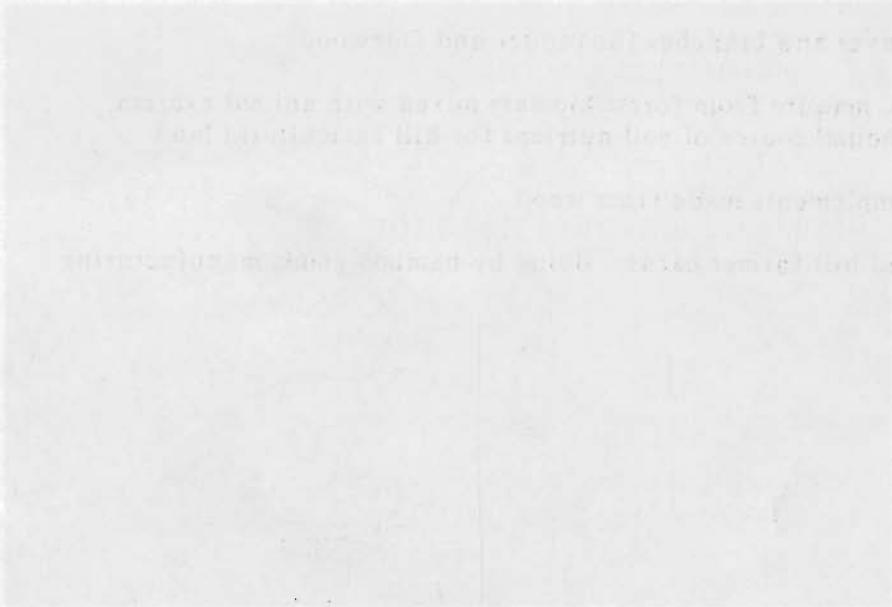


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