

Selected Impressions

An inspiration to see the efforts made by the Nepalese people and Government to address a crisis situation of environmental ruin with such a bold vision and yet to have the courage and honesty to admit the horrendous resistances being encountered.

A sense of disquiet at the lack of a perspective, a conceptual framework that would make sense of a society in transition and the kind of institutions needed to actualise the vision (community control over resources) was articulated.

A sense of hope and respect for the spirit that underlies international concern for the problems of another society, notwithstanding difficulties of coordination, relevance, and unequal power that is endemic to such kinds of intervention.

Overall, a sense of being fortunate at being able to expand our horizons and sense of relevance.

-- **Ajay Mehta**

Choice of appropriate people can make discussions fairly focussed despite the lack of a "structured" agenda.

Insights generated through anecdotal information was one of the major gains of this meeting.

-- **N.S. Jodha**

I was impressed by:

- the sharing of experiences between Nepal and India, especially on user group community forestry and joint forest management;
- the market-oriented forestry programme in India;
- the sharing of experiences between NGOs in both countries;
- the discussion of gender issues in forestry;
- group discussions on user group organisation, legitimacy, institution building, and forest technology; and
- individual presentations on their organisation's approach and strategy.

-- **B.R. Pathak**

Once upon a time there was a bandwagon to promote TCDC ('Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries'). It disappeared gradually as people found out TCDC had been meant for the procurement of less cost-effective goods and services from other developing countries.

TCDC, in its true sense, should have been conceived to promote the exchange of information and experiences of success or failure in solving crucial problems of countries belonging to similar ecological zones and, if possible, having similar socioeconomic conditions.

This seminar, as other undertakings of ICIMOD, is exactly to the point. The Second Community Forestry Seminar should expand its coverage of countries to Pakistan, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Bhutan, and China for wider exchange of everything as mentioned above.

-- **Katsura Watanabe**

Wonderful interaction between people from a more than a 100 year-old forest department in India and the younger Nepalese department.

Our group was together from the beginning to the end.

-- **Madhu Sarin**