



# Hill Districts of Bangladesh

## Experiences in Development

Report of the National Workshop  
held in Rangamati, Bangladesh  
January 23-25, 1995



Jointly Organised by  
The Special Affairs' Division and  
Chittagong Hill Tracts' Development Board (CHTDB),  
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh,  
and  
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# Hill Districts of Bangladesh Experiences in Development

The National Workshop on the 'Hill Districts of Bangladesh: Experiences in Development' was the first of its kind ever organised in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT). The Chittagong Hill Tracts' Development Board (CHTDB), The Special Affairs' Division (SAD) of the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS), and the Mountain Farming Systems' Programme of CIMOD put in months of planning and related efforts in order to hold this workshop. When it finally took place, it was indeed a very successful meeting.

First, the meeting brought together many participants, representing at least 25 different organisations – mainly national ones, working in the Chittagong Hill Tracts. Second, the workshop for the first time made a comprehensive review of development activities, identified critical areas of change and problems, and also made some recommendations regarding future priorities. Third, it brought together the existing database on the Chittagong Hill Tracts, providing an excellent basis for future research work. The opportunity to learn from each other in sharing experiences and avoiding duplication was seen as the most valuable achievement of the workshop.

The Chittagong Hill Tracts' Development Board continues to play an important role in promoting integrated development of the Chittagong Hill Tracts with its numerous intersectoral programme activities. CIMOD, along with the Government of Bangladesh, the Government of West Bengal, and others, is also helping to improve the livelihoods of the people of the Hill Tracts through the demonstration of Appropriate Technologies for Soil Conserving Agriculture (ATSCA), the demonstration of Appropriate Technologies for Soil Conserving Agriculture (ATSCA), in addition to providing support to professionals in different training programmes. The Workshop has very clearly helped us to assess our efforts as well as to define future priorities. It has been agreed that dialogues such as this should become a regular part of the efforts to promote sustainable development in the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

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I would like to thank Major General M. Azizur Rahman, Chairman of the Chittagong Hill Tracts' Development Board, and Dr. Fazlul Hassan Yusuf, Secretary, Special Affairs' Division, for their keen interest in and co-sponsorship of this Workshop and their contributions to the workshop, including their comments on an earlier draft of this report.

CIMOD is looking forward to promoting follow-up activities that will improve the quality of life of the people and the condition of the environment in the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

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Eghen Palinck  
Director General  
CIMOD

# Foreword

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Egbert Pelinck  
Director General  
ICIMOD

# Introduction to the Workshop

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