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Currently, Prof. Verma is the chairperson of APIMONDIA International Commission on Asiatic Honeybee, *Apis cerana* and a member of APIMONDIA Commission on Bee Biology. His initiative efforts have led to the foundation of the Asian Apicultural Association. He has been actively involved as a consultant/advisor in several international beekeeping development programmes in different countries of Asia.

**ICIMOD** is the first International Centre in the field of mountain area development. It was founded out of widespread recognition of the alarming environmental degradation of mountain habitats and consequent increasing impoverishment of mountain communities. A coordinated and systematic effort on an international scale was deemed essential to design and implement more effective development responses in each of the countries concerned.

The establishment of the Centre is based on an agreement between His Majesty's Government of Nepal and the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) signed in 1981. The Centre, located in Kathmandu, was inaugurated by the Prime Minister of Nepal in December 1983, and began its professional activities in September 1984. It enjoys the status of an autonomous international organisation.

Participating countries of the Hindu Kush-Himalaya Region:

- |                                   |                                  |                              |                                |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> Afghanistan | <input type="radio"/> Bangladesh | <input type="radio"/> Bhutan | <input type="radio"/> Burma    |
| <input type="radio"/> China       | <input type="radio"/> India      | <input type="radio"/> Nepal  | <input type="radio"/> Pakistan |

INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR INTEGRATED  
MOUNTAIN DEVELOPMENT (ICIMOD)

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Front cover: Honeybee pollinating an oilseed plant (*Brassica campestris*)

ISBN 81-204-0650-8

**OXFORD & IBH PUBLISHING CO. PVT. LTD.**

New Delhi

Bombay

Calcutta