



MOUNTAIN FARMING SYSTEMS

Discussion Paper Series

**STRATEGIES AND OPTIONS IN THE PROVISION
OF AGRICULTURAL SUPPORT SERVICES IN MOUNTAIN REGIONS
OF PAKISTAN**

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PREFACE

ICIMOD's approach to problem oriented research involves both knowledge reviews and field studies. The focused reviews and field studies conducted by the Mountain Farming Systems Division cover various aspects of agricultural development. Since early 1983, a series of 'state of the art' reviews of agricultural policies were sponsored by ICIMOD in different countries of the HKH Region. The studies and the subsequent National Workshops in different countries was to understand some of the constraints and prospects of Mountain area development. These exercises were also aimed at acquiring comparative perspectives of development approaches in different countries.

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This paper was also a part of this series of studies, commissioned by ICIMOD, and was also presented at the Workshop on 'Mountain Agriculture in Pakistan', held by ICIMOD in February, 1989, in Swat, Pakistan. The specific issues that are discussed in this study concern the strategies and options in the provision of agricultural support services. The responsibility of the content rests with the author.

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CONTENTS
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Objectives, Scope, and Methodology

The main objective of this paper is to examine the social dimensions of mountain environments and identify the distinct features which should guide development and institutional strategy in the provision of a broad range of agricultural support services to small farmers. The paper will document the response of traditional farming systems to the mountain environments and study how these small farming communities adapt to the special conditions of mountain regions. The production and consumption patterns in these areas will define the range of agricultural support services that are crucial for these subsistence farmers.

The specific areas of services that will be covered in this paper include input supply, credit, fertiliser, extension, and marketing. The delivery mechanisms by which these services are provided to small farmers will be included in this review and these issues will be discussed in detail. Due to the inadequate nature of the physical and marketing infrastructure, small farmers are often more resilient in the use of traditional management systems. These systems are unavailable. This review will examine the management of production systems and their interaction with agricultural support services.

This paper will be published in the Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) sector. The study of the Agricultural Knowledge Resource Support Programme (AKRSP), a development programme which has distinguished itself as a flexible approach which responds to the special conditions of mountain regions can be a precursor to realising equitable economic growth.

This paper will examine the areas of Gilgit, Baltistan, and the FATA region. The AKRSP is designing a programme of extension, extension training, and extension services. The policy framework suggested in the report also draws on the experience of some African and Asian countries. This experience was incorporated on the understanding that the mountain environments of the Himalayas-Hindu Kush share common features with other mountain regions.

Objectives, Scope, and Methodology

Traditional Support Systems in a Mountain Environment

Production Systems in a Subsistence Economy

Traditional Marketing Systems

Traditional Input Supply Sources

Case Study of an Agricultural Support Programme

Characteristics of the Programme Area

Characteristics of the AKRSP Approach

Summary and Conclusions

Incorporating Traditional Institutions in Development

Transaction Cost Approach to Programming

Agro-ecological Variation and Commodity Sub-system

From Subsistence Production to Market Exchange Production

Selected Innovations and Techniques for Extension

Alternative Government Policy and Structures