

Mini- and Micro-Hydropower for Mountain Development in the Hindu Kush-Himalayan Region

International Experts' Consultative Meeting



**Kathmandu, Nepal
13 -17 June, 1994**



International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development

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Several, and highly experienced persons from international agencies, such as the International Technology Development Group (ITDG), the Swiss Center for Development Cooperation in Technology and Management (SKAT), and the Association for Promotion of Alternative Technologies (PAAT), participated.

An important aspect of the Consultative Meeting was the presentation of information about the extent and diversity of the programmes and approaches in the implementation and management of MHP plants in the Region, as well as the level of achievements. It is hoped that, as a result of participation in this Consultative Meeting and the subsequent orientating programme for decision-makers, these countries might also introduce private sector programmes.

International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development
Kathmandu, Nepal

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Cover photographs:	Background	:	Purang MHP Electrification Plant, Mustang
	Inset top right	:	A rice huller powered by a small MHP plant
	Inset bottom left	:	Participants of the International Experts' Consultative Meeting

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In the preparation of this report, an attempt has been made to reflect the views and interpretations expressed by the participants at the workshop. These views and interpretations are not attributable to the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), and do not imply the expression of an opinion concerning the legal status of any country, city, or area of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

Foreword

An adequate supply and efficient usage of energy is critical for the development of remote and inaccessible mountain areas and for improving the living conditions of mountain people. Traditional sources of energy, in particular firewood and biomass, still dominate the energy scene of the Hindu Kush-Himalayas. Any new initiative in developing alternative sources of energy should be as far as possible based on an assessment of the appropriateness of the different options that might be available for satisfying the specific needs of specific mountain communities. For centuries Mini- and Micro-hydropower (MMHP) has been used in the HKH in various applications, mainly for agroprocessing. Over the last 30-40 years considerable efforts have been made to use hydropower also for generating electricity in remote areas of the HKH mountains, where connection with the national grid would be unlikely in the short or medium term.

This Consultative Meeting of MMHP experts was organised to review the status of some of the MMHP projects that have been implemented so far in different countries, including the status of MMHP policies and the experience of the private sector. In terms of outputs, the Consultative Meeting formulated appropriate recommendations for the acceleration of MMHP programmes in the HKH Region and for solutions to the problems being faced by private decentralised MMHP plants. More specifically, the Meeting also identified and evaluated the training needs of various groups and prepared outlines for an orientation-cum-training programme for high level decision-makers which would enable them to evolve and adopt suitable policies for the promotion of MMHP. It is hoped that the concerned agencies and government departments in the participating countries will be able to take advantage of these recommendations.

Participation in the Meeting was of a very high level, both from the Region as well as from abroad, and highly experienced persons from international agencies, such as the Intermediate Technology Development Group (ITDG), the Swiss Centre for Development Cooperation in Technology and Management (SKAT), and the Association for Promotion of Appropriate Technologies (FAKT), participated.

An important aspect of the Consultative Meeting was the presentation of information about the extent and diversity of the programmes and approaches in the implementation and management of MMHP plants in the Region, as well as the level of achievements. It is hoped that, as a result of participation in this Consultative Meeting and the subsequent orientation programme for decision-makers, these countries might also introduce private sector programmes.

ICIMOD has always considered renewable energy resources for the mountains to be a priority area. Development of a better understanding of appropriate energy systems and policies will continue to be accorded high priority in the future in ICIMOD's activities.

The Meeting was part of an ongoing project in which five HKH countries are participating. This project is sponsored by the Norwegian Government and its main aim is to evolve ways and means to strengthen the capabilities of the participating countries for the implementation of MMHP programmes in a sustainable and efficient manner.

Egbert Pelinck
Director General

Contents

	Page
Background	
1. INTRODUCTION	1
Background	1
Objectives and Expected Outputs of the Meeting	3
Participants and the Programme	3
2. THE INAUGURAL SESSION	5
Introductory Remarks	5
Keynote Speech by Mr. Ueli Meier	6
Chairman's Closing Remarks	8
3. COUNTRY STATEMENTS AND SYNTHESIS OF EXPERIENCES	9
China - Recent Development	9
India - Current Initiatives	9
Pakistan - Highlights	10
Nepal - Programme Status	11
Discussions	11
Synthesis of Country Experiences	13
4. HIGH PRIORITY ISSUES OF MMHP	17
Policies and Government Support	17
Indigenous Technology Issues	17
Plant Utilisation	18
Training and Promotional Aspects	18
Management and Operations	19
Group Discussions	19
5. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	29
Training Programme Outlines	29
Conclusions	31
ANNEXES	35