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Complete Regional Policy Workshop Proceedings, Papers, Participants
Policy Priorities for Sustainable Mountain Development

18-20 September 2006

Policy—a process by which governments translate their vision into programmes and activities to deliver outcomes — is always a strategic point for action, for bringing about desired reforms in the ways development interventions are carried out to achieve socioeconomic transformation. In the context of the Hindu Kush-Himalayan region, this compendium of policy papers on a wide variety of mountain issues and themes offer a framework and a lens with which to review policy. The papers help us understand the regional experiences and differences, and contextualise issues from the mountain perspective. Policy making and implementation in the region have been carried out based on multi-stakeholder consultations, with specific pro-mountain development outcome as the objectives. Some of the policy experiences cited have led to the sustainable development of key sectors such as mountain agriculture and natural resources management. The book discusses policy options available to carry out programmes in sustainable conservation and management of natural resources, production and marketing of mountain niche products, and harnessing of ecosystem services produced and maintained by mountain farmers through innovative mechanisms of payment for environmental services. Issues of inequity and poor access to mountain resources by mountain farmers are also discussed, and solutions by way of participatory and community-based natural resources management offered. The recommendations found in the book, the result of the workshop, are points for governments, policy makers, and development practitioners working with mountain communities to ponder and consider.