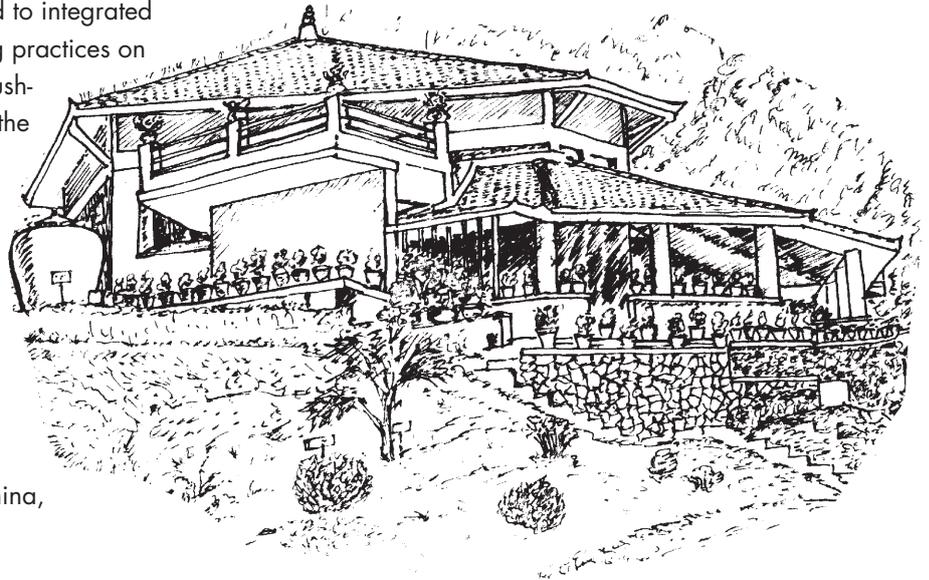


ICIMOD Demonstration and Training Centre

The **ICIMOD Demonstration and Training Centre at Godavari**, on the southern slopes of the Kathmandu Valley, was set up in March 1993, following the generous provision of 30 hectares of land by His Majesty's Government of Nepal in November 1992. The site was originally named the 'Godavari Trial and Demonstration Site', and was intended for testing and demonstration of various methodologies related to integrated mountain development and sustainable farming practices on the sloping land of the mid-hills of the Hindu Kush-Himalayan region. The main characteristics of the site are summarised overleaf.

The activities at the site are closely related to ICIMOD's central mandate to ".....help promote the development of an economically and environmentally sound mountain ecosystem and to improve the living standards of mountain populations in the Hindu Kush-Himalayas (HKH)....." (all or part of the eight countries Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Myanmar, Nepal, and Pakistan).



The site provides a practical pendant to the often more theoretical activities of the Centre – a place where different technologies and farming and other practices useful for sustainable development can be tested, selected, and demonstrated; where farmers and those who work with them can be trained; and which can serve as a repository for plant germplasm resources and associated floral and faunal biodiversity. The activities help underpin ICIMOD's focus on the two major issues challenging the region: the reduction of poverty and the conservation of the natural resource base.

The specific objectives are

- to test and modify technologies and methodologies for **sustainable land use** and management of natural resources appropriate for all or part of the HKH region;
- to demonstrate viable options for the **rehabilitation of degraded lands** and sustainable mountain agriculture;
- to demonstrate viable options for **using mountain niches** to increase farm income;
- to collect **germplasm of multipurpose plants** and cash plants for the HKH region;
- to provide training facilities to **improve the skills and the technical knowledge** of farmers, development workers, and members of collaborating institutions in new and proven technologies and approaches for sustainable land use and income generation in the HKH region; and
- to **disseminate appropriate technologies, knowledge, information, and replicable experiences** in the HKH region and other mountain systems through training and visits.

At the time it was handed over, a large part of the site was heavily degraded and the initial activities focused on the rehabilitation of degraded land systems. Since then, a considerable part of the degraded forest and shrubland has been gradually restored to semi-natural forest; selected slopes have been converted to crop-bearing terrace land using contour hedgerows of nitrogen-fixing plants; orchards of different types of fruit trees have been established; demonstration sites for various agricultural technologies, income generating activities, and water harvesting techniques have been set up; demonstration models of various renewable energy technologies have been introduced in collaboration with local NGOs; a wetlands development site has been established; and a training centre has been built. The number of approaches being tested and demonstrated has increased over time, with the aim of covering all the different aspects involved in a genuinely integrated approach to mountain development and agriculture. The most recent development has been a renewed focus on community outreach, with off-site demonstration and training activities in the communities of the Phulchowki watershed in collaboration with a partner NGO.

All plants are grown under organic conditions, that is without inputs of inorganic fertiliser or pesticides. Thus the test results reflect the results that could be obtained by the mostly poor farmers in remote areas of the Hindu Kush-Himalayas who have little access to and cannot afford commercial agricultural inputs.

Activities in an integrated agricultural system are by their nature cross-cutting and often interactive and interdependent. The activities at the ICIMOD Demonstration and Training Centre are linked within a holistic approach that covers a broad range of the possibilities for livelihood – and quality of life – improvement of mountain farmers, especially those in the mid-hill areas of the HKH region. For purposes of description, the activities are classified broadly under the following headings, but many have multiple functions, and/or are directly interlinked with each other. The major areas of activities are

- Vegetation management
- Soil management
- Water management
- Income generation through high value cash crops, horticulture and beekeeping
- Livestock and fish
- Biodiversity
- Renewable energy technologies
- Support functions and scientific research
- Community outreach – off-site demonstration and training and provision of materials
- Training and visitors
- Publications

More details of the specific activities are given under these headings on the accompanying sheets.

Major Characteristics of the ICIMOD Demonstration and Training Centre Site

Latitude	27°35'19" to 27°35'41"N	
Longitude	85°23'16" to 85°23'44" E	
Altitude	1540-1800 masl	
Area	30 ha	
Slope gradient	5°-60° (north-facing)	
Climate	subtropical to warm temperate	
Temperature (1995-2007, manual data)	average annual maximum	22.0°C
	average annual minimum	12.4°C
	average annual mean	17.2°C
	mean hottest month (June)	22.4°C
	mean coldest month (January)	9.0°C
	absolute minimum (30 Dec 2003)	-0.9°C
	absolute maximum (10 June 1998)	33.8°C
Mean annual rainfall (1996-2007)	2004 mm, 80% between June and September	
Soil	texture	clay loam to sandy and silty clay loam
	depth	25-100 cm
	pH	4.2-5.5
	organic matter content (0-30 cm)	8.3%
Natural vegetation	mixed deciduous and evergreen broadleaved forest	
Catchment area	4 mini watersheds and 12 mini sub-catchments within the main Phulchowki watershed	
Flora and Fauna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 694 species of flora representing 10% of the reported 7000 vascular plants of Nepal • diverse fauna from leeches to large mammals; so far a total of 231 different species recorded and identified 	

