

Women of agricultural and herding communities of the Hindu Kush-Himalayas (HKH) have woven an indelible and colourful pattern of cultures and lifestyles which is part of the fascinating mystique of this rugged and economically marginalised region. However, from a very young age girls in this region are dragged down also into a cycle of drudgery from which there is little relief.

Although the issue of gender balanced development has been the subject of numerous conferences, workshops, seminars, publications, and many national policies have been developed, the extent to which this is translated into practice is still limited. In the HKH, gender is a crucial element of sustainable land use, environmental stability, and poverty alleviation. The already heavy workload of women has more recently been aggravated by considerable male outmigration to the plains, urban areas, and beyond in search for better income opportunities. Other common problems of mountain women are their limited access to social services, credit facilities, and agricultural extension; levels of literacy are low

and they have minimum or no control over resources. While not all the women in the HKH are facing all these problems, and indeed there are ethnic groups that are more favourable towards women, the overall inequity between men and women was a major reason for ICIMOD giving gender and development a prominent emphasis in its core programme since 1995. Through 12 case studies, considerable literature reviews, and many interactions with specialists and village

women alike, we have now developed a minimum level of understanding that, with this issue of the ICIMOD Newsletter, is shared for further application and information. An important mechanism for bringing about change for the women of the HKH is to encourage change in ICIMOD itself as well as in its partner institutions. To this end, ICIMOD has just completed the first regional training course on 'Gender and Organizational Development for Sustainable Mountain Land Use in the HKH'. It is part of a project, funded by the Government of the Netherlands that aims at strengthening the capacities of ICIMOD and 16 partner institutions for incorporating gender concerns into their programmes.

Egbert Pelinck, Director General

**All
ICIMOD
Staff
Wishes
You a Very
Happy
1998!**

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**Gender
& Mountain
Development**



Gender is a concept that deals with the roles and relationships between men and women which are determined by the social, political, and economic context and not by biology.

Gender is socially constructed and changeable while

with 'both' sexes in relation to each other and not 'either / or'.

No, gender does not imply that all women are alike. While social and economic structures disrupt homogeneity, women share experiences, strengths, and obstacles that bind them

together as a group. Race, ethnicity, class, caste, nationality,

age, and civil standing are other factors that may be causes for significant differences among males or females, but gender is always present and cannot be ignored.

Gender is not a mass social movement that aims to divide men and women and cause conflicts that are not in existence. Rather, it brings together those issues relating to men and women that have brought about unequal relations and draws the attention of development workers in order to address these with appropriate measures that will help change rather than perpetuate them.

To sum it up, gender is all about reconciling growth with equitable distribution of benefits among men and women, equality of power-relations between men and women, and most of all to highlight the interdependence and partnership between men and women in any field of development.

It is definitely not an aim of gender and development to reverse the roles and get men only to do the dishes or change nappies!

¹ *INSTRAW (the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women). 1995. Gender Concepts in Development Planning: Basic Approach. Dominican Republic: INSTRAW.*

What is Gender?

biological sex is natural and permanent, under normal circumstances.

Characteristics that define sex are fairly straightforward and formed in the womb at the moment of conception. Those of gender are a more subtle yet permanent process of development, evolving through childhood and maturing with adulthood.

In brief, "Gender is a concept, a condition, a category and a component"¹ and hence an integral part of development.

Often discussions on gender provoke questions similar to the following.

Does gender have to do with women only?

Does gender also deal with men?

Does gender view all women to be the same?

Does gender divide men and women, or unite them?

Is reversal of roles on the agenda of gender?

How does gender differ from Women in Development?

Gender is not a synonym for the word 'women' nor is it an abbreviation for 'men and women'. As explained above, it is a concept that attempts to look at and understand the differences between men and women that are externally influenced and conditions imposed on the naturally given biological sexes. Therefore, in this attempt gender has to deal

WID

In 1970, Esther Boserup published the analysis of her research titled "Women's Role in Economic Development," which concluded that women were the major contributors, particularly in agriculture, to community productivity but that contribution was not reflected in national statistics nor in development projects. She also went on to emphasise that women were being displaced by modernisation (e.g., better living conditions, wages, education, health facilities, etc) and their traditional productive functions, income, and status were diminishing.

The 'International Women's Year' was in 1975 and the period between 1976-1985 was declared the 'UN Decade for Women' during which major conferences were held in Mexico, Copenhagen, and Nairobi to improve women's productivity. Hence came about the formulation of a strategy to influence policy-makers, researchers, and international development agencies called 'Women in Development' to integrate women into global processes of economic, political, and social growth and change.

Many studies were commissioned and, in general, it showed that women had 'fared less well' from development efforts. The WID approach did not question why and continued to focus only on how women could be better integrated into ongoing development initiatives. Projects and programmes tended to be 'welfare' oriented for women and children, e.g., food aid distribution, nutrition, and childcare training etc to support women in their role as mothers. In brief, the WID approach is based on assumptions that gender relations will change naturally as women gain more economic power. In a few instances, say among the better-off groups of women and individuals, this theory may have worked but it is "doubtful whether individual gains will translate themselves into the overall betterment of women as a

Women in Development & Gender and Development

Theoretically much easier to distinguish, in reality the two approaches overlap considerably, hence making it hard to draw the line between the two.

gender" (Young 1987). Generally, among the poorest of the poor, this was far from true and it aggravated rather than alleviated poverty. But this is not to say that all WID efforts were totally ineffective or unnecessary. Welfare and anti-poverty schemes are necessary preconditions for equity in many cases, but these only enhance women's 'condition' as opposed to 'position' which is the key to analysing why things are the way they are.

GAD
The GAD approach emerged as an alternative to WID in the 1980s. Contrary to the WID approach, in which women were viewed as passive recipients of assistance, the GAD approach views women as active participants in development. It does not focus on women per se but on the social construction of gender and assignment of specific roles and responsibilities and the expectations of women and men.

According to Kate Young (1987), the GAD approach starts from a holistic perspective, looking at the "totality of social organization, economic and political life in order to understand the shaping of particular aspects of society". The GAD approach critically examines and analyses the underlying assumptions of current social, economic, and political structure and questions the steps being considered for fundamental goals such as ensuring equity and equality for women in development, that were far from being achieved.

The approach is not a move to publicise that all men are active promoters of male dominance nor does it say that all men are aware of the social bases of male dominance. *"It does not assume that men are invariably wrongheaded or wicked, aggressive and power possessed"*, nor *"is it assumed that women by essence have some greater power and understanding than men"* (Young 1987). In the GAD

Contrary to the WID approach, in which women were viewed as passive recipients of assistance, the GAD approach views women as active participants in development.



Photo: P. Tulachan

approach, 'welfare' or basic needs are built into programmes as elements of a wider consciousness-raising, and it is a means to an end and not an end itself. Gender relations are very dynamic, not determined by a uniform pace or direction but having a permanent influence on the making or formation of men and women.

To look through the 'gender lens' at the differing impacts of development

on women and men, separately and together, will help us to identify and resolve underlying conflicts and not create them. The overall goal of, be it WID or GAD, is to help bring about positive changes, changes that are forward looking, changes that fish for opportunities that will enhance equitable participation in the sustainable development efforts and equality between women and men.

References

- 1) Longwe, S. H., Gender Awareness: The Missing Link in the Third World Development Project.
- 2) Young, K. 1987. Gender and Development.
- 3) op. cit. 1995

The Differentiation between WID and GAD

	WID	GAD
The Approach	An approach that seeks to integrate women into the development process.	An approach which seeks to empower women and transform unequal relations between women and men.
The Focus	Women	Relations between men and women
The Problem	The exclusion of women from the development process.	Unequal power relations (rich & poor/women & men) that prevent equitable development and women's full participation.
The Goal	More efficient, effective development.	Equitable, sustainable development; Women and Men sharing decision-making and power.
The Strategies	Women's projects Women's components Integrated projects Increase women's productivity and income Increase women's ability to manage their households	Identify and address short-term needs determined by women and men to improve their conditions At the same time, address women's and men's long-term interests.

Source: Moffat, L., Geadah, Y. and Stuart, R. 1991. *Two Halves Make a Whole: Balancing Gender Relations in Development*. Ottawa: CCIC (178pp). Available from Women's Ink, USA.



Gender and Development Dictionary

To assist you in understanding better the various terminology currently in-use in relation to the gender and development process, here is a list of most frequently used terms.

Empowerment is the process of generating and building capabilities to exercise control over one's own life.

Efficiency rationale: Efficiency rationale holds that development activities will be more effective with the full involvement of women and men in their full capacities.

Equity rationale: The equity rationale regards the equal representation of women's and men's interests essential in the development of justice.

Gender is the socially constructed roles and responsibilities assigned to men and women in a given culture / location and the societal structures that support them. Gender is a non-permanent, learned behaviour that changes over time.

Gender Analysis is an organized approach for considering gender issues in the entire process of programme development. Its purpose is to ensure full incorporation of roles, needs, and participation of women and men in development projects and programmes. It requires: disaggregation of data by sex; disaggregation of information by sex; and an understanding of labour division and its value according to sex. Gender Analysis is done at all stages of development.

Gender awareness is the ability to identify problems arising from gender inequality and discrimination, even those that are not so evident on the surface but are 'hidden'. It is a high level of gender conscientisation involving a whole lot of analytical or critical questioning of gender disparities.

Gender bias is the tendency to make decisions or take actions based on gender.

Gender discrimination is the prejudicial treatment of an individual based on a gender stereotype (often referred to as sexism or sexual discrimination).

Gender division of labour is the division of labour whereby roles, responsibilities and activities are assigned to women and men based on

gender. It is an overall societal pattern in which women are allotted a set of gender roles and men allotted another set. For, e.g., weeding and ploughing are gender roles of women and men respectively.

Gender equity occurs when women and men participate as equals, have equal access to resources, and equal opportunities to exercise control.

Gender issues are specific consequences of the inequality of women and men.

Gender sensitive is being aware of the differences between women's and men's needs, roles, responsibilities, and constraints.

Gender planning means recognising gender issues in the identification of problems and addressing them in the development objectives whilst planning.

Gender roles are activities ascribed to men and women on the basis of perceived differences. These are socially not biologically classified, e.g., child-rearing as the gender role of women when it can be done by both sexes.

Gender relations are ways in which a culture or society defines rights, responsibilities, and identities of men and women in relation to one another.

Gender training is a means of providing people with formal learning experiences to increase their gender awareness. Through training people are equipped with the adequate knowledge, skills, and tools necessary to recognise and address gender issues in their work.

Harvard Analytical Framework: One of the first Gender Analysis models to be developed that identifies and organizes information about the gender division of labour in a given community according to three levels of analysis viz. the Activity profile, the Access and Control profile, and the Influencing factors.

Practical needs are immediate, easily identifiable material needs arising out of gender roles and that are

requirements for daily living. These can be met through short-term practical solutions such as a hand pump / tap for providing for the home, clinics for health care, and credit & training for income-generation activities.

Sex is the biological difference between women and men. It is universal, obvious and permanent and cannot be changed under normal circumstances.

Sex roles are those that are determined by virtue of your sex, such as child-bearing and breast-feeding that are sex roles of women that cannot be done by both sexes.

Strategic interests tend to be long term and relate to improving the positions of people. They arise from changing positions in society such as subordination, lack of resources, male-female disparities in wages, education, vulnerability to poverty and violence, etc.

Triple role of women refers to three types of work done by women: PRODUCTIVE (that contributes to the household economy such as crop and livestock production, handicrafts' production, marketing, and wage employment); REPRODUCTIVE (tasks to reproduce and care for the household and community such as fuel/water collection, food preparation, child care, education, health care, home maintenance); COMMUNITY (those in support of the community's social events and services, ceremonies, community improvement, political activity)

Women's Empowerment Matrix: A Gender Analysis model that traces women's increasing equality and empowerment through five phases, viz.: welfare, access, conscientisation, participation, and control.

Sources:

1. CEDPA (Centre for Development and Population Activities), Gender and Development.
2. UNICEF / Gender Training Module Unit 3, page 8.
3. op cit.1991.

The Status of Mountain Women

During 1996 and 1997, one male and 15 female researchers from ICIMOD's eight member countries were involved in the collection of information on the status of women in mountain areas as part of the Gender and Development Fact Finding Mission. This research was undertaken to bring a focus to and provide accurate data on certain aspects of mountain women's lives which are missing from national level databases and to examine policies specifically aimed at women's development and the field-level realities that determine the effectiveness of these policies.

In eight countries and 13 mountain villages, researchers documented the national and state/district/provincial policies and programmes relevant to mountain women. They carried out gender analysis to gain detailed information from rural women themselves on their needs and priorities for development. They then shared the knowledge with relevant institutions responsible for mountain development and gender and development issues during seminars held in their home institutions. The country reports, now being produced as ICIMOD publications and profiles, have provided ICIMOD with a picture of the lives of women in selected localities from Afghanistan to Myanmar. Based on this, we can design relevant programme assistance, policy inputs, and training for appropriate partner institutions.

The Findings: Some Highlights

Diversity of gender relations

The more information we collect, the more diversity we see in gender relations throughout the region. It is clear that the stereotypic images that the world has about women on the South Asian subcontinent and elsewhere do not reflect the reality of many mountain households and communities of the HKH region. There is wide variation in the degree of mobility, degree of control in decision-making, and in the status and value of women

within society.

Yet, in all cases, women are burdened with more work, have less education and opportunities for exposure to new ideas and technologies, and have lower levels of self-confidence than men. This applies even to locations in which women had traditionally enjoyed a more egalitarian relationship with men, e.g., in Buddhist and animist societies. Changes occurring in once remote mountain areas are affecting gender relations in ways that we have yet to fully understand, but the indications are that women's value in their

households, communities, and societies is declining, as money and outside worldliness are becoming the new indicators of status.

Women focussed policies/programmes with negligible impact

In reviewing the policies and programmes relevant to mountain women, researchers in many countries discovered the existence of women-focussed programmes to address the practical and strategic needs of rural women. And yet, at the ground level, they commonly found no evidence that these had any impact or, in many cases, that they were even known to women. Policies designed in capital cities with the best intentions had not taken the local realities of women's lives into account. Often women's busy workloads and limited mobility made it impossible for them to take advantage of goods and services related to health. And frequently there was little or no financial allocations tied to the policy directives, so that they became little more than expressions of intent noted on official documents.

Heavy workloads

The burdens of rural women in the HKH are well-documented and known to most development professionals in the region, but it should nonetheless be re-stated here that mountain women bear substantially more of the domestic and farm responsibilities than their menfolk, or their counterparts in the plains. The back-breaking chores of carrying water and fodder/fuelwood up and down steep mountain slopes are carried out daily, consuming large amounts of time and energy. In some parts of the Uttar Pradesh hills, women's work seems to have reached

Limited mobility and control versus
increasing workload



an inhuman level, leaving observers to ponder how long women existing on limited caloric inputs and often in a pregnant or lactating state can physically continue to bear these loads.

Absent men

Male outmigration for short-term or long-term periods is increasing throughout the region as families struggle to find ways to sustain themselves and their farmlands during periods of scarcity. Although older men may remain in the home, younger and more able men are often absent for months on end, leaving more and more of the labour burdens on women's shoulders. It is questionable whether this provides women with more of a role in decision making, as the presence of older men in the household negates this opportunity. In many circumstances, major decisions are delayed until the 'household head' returns for his annual visit home. In addition, it should be mentioned that significant numbers of Afghani men have been maimed, crippled, or left mentally disturbed by two decades of war, leaving women to manage the household affairs entirely during times of severe hardship.

Low self-image and self-esteem

In all cases, with the exception of tribal groups of the Chittagong Hill Tracts, women reported lower levels of self-esteem and a lower image of women than men in their society. Again, this was not expected in societies practicing Buddhist and animist beliefs, but the predominating values of other societies seem to be creeping in, having a profound impact on the messages women receive on the 'proper' place for females in society.

Patriarchy

Patriarchy, or domination by males in society, is prevalent throughout the region. In Humla, one remote district in Nepal, the researcher was surprised to learn that the same Sanskrit-based proverbs that describe women's lower status were also found

in the Tibetan language and used by the Buddhist community which had cohabited for many generations with the Hindu community. Yet, in parts of Bhutan, Tibet, and some areas of northeast India, matriarchal communities still exist, though these are coming increasingly under the influence of powerful, external forces from lowland societies. Due to the tremendous diversity, the degree of patriarchy varies, but the word can be used to describe most of the gender relations in the region.

Environmental degradation

The loss of nearby forest and water resources due to environmental degradation has an impact on women responsible for the collection and management of such resources, often forcing them to travel longer distances to meet their households' daily needs. To date, there are very few places where alternative technologies have provided non-traditional sources of cooking fuel or new methods of transporting water.

Monetarisation

In most mountain communities, traditional forms of bartering have given way to monetarisation. Much of a person's economic value to a household is now defined by the amount of cash that he or she can contribute. As women are still involved primarily in subsistence farming activities, they do not earn cash for their hard work. And as roads open up avenues for selling farm products, women are usually left out of the cash transactions and men take control. Previously, women often had control over the farm products, which they would barter for household necessities. But due to their limited mobility, lack of ease dealing with male traders, vulnerability, and low self-esteem, they are usually excluded from today's cash transactions. There are some communities in the high mountain areas, however, in which women have long been involved in trade, even with countries in South East Asia (see Book Review).

Influx of new values

As mentioned, even the relatively egalitarian examples of gender relations found in some traditional mountain societies following Buddhist or animist religions are being transformed by the prevailing values belonging to lowland

religious, nationalistic, and cultural paradigms. Some of these new values come from Western influences, some from regional pan-south Asian influences, some from the development paradigms themselves. The marginal status of most mountain societies makes resistance to more powerful forces difficult, and the process of mainstreaming mountain cultures into national identities may negate the stronger positions of women from these traditional communities.

But the influx of new values is not always having negative consequences for women. Significant numbers of women are now working to earn a living and support their families, including professional women. New values bring new aspirations; for example, parents across the HKH region are now sending their girl children to school as they believe education can free them from being trapped at home. And mountain communities are increasingly making demands for infrastructural developments which can bring them markets and higher profit margins for their products.

Educational opportunities

One of the most dramatic changes seem at the rural level is the education of girl children. Perhaps due to the campaigns of a few international agencies, girl children are now increasingly being enrolled in school. This does not necessarily translate into their attendance at school, due to their responsibilities for childcare, livestock

herding, etc, but even their enrollment indicates a new investment in girl children's lives.

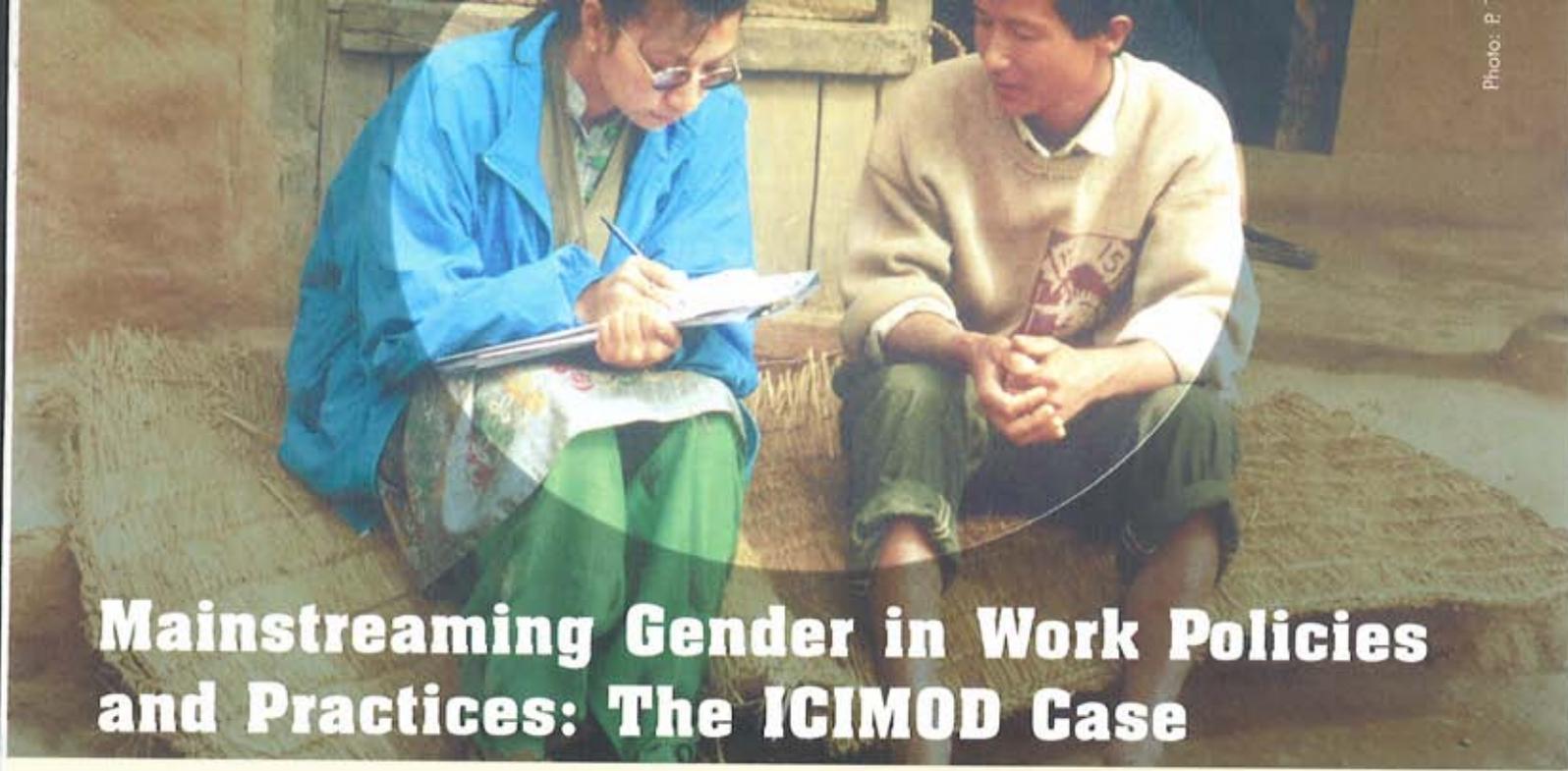
The other aspect of education that is being seen in the mountains is non-formal education for women. Immensely popular, these programmes provide women with basic reading, writing, and accounting skills, and they expose them to new technologies or messages about health, etc. But the greatest impact may be in their newly found levels of self-confidence and commitment to change things for the better in collaboration with other women of the community.

Political participation

Although there are very few mountain women holding political positions in national assemblies, increasingly women are voting and taking up positions within local bodies, e.g., Panchayats in India. In some countries, this is encouraged through the provision of reserved seats for women. In others, women are becoming more confident in speaking at public meetings and in becoming active members and even leaders of user groups for water and forest management. With the democratisation and decentralisation of governing bodies in countries of the HKH region, women with leadership abilities will increasingly take up positions in which they are able to represent the needs and interests of mountain women who are otherwise without a voice in national bodies.



Does increasing enrollment of the girl child in school guarantee their attendance?



Mainstreaming Gender in Work Policies and Practices: The ICIMOD Case

Policies

While a few individual activities had been undertaken by ICIMOD in the field of gender and development during the first 10 years of its existence, the first Regional Collaborative Programme (RCP-I), launched in 1995, was the first time the Centre made a comprehensive statement on its commitment to 'gender-balanced development', which is the third of the operational principles to guide all ICIMOD's programme activities. It states that *"to ensure gender-balanced development and, in particular, to create opportunities for women to participate in and benefit from decision-making on policies and technologies for sustainable mountain development, the Centre's programme activities must demonstrate stronger integration of gender concerns in the future."*

Practices

There is no single solution or criterion that will ensure the implementation of the above-mentioned policy. A whole range of options is available from which ICIMOD selected the following.

a. Governance and Management

ICIMOD's main policy-making

body, the Board of Governors, has elected two women to the Board over the last three years, one of which is a gender and development specialist. The Management of the Centre, reflecting the importance of the subject, on appropriate occasions provides clear signals that the whole Centre should take up the responsibility for incorporating gender into sustainable mountain development. An important mechanism to do so has been the creation of a Gender and Development Committee, chaired by the Director General, with Heads of Divisions and relevant professionals as members and the GAD Specialist as the committee's Member-Secretary. The committee meets every two months and reviews various issues that affect the incorporation of gender concerns into ICIMOD's activities. To further assist management with the implementation of gender policies of ICIMOD, a Gender and Development (GAD) specialist was appointed in 1995 and a particular budget allocated from the core programme to implement the programme.

b. Divisional Highlights

Identifying sector-specific activities to promote gender equity is a continuing challenge for each of the Divisions.

As the large majority of women in the HKH are engaged in agriculture, the position of the GAD specialist was established in the Mountain Farming Systems' Division. However, considerable scope for intervention exists in other divisions also.

Mountain Farming Systems (MFS)

MFS has, among its objectives, 'to integrate gender concerns into mountain agricultural development' and a whole component entitled 'Gender and Sustainable Mountain Agriculture' with a range of activities such as:

- assessing women's roles and approaches for integrating gender concerns,
- promoting women's organizations and their participation in the development of mountain agriculture,
- helping women professionals to develop skills, approaches, and practices related to mountain agriculture,
- promoting drudgery-reducing technologies for women's activities in mountain areas, and
- documenting and incorporating the indigenous knowledge of women into sustainable mountain agriculture.

In 1996, Fact Finding Missions

were launched in all the eight member countries of ICIMOD to gain more insight into sustainable development policies and the situation of women in mountainous regions. Female researchers were identified and, in late 1996, a workshop to discuss methodology was arranged at ICIMOD, after which the sixteen researchers set out to work for the next three months in their own countries. Results of this study are reported in the previous article.

Mountain Natural Resources (MNR)

Under its component of 'Participatory Management of Mountain Natural Resources', RCP-I identifies, particularly, the integration of institutional knowledge, gender and equity concerns, and community practices as a major focus of attention. An overview paper on this subject (IMD 97/7) was prepared and in December 1995, some 40 women from Nepal, India, and Pakistan met in Kathmandu to discuss the formation of a Himalayan Grassroots' Women's Natural Resources' Management Network. The leadership of the network was to remain with the grassroots' women and the project followed it up with a meeting of the regional committee in 1996 that evolved a strategic plan of action for the future.

Mountain Enterprises and Infrastructure (MEI)

Under its component 'Promotion of New Enterprise Options for Mountain Households,' the identification of measures to improve women's access to new enterprise options receives particular attention in the studies undertaken for this subject. The most recent assignment by MEI for SNV-Nepal is an exemplary task in which the team paid particular attention to disaggregating data on social dimensions to reveal apparent indicators of disparities and discrimination towards women in Nepal. Other recent studies by MEI in Tourism and Energy highlight aspects that relate to the situation of women in the HKH.

In all the training programmes and meetings organized by ICIMOD, considerable efforts are

made to have an increasing number of women participants and, among other strategies, by providing extra places in addition to male nominees and sometimes by providing child care at workshops.

c. Partner Institutions

The effectiveness of ICIMOD's gender and development policy depends to a great extent on the commitment and capabilities of partner institutions to focussing on gender awareness within their own framework of activities. It has also become clear that a simple gender-sensitivity training session is insufficient to change the often male-dominated and male-targeting institutions. Longer-term collaborative and supporting mechanisms have been developed to ensure continuity and consistency in this field, among others, through the following.

- At the end of 1995, ICIMOD's GAD Specialist together with four women professionals from the region participated in the 2nd International Course on 'Gender in Policy Development for Sustainable Land Use' at the International Agriculture Centre, Wageningen, the Netherlands. The need for a similar mountain land-use focussed training programme in the HKH region was felt and the GAD Specialist drew up a project proposal for its realisation.

- In late 1996, the Dutch Government approved the funding for a three-year project on 'Capacity Building for Incorporating Gender in Sustainable Mountain Policies, Strategies, and Programmes in the HKH Region'. Details of this are provided in the following article. It is envisaged that participants in the training will initiate changes, however small, in their organizations' policies, strategies, programmes, and procedures according to the Action Plans they develop and act as catalysts for much needed gender-balanced development in the region.

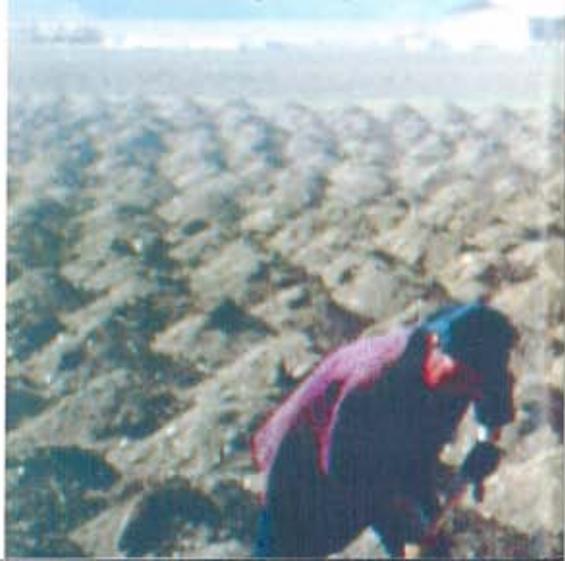
- Establishment of focal points or gender units in major partner institutions and of a network of gender and development specialists in the region.

The ongoing project with funding from the Dutch government is a clear demonstration of ICIMOD's efforts to incorporate gender concerns within the programmes of the Centre and to encourage the same with its partner institutions in the region. The specific focus of the project is a regional training programme on 'Gender and Organizational Development for Sustainable Mountain Land Use in the HKH Region'. Through this training, in particular, and the project as a whole, partner institutions receive training and support to gender-sensitise their planning mechanisms and to implement strategies for incorporating aspects of gender equity and equality in their work.

The training is a collaborative effort to replicate the international level training course that is being carried out annually in Holland at Wageningen by the International Agriculture Centre with a regional perspective and focus on the mountains. Efforts to zoom in on the HKH region have been achieved through the inputs of the Aga Khan Rural Support Programme's (Pakistan) gender specialist and a regional trainer, coordinator of the Mountain Women's Development Centre, India, and ICIMOD's own GAD Specialist and Assistant Coordinator right from the curriculum development stage. The regional trainer from Pakistan and Dutch trainers are also involved in implementation.

Objectives

- To increase the exposure and sensitivity of professionals to a broad range of gender issues at personal, interpersonal, community and organizational levels
- To develop a basic understanding of concepts and approaches for analysing agriculture and natural resources management policies from



Capacity Building

Incorporating Gender in Sustainable Development Policies, Strategies and Programmes in the HKH Region

- a gender perspective
- To improve skills in analysing gender-related roles, relationships and situations in the sustainable development of mountain communities and mountain land use
- To better understand the linkages between sustainable land use, sustainable development and gender and be able to identify the gender dimensions in sustainable land use
- To assess the gender-based practical and strategic needs and interests of clientele and to analyse the effectiveness of their own organizations in responding to these
- To formulate strategies for incorporating gender considerations into the structure, policies and operational programmes of the institutions
- To initiate a networking mechanism amongst the participants for sharing information and experiences

The gender training will be repeated in two essential parts. Part I (every September) will be of two weeks' duration for introduction to concepts of gender, sustainable land use, linkages between the two concepts, methodologies for participatory data collection and gender analysis tools, and a practice session in the field. Part II (every December) will be for one week for instructions on how to incorporate gender concerns into their own organizations and to draw up an action plan for implementation. At the end of the project, the estimated number of trained personnel would be 42, say 3 in each of the 14 national institutions and another 10-12 at ICIMOD itself. It is

envisaged that the trained personnel will initiate changes in their organizations' policies, strategies, and procedures, according to the Action Plans they develop during the course, and act as catalysts for gender-balanced development in the region.

The first part of the training this year was held from 7 - 19 September. Fourteen participants - 2 from China, 2 from India, 2 from Pakistan, 1 from Myanmar, 2 from Bangladesh, 3 from Nepal, 1 from Bhutan, and 4 professional staff from ICIMOD, underwent the training. The same set of people returned for Part II in December, 1977.

During the training, participants showed positive signs of change in attitude, a clearer understanding of gender terminologies and a knowledge of the differences between WID and GAD. Overall they seemed to be highly energised, inspired, and encouraged to make a start at critically analysing their organizations in relation to their policies/structure/staffing/procedures, and amending ways, where possible, to more accurately address the needs of women and men at the community level. With the back-up and financial support that ICIMOD can offer to each participant, Action Plans will be tested and, with each passing year of the project, there will be an added number of individuals who will be analysing their organizations and delving deeper into the gender issues. An optimistic outlook that the incorporation of gender perspectives into specific policies of these research and extension institutions that affect the lives of mountain women will be realised.

Partner Institutions Selected for the Gender Training Programme

Afghanistan: Afghan NGOs Coordination Bureau, Peshawar

Bangladesh: Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Board and the Special Affairs' Division, PM's Office, Dhaka

Bhutan: Natural Resources' Training Institute, Ministry of Agriculture

China: Chengdu Institute of Biology in collaboration with the Institute of Sichuan Women's Federation

Kunming Institute of Botany in collaboration with the Yunnan Academy of Social Sciences
Tibet Academy of Agriculture & Animal Science

India: Shri Bhuvneshwari Mahila Ashram, Anjanisain, Tehri Garhwal, Uttar Pradesh
Rural Development Department, Gangtok, Sikkim
YS Parmar University of Horticulture & Forestry, Himachal Pradesh

Myanmar: Forest Research Institute, Yangon

Nepal: Central Agricultural Training Centre, Harihar Bhawan, Kathmandu
Department of Forests, Babar Mahal, Kathmandu
Women Farmers' Development Division, Ministry of Agriculture, Nepal

Pakistan: Department of Agriculture, Quetta
Extension Services Management Academy, Garhi Dopata, Azad Jammu and Kashmir





Her Story

Kunzang Roder, a native of Bumthang, Bhutan, is a member of the network of indigenous researchers who are participating in ICIMOD's Gender, Environment, and Sustainable Livelihoods Project. A story-teller by nature, Kunzang has written of the lives of five women in the Bumthang area. She notes that, although they are women of different backgrounds and with different livelihoods, they are all strongly aware of the fact that their world and its realities are different from that of the men. One of Kunzang's stories are repeated here.

I am told that the yak herders are just behind the hill and I can reach the herding grounds after half an hour's walk from the village. The yaks are in their winter pastures which are located as low as 3,000m and they go up as high as 5,000m in the summer. The herd is behind a hill but not behind the first that was pointed out to me, it was behind several hills and it takes me more than two hours of strenuous walk to get there. Four women and a small child stand at the door of their shelter

and smile amiably. After the customary greetings are exchanged I am invited to come into the hut.

Their shelter is one fairly big room made out of roughly hewn logs with a roof made of bamboo mats. The simple hearth of stones occupies a central portion of the room. At once the mother, Kiba, is busy stirring up the embers in the hearth and rekindling a fire. One daughter fetches water from the spring not far from the hut, the second brings in a load of firewood, while the third carries her child on her

back, hangs a bag with cheese and butter over her shoulders, and goes away quietly. Soon the fire in the hearth blazes and the water boils for tea.

There are huge cracks in the walls, piles of yak hair blankets are stacked up against the walls, from the rafters hang strings of cheese, and, at one end of the room, there is a loom with a half finished fabric on it. I am struck by the total absence of men in the camp. *"Its always the women who stay with the animals"* explains Kiba. *"They come sometimes to help. They come when there are extra works like shifting camp, repairing the shelter, and getting firewood"*. The men rarely stay with the animals, they do the cultivation of the buckwheat fields. Some herders also own some cultivation lands. The men otherwise search for daily wage jobs in logging or quarrying. They bring home the cash.

On my way to and from the herders, I pass several groups of people working on their buckwheat fields. They are burning the turfs that have been heaped into mounds. Some of them are spreading out the burnt mounds. Most of the workers are women. Where are the men I ask, as one obsessed. The men are working in the forests and at the quarry. I pass the village and see from a distance a group of men sitting in a circle and playing cards by the riverside. A well respected person from the village who holds an important position says, *"This village would be very prosperous for there are so many ways of earning money these days but that's (referring to the men gambling on the river banks) how they spend their money, barely anything reaches home"* he says in resignation.

The women get up early in the morning, burn incense and make offerings of invocation to the divinities. The female yaks in lactation are milked. The calves, which are either tethered or penned in by fences, are released. The woman who milks the cows has a bag of salt slung across her shoulders and she feeds the animal a handful of salt before milking. The milk is collected in containers over several days and sour milk is then churned for butter and cheese, which are used for the family. The rest is bartered for goods they need or fancy. That is why, at over 3,000m, we are served beaten maize and good quality red rice grown at 1,600m !

The animals are then let loose and guided to the pastures. During all times of the day, the women have to

make sure that none of the animals go too far from the camp or go astray. The herders have no idea of the exact altitude of the areas in numbers but they know vegetation belts and know the fodder plants well. They have no names for the grasses but they can describe many of them quite precisely, the overall category being 'long' or 'short' grass. The women recognise the good species and guide their animals to areas where there is good fodder. The animals are never, as a rule, stall fed even under adverse weather conditions. Only the young calves and some of the weak and sick ones might get some supplementary feedings of tender bamboo leaves and some buckwheat dough.

Kiba says that she knows the exact boundaries of the individual pastures for she has been with the animals since she was a small child and there are rarely problems with boundaries and encroachments. Kiba's youngest daughter is a boarder in the high school down in the valley. Today she is with her mother for she is on her winter holidays. When she is with her family with the yaks in the pastures she is no different from the others. She likes going to school and she likes being with the yaks too.

The women pluck the yak wool from under the stomachs and shear the outer coats in April before they go to the high pastures for the summer. They work on processing the wool whenever they have free time. They use the fabrics mostly for themselves and sell the extra. The women claim that they are not afraid to be in the wilds all by themselves and they feel familiar and comfortable for they know what to expect and how to prepare for it. They grow some vegetables, especially radishes and turnips, in small plots up to the limit but, once in their high summer pastures, they rely on wild mushrooms and algae. "You can taste a yak herders food. This is the algae we normally eat", says Kiba as she serves lunch. The dried meat with algae is delicious. The visitor's plates of rice are topped with 100g or more of fresh butter. It would be humiliating if the herders did not have butter to serve visitors. Rich, thick yogurt is served. Kiba is uncomfortable for the yogurt does not pour out when she tilts the container, it is frozen with the cold. She is not sure whether I am simply being polite or lying when I tell her that I love frozen yogurt!

An Association of Professional Women in Land Use Related Sectors

Total domination by males in the organizations dealing with natural resources and land-use related sectors, such as agriculture, forestry, irrigation, animal husbandry and environment, is slowly becoming a thing of the past with increasing numbers of professional women entering these sectors of employment. Few as they may be - less than 8% in Nepal and Bhutan, much less in India, these pioneering women are in a unique position to contribute to improving the conditions of rural women. Women working in these sectors are challenged by constraints related to sociocultural norms, inadequate skills and exposure, and, most of all, low levels of confidence to face the barriers to contributing on equal footing to their male colleagues. Many of them are facing discrimination and receive little encouragement from their male colleagues and seniors.

To address the special problems of professional women, a workshop was held at the Institute of Forestry, Pokhara, Nepal, in 1994, when the establishment of an association of women foresters was highly recommended. The association was to address concerns regarding employment, education, gender sensitivity of women themselves, etc. Owing to a lack of funds and an institution to lead the way, the recommendations remained on the shelf.

However, this year, amid a lot of enthusiasm and excitement, with some funding from UNESCO the recommendation of the 1994 Pokhara meeting is finally realised. ICIMOD hosted a meeting of women professionals in land-use related sectors to establish formally the Association in Nepal. The Association has been unanimously named 'Women Professionals in Land Use Sector' (WPLUS). Simultaneously, a small group of women from Bhutan, Pakistan, and India attended to observe the event and share their own views and experiences. Discussions took place on the possibilities of initiating similar associations in these other countries so that ultimately a Regional Network of Women Professionals in Land Use related fields might be formed.

The goals and objectives of the association are kept very open, but to start off they are the following:

- to increase the capabilities of members to effectively work with rural women,
- to create a sense of ownership of the association as a forum where rural development activities may be discussed in addition to individual problems,
- to be a forum to facilitate the provision of training and to make recommendations to encourage more women to work in land-use related sectors, and
- to inform governments and other bodies about the problems faced by women professionals and advocate on their behalf.

For more information contact:
The Ad-hoc Committee of WPLUS,
c/o Jeannette D.Gurung, ICIMOD, P.O. Box 3226,
Kathmandu, Nepal
email: jeannette@icimod.org.np

BOOK REVIEW

Spirited Women: Gender, Religion and Cultural Identity in the Nepal Himalaya

Joanne C. Watkins
Columbia University Press, 1996

This ethnography of the Nyeshange, an ethnic Tibetan Buddhist group from north central Nepal, examines how gender roles and relations are constituted, reinterpreted, and negotiated as a result of recent economic and social changes, including urbanisation, migration to Kathmandu, greater incorporation into the Nepalese mainstream, and increased exposure to foreign values (Hindu as well as western). Also considered is the ideological dimension as reflected in the status symbols of the society: Buddhism and international trade.

The women of Nyeshang, a highland community, own land and livestock, control money, and participated, until recently, on an equal basis with their men. Faced with the need to allocate limited labour resources to a broad range of survival pursuits, most tasks in Nyeshang villages are performed by either men or women, according to personal abilities. Afforded special trading privileges by the King of Nepal in the late 1700s, Nyeshang men and women travelled widely throughout S.E. Asia, trading in Burma, Assam, Hong Kong, and Singapore. As capital was available to women as well as men, they were able to form female trading groups which also acted as security networks.

With their own wealth and within the egalitarian ideologies of Tibetan Buddhism, women are able to accrue religious merit and advance their families' prestige through displays of generosity and hospitality. They are valued by men as the culture bearers and knowl-

edge holders, possessing moral status and the cultural virtues needed to uphold the old Nyeshang ways.

After the 1960s, the nature of the trading changed, and the focus shifted from family-managed, small trading groups to larger corporate 'businesses'. Women's roles were reduced through government regulations which restricted female traders to importing less than men and which banned the collection and export of medicinal herbs and animal products - products that were the customary inventory of women's trading goods and which supplemented their income as healers.

With this change came a significant increase in male migration from the villages, leaving women as sole family estate managers and decision-makers. With a lack of employment for women in Kathmandu, and a greater control over their own lives and means of production in their rural homes, many Nyeshang women have opted to continue their work in subsistence agriculture and informal trade and production, because it provides a sense of personal satisfaction based on 'cultural priorities'. It is argued that this assertion of their autonomy is a display of their resistance against the demands of the capitalist economy and the pressure to join mainstream national cultures. And it is supported by the urban families and men who value the cultural and religious traditions that they feel are eroded by capitalist values of hierarchy, competition, material accumulation, and depersonalised relations.

The amount of information on the Internet is overwhelming. A range of tools and indexing is available to help direct researchers to relevant information. The links that web pages provide to other similar pages helps find even more relevant information on a particular topic. Visit some of the sites and see for yourself.

<http://www.focusintl.com/widnet.htm>: WIDNET - A site that promotes networking on issues pertaining to gender and development.

<http://www.feminist.org/>: Feminist Majority Foundation - The Feminist Majority Foundation views feminism as a global government dedicated to equality and seeks to eliminate discrimination of all kinds -- sex, race, sexual orientation, age, religion, national origin, disability, and marital status. And, as feminists have since the late 19th Century, it advocates non-violence and work to eliminate social and economic injustice.

<http://www.amazoncity.com/>: Amazon City - Amazon City, one of the pioneering Web-based communities for women, hosts a free homepage for any woman who wants one, committing server space and database searchability to making good on its promise to become 'the first city for women on the Internet.'

<http://www.unifem.undp.org/resour.html>

- New publications
- UNIFEM publications for sale from Women's Ink.
- Publications available from UNIFEM

• UNIFEM videos

<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/confer.html>: Information on UN conferences devoted to women's issues and on women specific features of other global UN conferences held since 1990.

<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/un.html>: To learn about the work of the UN entities and inter-governmental bodies that deal with the advancement of women
<http://www.un.org/>



Gender and Development on the Web

womenwatch/asia.html

- Statistical data
- Regional plans of action
- Commitments of governments to implementing the Platform for Action
- Regional Internet resources on women
- UN contacts
- Country-specific information, e.g., Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Myanmar, Nepal, and Pakistan - all ICIMOD member countries

<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/world.html>: Women of the world

<http://www.igc.org/igc/womensnet/index.html>: Highlights, headlines, and upcoming events and details on the following.

- Access to Technology
- Publications and studies
- Media, politics, human rights, social justice, etc.
- Health & Reproductive rights
- Activism for Women Development

<http://www.un.org/Depts/escap/wid/index.html>: A site devoted to a broad range of women's issues in the Asia and the Pacific region to provide a valuable

source of information for all who are interested in the advancement and empowerment of women worldwide.

<http://www.un.org/dpcsd/daw/dawnew.html>: News on the advancement of women

<http://www.un.org/dpcsd/daw/environ.html>: Site devoted to the Fourth World Conference on Women and its Platform for Action mainly on the topic of Women and the Environment

<http://www.womenink.org/>: An online bookstore for resources on women, gender, and development.

<http://www.xel.stfx.ca/coady-library/intro.htm>: Check out the site of 'Gender and Sustainable Rural Development's Resource Directory for book reviews and other information.

<http://www.wigsat.org/index.html>: This is the web site for the International Gender, Science and Technology Digest, a product of the Women in Global Science and Technology group. You can subscribe to this journal by sending an email message to WIGSAT-L@list.ifias.ca saying simply "subscribe".

<http://members.aol.com/Altdisres/Women.html>: Resources for Women in the World

<http://w2.netcom.com/~aikya/wmlinks.html>: Women and Money: Links

http://www.yahoo.com/Social_Science/Women_s_Studies/: Yahoo: Social Science, Women's Studies

http://www.yahoo.com/Society_and_Culture/Gender/: Yahoo: Society and Culture: Gender
<http://www.wigsat.org/index.html>: Women in Global Science and Technology

<http://www.cgiar.org:80/ifpri/> under Gender Research Network, which is sponsored by the CGIAR Gender Programme to link researchers at CGIAR centres, national research institutes, and universities who are involved in gender and intrahousehold research. To subscribe, simply send an e-mail message to: LISTSERV@CGNET.COM with text consisting of the line, **SUBSCRIBE GENDER-CG**.

A Profile

Shri Bhuvneshwari Mahila Ashram (SBMA), Uttar Pradesh, India

SBMA is one of the oldest NGOs in the UP Hills. Established in 1977 at Anjanisain, Tehri Garhwal. Founded by Swami Manmathanji, it served as a refuge for destitute women and children of Garhwal and with time it evolved into an institution which undertook to develop the hill region. The emphasis being on helping women and migrating youths, SBMA also generates awareness among its village communities about a scientific outlook to agriculture, horticulture, and animal husbandry. Its operational area is limited to the Garhwal region but it covers all five districts of this region. Education has also been in the forefront of its activities. The establishment has set up and helps to run some 60 odd pre-primary, junior high, and high schools and, in addition, it runs an Agriculture School (the first and only of its kind in the Hills of UP) at its Head Office Campus. Vocational training in sewing, weaving, poultry and vegetable farming, study tours, and literacy programmes are activities through which women and young children are being constantly targetted to help empower them. There are some 186 Mahila Mangal dals and 14 Balvadis created for implementation of Loans, Savings, and educational programmes to which SBMA gives technical support at the village level. It is the hope of SBMA to have all its field village outposts and units function as small multidisciplinary NGOs and that the Head office become a self-financing support unit primarily concerned with data collection, research and analysis, and technical back-stopping.

The Organization is guided by the Secretary, Mr. Cyril Raphael. Mr. Raphael has a strong belief in training his younger generation of staff and making them gender sensitive and capable of running the institution independently in future. The organization works with rural women and local communities. SBMA networks informally with other NGOs not only in the hills of Uttar

Pradesh but also with others in the HKH, to share information and experiences. In the UP Hills, SBMA has already earned a lot of respect.

In the field of natural resources' management and agriculture, SBMA is involved in the implementation of a major Watershed Management project in Uttarakand. Since agriculture is the mainstay of the population in the hills of UP, all of SBMA's activities are aimed at improving the livelihood of the people through improved farming practices. Most young boys and men migrate to urban areas, so women are single-handedly managing the farms. Landholdings are not only small, but have poor soils and conditions are harsh. Women and girls are deprived of education and left to fend for themselves. This has prompted SBMA to open more schools in the villages to educate women and girls. The Agriculture School which SBMA runs has an almost 40 % enrollment rate for girls. The other pre-primary, junior high, and high schools have a 50 % enrolment rate for girls. This has been achieved through SBMA's widespread education and literacy campaigns in the villages.

Address: SBMA, P. O. Anjanisain -249121,
Tehri Garhwal, Uttar Pradesh, Tel: 1376-
37417, Fax: 1388-7107

The DG awards a certificate for the Gender &
Organizational Development course to
Beena Kala of SBMA.



Gender and Development on the Bookshelf

Beck, T. and Stelcner, M. 1995. *The Why and How of Gender Sensitive Indicators: A Project Level Hand-book*. Canada: CIDA (22pp). Available in English and French at no charge from CIDA.

Presents easy to use effective tools for measuring gender-related changes in projects over time.

Brasileiro, A. M. (ed.), 1997. *Gender and Sustainable Development*, New York: UNIFEM, (79pp).

UNIFEM's experiences in Latin America and the Caribbean with practical examples ranging from seed money to capacity building, from single conferences to multi-project programmes. It highlights the sustainable development concepts and its effective links with alliances between women's organizations and environmental activists.

Carr, M. Chen, M. and Jhabvala, R. (eds.), 1996. *Speaking Out: Women's Economic Empowerment in South Asia*. IT Publications, (238pp). Available from Women Ink., USA.

Experiences of seven South Asian NGOs in organizing rural and urban poor women for economic empowerment. The book throws new light on how changes are occurring at the grassroots' level, and analyses and defines economic empowerment from the perspective of women themselves. Case studies demonstrate how women are gaining increased access to and control over economic resources and political changes at the individual, family, and community levels.

Feldstein, H. and Jiggins, J. (eds.) 1994. *Tools for the Field: Methodologies Handbook for Gender Analysis in Agriculture*. New York: UNIFEM (288pp). (Available from Women Ink., 777 United Nations Plaza, NY 10017. Presents a step-by-step process for incorporating gender analysis in programme design, implementation, evaluation, and replication. Sections include: Initial diagnosis, Research planing and On-farm experimentation, Formalising gender into agricultural institutions and training programmes. Case studies are from Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

Jahan, R. 1995. *The Elusive Agenda: Mainstreaming women in development*. London: Zed Books (160pp). Available at Women Ink. USA.

A review of progress achieved in making gender a central concern. It presents an innovative conceptual framework for analyzing WID objectives and strategies and for establishing indicators for assessing progress.

Heyzer, N. and Wee, V. 1997. *Gender, Poverty and Sustainable Development: Towards a Holistic Framework*. Second Edition (1867pp). Available from Women Ink, USA.

Presents a holistic analysis of the structural causes of poverty and the intrinsic linkages between unsustainability and poverty.

MacDonald, M. (ed.) 1994. *Gender Planning in Development Agencies: Meeting the Challenge*. Oxford: OXFAM Press (232pp). Available from Humanitarian Press International, Inc. 165 First Avenue, Atlantic Highlands, NJ 07716.

The report of a 1993 workshop, it contains articles about experiences of gender planning in various European development agencies. Emphasis is on institutionalisation of gender, integration into development planning, and partnership in development. Includes thematic papers and case studies documenting the experiences and strategies of several agencies.

Selected Gender-related ICIMOD Publications

ICIMOD 1988. *Papers presented at a Workshop on Women, Development, and Mountain Resources: Approaches to Internalising Gender Perspectives* held from 21-24 Nov 1988 at Kathmandu. 200pp.

Burman, B. K. R. 1990. *Social Ecology of Women's Roles in the Hills of Northeast India*. Mountain Population and Employment (MPE) discussion paper 5. 31pp.

Mehta, M. 1990. *Cash Crops and the Changing Context of Women's Work*

and Status: A Case Study from Tehri Garhwal, India. MPE discussion paper 2. 54pp.

Mies, M.; Pradhan, B.; Rankin, K. 1990. *Perspectives on the Role of Women in Mountain Development: Two Papers*. MPE discussion paper 1. 41pp.

Bajracharya, D.; Banskota, M.; Cecelski, E. 1990. *Women and Management of Energy, Forests, and Other Resources*. MPE discussion paper 3. 61pp.

Baer, D. 1990. *Women's Participation in Off-farm Income Activities: Current opportunities and Possible Options in Nepal*. MPE discussion paper 4. 34pp.

Thacker, P. 1993. *Technology: Women's Work and Status (the case of the carpet industry in Nepal)*. MPE discussion paper 21.

Gurung, D. 1995. *Tourism and Gender: Impact and Implications of Tourism on Nepalese Women: A Case Study from the Annapurna Conservation Area Project*. MEI (Mountain Enterprises and Infrastructure) discussion paper. 95/3. 84pp.

Gurung, J. D. 1995. *Organising Mountain Women*. MFS [Mountain Farming Systems] discussion paper 95/2. 13pp.

Gurung, J. D. 1995. *Participatory approaches to agricultural technology Promotion with women in the hills of Nepal*. MFS discussion paper. 95/4. 30pp.

Malla, S. 1996. *Nepal Madhyasthata Samuha: Jalbire Women's Community Forest Group*. MNR [Mountain Natural Resources] discussion paper. 96/1. 12pp.

This section of the Newsletter has been compiled by **Jeannette D. Gurung**, ICIMOD's Gender and Development Specialist and Coordinator of the project on 'Capacity Building for Incorporating Gender in Sustainable Development Policies, Strategies, and Programmes in the HKH Region' and **Phuntshok Tsering**, the Assistant Coordinator. Most photographs used in this section are contributed by the researchers of the 'gender fact-finding mission.'

CENTRE NEWS



Board and Support Group Meetings

At the invitation of the Government of Pakistan, the Twenty-fifth Meeting of the Board of Governors and the Seventh Meeting of the ICIMOD Support Group took place in Burban, Pakistan, from 2 - 5 November. The meetings had a special character. First of all, six Independent Board Members completed a total period of six years and were replaced by five new Members. As both outgoing and incoming Independent Members were present, lively discussions took place and various opportunities were taken to provide for a smooth transition. The Director General, on behalf of ICIMOD and its partner institutions, thanked Prof. Dr. K.J. Beek, Mr. R.

Gautschi, Dr. H. Gurung, Prof. Li Wenhua, Dr. A. Purohit, and Prof. W. von Urff for their commitments and contributions to the ideals and functioning of the Centre and welcomed Mr. J.W. Cools, Dr. H.Gsanger, Dr. Karin Inmann, Mr. R. Rajamani, and Prof. Zhao Qiguo to the Board. The Board also elected Prof. Shunji Murai as Independent Board Member.

A second important feature on the agendas of the Board and Support Group was the first draft of 'MOUNTAINS 2000: The Second Regional Collaborative Programme for the Sustainable Development of the Hindu Kush-Himalayas' (RCP - II). Following an extensive questionnaire survey, consultations in all the Regional

Member Countries, and in-house meetings and reviews, this was the first draft to receive detailed assessment from the Board and the Support Group. The concept of a 'Second RCP', following the overall success of RCP-I for the period 1995-98, was strongly endorsed, and there was general agreement on the major thrust areas and overall structure of the document. Several important issues were raised, in particular with respect to how ICIMOD could reach out to the intended beneficiaries, the 140 million people of the HKH; the proper balance between policies and technologies; and the scope for field demonstration of the concept of integrated mountain development. It is envisaged that a final

version will be available in early April for information for ICIMOD's partner institutions and submission to the donor community. The next issue of the Newsletter will contain an extended description of RCP-II.

The Board approved the Report for 1997 and the workplan and budget for 1998. Prior to the Board's Meeting, the ICIMOD Support Group, the Programme Advisory Committee, and the



Finance Committee had reviewed and discussed the various background documents in detail.

After conclusion of the formal meetings, several of the participants visited the Northern Areas of Pakistan at the invitation of the Pakistan Agricultural Research Council and the Aga Khan Rural Support Programme. All enjoyed the majestic scenery and the professionalism of the various institutions and individuals engaged in improving the livelihoods of the rural population in this harsh environment. Policies, technologies, and institutional mechanisms were observed, discussed, and admired. Also, some scope for exposure of the staff of the institutions to experiences in other ICIMOD countries was suggested by some of the participants and initial contacts were established to do so.

CAPACITY BUILDING

ICIMOD, with its limited human and financial resources, cannot be expected to reach out directly to the 140 million inhabitants of the Hindu Kush-Himalayas (HKH), but by providing a forum on a regular basis through Workshops and Meetings on a wide range of mountain development issues, it reaches out indirectly to a large number of target groups. Training is among the primary mandatory functions of ICIMOD. The Centre, in collaboration with national agencies, aspires to promote different measures to build capacities in the countries of the HKH in various fields of relevance to sustainable mountain development. This function of ICIMOD has been expanding and, although it is no longer possible to report on all activities in detail, an attempt has been made to highlight some of them.

Six training courses on **Appropriate Technologies for Soil Conserving Farming Systems (ATSCFS)** were organized in Bangladesh, China, India, and Nepal between May and July. There were altogether 469 participants. The training courses were successful in imparting and disseminating technical knowhow on ATSCFS to farmers and extension and research personnel.

In collaboration with the Participatory Watershed Management Training in Asia Programme, an eight-day training programme on **Participatory Upland Watershed Planning, Monitoring, and Evaluation (PUWME)** was designed and organized. Thirty-five middle and senior level, forestry

and natural resource-related professionals from nine countries came together to better understand resource management in upland watershed ecosystems and the use of participatory tools for their planning, monitoring, and evaluation. Almost one-third of the total time was spent in interaction with community representatives in the field and in the sessions. A major output from the training will be a Resource Kit on PUWME. This resource kit will have three sections—a user friendly illustrated trainers' manual, background notes for trainees, and a bibliography of material.

The People and Resource Dynamics' project organized the PARDYP '97 Training Workshop for the teams from Pakistan, India,

Conclusions from the PARDYP '97 Training Workshop

- A sound beginning had been made in 1997 in terms of establishment of the hydromet and erosion plot network
- More work is required on the on-farm and social aspects of PARDYP, though some good beginnings had been made in some of the watersheds
- Good beginnings had also been made in the community forestry and rehabilitation aspects at some sites
- Further training needs were identified
- Visits by ICIMOD-PARDYP personnel and consultants would take place to all five watersheds in the first 3 months of 1998
- The dates for the Mid-Term Workshop to be held at Almora, India, were confirmed as March 2 – 7, 1998.



Nepal, and China who are actively involved in the field activities of this Project. This 11-day Workshop was held in Nepal; six days in the field and five at ICIMOD. The objectives of this training workshop were for all participants to learn new skills, exchange ideas, to discuss progress to date in the five PARDYP watersheds, and to prepare work programmes for 1998. Through group work, the workshop focussed on six of the main themes of PARDYP, namely soil fertility and agronomy, community forestry, GIS and mapping, the social and participatory aspects, the erosion plot research, and hydro-meteorology. Thirty-three individuals took part in the field section of the training programme.

Under the Mountain Tourism for Local Community Development Programme, the first Pilot Training was organized in Godavari Resort, Kathmandu, from August 25-26. The **Awareness Workshop for Policy Planners in Mountain Tourism for Local Development** had 35 high-level policy planners in tourism and related areas, legislators with an interest in tourism, representatives from the private sector, and researchers from seven Hindu Kush-Himalayan countries, and ICIMOD professionals as participants. The objectives of the Workshop were to increase the awareness of policy issues and approaches to mountain tourism for local development; provide an interactive forum for building

consensus on policy issues and approaches and familiarise the participants with the Training Manuals developed for the purpose; and facilitate institutionalisation of the Mountain Tourism for Local Community Development Approach in the Hindu Kush-Himalayan countries. The programme has been supported by NORAD.

Following the Awareness Workshop for Policy Planners, one in-country **Pilot Training for Programme Designers/Managers and Implementors of Tourism and Related Activities** in Mountain Tourism for Local Development and two **Pilot Training Courses for Local Community Groups and Organizations** were organized by each of the collaborating institutions in India, Nepal, and Pakistan, the countries for which the Manuals for these target audiences had been developed. The training was carried out at different times between September 1997 and early December 1997. In these nine in-country training, a total of 170 participants took part. About 10 per cent of the total participants were female. The training in each case was carried out in association with tourism and rural development-related agencies/institutions. These were regarded as potential institutions for the future institutionalisation of training in each country.

The concluding **Workshop**

on Training Experiences and Institutionalisation of Training on Mountain Tourism for Local Community Development in participating countries was organized in Kurintar, Nepal, from 8-10 December 1997. The Workshop was planned after the completion of all the in-country Pilot Training on Mountain Tourism for Local Development in Nepal, India, and Pakistan. The objective of the Workshop was to review pilot training experiences, facilitate/initiate the process of institutionalisation of training in the three participating countries, and deliberate on the follow-up of the Mountain Tourism for Local Community Development (MTLCD) Programme by ICIMOD. Participants at the Workshop were study team leaders from collaborating institutions in India, Nepal, and Pakistan, representatives from institutions in these countries with the potential to institutionalise the training through the use of the Manuals developed for the purpose, and professionals from ICIMOD who had contributed to the MTLCD programme. The Workshop recommended a number of feasible approaches for institutionalisation of training and the follow-up of the MTLDC programme.

In collaboration with the Chengdu Institute of Mountain Hazards, a **Regional Training Workshop on Landslide and Debris Flow Management and Control** in the HKH was held in

China from 14 to 28 November. The training workshop was held for policy- and decision-makers. Thirteen participants from Bangladesh, China, India, Myanmar, Nepal, and Pakistan followed a mainly field-based programme and the participants observed and studied various integrated debris flow and landslide prevention and control measures that have successfully protected infrastructure and agricultural lands. Opportunities were provided for the participants to interact with the actors involved in the implementation of the cases; from farmers to the various government officials.

The first **Regional Training Course on Application of GIS and Remote Sensing in Location Planning of Basic Infrastructures and Services**, under the project supported by the Government of Netherlands, was held at ICIMOD from 24 Nov. to 19 Dec. Altogether there were 16 participants from Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Nepal, and Pakistan. The training was imparted in four sections, viz., location planning concept, introduction to GIS and RS based on Arcview software, analysis of location planning application cases using GIS/RS tools, and group project work.

The first **Training Course for Operators and Managers of Mini- and Micro-Hydropower** was held in Butwal, Nepal, from 12 November to 12 December. Fourteen men and one woman, mainly from very remote areas in Nepal, acquired skills in managing and repairing micro-hydropower plants without having to refer to outside (and often far away) technical assistance. The training course also provided an opportunity to test the draft training manual developed by the Development and Consulting Services of Butwal and ICIMOD under the NORAD-funded programme on Capacity Building for MMHP.

Recommendations of the Regional Training Workshop on Landslide and Debris Flow Management and Control

- Each member country should undertake the following.
Raise awareness at all levels for landslide and debris flow management and control; carry out zonation of landslide and debris flow prone areas; build an information database related to landslide and debris flow; formulate a national programme on landslide and debris flow, particularly in relation to poverty alleviation and development activities; and design and implement appropriate training courses at various levels.
- ICIMOD should provide national support to the following.
Conduct training courses at the following levels: a) policy- and decision-makers; b) middle-level professionals; c) technicians and scientists; d) local communities/farmers; identify and provide model landslide and debris flow training areas, experts, and institutions at both national and regional levels; interact with national institutions involved with landslide and debris flow; support national training programmes; provide guidelines to formulate national training programmes; conduct post-training tracer studies; and identify National Focal Points for landslide and debris flow management and control, help establish National Working Groups, and help evolve National Action Plans.
- ICIMOD should extend regional cooperation to carry out the following.
Documenting and disseminating success cases and lessons learned from failures; identify and develop early warning and forecasting systems; act as a resource centre to compile and disseminate information on all aspects of landslide and debris flow using all media; follow up on past recommendations; and establish a Regional Working Group on landslide and debris flow management and control.



Photo: E. Pelinck

Cyberspace Linkages

Electronic Networking in Nepal

The Electronic Networking project, financially supported by IDRC, which commenced in April 1997, focusses on networking development and research organizations working in Nepal, and plans to eventually expand the Internet-based network to other member countries. In the present phase, thirty Nepalese organizations, including government and university departments, research institutions, and NGOs, have been selected to participate in the network. Training on the use of Internet technologies, such as web-surfing, web publishing, and understanding and applying basic Internet concepts, has been imparted to the participating organizations. The project has also been instrumental in the establishment of a Computer, Information and Documentation Centre at the National Planning Commission of Nepal. As a part of the project, an Internet 'Drop-In-Centre' has been recently set up at ICIMOD. See box.

An extensive Nepali web site is planned. This web site, containing a wide range of information on sustainable development provided by all the thirty 'content' partner organizations, will be located on a host server at ICIMOD. It will archive information such as a socioeconomic profile of Nepal; GIS (Geographical Information System) data and maps of Nepal; demographic and statistical data on Nepal; reports on key development sectors (e.g., water, energy, forests); a database of recent publications, books, articles, unpublished reports, etc on or about Nepal; and profiles of research and development, science

and technology institutions, NGOs, INGOs, and donor agencies in Nepal; profiles of key ongoing development projects; best practices and lessons learned; who's who in the development sector; and links to other relevant web sites worldwide. 'Technical' partners such as Internet Service Providers, Nepal Internet User's Group and the Computer Association of Nepal will contribute in terms of technical knowhow and capacity building.

Regional Networking

To facilitate regional electronic networking, in late 1995, with financial support from the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation, ICIMOD introduced the Asia Pacific Mountain Network (APMN). The APMN, in addition to a number of activities, such as

bringing out a newsletter, organizing regional consultations, establishing subregional focal points, and arranging exchange visits, has recently introduced electronic networking as an additional way to network. For more details on the APMN, please visit

<http://www.south-asia.com/icimod/AP.htm>

Global Networking

From November 12 to 15, the Interim Facilitating Committee of the Mountain Forum convened at ICIMOD, Kathmandu, to evaluate the progress of the Forum and agree on plans and priorities for the next phase of evolution and governance. The Mountain Forum (MF) was established in 1995, initially as an informal group of institutions and organizations from all over the world that share common concerns about the well-being of mountain people, their cultures, and their environment. The major interest of all the members of the MF, who number some 500 at present, is information sharing, mutual support, and advocacy of the Mountain Agenda. Issues addressed at the

Internet Drop-In Centre at ICIMOD

An Internet Drop-In-Centre has been established with the purpose of providing facilities for the development community at-large to access the resources on the Internet. The facility is mainly for organizations affiliated to ICIMOD, organizations and individuals involved in sustainable development and scientific research, and students and educational institutions. Visitors can browse and download information for their research and academic work, as well as for work related to sustainable development. The facility cannot be used for sending or receiving e-mail.

The Drop-In-Centre is open from Monday to Friday, between 10:00-12:30 and 14:00-16:30. Visitors or users are requested to inform the Centre in advance, so that the computer can be reserved for them. Casual, walk in appointments are considered only if the Drop-In-Centre's computers are not occupied, or have not been reserved.

For further detail concerning operating procedures, please contact

Anju Shrestha (anju@icimod.org.np) or Saisab Pradhan (saisab@icimod.org.np) Telephone: 525313 ext.408

Meeting included regional and global work plans, communications and publications, monitoring and evaluation, governance, organizational structure, and financial sustainability. Participants came from Africa, Asia/Pacific, Europe, Latin America and North America. At the conclusion of the meeting, ICIMOD was elected as the convenor of the MF for the next two years. This is the first time that ICIMOD has taken up a global responsibility for mountain development in addition to its specific mandate for the Hindu Kush-Himalayan region. The Mountain Forum Home Page can be found at: <http://www.mtnforum.org>

Mercure in Kathmandu

In April 1997, ICIMOD facilitated the establishment of the first Mercure Earth Station of the South Asian Region in the Ministry of Population and Environment (MoPE), Nepal. The Mercure system is a satellite-based global communications' project that couples with UNEPnet, an international environmental electronic network developed by UNEP, to meet the needs of worldwide users involved in environmental protection programmes. The European Space Agency (ESA) is the implementing agency at the global level. On 5 November 1997, the Mercure project was handed over to UNEP from ESA and it is fully operational.

The Kathmandu station is of the Mercure B-Station type with a 2.4-metre diameter antenna and data channel capacity of 16 KBPS. MENRIS is playing a key role in this project, beginning with laying emphasis on the importance of this system to Nepal, smooth installation, and, now, technical back-stopping for its smooth operation. The users of this system will have fax, e-mail, file transfer facilities, and Internet connectivity. For more information contact basanta@icimod.org.np.

ICIMOD Releases CD-ROM on Its 14th Anniversary (Dec. 5, 1997)

Major breakthroughs in information technology have offered ICIMOD, whose primary mandate is documentation and information exchange, an opportunity to rethink the design and distribution of its information. With the primary objective of archiving ICIMOD's publications from 1990 onwards and of giving a pictorial perspective of the Hindu Kush-Himalayan (HKH) region, ICIMOD took the initiative to produce the first ICIMOD CD-ROM with substantial information in a multimedia package using a single digital medium. It introduces ICIMOD and its activities throughout the HKH region.

The CD-ROM contains about 30,000 pages of text/tables, 1,600 figures, 400 photographs, 500 GIS-generated maps, about 30 minutes of video clips, and 45 minutes of audio. The CD-ROM has an interactive system so that even a layman can surf through its contents. Publications are

displayed in an electronic book format, for instance, by clicking the mouse button on the appropriate section in the Table of Contents, the required text appears. The search facility section serves as a computerised library catalogue. Publications can be found on the basis of author's name, book title,

keyword search, or year published. The entire CD-ROM is based on a user-friendly, fully functional Windows' environment.

Available from the ICIMOD Distribution Unit at the cost of US \$ 50. Special rates apply for HKH countries.



Linkages in the Region

ICIMOD adopts a decentralised approach to programme implementation and functions as a facilitator for access to knowledge and advice and provides a regional perspective to national and local activities. As such, the staff of ICIMOD are required to make frequent visits to the eight ICIMOD member countries. In addition, international travel is undertaken occasionally to maintain global linkages. It is not possible to recount every visit. Nevertheless, a brief account of most regional visits is provided below.

BANGLADESH

Mr. Pramod Pradhan visited Bangladesh from July 27 to August 3. He attended the concluding Ceremony of the Professional Level GIS Training at Jahangirnagar University. Mr. Pradhan also participated in a discussion on how to build GIS capacities in Bangladesh in collaboration with the Local Government Engineering Department (LGED). He briefed potential partners on the new project on agroecological zonation which is being implemented with support from the Government of the Netherlands.

While conducting a GIS Certificate Course in the Department of Geography and Environment of Jahangirnagar University from 29 June to 6 July, Mr. Birendra Bajracharya also followed-up on activities with regard to the collection of a GIS database on Bangladesh. The LGED has completed the collection of district-level databases for more than 50 districts. These databases are being checked and compiled in an aggregate form.

Mr. Egbert Pelinck, the Director General, visited Bangladesh from 12 to 15 October primarily to discuss the Second Regional Collaborative Programme (RCP-II) of ICIMOD with potential partners. During his visit, he examined the ongoing ICIMOD-supported activities and identified areas for further collaboration. Overall, ICIMOD's support has been well appreciated, while the scope for additional activities was also discussed.

BHUTAN

Mr. Egbert Pelinck and Ms. Phuntsok Tsering visited Bhutan from 15 to 20 October to participate in the RCP-II consultations and to discuss the scope for increasing collaboration with ICIMOD. Mr. Pelinck met the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Planning, and Agriculture and the Secretary of Communications. They expressed their appreciation over the useful information generated by ICIMOD. Mr. Pelinck and Ms Tsering also visited the Natural Resources Training Institute in Lobeyasa and the Renewable Natural Resources Research Centre in Bajo, Wagdiphodrang.

CHINA

An Electronic Networking Project to share and exchange information has been recently initiated by ICIMOD. In this connection, from 3-17 June, Mr. Shahid Akhtar participated in a seminar in Mongolia and on his return held discussions in Beijing and Lhasa to explore opportunities for introducing this technology in ICIMOD partner institutions.

Prof. Li Tianchi travelled to Kunming, Dongchuan, Xian, and Chengdu from 28 June to 20 July to review and edit the training materials prepared by the team of the Mountain Risk Engineering, China Project, for publishing in Chinese, to monitor the civil and bio-engineering works carried out, to plan training activities for September in Dongchuan, to participate in an International

Symposium on Landslide Hazard Assessment in Xian, and to discuss plans related to a Landslide and Debris Flow Training Workshop to be held in November in Kunming.

Mr. Richard Allen visited Kunming/Baoshan from 25 June to 11 July. The purpose of his visit was to review the People and Resource Dynamics Project's (PARDYP) progress in the selected watershed in China; to assist in the selection of sites for rehabilitation areas and erosion plots; to discuss problems and constraints and attempt to solve them; and to prepare and sign a memorandum of understanding.

Prof. Pei Shengji and Ajay Rastogi travelled to Yunnan Province and Thailand from August 18 to 27. They visited the field site for the ongoing case study on 'Sustainable Management and Conservation of the Medicine Plants in Southwest Yunnan'. The purpose of their visit to Thailand was to strengthen the linkages with the Regional ICDP Programme of WWF and the Regional Community Based Conservation Programme of IUCN based at AIT, Bangkok.

From 10 to 25 September, Dr. Pitamber Sharma participated in the 'International Symposium on Sustainable Development of Human Settlements in Mountainous Regions' organized by the Research Centre for Mountain Cities and Regions, Chongqing Jianshu University. He also visited the Three Gorges Dam in the Yangtze River.

Mr. Egbert Pelinck travelled to Lhasa and Beijing in August. He attended and addressed the closing session of the 'Workshop on Research and Education for Sustainable Mountain Agriculture' in TAR, Lhasa; attended and addressed the opening session of the Cycle II training course on GIS; and participated in RCP-II discussions in Beijing where 23 persons from 18 institutions attended.

INDIA

Dr. M. Banskota, the Deputy Director General, visited India from 18 to 20 June in connection with RCP-II. During his visit, Dr. Banskota participated in consultations held in New Delhi where Executives of various institutions/organizations made comments on and gave useful suggestions for RCP-II.

From 17 to 24 July, Dr. N.S. Jodha went to New Delhi to participate in a meeting of Policy Workers at WWF. The meeting

Enviro-nics in GB Pant Agriculture University, Dr. Pitamber Sharma travelled to Musoorie from 29 September to 2 October. He also visited Tehri Township and Lal Bahadur Shastri Academy for Administration.

Mr. Ajay Rastogi travelled to Dehra Dun from 16 to 25 September to visit the field site for an ongoing study grant in the Valley of Flowers, National Park and Wildlife Institute of India, and to hold further discussions on the project.

On October 13, Dr. Aung Kyaw Myint travelled to Dehra Dun to participate in the FAO/FSI

session in Bangkok for the Mekong Study and FAO RAPA.

Mr. Egbert Pelinck travelled to Yezin and Yangon in September. He participated in RCP-II discussions in Yangon with 20 persons from 10 institutions. During his visit to Myanmar, Mr. Pelinck also visited several potential partner institutions/organizations and the Hlawga Park.

NEPAL

From 5 November to 11 November, Dr. Pitamber Sharma travelled to Pokhara to oversee the Training of Local Community groups and organizations in Birethanti and to participate in the Training of Programme Designers and Implementors of Tourism and Related Programmes organized by the Centre for Resource and Environmental Studies. The participants found this exercise of enormous value not only for comprehending the complexity of the associated problems but also for charting out the course for solutions to the problems faced.

Various other field trips are made on a regular basis, e.g., to the four test and demonstration sites where ICIMOD and partner organizations work, the Beekeeping Programmes in Jumla, Bhaktapur, and Dadeldhura, and other places where field surveys are undertaken.

PAKISTAN

Dr. T. S. Papola travelled to Pakistan from 31 October to 11 November. The main objectives of his visit were to familiarise himself with the programmes of the Sarhad Rural Support Corporation, particularly the credit and enterprise development component, and to make a preliminary assessment for area selection for a study on the 'Review of Micro-enterprise Development Programmes'; to attend the Meeting of ICIMOD Board of Governors; to review the progress of the micro-enterprise study; and to contact individuals and institutions for possible collaboration.



The D.G. and Phuntsok Tsering in consultation with the Planning Minister of Bhutan

tried to develop a framework by which policy issues could be meaningfully analysed and communicated to the relevant target groups

ICIMOD is planning to change its accounting from a rupee base to a dollar base. The implications needed looking into and the Finance Manual needed updating in the light of the changed financial system. To attend to this, Mr. M. R. Tuladhar therefore, visited Price Waterhouse - the ICIMOD auditors - to consult the above matters from 30 June to 3 July.

To participate in the 'Training of Programme Designers and Implementors in Mountain Tourism for Local Development' organized by the Academy for Mountain

'Workshop on Global Forest Resources Assessment: 2000'. In the Workshop, Dr. Myint also presented a paper entitled 'Regional Perspective on Forest Resources' Assessment'.

MYANMAR

Dr. Aung Kyaw Myint travelled to Myanmar and Thailand from 23 August to 6 September. The main objectives of his travel were to meet officials for the collection of forestry related data, agricultural statistics, maps, and population data; and to discuss and make arrangements for a visit by a Chinese team led by Prof. Pei to Popa National Park. Dr. Myint also visited the Mekong River Commis-

Recent ICIMOD Publications

D. J. Miller, S. R. Craig, & G. M. Rana (Editors). 1997. *Conservation and Management of Yak Genetic Diversity*. MNR Workshop Report. 220pp. (US \$ 15)

This document is divided into three principal sections. Section One contains papers on yaks from Bhutan, China, India, Mongolia, and Nepal. Topics covered include wild and domestic yaks, conservation of domestic genetic diversity, and production systems. Section Two mainly concentrates on yaks in China, particularly in relation to yak-rearing systems, research, and market development in the Tibetan Autonomous Region and the Qinghai Tibetan Plateau, Xinjiang, Gansu, and Sichuan. This section also includes an absorbing photo essay and a paper on yak cheese production in Nepal. Section Three is devoted to breeding strategies and chromosome evaluation.

S. Ghosh, J. K. Sen, K. U. Rana, K. S. Rao, and K. G. Saxena. 1997. *GIS Applications to Natural Resource Management and Development Planning in a Rural Area-Pranmati Watershed: Garhwal Himalayas, India*, MENRIS Case Study Series No. 5. 84pp. (US \$ 15)

The Pranmati Watershed, a representative micro-watershed, has been selected to depict GIS/RS applications in natural resource management for watershed development planning. The Pranmati Watershed is based in the Ganges' system in Chamoli District of Uttar Pradesh in the Garhwal Himalayas. The text describes different aspects of GIS applications to natural resources' management and development planning. These applications are developed mainly for

watersheds and village-level planning but could also be extended to any other unit.

Kamal Rijal (Editor). 1997. *Energy Use in Mountain Areas- Emerging Issues and Future Priorities*, Report of a Regional Meeting, MEI Workshop Report. 74pp. (US \$ 15)

This report summarizes the discussions held and suggestions made at the Regional Meeting on Energy Use in Mountain Areas organized by ICIMOD from 16-18 April 1997. It discusses the findings of the studies commissioned by ICIMOD in four countries, namely, China, India, Nepal, and Pakistan and identifies future priorities for energy development. Two

local areas were covered in the discussions: i) emerging issues in energy use; and ii) energy policies and programmes. Future priorities for energy development in the mountains were also discussed and several suggestions were made with regard to both policies and studies to improve understanding.

Ajay Rastogi, Pei Shengji, Devendra Amatya. 1997. *Regional Consultation on Conservation of the Kanchanjanga Mountain Ecosystem*. MNR Workshop Report. 108pp (US \$ 15)

The Kanchanjunga massif straddles Nepal in the east, India to the west, and the Tibetan Autonomous Region of China to the north. This mountain system is characterised by rich biological and cultural diversity. For effective conservation and development of the Kanchanjunga Mountain System, it is important that the three countries collaborate in drawing up a common vision and a long-term action plan. In order to facilitate this important process of regional collaboration, ICIMOD organized this meeting with the active involvement and support of the World Wildlife Fund Nepal Programme in Kathmandu from March 31 to April 2, 1997.

ICIMOD. *Districts of Nepal: Indicators of Development, 1997*, 119pp. ISBN 92-91115-6930. (US \$ 20)

This document provides a unique assessment of the development status of each of Nepal's 75 districts in relation to

Discussion Papers

(Price: US \$ 15 each)

MEI 97/2: S. Z. Sadeque. *Social Science and Sustainable Mountain Development: A Concept Paper*. 136pp.

MFS 97/2: H. R. Sharma, E. Sharma. *Agricultural Transformation Processes and Sustainability in the Sikkim Himalayas*. 104pp.

MEI 97/3: Shaheen R. Khan. *Micro Case Study and Action Plan for Fairy Meadows*. 104pp.

MEI 97/4: G. S. Mehta. *Experiences and Options in a Hill Region: The Case of Uttarakhand, U.P., India*. 62pp.

MEI 97/5: K. Banskota, B. Sharma. *Case Studies from Ghandruk*. 52pp.

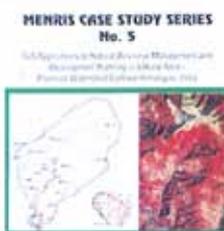
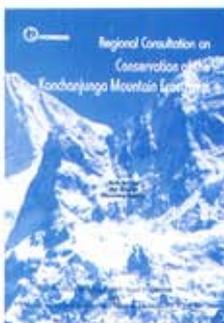
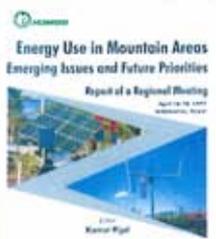
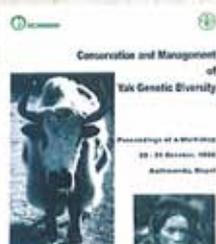
MFS 97/3: S. Sharma. *Agricultural Transformation Processes in the Mountains of Nepal: Empirical Evidence from Ilam District*. 48pp.

ICIMOD Briefs: Issues in Mountain Development

97/6: *Management of Water for the Prevention of Environmental Hazards* - Prof. Suresh Raj Chalise

97/7: *Power, Equity, Gender, and Conflicts in Common Property Resources in the Hindu Kush-Himalayas* - Anupam Bhatia

97/8: *Highland-Lowland Economic Linkages* - Dr. N. S. Jodha



ICIMOD is proud to announce that the Tibet Academy of Agricultural and Animal Sciences has awarded **Dr. Tej Partap** the title of Honorary Professor in recognition of his long-term interest in management of agro-ecosystem in Tibet and the significant contributions he has made to a better understanding of sustainable agriculture development in Tibet.

39 indicators of development. Although the study was prepared specifically for SNV Nepal's needs, the outcome is likely to be of great interest to HMG of Nepal and other development institutions and organizations involved in decentralised development planning and support. This document is expected to be of assistance to development policy- and decision-makers and aid agencies working in Nepal to channel their resources in such a way to overcome regional inequalities that have become so apparent from this work.

Recent ICIMOD Films

Price : US \$ 10 each

In its attempt to reach out to a wider target group, ICIMOD has been successful in producing three video films this year.

Lepchas of Sikkim : A Vanishing Tribe?

The Lepchas are said to be a homogeneous ethnic group that lives in the mountains of Sikkim and became terrace farmers recently. From the film it comes out clearly that the Lepchas are a people among whom there is no rank, no overarching social organization and no State apparatus. The tribe has, in recent history, faced continuous invasion of their native habitat or territory by the Bhutias (Tibetans who installed the three century long Namgyel dynasty, the Drukpas of Bhutan, the British (both colonial and Christian) and Nepali immigrants in search of land. Traditionally a tribe that inhabited the area of Darjeeling district of West Bengal, India, parts of eastern Nepal, parts of Bhutan and the present-day Sikkim, the Lepchas are now confined to parts of Sikkim only. The film shows images of Men Rong Gong, a Lepcha village just north of Gangtok, the capital of Sikkim and depicts the Lepcha way of life filled with rituals and prayers linked to their management of the land.

VISITORS TO THE CENTRE

A.V.S. Reddy, Director General, CIRDAP, Dhaka, Bangladesh

R. J. Rickson, Silsoe College, Cranfield, University, U.K

James F. Cole, First Secretary, Environmental Affairs, US Embassy, Kathmandu

Devendra Pratap Shah, General Manager, Agricultural Development Bank (ADB/N) Head Office, Kathmandu,

Latif Akhtar Butt, Ministry of Environment, Local Government Rural Dev. Islamabad, Pakistan

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Michael M. Cernea, Sociologist, USA

Sabine Juengling, GTZ, Eschborn, Germany

Peter Rhode, Director, GTZ, Kathmandu

Prof. Shunji Murai, AIT, Thailand

L.R. Verma, Vice Chancellor, YSP University of Horticulture and Forestry, H.P. India

Land and Ritual, Among the Angami Naga

This is a 23 minute documentary film that focusses on the livelihood and the cultural practices of an Angami village of Nagaland in Northeast India and tribal Naga people in general. Most parts of Nagaland is under swidden or jhum cultivation. The film attempts to highlight the dominant role played by women "Swidden" agriculture. The Naga women have more rights than their sisters in the Indian plains but there are significant inequities that continue to persist. Towards the end, the film touches upon the links between indigenous knowledge and the cultural identity of the Angami Nagas. Almost 90% of Nagas are converted Christians, a conversion that began some hundred years ago. Despite the appearance of a clear Christian hegemony, there is a large blurred area of adaptation that is going on among the tribal people, between the old and the

new, the traditional religion and Christianity.

Forest Managers of the Hindu Kush-Himalayas

This film is issue-oriented, interviews-based documentation of men and women who are at the forefront of forest management in the HKH. Through extensive interviews men and women from informal forestry users' group institutions, community-based organizations, and NGOs share their experiences with participatory forest management. They articulate key lessons and outline future strategies for sustainable management of the forest resources of the HKH. The key issues discussed include: the presence of enabling policies, rules and regulations; enhancing women's roles in decision-making; national and regional advocacy and networking; and the need to strengthen local institutions. Available in English and Nepali.

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