

About the Authors

Tang Ya is currently Professor of Environmental Biology & Ecology at the College of Environment, Sichuan University, China. He received his doctorate in 1990 from the Kunming Institute of Botany, Chinese Academy of Sciences, after which he joined the Chengdu Institute of Biology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, where he was promoted to research professor within five years, becoming one of the youngest professors in China, and served as Deputy Head and Head of the Department of Botany and Ecology. He worked at ICIMOD from July 1995 to December 2001 as project coordinator, agroforestry/soil conservation specialist, and then Head of the Mountain Farming Systems Division, before rejoining the Chengdu Institute of Biology as Professor and Chairman of the Academic Committee, and then moved to Sichuan University in 2003. He has published widely, with around 100 papers and book chapters credited to his name, and during the course of his career has been elected to the boards of a number of professional societies and science journals. His current research interests include the systematics and biogeography of the order Malvales, the pollination of *Pedicularis* and the impact of environmental changes on biodiversity. He can be contacted at <tangya@cib.ac.cn>.

A. Beatrice Murray is currently Editor at ICIMOD where she has been working as a consultant and then staff member for five years. She gained a Ph.D in Biophysics from King's College London, UK, after completing a B.Sc in Physics. Her first career was in research science. She worked for some years as a cell biologist at a large research institute in Germany that covered a diverse range of disciplines related to health and environmental science. She worked for some years with the United Nations Environment Programme on environmental measurement, and then as a free-lance editorial and publications consultant for various organisations before joining ICIMOD.

Gopal Nakarmi holds a Masters degree in Geology and Mining Engineering from the Moscow Geological Prospecting Institute, Moscow. He worked as a professional geologist at ICIMOD for more than ten years, most of the time with the People and Resource Dynamics Project (PARDYP). Prior to joining ICIMOD, he worked at the Department of Mines and Geology of His Majesty's Government of Nepal. Mr. Nakarmi has a wide experience of comprehensive field-based research and an in-depth knowledge of surface erosion from mountain agricultural lands and of water resource management in the mid hills of Nepal. He has published a number of articles in his field with particular focus on soil erosion and water management.

Philippe Jobin has a Master's degree in soil physics, with a focus on soil-plant-atmosphere-water relationships, and a Bachelor's degree in agronomy from Laval University, Canada. He worked at ICIMOD as a consultant in 2001 investigating potential hedgerow-crop competition for soil moisture. Mr Jobin now works as research manager at Laval University's biology department.



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