

INTEGRATED RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN NEPAL - A REVIEW -

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ICIMOD OCCASIONAL PAPER No. 2

**Kathmandu, Nepal
December, 1985**

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The front cover shows the Rice Plantation Lele, Lalitpur District

The views expressed are those of the author, and do not necessarily represent the views of ICIMOD.

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FOREWORD

The central concern of ICIMOD is with the promotion of the welfare of mountain communities throughout the vast Hindu Kush-Himalaya Range through both effective socio-economic development programmes and the sound resource management of their vulnerable mountain habitats. Its key method is the systematic exchange of professional knowledge directly relevant to this basic concern. And not just the mechanical exchange of knowledge but its careful evaluation through organised professional discussion and debate - in the search for the improved understanding needed for the design and implementation of more effective development programmes.

With this aim of both promoting the exchange of practical field experience and of stimulating discussion on its professional evaluation, ICIMOD has initiated an Occasional Paper Series. The first publication in this series appeared in August this year: Erosion and Sedimentation Processes in the Nepalese Himalaya by Brian Carson.

It is now being followed by this stimulating paper on the assessment of the key lessons of project experience in Nepal with integrated rural development, based - it must be strongly emphasised - on a review of available project documents rather than on actual field evaluative surveys. For all the obvious difficulties, this restriction to an analysis of project reports (including of course specific evaluation reports) was deliberate. The intention was to seek an initial synthesis of project experience, as revealed by these documents, as a basis for the organisation, from 1986 onwards, of a much more systematic exchange of knowledge with regard to multi-sectoral rural development projects - in mountain districts throughout the Region - from the Karakoram in the far west to the Hengduan Mountains in the far east (from this central location of Kathmandu).

The work, intended therefore very much as a beginning, has been very ably undertaken by Mr. B. B. Pradhan, well known for his earlier publications on rural development experience in Nepal. We are grateful to him, and to those who participated in this study (Dr. Philippe Alirol, Mrs. Ava Shrestha, Mr. M. B. Shrestha) for this shrewd and often provocative contribution to the better understanding of project experience as a whole in rural development in Nepal - and for getting us started on this subject for the wider Hindu Kush-Himalaya Region. We must also express our appreciation to SATA for suggesting in the first place that such a reflective assessment would be useful - and for joining in its financing.

Colin Rosser
Director

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This review of Integrated Rural Development Projects in Nepal is intended to provide preliminary information on the status of existing rural development projects and to identify important issues, strengths and weaknesses in IRDPs. In the course of this short study, all available documents on the IRDPs and related projects particularly the Watershed Management Projects were collected and a bibliography was compiled. Comprehensive project summaries were prepared. Also detailed summaries of evaluation reports were made in a structured format. My colleagues in this undertaking, Dr. Phillippe Alirol, Mrs. Ava Shrestha, Mr. M. B. Shrestha and Mr. N. B. Jirel carried out this work which provided background information on which this report is prepared. I would like to express my gratitude to them for their valuable contribution and assistance.

Mr. Mukti P. Kafle, Secretary, and Mr. Y. N. Ojha, Additional Secretary of the Ministry of Panchayat and Local Development have been most helpful to me in this work. I offer my sincere gratitude to both of them.

It is not possible here to mention the names of all the persons who have been of help to me. All of them and particularly those who provided their valuable time and information in the course of my interviews (names listed in Appendix II) deserve sincere thanks.

I express my gratitude to Dr. Colin Rosser, Director, ICIMOD whose initiative and guidance has brought about this study. I am also grateful to Mr. A. Frischknecht, Director and Mr. B. Dolf, Deputy Director, SATA for their support to this project. I extend my sincere thanks to Dr. R. P. Yadav, Deputy Director, ICIMOD for taking great interest in the study and providing valuable suggestions. Finally, my special thanks are due to Ms. Lisa Rush for editing this text.

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ADB	Asian Development Bank
ADB/N	Agriculture Development Bank of Nepal
ARDEC	Agriculture and Rural Development Consultancy
ASC	Agricultural Service Centre
ASP	Agricultural Service Post
CEDA	Centre for Economic Development and Administration
CDO	Chief District Officer
CIDA	Canadian International Development Agency
DDDP	Dhading District Development Project
DLAH	Department of Livestock and Animal Husbandry
DOA	Department of Agriculture
DSCWM	Dept. of Soil Conservation and Watershed Management
DRCG	Development Research and Communication Group
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation
GTZ	German Technical Cooperation
HADP	Hill Agriculture Development Project
HIDP	Hill Irrigation Development Project
HMG	His Majesty's Government
IDS	Integrated Development System
IFAD	International Fund for Agriculture Development
IHDP	Integrated Hill Development Project
IRD	Integrated Rural Development
IRDP	Integrated Rural Development Project
IRNR	Institute of Renewable Natural Resources
IVD	Integrated Village Development
JADP	Janakpur Agriculture Development Project
K-BIRD	Karnali-Bheri Integrated Rural Development

KHARDEP	Koshi Hill Area Rural Development Project
LDO	Local Development Officer
MPLD	Ministry of Panchayat and Local Development
NPC	National Planning Commission
PDLT	Panchayat Development Land Tax
PWMP	Phewatal Watershed Management Project
PWP	Phewa Watershed Project
RADP	Remote Areas Development Programme
RCUP	Resource Conservation and Utilisation Project
RD	Rural Development
R/NIRDP	Rasuw -Nuwakot Integrated Rural Development Project
RSC	Rural Service Centre
SADP	Small Areas Development Programme
SATA	Swiss Association for Technical Assistance
SFDP	Small Farmer Development Project
STA	Senior Technical Advisor
TCO	Technical Cooperation Officer
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WFP	World Food Programme
WMCEP	Watershed Management Conservation and Education Project
WMP	Watershed Management Project