

Closing Remarks

XI

F. A. Yusuf
Secretary, Special Affairs'
Division, Prime Ministers'
Office, Bangladesh

My participation here and interaction with all you friends have further reinforced my feeling that ICIMOD can do a great deal for the betterment of the people of the hilly land which we call the Chittagong Hill Tracts. This area is underdeveloped in comparison to other areas in Bangladesh. We also have special problems, particularly ethnic ones. Whatever development activities we intend to pursue in the Bangladesh hill areas, the Special Affairs' Division looks at these in a holistic way. We have already benefitted from the advice and assistance provided by ICIMOD, and we intend to increase our collaboration with ICIMOD in the near future, because we believe we do not have sufficient expertise in our country for the development of hilly areas.

I think we are expecting many useful outputs from ICIMOD. ICIMOD has made it clear that it can provide forums where we can discuss problems and share information. Through these interactions, we have an opportunity to establish regional as well as inter-regional collaboration for which ICIMOD can act as a window for all of us.

Liu Gengling
Vice President, Chinese
Academy of Agricultural
Sciences, Beijing

In this meeting, I learned a lot. I learned about the many outstanding activities of ICIMOD for the farmers, of course for men and women folks in the mountainous regions. In this meeting, I have come to know scientists and friends. I hope the friendships among scientists established today will develop sustainably. I hope the cooperation among scientists will also develop sustainably.

R.P.S. Tyagi, Vice Chancellor,
Himachal Agricultural
University, Palampur, India

I must congratulate ICIMOD. They have achieved within the last three to four days what we have not done in three to four decades. The credit goes to the organisers. After visiting ICIMOD I realised our fortune that we are in this region to have such a centre. In fact, I will say that it becomes the duty of the countries in this region to really support this centre. It should be very independent and made a viable centre so that it can give guidelines to the region. It is our duty to support this centre through our governments.

Through these interactions, we have an opportunity to establish regional as well as inter-regional collaboration for which ICIMOD can act as a window for all of us.

F. A. Yusuf

I hope the friendships among scientists established today will develop sustainably. I hope the cooperation among scientists will also develop sustainably.

Liu Gengling

Leela Pathak, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, HMG/Nepal

I would like to congratulate ICIMOD for holding such an important meeting and choosing Nepal as the venue. In fact, assembling so many distinguished agricultural scholars and practitioners has provided us with a very good opportunity to discuss this particular region's development and share each other's experiences. This is going to be very fruitful for all of us in our future work while formulating strategies for the development of agriculture.

Kyaw Than, Rector, Institute of Agriculture, Yezin, Myanmar

Frankly speaking, before I came here I was not quite aware of what ICIMOD is doing in this region. Because of ICIMOD, we have possibilities for greater cooperation and coordination between neighbouring countries and

for sharing our knowledge and experiences.

M. Azam Khan, Vice Chancellor, Arid Agriculture University, Pakistan

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to ICIMOD, the Director General, his colleagues, and staff for the wonderful arrangements and the facilities provided and the wisdom they have shown. I was also delighted to meet with a large number of Vice Chancellors who are all my senior colleagues. I have recently been appointed, only a couple of months ago, so I had the opportunity to learn from their experiences which range from 30 to 40 years in most cases.

Closing Address by Chairperson

**Egbert Pelinck
Director General, ICIMOD**

I noticed that there are numerous recommendations for follow-up



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R.P.S. Tyagi

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E. Pelinck

Director General at the Closing Session

activities and I appreciate it, and I hope some kind of follow-up activities will take place in your own organisations, in your own countries, and that you have a certain trust and confidence in ICIMOD to follow up on those aspects of sustainable mountain agriculture that can gain by a regional approach. The added value of looking at sustainable mountain agriculture from a regional perspective is that it makes possible the exchange of information, the storing of information, the exchange of people from one institution to another, fellowships, and study tours.

Some of the recommendations that have been made have rather a long-term perspective, such as change in curricula or change in certain institutional structures, and I think there is not a single country in this region or in Europe or elsewhere where institutional changes take less than two to three, sometimes even five, years. The problems and concerns of

mountain people and their environment cannot afford long-term thinking only. We also have to look at short-term solutions. ICIMOD will look at some of these very carefully and identify what we can do in the short term and what we can do in the long term. In the short term, we can do many things by exchanging of information.

If I may ask you also to do something in the short term. Going back to your own countries, to your own institutions, you should become an ambassador for mountain people and the mountain environment. You should not forget about mountain people and mountain agriculture. In your own institution, in your organisation, in your own government, and also in international associations. Many of you are on national committees and international committees where you can promote the cause of mountain people.

Thankyou

In the short term, we can do many things by exchanging of information.

Going back to your own countries, to your own institutions, you should become an ambassador for mountain people and the mountain environment.

E. Pelinck

Workshop Sessions

Session I	11:00 - 12:00 hrs Chairperson: Dr. Zeng-shan
11:00 - 12:30	Theme 1: Education, Research, and Sustainable Mountain Agriculture: Building Frontiers for the HKI Dr. Sankar and E. Pelinck Commentator: Upton
12:30 - 13:00	Theme 2: Soil Fertility, Water Management Challenges Facing Sustainable Mountain Agriculture Dr. Parag and E. Pelinck Commentators: K. Tsan, G. Thapa
Session II	14:00 - 17:30 hrs Chairperson: Prof. Zhu Zhonglin