Mountain Farming Systems

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Commercialisation of Mountain Agriculture

Experiences From Miyi County

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International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development

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Use of replicable development experiences can serve as a cost effective and dependable instrument of development strategies in mountain areas. Guided by the above consideration, the Mountain Farming Systems' Programme at ICIMOD, in their current phase of work, have focused on the identification of success stories and documented their experiences, particularly the factors and processes contributing to their success. The key purpose is to identify the preconditions for replication of successful experiences elsewhere.

Such successful replicable experiences that could be documented and disseminated relate to a vast range of areas, including agricultural technologies, institutional innovations, participatory development projects and focused area development schemes. As a part of this exercise, a number of areas from the HKH Region, which had undergone rapid transformation within a short time, were identified. Miyi County, West Sichuan (China) is one of such area. Agriculture in Miyi County has undergone rapid commercialisation over the last decade or so.

The present paper, using both secondary and primary data and exchanges with officials of the county government, describes the success of Miyi County and the key factors behind this success. Identification of lead sectors (e.g., horticulture), market linkages, and infrastructural facilities have helped in the rapid

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Besides the author, several people and agencies have contributed to documenting Miyi's experience in the present form. In particular, Li Xixi, the Secretary of the Government of Miyi County Office, and Liu Weishua, Division Head of the Bureau of Industrial and Commercial Administration of Miyi County, made significant contributions towards the author's understanding of the processes and is facilitating his acquisition of mobilisation of empirical evidence.

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Geographical and Historical Background

Geographical Background

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Such successful replicable experiences that could be documented and disseminated relate to a vast range of areas, including agricultural technologies, institutional innovations, participatory development projects and focussed area development schemes. As a part of this exercise, a number of areas from the HKH Region, which had undergone rapid transformation within a short time, were identified. Miyi County in West Sichuan (China) is one of such area. Agriculture in Miyi County has undergone rapid commercialisation over the last decade or so.

The present paper, using both secondary and primary data and exchanges with officials of the county government, describes the success of Miyi County and the key factors behind this success. Identification of lead sectors (e.g., horticulture), market linkages, and infrastructural facilities have helped in the rapid transformation of Miyi. However, the most important factor in the process has been the economic reforms of 1978, which offered incentives to people, encouraged diversification of activities, and facilitated market and 'niche' based specialisation, that finally induced rapid commercialisation and transformation of Miyi County, particularly in the agricultural sector.

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GROUNDWORK LAID BY THE COMMUNITIES

Road Network

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