



Mountain Farming Systems

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The Andean Camelids, Llama and Alpaca

**The Potentials and Prerequisites for
Introducing these Animals into
Other Mountain Environments**

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PREFACE

The Andean mountains are well-known for promising plant and animal resources, among which *alpacas* and *llamas* are an outstanding example. Well-adapted to the high mountain farming systems, they also have a potential for improving the high mountain agro-pastoral farming systems of the Hindu Kush-Himalayan Region. Keeping this in mind, the Mountain Farming Systems' Programme of ICIMOD has accumulated some preliminary information about these Andean animals.

Two exploratory surveys of the Andean highland areas have been carried out by the MFS coordinating staff to acquire first hand information about the habitat and the farming systems of the Andean highlands, of which these camelids are an integral part. The awareness training facilities of some of the Andean Camelid Research Centres were also assessed in the context of the possibility of providing short-term training programmes for animal husbandry experts from the HKH countries.

Further, as a part of this exercise, a team of Andean camelid experts was engaged to prepare this report on the potentials and prerequisites for introducing these animals into the HKH Region. To facilitate appropriate decision-making among interested agencies in the HKH, the study has focussed on the science and management of these animals.

It is hoped that this document will generate interest in Andean camelids among several development agencies in the HKH countries and serve as a guideline for the future activities of the MFS Division in this area.

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