AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT EXPERIENCES IN NEPAL

(Workshop Report)

Organised by ICIMOD in collaboration with
the Ministry of Agriculture, HMG, Nepal

ICIMOD, Kathmandu, Nepal

November 14-16, 1988

ICIMOD Workshop Series

The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development began professional activities in September 1984. The primary concern of the Centre is to search for more effective development responses to promote the sustained well-being of mountain people. One of the continuing activities of ICIMOD is to review development and environmental management experiences in the Hindu Kush-Himalayan Region. Accordingly, International and National Workshops were organized in major fields to review the state of knowledge and practical experiences and also to provide opportunities for the exchange of professional expertise concerning integrated mountain development. Some of the workshops, related to mountain agriculture, included:

- **International Workshop on Watershed Management in the Hindu Kush-Himalaya**
14-19 October, 1985, Chengdu, China
- **International Workshop on Off-farm Employment Generation in the Hindu Kush-Himalaya**
17-19 May, 1986, Dehra Dun, India
- **International Workshop on Mountain Agriculture and Crop Genetic Resources**
16-19 February, 1987, Kathmandu, Nepal
- **International Expert Meeting on Horticultural Development in the Hindu Kush-Himalayan Region**
19-21 June, 1989, Kathmandu, Nepal
- **International Expert Meeting on Apicultural Development in the Hindu Kush-Himalayas**
21-23 June, 1989, Kathmandu, Nepal
- **Workshop on Agricultural Development Experiences in Himachal Pradesh, India**
11-13 April, 1988, Manali, India
- **Workshop on Agricultural Development Experiences in West Sichuan Xizang, China**
6-10 October, 1988, Chengdu, China
- **Workshop on Agricultural Development Experiences in Nepal**
14-16 November, 1988, Kathmandu, Nepal
- **Workshop on Agricultural Development Experiences in Pakistan**
15-18 February, 1989, Swat, Pakistan

These Workshops were attended by experts, from the countries of the Region, in addition to concerned professionals and representatives of international agencies. A large number of professional papers and research studies were presented and discussed in detail.

Workshop Reports are intended to represent the discussions and conclusions reached at the Workshop and do not necessarily reflect the views of ICIMOD or other participating institutions.

Copies of the reports are available upon request from :

The Publications' Unit
International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)
G.P.O. Box 3226
Kathmandu, Nepal

Agricultural Development Experiences in the Hindu Kush-Himalayas

AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT EXPERIENCES IN NEPAL

(Workshop Report No. 3)

2. GENERAL COUNTRY BACKGROUND WITH REFERENCE TO THE MOUNTAINS

WORKSHOP DISCUSSIONS

International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development
Kathmandu, Nepal

Operational Measures

In the preparation of this report, an attempt has been made to reflect the views and interpretations expressed by the participants at the Workshop. These views and interpretations are not necessarily those of the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), and do not imply the expression of an opinion concerning the legal status of any country, city, or area or its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

Copyright © 1990

International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development

All rights reserved

Cover photographs:

Top Left : Marginal Agricultural Lands on Mountain Slopes and Landslides

Photograph by : Tej Partap

Bottom Left : Cultivation of Temperate Fruits and Vegetables in the Trans-Himalayan Rain-shadow Areas: Marpha

Photograph by : Tej Partap

Top Right : A Sizeable Herd of Mixed Livestock : A Survival Strategy for Nepalese Farmers

Photograph by : Sugandha Shrestha

Bottom Right : A Kathmandu Farmer Working His Land

Photograph by : Tej Partap

Published by
International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development
G.P.O. Box 3226, Kathmandu, Nepal

Typesetting at ICIMOD Computer Centre

In the preparation of this report, an attempt has been made to reflect the views and interpretations expressed by the participants at the Workshop. These views and interpretations are not attributable to the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), and do not imply the expression of an opinion concerning the legal status of any country, city, or area of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

The Publications Unit

International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)

G.P.O. Box 3226

Kathmandu, Nepal

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
FOREWORD	
1. INTRODUCTION AND OBJECTIVES	1
Background to ICIMOD Research on Sustainable Mountain Agriculture	1
Workshop Objectives	2
Framework of Enquiries for Workshop Papers: Mountain Perspective	2
2. GENERAL COUNTRY BACKGROUND WITH REFERENCE TO THE MOUNTAINS	7
Topography, Climate, Drainage	7
Population	8
Administrative and Physical Infrastructure	8
The Economy	9
3. WORKSHOP DISCUSSIONS	11
Presentation of Issues: The Internalisation Perspective	11
Operational Measures	12
Sectoral Development	12
Recommendations	13

4.	CHALLENGES OF MOUNTAIN AGRICULTURE IN NEPAL	14
	The Food-Population Balance	14
	The Employment and Labour Force Burden on the Agricultural Sector	14
	Pressures on Land-based Resources	15
	Security for Sustainable Livelihood	15
5.	POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES	16
	Overall Development Goals	16
	Agricultural Development Priorities	16
	Regional Dimensions of Agricultural Development	18
6.	OVERALL IMPACT OF POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES	21
	Foodgrain Crop Development	21
	Livestock Development	21
	Horticultural Development	21
	Irrigation Development	22
7	LESSONS FROM EXPERIENCE	23
	Questions of Mountain Development Priorities	23
	Matching Programmes with Resources	24
	Failures of Implementation	24
	Incorporating Mountain Characteristics in Programme Design	24
	Agricultural Pricing Policies and Support Services	26
	Cottage Industry	30
	Role of Women in Sustainable Agriculture	30

8.	CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	31
	Development Strategies	31
	Sectoral Development Initiatives	32
	Public Support Programmes	33

ANNEXES

1:	Workshop Programme	35
2:	List of Participants	36
3:	Workshop Tables	39
4:	List of Workshop Papers	55
5:	Summaries of Papers	56

TABLES

Table 1:	Indicators of Unsustainability in Mountain Agriculture	5
Table 2:	Mountain Characteristics (Specificities) and Their Operational Implications	6

Foreword

Field observations and systematic studies have alerted researchers to emerging indicators of unsustainability in the present patterns of resource use and their productivity in mountain areas, particularly in the agricultural sector. Ironically, this is happening despite increased development efforts in mountain regions (HKH Region). One of the primary reasons for the above situation is the general disregard for the mountain perspective while designing and implementing development interventions for mountain agriculture.

Guided by the above understanding, ICIMOD sponsored state of the art reviews of specific public policies and programmes for selected mountain areas in India, China, Nepal, and Pakistan. The central purpose was to understand the extent and manner in which the mountain perspective is incorporated into the public policies and programmes for agriculture in the mountain areas of these countries. The reviews done by the national experts from the concerned countries were subsequently discussed by a diverse group of researchers, policy makers, and planners in National Workshops held in the respective countries.

This workshop report (one of a series of four) deals with agricultural development experiences in Himachal Pradesh in India. It discusses the major highlights of the reviews and the subsequent workshop discussions with focus on the search for explicit or implicit considerations of specific mountain characteristics and their implications for the policies and strategies of mountain areas.

The report was prepared by Sugandha Shrestha under the overall guidance of N. S. Jodha, Head of the Mountain Farming Systems' Division of ICIMOD, with major contributions from Mahesh Banskota. The report greatly benefitted from the comments of Nepalese and other colleagues at ICIMOD. The report presents focussed interpretations of issues raised in the review papers and at the national workshop held in Kathmandu.

I would like to take this opportunity to express ICIMOD's gratitude to all those who contributed to the preparation of the reviews and subsequently to a very successful workshop. In particular, the Ministry of Agriculture, of HMG/Nepal, facilitated and participated in this collaborative exercise, and all concerned deserve our special thanks. The financial and logistic support provided by agencies such as the UNDP, Ford Foundation, and Asian Development Bank is gratefully acknowledged.

It is hoped that this report, along with the three others in the series, will serve as a step towards sensitising policy makers and development experts to the mountain perspective and as a step towards enhancing the relevance and effectiveness of interventions in mountain areas.

E. F. Tacke
Director