Mountain Enterprises and Infrastructure

ISSN 1024-7564

Discussion Paper
Series No. MEI 95/9

Economic and Natural Resource Conditions in the Districts of Bagmati Zone and Their Implications for the Environment: An Adaptive Simulation Model

Centre for Resource and
Environmental Studies
(CREST)

International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development
Kathmandu, Nepal
1995

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Published by

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

Typesetting at ICIMOD Publications' Unit

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ISSN 1024 - 7564

Economic and Natural Resource Conditions in the Districts of Bagmati Zone and Their Implications for the Environment

An Adaptive Simulation Model

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MEI Series No. 95/9

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October 1995
International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development
Kathmandu, Nepal

Preface

This discussion paper was produced as one of the background papers for the preparation of an integrated economic and environmental development plan for the Bagmati Zone. The main purpose of the paper was to develop a better understanding of the economic and natural resource conditions in the districts of Bagmati Zone and their implications for the environment through use of an adaptive simulation model. Understanding these conditions is very important for the purpose of being better prepared to cope with the problems of rapidly deteriorating resources and the impact on food and fodder supplies, among others. Given the inability of small farmers to produce sufficient food on very small plots of land, together with the lack of off-farm employment opportunities, these farmers are forced to borrow at high interest rates from informal sources, worsening their economic condition with every passing year. The result of this is increasing marginalisation. A solution to the food and energy problem is essential. In order to come up with solutions a proper understanding of the interactions and interdependencies is necessary. It is hoped that this paper will be helpful in this respect.

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