



MOUNTAIN FARMING SYSTEMS

Discussion Paper Series

**GLOBAL CHANGES AND ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS
IN MOUNTAIN ECOSYSTEMS**

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PREFACE

GLOBAL CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS IN MOUNTAIN ECOSYSTEMS

In this paper environmental risks are perceived in terms of circumstances that disrupt the basic biophysical processes, material and energy flows, etc; which in the ultimate analysis determine the health, productivity, and stability of environmental resources - land, water, vegetation - and their interactions in the mountain ecosystem. Interactions among the imperatives of mountain characteristics such as inaccessibility, fragility, marginality, diversity, on the one hand, and varying degrees of human interference, on the other, give rise to the environmental risks. The paper discusses the role and consequences of human interventions during low and high resource-use intensification phases and attempts to place them in the global environmental changes, including the uncertain impacts of global warming.

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The paper forms a chapter in a forthcoming (1992) United Nations University sponsored volume entitled *Global Environmental Risk*, J.X. Kasperson and R.E. Kasperson (eds).

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*Niche' of Comparative Advantage
Europe Adaptation Mechanisms*

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