AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT EXPERIENCES IN HIMACHAL PRADESH, INDIA

(Workshop Report)

Organised by ICIMOD in collaboration with the Agro-Economic
Research Centre (AERC), Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla

Manali, India

April 11-13, 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.

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Agricultural Development Experiences in the Hindu Kush-Himalayas

FOREWORD

1. INTRODUCTION AND OBJECTIVES

Background of the Workshop Mountain AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT EXPERIENCES IN INDIA

Workshop Objectives

(Workshop Report No. 1)

Framework of the Workshop
Papers: Mountain Development

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The Indian Himalayas

Himachal Pradesh

The Population, Population Dynamics and the Pattern of Rural Settlement

- Environmental Diversity Influencing Resource
Utilization

Structure of the Economy

Past Development Strategies

3. MOUNTAIN DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES AND APPROACHES

Introduction

International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development

Paper on Mountain Development: Strategies and Approaches

Kathmandu, Nepal

Reflections on Mountain Perspectives

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Papers on Regional Development

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Development Planning

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Bottom Left : Some Characteristic Features of Mountain
Agriculture in Himachal Pradesh

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Top Right : A View of a Mountain Farming System in
the High Hill Zone of Himachal Pradesh

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Bottom Right : A Mixed Herd of Sheep and Goats on a Family
Farm in Himachal Pradesh

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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.

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Foreword

INTRODUCTION AND OBJECTIVES

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 the mountains of 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 under the overall guidance of N. S. Jodha, Head of the Mountain Farming Systems' Division of ICIMOD, with major contributions from Tej Partap and L.R. Verma. The report greatly benefitted from the comments of colleagues at ICIMOD. The report presents focussed interpretations of issues raised in the review papers and at the national workshop held in Manali, India.

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 contributions of colleagues from the Agro-Economic Research Centre of Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla proved invaluable. 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