



MOUNTAIN AGRICULTURE AND CROP GENETIC RESOURCES

**Report of the
International Workshop on Mountain Agriculture
and Crop Genetic Resources**



Organised by International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), in collaboration with International Development Research Centre (IDRC), and Ministry of Agriculture, His Majesty's Government, Nepal

**ICIMOD
Kathmandu
16-19 February 1987**

ICIMOD PHASE I Workshop Series

The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development began professional activities in September 1984, with the first objective of reviewing development and environmental management experience in the Hindu Kush - Himalaya Region. An International Workshop was planned for each of four major fields to review the state of knowledge and practical experience, and also to provide an opportunity for the exchange of professional expertise with regard to integrated mountain development.

ICIMOD completed Phase I activities in June 1986, having held :

- o the International Workshop on Watershed Management in the Kush - Himalaya -- Chengdu, China, 14 to 19 October 1985
- o the International Workshop on Planned Urbanisation and Rural Urban Linkages in the Hindu Kush - Himalaya Region -- Kathmandu, Nepal, 25 to 29 March 1986
- o the International Workshop on District Energy Planning and Management for Integrated Mountain Development -- Kathmandu, Nepal, 3 to 5 May 1986
- o International Workshop on Off - Farm Employment Generation in the Hindu Kush - Himalaya -- Dehra Dun, India, 17 to 19 May 1986

These Workshops were attended by over two hundred 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. With the permission of the authors, copies of papers in full will be supplied on request, with a charge to cover reproduction and postage costs.

In September 1986, ICIMOD published four summary Workshop Reports. Each is intended to represent the conclusions reached at the Workshop and does not necessarily reflect the views of ICIMOD or other participating institutions.

Copies of the reports are available upon request from :

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Kathmandu, Nepal

Foreword

Over the last three years since its inception as a completely new International Centre located here in the mountain Kingdom of Nepal and focusing on integrated mountain development throughout the eight sovereign states that share the vast Hindu Kush-Himalayan system, ICIMOD has held a series of international workshops on selected issues of mountain development with 'built-in' environmental conservation.

The International Workshop on Mountain Agriculture and Crop Genetic Resources, held in Kathmandu in February this year and the subject of this present publication, was unique in this Workshop Series not only in its subject focus but particularly in its organisation - in that for the first time it sought to bring together not only senior participants from the countries of the Hindu Kush-Himalaya but also, on this unique and exciting occasion, from the Andes Mountains in South America and from the Mountain Systems of Africa and South-East Asia.

The central theme of the Workshop discussions was the better understanding of mountain farming systems, with special reference to the more effective organisation of research on mountain crops - including research on the issues involved in the exchange of genetic resources between one mountain region and another - with the common aim of improving the economic conditions of hill farmers everywhere. For ICIMOD, this highly significant International Workshop was the initiation of a two-year programme of the systematic assembly and assessment of international knowledge on mountain agriculture, leading to a major International Conference on Sustainable Mountain Agriculture to be held in Kathmandu in October 1989.

For this most encouraging beginning, we have to thank our co-sponsors of this particular Workshop: the Ministry of Agriculture of HMG Nepal and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) of Canada. It was a special pleasure to all of us that this Workshop was inaugurated by the Honourable Minister of Agriculture of HMG Nepal, Mr. Hari Narayan Rajouria, with a characteristically thoughtful and stimulating address.

I must add my special thanks to the Workshop organisers: Dr. Ken Riley of the IDRC Regional Office in Delhi, Dr. Ram P. Yadav and Dr. Binayak Bhadra of ICIMOD; and to the latter specially for the preparation of this Workshop Report. A separate volume based on the full and revised versions of the Workshop papers will be published shortly.

Colin Rosser
Director

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Cover photograph : Underexploited crop genetic resources and traditional agriculture of remote mountain areas in the Himachal Himalaya.

Dr. Tej Pratap

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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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