

## Acknowledgements

Many valuable ideas, thoughts, and other inputs from ICIMOD colleagues were indispensable in the development of this value chain framework. Although not all can be mentioned by name, particular appreciation goes to Narpat S. Jodha for his guidance in the interpretation of the mountain framework from the perspective of value chain development, and to Ester Kruk, Giridhar Kinhal, Golam Rasul, Brigitte Leduc, Anu Joshi Shrestha, Robert Zomer, and Berend de Groot for contribution of case studies and their review of this paper. Last, but not least, we thank the editorial team, particularly A. Beatrice Murray, Susan Sellars-Shrestha, Punam Pradhan, Asha Kaji Thaku, and Shiva Hari Khatri for editing, layout, and dissemination.

Special appreciation goes to the experts who participated in the value chain experience sharing workshop at ICIMOD in January 2009, including experts from Helvetas, German Technical Cooperation (GTZ), Netherlands Development Organisation (SNV), and Practical Action. We thank particularly the participants in the value chain expert meeting at ICIMOD in April 2009, namely, Stefano Ponte (Danish Institute for International Studies), Kate Schreckenber (Overseas Development Institute), Brian Peniston (The Mountain Institute), and Jyotsna Sitaling (Ajeevika). Recognition goes to the authors of the publication Riisgaard et al. (2008) (see reference list) who provided the basic outline for the guiding questions for practitioners. Particular acknowledgement is due to Jacqueline Ashby, Chair of ICIMOD's Programme Advisory Committee and Vice Chair of the Board of Governors for valuable suggestions and comments.

Finally, profound gratitude goes to all the regional partner organisations of ICIMOD and government institutions that were central in the design and deployment of the value chain pilots that form the basis of this framework: (i) the IFAD loan projects: Ajeevika in Uttarakhand, India; the Rural Development Society (MRDS), Meghalaya, India; the Western Upland Poverty Alleviation Project (WUPAP), Nepal; (ii) the UNDP Chittagong Hill Tracts partners in Bangladesh: Ashika Manabik Unnayan Kendra (ASHIKA), Eco-Development Organization, and Pajureco; (iii) the partners for the project on Medicinal Plants and Herbs in the Eastern Himalayas: Developing Sustainable Supply Chain and Enhancing Rural Livelihood in Eastern Himalayas, in Bangladesh, Bhutan, and Nepal.