

## CLOSING REMARKS

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Fellow participants, once again it is my pleasure to address you on behalf of FAO, however I find it hard to believe that the four to five days of our meeting have passed already and we now have only the final and more relaxed part to look forward to, namely the drive back to Islamabad and maybe some more shopping before we disperse tomorrow.

Over the last four to five days we have covered a range of topics and issues. A large number of interesting papers have been presented. We have had interesting discussions and had a very interesting field visit to the Kaghan Valley and Shogran alpine pasture areas. Today we have concluded with a summing up session during which we have dealt largely with WG matters which I hope have been concluded to the satisfaction of all.

We trust that everyone has enjoyed the 4-5 days spent here in Peshawar and that all have found something of interest in the various papers presented. We must remember that while the WG is presently sponsored by FAO this is your WG. Its future depends on you. The first two newsletters have come out and the third is expected, but it will require a major effort with inputs from all to keep this going on the FAO Grassland Group electronic bulletin board; communications are generally not good and we hope this will improve with greater use of e-mail. The systems studies have been a very interesting exercise and generally have been well done. We hope to publish these in due course. The WG has formulated a number of recommendations. The Proceedings will be finalized in the next few months with a publishing date we hope of no later than December. I hope to discuss further with ICIMOD regarding improving linkages and possibly having some common or joint activities.

It remains for me to thank the many persons involved in the organization and implementation of this training course, and in particular:

- Dr. Rafique who with his Peshawar based team (especially Mr. Chaudry and the GIS laboratory staff) has taken the major role in ensuring that all arrangements were made and that hotels, cars and planes were booked/reserved. Without his untiring efforts (in addition to his own already heavy workload) this meeting would not have been possible;
- the Director General of PFI for agreeing that the meeting could be held at PFI and for the use of the facilities;
- The FAO Office under FAOR Mr. Aboul-Naga has provided excellent support and Mr. Aboul-Naga also kindly consented to be our Chief Guest;
- Mr. Tariq from Central Office for obtaining security clearances and for his close interest in the meeting;
- John Morrison who has worked on the systems studies and needs your inputs to ensure that we can finalise the manuscript for a possible publication;
- We thank those who have served as Chairmen and Rapporteurs of sessions and the various guests who took part in the Opening ceremony including Dr. Ayaz for the DG of PFI and all those who presented papers from Bhutan, India, Nepal and Pakistan; the Social Forestry Project Malakand staff especially Dr. Hero Heering, Mr Sanaulah Khan, Dr. Olaf Thieme and all PFI staff for their cooperation and assistance.
- A big thank you to the manager and staff of the Shelton Hotel here in Peshawar for the arrangements, for providing the food and refreshments, keeping the rooms clean and for their kindness in putting up with us and all our many demands and idiosyncrasies this week.
- Finally my thanks to all of you for your very active participation, for your very important contribution to the success of the Meeting, and for making this meeting a very interesting and enjoyable experience.

I wish you a safe homeward journey and a safe return to your families.