



Sustainable Agriculture
and Rural Development
MOUNTAIN POLICY PROJECT



International Centre for
Integrated Mountain Development

Activities in Asia

ICIMOD (International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development)

Overall objective: To develop and provide integrated and innovative solutions, in cooperation with regional and international partners, which foster action and change for overcoming mountain people's economic, social and physical vulnerability.

Promoting sustainable agriculture in the Hindu Kush-Himalayan Region

ICIMOD was established in 1981 following an agreement signed between His Majesty's Government of Nepal and UNESCO. Nepal, the Federal Republic of Germany, Switzerland, and UNESCO were the founding sponsors. ICIMOD is the first international organisation of its kind with a specific mandate to improve the living conditions of mountain inhabitants in a sustainable way. The Centre is multidisciplinary, area-focussed and mountain-based. It concentrates mainly on the Hindu Kush-Himalayan Region but has much to offer to other mountain regions facing similar problems.

Innovative strategies for the sustainable mountain development

ICIMOD aspires to influence development decisions and actions by assisting with the conceptualisation, implementation, and testing of model development strategies and pilot activities. It shares innovations, options and lessons learned with those directly involved in development in mountain areas. It also aims to identify the types of action needed for integrated mountain development leading towards building prosperous and secure mountain communities committed to peace, equity and environmental sustainability. Based on its mandate and the conditions of the mountain areas, ICIMOD pursues three long-term goals:

- ▲ Sustainable livelihoods of mountain communities
- ▲ Sustainable management of the mountain environment and natural resources
- ▲ Institutional capacity-building

Strengthening SARD-M policies at the national level

ICIMOD, as a Regional Focal Point of the SARD-M Project, facilitates communication, coordination and networking with other partners, while supporting the design and implementation of project activities in the Hindu Kush-Himalaya Region. Regional Focal Points advocate for SARD policies in mountain regions and work closely with relevant entities at the regional and national levels.



- ▲ Assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of mountain policies in the Hindu Kush-Himalaya;
- ▲ Facilitation of information sharing, communication, coordination and networking with other partners, notably with existing national focal points;
- ▲ Mobilisation of potential partners in the project;
- ▲ Fostering of public awareness with regards to the concrete application of SARD mountain policies.

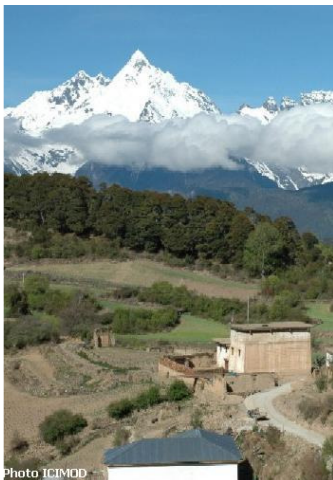
Performing policy assessments in the Hindu Kush-Himalayas

The development of policies for sustainable development is an **iterative process** that allows for the national and local levels to act in a coordinated and participatory manner to develop coherent policies that balance the economic, social and environmental objectives of sustainable development. Given that SARD is a process that involves **multiple sectors strongly linking agriculture and rural development and stakeholders at all governance levels**, the assessments will pay attention to the opinions of the different components of society at various levels, i.e. national and decentralized levels of government and civil society, including the private sector, and also take into consideration the multi-sectoral nature of SARD.

Within this framework, ICIMOD is performing the following activities to assess the strengths and weaknesses of mountain policies, including social, economic, environmental, legal and institutional aspects, in relation to SARD principles.

- ▲ A study in selected countries, provinces and states of the Hindu Kush-Himalayan Region, namely in Bhutan, China (Sichuan Province), India (Sikkim) and Nepal. The study entails a review of relevant documents and interviews with key persons within government structures and civil society organizations at the national and decentralized levels.
 - In **Bhutan**: Assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of land use policy for sustainable agriculture and rural development.
 - In **China** (Sichuan Province) and in **India** (Sikkim): Assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of policies for sustainable agriculture and rural development.
 - In **Nepal**: Assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of the Agricultural Perspective Plan.
- ▲ Production of a report including the four country studies, a synthesis of the regional policy strengths and weaknesses, recommendations and proposals for follow-up activities at the country and/or the Hindu Kush-Himalaya levels.
- ▲ Organization of a Regional Workshop in July 2006 to present and discuss the country reports.

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