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Mountain

DEVELOPMENT POLICIES IN NEPAL

A Brief Report on a Round Table Meeting

Organized on
27 November 1998
at
Kathmandu, Nepal

Organized by
Institute for Integrated Development Studies (IIDS)
in co-operation with
International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)



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Foreword

Consideration of mountain development issues, specifically the constraints, strengths, comparative advantages and priorities of the mountain areas, in the formulation of national development policies could have pervasive impact on the future of the mountain areas. Improving the understanding on mountain development policies can help define the ways of securing resilient livelihoods for men and women in the mountains and ensure the sustainability of mountain environment and resources. This is more relevant in the context of Nepal, which is predominantly a mountainous country and faces challenges due to its biophysical characteristics, popularly known as 'mountain specificities'.

The Institute for Integrated Development Studies (IIDS), in co-operation with the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), organized a daylong round table discussion on 'Mountain Development Policies in Nepal', in November 1998, to scrutinize if the development policies so far have responded to the specific needs and contexts of mountain people and environment or have remained just as token gestures due to the growing influence of donors' interest and projects.

The round table meeting brought together participants from non-government sector and academia, who had decades of experience of being directly involved in government policy formulation. The whole idea was to find out why there were too many gaps between planning and implementation and between policies and practices; learn from the participants' experiences and offer recommendations to all concerned so that there are more concentrated efforts to narrow the gaps in future.

This is a report on the proceedings of the round-table meeting. This summary report is divided into five parts. The first part introduces general mountain development issues and provides an overview of the agenda for discussion. The second part focuses on the highlights of the meeting and the emerging issues. The third part presents in a summary form individual presentations, opinions and experiences of the participants. The fourth part captures specific comments made by the participants on the key themes. And, the fifth part concludes by recapitulating discussions and providing some insights into the issues that emerged from the round table discussion for further consideration.

I would like to acknowledge the generous financial support and co-operation extended by ICIMOD in organizing the round table.

Mohan Man Sainju

Executive Chairman, IIDS

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