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News, Notes, and Networks

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NEWS, NOTES, AND NETWORKS

Nepal Studies Association members who crave more--and more timely--news and information than this bulletin can provide have a number of supplementary sources to chose among for fresh information. Past issues have introduced a few of these; here are three more, two for the electronically minded, the other for those of us who still take pleasure in print and paper:

NEWS FROM NEPAL

600 SW 10th Avenue #530, Portland, Oregon 97205

News From Nepal is compiled and printed by Robert Peirce, who explains how he came to produce this handy newsletter in the following account:

Nepal is the Forgotten Country

If enough people get mowed down in the streets of Kathmandu, the news gets into our papers -- but how many people is enough? More than 1,000 died in last summer's floods, yet there was very little coverage of this in our news media, and there was almost nothing about the strikes and demonstrations that were crippling Kathmandu just before the floods. We don't even *expect* to hear about such things as plane crashes in Lukla or the Kali Gandaki, pollution and traffic problems in Kathmandu, or any of the more local news.

News From Nepal

At the time of the flood, friends in Kathmandu were kind enough to fax me a couple of articles out of the local papers. That gave me the idea of subscribing to one or more Kathmandu-based English language papers. Now I am receiving the *Kathmandu Post*, *The Independent*, and *HIMAL* on as regular a basis as you receive anything from Kathmandu.

But how do I share the news with my friends? Passing along the newspapers themselves is not practical when there are a number of people who want to read them and they do not all live in the same area. What I *can* do is copy out or summarize some of the more interesting articles and send this out as a kind of news sheet to those who want it. That explains NEWS FROM NEPAL . . .

This is a trial effort. We can add more. I am trying to get plugged into a computer Internet program that may connect me to more immediate sources of news in Kathmandu. Maybe some of you will tell me what you hear from family and friends or what you learn from your own Nepal trips. If we are lucky, we will have spies in Nepal sitting in front of fax machines. We are also interested in news about you -- what Nepalese people are doing in the US or what US people are doing for Nepal. This can be a kind of clearing house for miscellaneous information, such as current exchange rates, changes in immigration law or visa requirements, etc.

Cost

This will cost me something in time as well as printing and postage, which means that it will also cost you something if you want to receive it. If you pay me \$15, I promise that you will get at least six issues a year -- although it will more likely be twelve.

So please let me know (with a \$15 check which can be made out to "News From Nepal") if you want to receive more issues. Please also give me whatever news you would like to share from or about Nepal. And while you are about it, you might give me the names and addresses of other people you know who might want to receive this news sheet. Finally, if you have anything to advertise, we can do that too at a modest price.

To subscribe to *News From Nepal*, send your name, address, and payment to the address above.

HimNet -- An E-Mail Internet link for Himalayan Researchers

(this account was drawn from the Internet)

HimNet (Himalayan Network) is an E-Mail Internet link for any researcher working in the Himalayan countries (Nepal, Himalayan districts of India, Bhutan, Tibet, mountain districts of Pakistan and Afghanistan). The aim of HimNet is to provide a rapid method of contact with anyone who has access to the electronic highway of information communication. Unlike a Bulletin Board, however, HimNet sends direct E-Mails to all those who are subscribed. Similarly, if you want to communicate a message to anyone in the Himalayan research community, just one email to **HimNet@erdw.ethz.ch** is all that is needed. If you want to reply to the message, this can be done on an individual basis (all postings will carry the name and E-Mail address of the sender) or as a reply for which everyone subscribed to HimNet can read. It is hoped that HimNet will provide a forum for the exchange of information of use to Himalayan Researchers.

HimNet is a "moderated" mailing list, but with little editorial control on messages received and subsequently sent out. Screening of mail will only be to the extent that the information is of use to Himalayan researchers. HimNet produces newsletter digests, currently at the rate of one per week, and has a subscription of some 450 people around the world.

HimNet aims to provide:

- Conference Announcements - Abstract deadline reminders
- Latest Himalayan Papers published in Journals
- Latest Himalayan Books published
- New Himalayan Theses
- Himalayan Magazine Announcements
- Job Vacancies with Himalayan Interest
- News from the Himalayan regions
- Research Information
- Calls for papers
- Discussions of Himalayan topics
- Himalayan Research questions
- Anything related to the Himalayas!

It is hoped that HimNet will develop into a full News Discussion Group, with informal dialogue about current or controversial topics.

If you want to subscribe to the HimNet Mailing List, send an E-Mail to:

HimNet@erdw.ethz.ch with the command in the "Subject":

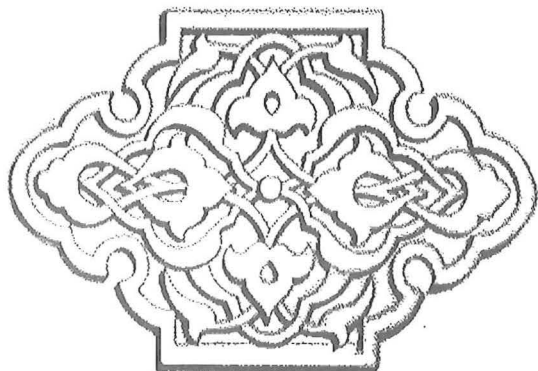
SUBSCRIBE <Your E-Mail Address>

HimNet, at this stage, is just an experiment to see if there is insufficient interest in having an information link by E-Mail. Your contribution is needed!

HimNet is FREE - it does not cost anything to subscribe to HimNet. However, currently new subscriptions and removals from the mailing list are done by hand; please allow adequate time for your request to be processed.

You can submit postings at any time to HimNet by sending them to: **HimNet@erdw.ethz.ch**

Coordinator: Dr. David A. Spencer
Internet: **DASpencer@erdw.ethz.ch**
Postal address: Geologisches Institut, ETH-Zentrum, CH-8092
Zurich, Switzerland
Telephone: +41-1-632-3698; Telefax: +41-1-632-1080



INTRODUCING...

THE
SOUTH
ASIA
GOPHER!

WHAT IS IT?

The South Asia Gopher (SAG) is a collection of worldwide network-accessible information resources relating to South Asia. It is now available free to the public over the global Internet, via Gopher or direct telnet connection to the host at Columbia University. It is still very much "in progress"--and no doubt always will be--but you can now begin to use it.

WHAT DOES IT OFFER?

•Bibliographic resources: direct links to the on-line catalogs of the world's top library collections on South Asia, with brief text files describing the particular strengths of each collection. A link to the South & Southeast Asia Video Archive at the University of Wisconsin, with access to their on-line catalog of videos available through interlibrary loan).

•Links to on-line resources in Germany, Australia, Netherlands, India, the UK, and elsewhere.

•Listings of (and links to) South Asia-related news groups, listservs, mailing lists, bulletin boards, organizations, etc.

•Listings of (and links to) electronic text archives for South Asia materials (e.g. Sanskrit texts on-line), as well as software for displaying and printing South Asian languages and fonts.

•South Asia teaching resources, including the Inventory of Language Materials (ILM), produced by Prof. Frances Pritchett and maintained here at Columbia.

•The International Directory of South Asia Scholars, a fully-searchable keyword-indexed database of scholars, librarians, and other South Asianists, and their teaching/research interests.

•The International Directory of South Asia Research Institutes.

•Specialized information archives, databases, data files (census data, health, environment, etc.).

•Forthcoming: other new resources too numerous to mention.

HOW DO I GET TO IT ONLINE?

If you have a gopher client software, use the following pointer ('bookmark'):

```
Type=1
Name=The South Asia Gopher
Host=gopher.cc.columbia.edu
Port=71
Path=1/clioplus/scholarly/SouthAsia
```

-----OR-----

simply gopher to: <gopher.cc.columbia.edu 71>; and then navigate down through the menus as follows: CLIO Plus/Scholarly Electronic Resources By Subject/South Asia.

-----OR-----

If you do not use gopher client software, telnet to: <columbianet.columbia.edu>. Once connected to Columbianet, select the menu item marked "CLIO Plus." Within that menu, you'll find an item on the list labelled "Scholarly Electronic Resources by Subject." Select that one, and within it you'll find the South Asia Gopher!

HOW YOU CAN HELP THE GOPHER GROW

Other new resources (created locally or by groups of South Asianists) projected for the future include: a Union List of South Asian Newspapers on Microfilm (under construction by Irene Joshi of Washington and others); a listing of current journals and serials acquired through the Library of Congress Field Office in New Delhi; the Chronology of Urdu Literature; a comprehensive listing of grant and fellowship opportunities for South Asian Studies; an archive of Indian and Pakistani graphic image files; and any other text files, databases, bibliographies, or other resources that the community of South Asianists would like to make available to each other world-wide.

Can you help with projects like these, or provide something of your own? Are there resources that may have been overlooked? Do you notice errors or bugs in the Gopher's system? Can you think of ways to make the Gopher more friendly? If so, please be sure and tell David Magier at the address below.

HOW YOU CAN GET YOURSELF INTO THE DIRECTORY

The *International Directory of South Asian Scholars* is a free, publically available online database of South Asianists from around the world. You'll find it under the menu of "South Asianists" in the South Asia Gopher. Each record, submitted by the person listed, contains his or her name, title, affiliation, contact information (generally mail address, phones, FAX, and full email address), and a short statement of the person's activities, teaching and/or research interests, specializations, etc. in the area of South Asian Studies. The entries are free-form text, and may include any relevant information, in any format that seems useful and clear.

The database is indexed so that anyone can locate the record for a particular individual, or use a keyword search to find, for example, a list of all the South Asianists located in a given country or city, or all the scholars who are working on a given language, subject, region, etc. Experience shows that this type of tool is very helpful in developing new human networks, promoting cooperative research and teaching ventures, providing answers to particular factual queries, and encouraging the cross-fertilization of ideas.

To submit an entry for yourself (or for someone else), please fill out the information below and return it BY EMAIL to *magier@columbia.edu* or by post to:

Dr. David Magier
South Asia Librarian
304 International Affairs
Columbia University
420 West 118th Street
New York, N.Y. 10027
212-854-8046 / FAX: 212-854-2495

Name

Title

Institutional Affiliation

Mailing Address

Phones

FAX

full email address

DESCRIPTION OF YOUR WORK

(include your research/teaching interests, and all relevant keywords such as languages, countries, regions, disciplines and sub-disciplines, ethnic, religious or political groupings, historical periods, etc. Keep in mind that others will use 'keyword searches' to find your listing if they don't know you by name).

Please feel free to contact Dr. Magier if you have questions about the Directory or need advice on the best way to construct your entry.

**Secretary's Report, *Nepal Studies Association*
Annual Members Meeting, Madison, Wisconsin 5 November 1995**

The meeting was convened by NSA President, Naomi Bishop at 6:37 p.m. President Bishop stressed that it was extremely important to get feedback from members on NSA activities, and that this meeting is an opportunity to provide such feedback. She noted that at this South Asian Conference two successful Nepal panels, as well as several papers on Nepal at interdisciplinary sessions had been presented. The President said that she hoped to increase this number next year.

Barbara Brower added that we are striving to involve as many members as possible in the production of the Himalayan Research Bulletin. She noted that Todd Lewis is in charge of book reviews, John Metz and Mary Cameron are responsible for producing the conference section of the Bulletin, and that David Holmberg has agreed to provide the Bulletin with information on recent research. All of these people depend on information from the membership to assist them in doing their jobs.

Report from the Editor-in-Chief of the *Himalayan Research Bulletin*:: Barbara Brower

Brower reported that the bulletin has been in the process of moving from the University of Washington to the University of Texas at Austin, where *Volume XII* was produced using materials supplied by the former editors in Seattle. She added that *Volume XIII* was produced in July 1994 at Austin, and that they were in the process of closing the production of volume 14, which they hope to send out in December. Beginning 1995, *HRB* will produce two issues per year, one in spring and one in fall. The Bulletin will be shifting location once more, this time to Portland, Oregon in January 1995, as our editor-in-chief assumes a new academic position at Portland State University. Institutional support for *HRB* has been promised at Portland State University.

HRB needs funds, and to that end Brower had been sending bulletins out to people on the membership list whether or not they were up on their membership dues. However, *Volume XIII* was not sent to those whose membership had lapsed longer ago than 1991. Barbara graciously added that she will accept dues still owed and that back issues are still available. Back issues were on sale at the meeting, and members were encouraged to purchase a set for their own or their institution's libraries. Purchasing back issues now will save the organization the cost of shipping the supplies from Texas to Oregon. A complete set of back issues provides a unique history of Himalayan research between 1972 and 1994; Brower raised the possibility that a student might want to study the history of the field using these issues as a resource.

Report from the Treasurer: Barbara Brower

The Treasurer reported that the *HRB* took \$2500 from a "fossil fund" that the Association had had for some time. The University of Texas provided the costs of mailing the bulletins from Austin. She reiterated that if people send in their dues, we will be able to pay for upcoming issues and repay the reserve fund.

A new member (unidentified) suggested that Nepalese students coming to the US.. might pay membership dues, although they may not want to subscribe to the *HRB*. Naomi Bishop responded that at present, those who belong to NSA get the bulletin, and that it would take a constitutional change in

order to alter that policy. Another attendee suggested there might be two forms of membership, one of which provides a subscription and the other which simply entitles one to invitations to Association events. This prompted another attendee to ask what the benefits of membership are. Bishop replied that in addition to the journal, the Association provides a network through which to organize sessions at conferences like this one. It could also get and provide grants or even fund small projects. Because we are a small organization, there are obvious limits to what we can do in the way of funding. She added that we hope to increase our members through membership drive in the near future. Brower added that a list of members was published in vol. 13; she encourages members to recruit others, and she will send free sample issues to prospective members.

New Business:

1) *Electronic Mail:* Amulya Tuladhar asked the assembled members if they would be interested in establishing an electronic mail net worldwide. Arjun Gunaratne suggested that we could use Newsnet to which all news events are downloaded. Jim Fisher asked if this was not already being done in Nepal Digest. Tuladhar responded that the Nepal Digest is a moderated bulletin board which means it is edited, and if there is fast breaking news, the editors will send it out quickly. Responding to further questions, Amulya listed several nets currently available, including Soc Cult Nepal on Newsnet (unmoderated), HimNet (run by Dr. Spenser--described in this volume's News, Notes, and Networks section), and South Asia (originates from Canada). The problem with all these resources, according to Tuladhar, is that he finds little participation by the people at the NSA meeting on these networks.

A long discussion weighing the various merits and difficulties of establishing a network ensued, with Tuladhar recapitulating his interest in starting a net, Linda Iltis pointing out that it is a difficult undertaking and suggesting that we become part of Nepal Digest, and Jim Fisher pointing out the problems of proliferating e-mail. Kathryn March suggested our editor post fast-breaking news on a network, which another attendee suggested should be Nepal Digest. When John Metz' request for volunteers to establish and maintain a net was met with minimal response (and new complications raised: Ter Ellingson expressed concern over the complexities of engaging in scholarly discussion on such a net, which entails questions about the availability of scholarly material and copyrights), Naomi Bishop suggested that we were clearly not ready to initiate the creation of a new network at this point, and tabled the matter for future consideration.

2) *Next Year's Conference:*

Naomi Bishop raised the issue of preparations for next year's Conference on South Asia, and encouraged members to think about their own disciplinary areas. She shared one idea that was proposed: a session of Himalayan films and videos, adding that anyone interested should get in touch with her. Jim Fisher noted that there had been a mega film festival in April 1994 in Kathmandu, which will be a regular event.

Richard Tucker said that he had noted a ferment of interest and discussion on Uttar Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh, and he expects there will be several panels on these topics next year. New scholarship in these regions is stronger than ever before. In response to Brower's question wondering if this was already arranged, Tucker said he would be heading for India on December 15, but would be the contact person until then and that he will let John Metz know how interested parties should proceed after that point.

John Metz, a member of NSA's conference committee, said that a session on biological sciences was being developed for next years' Madison Conference, including papers on fish and mushrooms. He also pointed out that anyone wishing to organize a panel can contact the conference committee members (John Metz and Mary Cameron) who can help. Since the *HRB* appears only twice a year, announcements inviting participation in panels must be ready a year in advance; on shorter notice, the conference committee members can help find participants.

There followed a discussion about the possibility of having a Himalayan Conference in this country, and/or a preconference at Madison on the Himalaya. Brower asked that if Europeans were to be invited,

where funds could be found Todd Lewis said that many of them have access to funding of this sort, but they need advance notice. The issue of getting Nepalese scholars to attend from Nepal was raised. John Metz observed that a conference involving foreign scholars requires at least two years of planning. Kathryn March noted that Ford Foundation, which provided the original grant for HRB, has money for such things, as does SSRC. Barbara Brower suggested that we delegate a committee to see how to find funding. Todd Lewis proposed that the Board do this, and Bishop added that she hoped others would also pitch in. Arjun Gunaratne and Naomi Bishop announced their willingness to work on finding sources of funding for an international Himalayan conference, with Gunaratne emphasizing that funds should be directed toward bring Himalayan people to the conferences. David Holmberg added that Fulbright also has funds for conferences. Amulya Tuladhar suggested that the Internet be used for announcing and organizing the actual event.

Announcements:

1) *Reebok Award:* Arjun Gunaratne announced that a Reebok Award has been made to Dilli Bahadur Chaudury of Nepal. He won this award for establishing Backward Society Education (BASE), through which he organized Tharu bonded laborers and others, including untouchables. On December 7, 1994, the \$25,000 award will be made at Northeastern University in Boston, and Arjun announced that he had invitations for those who would like to attend. As a footnote, he added that if anyone knew of any other activists who should be considered for such an award, he had a nomination form.

2) *Cornell-Nepal Study Abroad Program:* Katherine March passed out an announcement and posters for the new Cornell-Nepal Study Program. She stated that, though at present nineteen such programs exist in Nepal, they are "bubble" programs, in which foreign students interact primarily with each other. Cornell is trying to build up resources at Tribhuvan University; it is not trying to compete with existing programs, but rather try to develop another kind of program. They will be offering intensive Nepali in an eight week program in which, at the most advanced level, students will prepare proposals in Nepali.

3) *Position Announcement:* David Holmberg announced that Cornell is conducting a search for a joint position in anthropology and Asian American Studies, which includes an interest in diaspora groups.

4) Todd Lewis announced there will be a gathering for Nepal Studies Association members at the Association for Asian Studies meetings this year.

5) Kathryn March concluded the meeting by asking that the minutes indicate a show of appreciation for the new Editor of the HRB, which provoked a thunderous round of applause.

Humbly submitted,

Bruce McCoy Owens, Secretary
Department of Anthropology
Franklin and Marshall College

Remember to Attend the Annual Members Meeting of the Nepal Studies Association on Saturday, October 21, 1995 in Madison, Wisconsin

CORNELL UNIVERSITY

AN INTENSIVE PROGRAM IN BOTH BEGINNING AND MORE ADVANCED NEPALI DURING SUMMER 1995.

THIS COURSE OF STUDY WILL:

- TAKE 8 WEEKS
from June 12 - August 4, 1995
MTWThF
from 8:00am to 4:00pm
- PROVIDE 10 CREDITS OF CORNELL STUDY
- INCLUDE BOTH CONVERSATIONAL AND WRITTEN NEPALI
with special emphasis upon developing the
language skills necessary for study or
research in Nepal
using text and taped materials developed
exclusively for the Cornell Nepali
language program
- INCLUDE CLASSROOM, TUTORIAL AND LANGUAGE LAB INSTRUCTION
by Shambhu Oja
with supervision by Kathryn March
- ALSO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL:
lectures, a film series and other cultural activities
about Nepal and Nepali studies
- COST \$4800
to cover all tuition and fees
A limited number of fellowships from the U.S.
Department of Education available to cover
tuition, fees & a modest living stipend.
Most other forms of student funding can be
applied

APPLICATION MATERIALS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM:

Susan Campbell
South Asia Program
170 Uris Hall
Cornell University
Ithaca, NY 14853

Reebok Award Winner - Dilli Bahadur Chaudhuri

contributed by Arjun Guneratne

Dilli Bahadur Chaudhuri, a 25 year old Tharu labor organizer and activist from Tulsipur, Dang, has been named one of the recipients of this year's Reebok Human Rights Award. The award, funded by the Reebok Corporation, is given annually to people under the age of 30 who have distinguished themselves working to promote human rights. The award carries with it a grant of \$25,000, to be used to further the recipient's human rights work. The awards ceremony will take place on December 7 at 9:30 a.m. at Northeastern University in Boston.

Dilli Bahadur Chaudhuri is the leader of what is probably the most successful peasant movement in Nepal in modern times. The organization he leads, Backward Society Education (known by its acronym BASE) has grown from about 16,000 members in western Dang in 1991 to over 80,000 members today in Dang, Banke, Bardia, Kailali and Salyan. These are mostly Tharus and members of untouchable castes such as the Kami, Damai and Badi. Most Tharus in Dang and the western Tarai districts lost land to hill immigrants following the success of the malaria eradication program in these areas in the 1960s. Many became bonded labor; others, especially in western Dang, where BASE originated, were forced to furnish corvee labor to their high caste landlords. D.B. Chaudhuri became active in organizing Tharus to resist this exploitation while still in his teens. He has been in jail many times and has been subject to death threats, as the local landlord class sought to contain a rapidly expanding movement that threatens their control of land and labor in the Tarai.

The thrust of Dilli Chaudhuri's efforts has been to organize night schools for Tharu youth (who must work during the day for their landlords and who in any case lack the resources to attend regular schools) and to organize Tharu labor to present a united front to oppose landlord exploitation. Since BASE was organized, thousands of young Tharus (two-thirds of them women) have learnt the basics of reading and writing in the night schools, and BASE has been able to send hundreds of others to regular public schools. In addition, BASE has organized various income-generating projects, from pig breeding to cash-crop cultivation, and has been successful in limiting, and in many areas eliminating, the more extreme forms of exploitation that Tharus have been subject to. Since the Democracy Movement, BASE has been financially supported by various governmental and non-governmental organizations: DANIDA, the Asia Foundation, Oxfam and Save the Children among others. Reebok's award to Dilli Bahadur Chaudhuri is a fitting recognition of his achievements.

Tufts Veterinary Development in Nepal

contributed by Mark Walthers

In their work in more than two dozen countries over the past decade, the faculty and students at the International Programs of Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine have developed a unique and proven approach to development in Third World Countries. This approach has largely been applied, developed and refined in the area of livestock production. International Programs is now in the process of expanding and adapting this approach to encompass wildlife conservation, in which the program has had projects in more than 8 countries. Currently, International Programs is involved in conservation projects in Nepal, Tanzania, Namibia and Panama.

The International Programs approach consists of four basic stages, although two or more of these may be occurring concurrently. A brief description of this methodology, stage by stage, follows. This methodological description is followed by examples of on-the-ground application of this approach.

1. Ethno-veterinary Study

For any intervention to be successful over the long term, it must be socially acceptable and economically worthwhile as well as technically sound. These studies, therefore, seek a detailed understanding of the needs and limitations as perceived by the local populations. Without this basic understanding, uninformed interventions could actually further imperil the habitats or sustainable production systems they were meant to promote--and with it, the well-being of livestock producers, their families and other upon whom conservation often ultimately depends.

Drawing upon such indigenous innovations or alternatives, both research and subsequent extension programs can sift out, reinforce, and promulgate viable strategies that more producers may be willing to accept. Where appropriate, rather than importing alien technology, projects should utilize tools and techniques that have been developed and "tested" locally by livestock producers themselves. Innovations developed "on-site" are more likely to work because they are generally socially, and economically appropriate. Moreover, the understanding of traditional concepts of disease control, sustainable and environmentally sound production systems, as gleaned through ethnoveterinary studies, make projects and activities much easier and more successful since appropriate local knowledge can be reinforced, effectively reducing the volume of knowledge necessary to transfer.

The ethnoveterinary stage typically seeks to surmount major cultural and linguistic barriers. This necessitates that particular attention be paid to study design if the results are to be used as a basis upon which to design realistic conservation strategies in developing countries. The survey instruments for the ethnoveterinary approach involve questionnaires, open-ended interviews or a combination.

The goal of this phase is to obtain a detailed list of needs and constraints as seen by local peoples. It helps to establish an understanding of what they do and why, and to begin to understand what incremental changes to their system might address the most important constraints in a sustainable way.

2. Epi-Ecological Study

The list of constraints and needs are re-arranged in light of lab and field investigative findings. This rigorous empirically based study may focus on any range of issues, depending upon the problems, the role of wildlife within the problem, and the overall goals. The epi-ecological study may determine the ecological dynamics of the specie(s) under consideration. This may include, for example, the feeding requirements of wild species, ranges and other factors. Where inter-species disease transmission may be a problem, this study would include serological testing of animals.

The results of the ethnoveterinary and ecological studies are integrated to form a detailed holistic portrait of the problem. Sometimes this integration may entail reconciliation between points of view. That is, what the local people perceive and what has been scientifically validated do not necessarily coincide. More often, integration means rounding out the scientific findings with the perceptions of the local population.

3. Field Testing and Limited Implementation

Using the findings of the first two phases as a guide, this stage will test and develop low-cost, sustainable interventions that are economically, technically and socially sound. Combining the experience of Wildlife in [what respective skills and experience best complement this stage of the project?], these interventions are tested, they are modified or discarded depending upon both their effectiveness or how well they are accepted by local peoples. Ethnoveterinary studies are often continued to get a sense of how the local peoples react or why they do or don't accept the changes. The field-testing stage is guided by a constant stream of feedback of the information gathered through ethnoveterinary studies. More importantly, the field testing offers tangible actions to the local people. It also proves to them that their input can help to determine the outcome. In other words, their views

are factored into the overall project. This participatory approach ensures that they do not remain outsiders.

4. Full Implementation

Finally, the results of the first three stages are compiled and from them an overall strategy for the project is formulated. In reality, this is not a final stage but rather the culmination of an ongoing series of activities and feedbacks. Often, this implementation stage is the focusing of several activities that may be on-going in the field testing stage.

This will involve broad scale implementation, monitoring and surveillance and further ethnoveterinary studies, epi-ecological evaluations, and field trials as necessary.

The above methodology has been widely applied in the area of livestock production. It has had a more limited application in the area of wildlife and biodiversity conservation. It is our goal to expand and refine the methodology to integrated conservation and development projects.

A full integration of the capabilities of Tufts' International Programs with Wildlife would offer a promising prospect of developing a working modification of the Tuft's approach for integrated conservation and development projects. In addition, the establishment of a permanent framework for on-going collaboration between the Wildlife Clinic and International Programs would offer numerous broader benefits, both to the Tufts community and the to the veterinary profession as a whole. It would greatly enhance the capacity of Tufts and its students to establish an on-going presence in international conservation; heighten the veterinary profession's role in biodiversity conservation; and formulate a methodological approach that develops cost-effective, sustainable solution to some of the competing interests of agriculture and biodiversity conservation. In the long term, the approach could help to narrow the ideological and philosophical gaps that has long existed between agricultural and conservation interests.

The methodology set forth above acknowledges what many development projects have overlooked: that the people in the best position to understand and ultimately solve a problem are those people who have lived with the problem. Local knowledge must play an important role in both the design and implementation of such a project, whether strictly development, primarily conservation, or a combination of both.

Indeed, recent history has shown that neither sustainable economic progress nor conservation in the Third World can be achieved merely through the handing of technology or ideas from developed to developing countries. The mirage of miracle technological cures has often created high short-term expectations but delivered long-term disappointment. Worse yet, attempts at direct technology transfer have often severely disrupted traditional systems of production and conservation, leaving people with even less than they had before they were "developed".

Conservation practices have likewise been "exported" to many developing nations. While much good has come of this, the destructive aspects might be mitigated if programs recognized and built upon the inherent conservation practices many cultures have been practicing long before the advent of modern conservation. While these practices are often insufficient to attain the level conservation needed, an acknowledged recognition of them is often key to the acceptance of new conservation priorities. For example, there is growing evidence that government policies aimed at permanently settling pastoralist and encouraging them to adopt Western-style ranching techniques is exacerbating problems in both pastoral production and the environment. In fact, it is often where pastoralist have begun to adopt techniques of modern ranching that environmental degradation is at its worst. This realization has stimulated a renewed interest in and respect for the efficiency, advantages, and inherent sustainability of traditional systems.

In order for constraints to be identified and changes (economic, behavioral and otherwise) introduced in a sustainable fashion, the entire system of production and its ecological context must be understood to the fullest possible extent, including its social, cultural, and ideological matrix. Only then can the

real constraints, as perceived by local peoples (farmers, herders, and others) and as validated by rigorous scientific investigation with the context of the production system, be identified and addressed. Ethnoveterinary research and development (R & D) has a critical role to play in ecologically sustainable production systems.

Note to Readers

Himalayan Research Bulletin depends on its readers, contributing editors, and the members of the Nepal Studies Association's Board for news items to report. Please pass along material that might be of interest to other readers when you encounter it, sending it either to the editor or to the News and Research coordinator for *HRB*, David Holmberg, Chair, Department of Anthropology, Cornell University.

Remember to Attend the **Annual Members Meeting of the Nepal Studies Association** on Saturday, October 21, 1995 in Madison, Wisconsin