



# HIMALAYA, the Journal of the Association for Nepal and Himalayan Studies

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Volume 17  
Number 2 *Himalayan Research Bulletin:*  
*Solukhumbu and the Sherpa*

Article 19

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1997

## Book Reviews

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### Recommended Citation

. 1997. Book Reviews. *HIMALAYA* 17(2).

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*Reviews*

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**Daughter of the Mountain**

Author: Louise Rankin, 1936

Genre: Realistic Fiction

This story takes place in the high mountains of Tibet, in Jelep la Pass by the Chumbi River. The main character's name is Momo. She lives with her father, Nema, who delivers mail over Jelep La Pass. Her mother owns a tea shop. All her life, Momo has wanted a red-gold Lhasa terrier. Years go by, and Momo finally gets her dog, and takes very good care of it. A few years later some muleteers come and steal the dog, called Pempa, and take him to Calcutta, India. Momo ventures over the mountains of Tibet, and into India. On her trip she stays at people's houses (mean or nice). When she goes into India, she meets the Burra Sahib, protector of the poor. Burra Sahib gives Momo the money for the train to Calcutta. She goes on the train, gets to Calcutta, and somehow meets up with her dog. I can't tell you how she meets with her dog. That would spoil the ending.

I really enjoyed this book, in fact, it was one of my very favorites. I recommend it to 9-to-13 year olds, because it has hard foreign words in it. I think the theme is that if you have something very dear to you, you should be able to go to great lengths for it.

Anne Kathryn Olsen, Alameda Elementary School, Portland, Oregon

## ICIMOD (International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development) Publications

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Please note the updated address for Nigel Allan's **Karakorum Himalaya: Sourcebook for a Protected Area**:

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### *On Sustainable Agriculture*

**Managed Crop Pollination—The Missing Dimension of Mountain Agricultural Productivity** (MFS 97/1). U. Partap and T. Partap, 26pp, 1997, ISSN 1024-7548, Price: Developed Countries: US\$ 15, Developing Countries: US\$ 10

The ongoing transformation of mountain agriculture from subsistence systems to diversified agriculture is bringing forth new research and development challenges to maintaining productivity. One among these several challenges is crop failure caused by the lack of pollination. Hence the necessity for managed crop pollination is going to increase in the coming years throughout the Hindu Kush Himalayan region. Isolated evidence of this problem has been recorded by ICIMOD through research in several pocket areas. This Discussion Paper analyses the need for managed crop pollination in light of the findings of experimental research carried out by ICIMOD over the last few years and in light of other information available on crop pollination. It discusses pollination as a natural ecological process which is vital for the production of fruits and seeds. The scope for and experiences of managing honeybees and other pollinating insects for the pollination of different crops have been discussed. In this respect, the paper highlights the importance of honeybees and the economic value of bee pollination.

**Mountain Agricultural Transformation Processes and Sustainability in the Sikkim Himalayas, India** (MFS 97/2). H.R. Sharma and E. Sharma, 104pp, 1997, ISSN 1024-7548, Price:

Developed Countries: US\$ 15, Developing Countries: US\$ 10

The present study was undertaken in the northern and southern districts of Sikkim, India, in order to examine the effects of mountain agricultural development processes on livelihood options and their implications on sustainability. Sikkim presents a good example of harnessing a local mountain niche by adopting cardamom farming, which is compatible with the mountain specifics. The purpose of the study was to document the range and quality of livelihood options of households under maize-potato dominated and large cardamom-dominated farming systems and, more specifically, to assess the sustainability of large cardamom farming options.

The large cardamom was found to be the most important farming option. Both ecological and economic evidence indicate positive sustainability implications of this cash crop with attributes such as low-volume, high-value, non-perishable; and being less infrastructure intensive, less labour intensive, and less dependent on external inputs. Large cardamom cultivation also provides ecological benefits such as soil conservation, soil fertility maintenance, and extension of forest cover with intact tree biodiversity in the existing farming systems. A number of problems, e.g., viral diseases, inadequate post-harvest technology, and marketing facilities beset the crop. For a majority of the Sikkimese farmers, the sustainability of this crop as a livelihood option is extremely important. Apart from economic considerations, the crop also needs to be protected as a valuable genetic resource. If this crop has to be sustained, it should no longer be neglected and marginalised. Therefore, concerted efforts need to be made on this crop with necessary investments to strengthen physical, institutional, and social infrastructures. The study shows that harnessing local niche by growing large cardamom is consistent with the mountain specifics, and it tends to be sustainable by having positive effects on the quality of life, equity, and the natural resource base.

**Agricultural Transformation Processes in the Mountains of Nepal: Empirical Evidence from Ilam District** (MFS 97/3). S. Sharma, 48pp, 1997, ISSN 1024-7548, Price: Developed Countries: US\$ 15, Developing Countries: US\$ 10

The present study was undertaken in the Ilam District of Nepal to examine the effects of mountain agricultural development processes on livelihood options of local farmers. The micro evidence suggests that transformation processes in agriculture have led mainly to cultivation of high-value cash crops and

livestock. It shows that the types of production options selected in the process of transformation have been the same in both the study areas (transformed and non-transformed).

The three most important primary factors that have propelled agricultural transformation in Ilam are farmers who are innovative and aware, availability of a range of options with appropriate technological backstopping, and infrastructure linking the local markets to markets outside. Road facilities are fundamental to raising the educational levels and receptiveness of the farmers and essential for providing market access to the products and inputs for production.

### *On Conservation & Technology*

**Conservation and Management of Yak Genetic Diversity.** D. J. Miller, S. R. Craig, and G. M. Rana 222pp, 1997, ISBN 929115676-0, Price: Developed Countries : US\$15, Developing Countries: US\$ 10

This document is divided into three principal sections. Section One contains papers on yaks from Bhutan, China, India, Mongolia, and Nepal. Topics covered include wild and domestic yaks, conservation of domestic genetic diversity, and production systems. Section Two mainly concentrates on yaks in China, particularly in relation to yak-rearing systems, research, and market development in the Tibetan Autonomous Region and the Qinghai Tibetan Plateau, Xinjiang, Gansu, and Sichuan. This section also includes an absorbing photo essay and a paper on yak cheese production in Nepal; the pioneer country in making and marketing yak cheese. Section Three is devoted to breeding strategies and chromosome evaluation. The Conclusion is also in this section, although recommendations are dealt with in the introductory essay in Part One.

**Regional Consultation on Conservation of the Kanchanjunga Mountain Ecosystem.** A. Rastogi, P. Shengji, and D. Amatya, 102pp, 1997, ISBN 92 9115 709 0, Price: Developed Countries: US\$ 15, Developing Countries : US\$ 10

The Kanchanjunga massif straddles Nepal in the east, India to the west, and the Tibetan Autonomous Region of China to the north. This mountain system is characterised by rich biological and cultural diversity. For effective conservation and development of the Kanchanjunga Mountain System, it is important that the three countries collaborate in drawing up a common vision and a long-term action plan. In order to facilitate this important process of regional collaboration, ICIMOD organised this meeting with the active involvement and support of the World Wildlife Fund Nepal Programme in Kathmandu from March 31 to April 2, 1997.

The participants at the meeting were comprised of government officials from the Department of

Forests/Wildlife from the three nations. They presented overviews on the status of the Kanchanjunga area in their respective countries. Conservation experts, representing international non-government organisations actively involved in the region, were present, and they facilitated an exchange of ideas and information by providing thematic technical reports. The follow-up discussions centered around development of a common framework for three key aspects: (i) biodiversity assessment and monitoring; (ii) sharing information and management; and (iii) sharing conservation benefits with local people. Deliberations on these three key aspects led to a set of recommendations and a follow-up action plan to be jointly pursued in future.

**Energy Use in Mountain Areas-Emerging Issues and Future Priorities, Report of a Regional Meeting.** Kamal Rijal, 74pp, 1997, ISBN 92-9115-712-0, Price: Developed Countries: US\$ 15, Developing Countries: US\$ 10

This report summarises the discussions held and suggestions made at the Regional Meeting on Energy Use in Mountain Areas organised by ICIMOD from 16 - 18 April 1997. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the findings of the studies commissioned by ICIMOD in four countries, namely, China, India, Nepal, and Pakistan, and to identify future priorities for energy development. Two focal areas were covered in the discussions: i) emerging issues in energy use; and ii) energy policies and programmes. With a broadened understanding of these issues, future priorities for energy development in the mountains were discussed and several suggestions were made with regard to both policies and studies to improve understanding.

The meeting addressed issues related to database and planning, energy development and its sectoral linkages, energy resources and technological options, and subsidies and incentives for renewable energy technologies. The meeting was useful in promoting understanding of emerging trends in energy use in mountain areas. These trends are: prevailing unsustainability of the energy supply and demand in the mountains; inharmonious energy transitions, on the one hand, towards non-monetised low quality energy forms and, on the other, towards non-renewable fossil fuels; wrong choice of energy resources and technologies due to lack of a quality and quantity perspective in energy programme design; ignorance of the biophysical aspects of the mountains; and the methodological dilemma of having to internalise environmental costs. On the energy policy and programme front, the meeting identified the following issues: accommodation of multiple interest groups in decision-making; lack of technology and institutional policies; lack of sectoral linkages at the policy level; lack of vision with respect to technology choice; and insufficient focus on research and development of new energy systems. The meeting suggested that the role of every stakeholder involved be recognised and that more

emphasis be given to ensure the active participation of women in the design and implementation of energy programmes.

The meeting identified important areas for ICIMOD's future activities related to the energy sector. These are related to understanding and comprehending energy use variability in those economic sectors that have comparative advantages for alleviating poverty in mountain areas. Due recognition needs to be given to possible impacts on environmental conditions in fragile mountain areas and human health in opting for a particular energy mix. In this respect, factors that promote renewable energy technologies (RETs) adaptation need to be understood and sustainable energy policies and programmes need to be developed. The meeting emphasised that continued efforts are needed in programme advocacy, information exchange, sharing of knowledge, and increased capacities in the field of mountain energy systems.

**A Manual of Private and Community based Mini- and Micro Hydropower Development in the Hindu Kush-Himalayas.** Compiled by A. A. Junejo, 126pp, 1997, ISBN 92-9115-631-0, Price: Developed Countries: US\$ 20, Developing Countries: US\$ 15

This Reference Manual provides basic information and guidelines for developing and improving the performance of private/decentralised mini- and micro-hydropower (MMHP) in remote and underdeveloped areas of the Hindu Kush-Himalayan (HKH) region. The Manual is targeted at decision-makers, financiers, planners, and assessors of such programmes to assist them in formulating appropriate plans and implementation methodologies for using this environmentally friendly, indigenous, and renewable resource to meet the energy needs of inaccessible and underdeveloped mountain areas. Information is given on the comparative advantages, current status, achievements, and impact of MMHP and also about technology, implementation methodology, operation, management, and other relevant aspects leading to optimising the benefits of MMHP programmes. The overall inference is that, for those remote areas in which grid extension is not viable and the water resource is available, small-scale, isolated private MMHP schemes may be introduced with appropriate supporting interventions, using the local manpower and technical base. In addition, the Manual contains guidelines on the selection of appropriate technology choices, management systems, institutional arrangements, and other necessary inputs. Material on the financial analysis/assessment and monitoring of MMHP has also been included.

*On Enterprises, Infrastructure And Opportunities.*

**Nepal: The GTZ Experiences of Self-Help Promotion at Local Level (MEI 97/1).** K. B.

Bhattachan and D. P. Ojha, 48pp, 1997, ISSN 1024-7564, Price: Developed Countries : US\$ 15, Developing Countries: US\$ 10

A major strategy of GTZ-supported rural development (RD)/poverty alleviation (PA) projects in Nepal is to promote and strengthen self-help capabilities at the local level. This paper summarises the experiences of five different self-help programmes and raises some policy issues for poverty alleviation. The programmes are: (i) Swabalamban, (ii) Self-help Banking, (iii) Banking with the Poor, (iv) Small Farmers Cooperative Limited, and (v) Grass Root Level Institutional Development in Gorkha. An analytical framework is presented which identifies the conditions of poverty reproduction in rural Nepal as the interaction of the prevailing social and economic structures that reinforce each other. Based on experiences in Nepal and South Asia, three preconditions to poverty alleviation are specified-effective organisation of the poor, human development, and access of the poor to economic resources and income generating opportunities. The concept, approach, strategy, and status of the five programmes are summarised and their strengths and weaknesses are examined within this framework. The paper concludes with important policy issues such as target group orientation, sustainability, mass orientation and replicability, comprehensive vs. partial approach, and environmental issues.

**Social Science and Sustainable Mountain Development: A Concept Paper (MEI 97/2).** S. Z. Sadeque, 36pp, 1997, ISSN 1024-7564, Price: Developed Countries: US\$15, Developing Countries: US\$ 10

This study argues that sustainable development can only be ensured if social issues are given due consideration in the conceptualisation and design of development planning. The paper convincingly shows how social, economic, and biophysical variables are interrelated and how they influence the outcomes of programme and project sustainability. A list of important social and cultural issues characteristic of backward areas, in general, and the Hindu Kush-Himalayan mountain areas, in particular, are discussed as the agenda for social analysis. Several available methods and tools are also discussed to provide a flavour of social analysis useful for social as well as non-social scientists involved and concerned with sustainable development of mountain areas.

The paper goes on to argue that the Hindu Kush-Himalayan region, home to over 120 million of the world's poorest people, but having the potential to affect the lives of a far greater number of people in the entire South Asian region, requires urgent attention from development planners and other activists in charting a course of development initiative that is mountain specific and takes into consideration the historical and cultural heritage and practices of the

region. The paper concludes with an agenda of action for looking beyond the current status quo and indicating a new framework for studying mountain areas.

**Micro Case Study and Action Plan for Fairy Meadows** (MEI 97/3). S. R. Khan, 104pp, 1997, ISSN 1024-7564, Price: Developed Countries : US\$ 15, Developing Countries: US\$ 10

The case study relates the impact of a mountain road on a location of astounding beauty, Fairy Meadows in Raikot Valley, which leads up to the north face of Nanga Parbat in the northern areas of Pakistan. The study covers the interesting possibilities for tourism for community development. In analysis, the sociopolitical circumstances in this valley are complex. The road, built by an outside entrepreneur in exchange for access to the forests for logging purposes, is looked at from

the negative and positive aspects in terms of tourism in the remote regions.

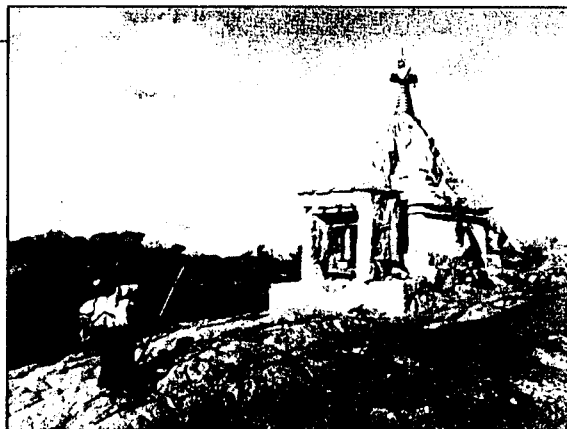
Tourism of itself is seen as a positive force; if it conforms to the dictates of carrying capacity it can be environmentally sustainable, economically beneficial, and culturally unobtrusive. Current environmental degradation stems from social conflict and economic exploitation by timber contractors, private developers, and the government. By addressing the environmental and socioeconomic manifestations stability can be restored, however. To do so, a tourism plan is needed as well as key interventions to undertake infrastructural rehabilitation, area and sector development, effective policy implementation, and sustained advocacy. The case study is complemented with an interview with a local leader, photo plates, and maps.

"A marvelously informative and realistic look at both how China and Tibet reached their present impasse and how their differences might yet be peacefully resolved. By providing much crucial background material about this fractious problem, it becomes essential reading for anyone who cares about Tibet's future."

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"Goldstein has dedicated his life to the study of Tibet. In his latest book, he offers the most concise summary yet available of the roots of the crisis in Tibet. Regardless of one's point of view, this book should be read by anyone concerned with China, China's relations with the West, and the endangered people of Tibet."

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**Development Experiences and Options in a Hill Region: The Case of Uttarakhand. U. P., India (MEI 97/4)** - G. S. Mehta, 62pp, 1997, ISSN 1024-7564, Price: Developed Countries: US\$ 15, Developing Countries: US\$ 10

This paper argues for an integrated and lead-sector based approach for the development of Uttarakhand, a small hilly area of the state of Uttar Pradesh in India. It tries to identify sectors and activities that could lead to environmentally friendly and sustainable development and broaden income and employment opportunities for the local people. It does not purport to be a comprehensive planning document for Uttarakhand, but suggests an approach, with certain illustrations, that could provide a more suitable alternative to the past strategies.

**Case Studies from Ghandruk (MEI 97/5).** K. Banskota and B. Sharma, 52pp, 1997, ISSN 1024-7564, Price: Developed Countries : US\$ 15, Developing Countries: US\$ 10

The present volume deals with two separate studies related to mountain tourism and is a continuation of the Norad-funded project Mountain Tourism for Local Community Development initiated by ICIMOD. Within the last two years, CREST has carried out two

studies in this area which have already been published in the form of discussion papers by ICIMOD.

The first study in the present volume deals with the energy transformation taking place among the lodges in Ghorepani and Ghandruk as a result of tourism and other factors. Ghandruk has electricity and over time there has been a gradual shift in the use of electricity. From simple lighting, electricity is being used by lodges for cooking and, to a lesser extent, space and water heating. Kerosene is also being increasingly used in many areas, but extensive consumption of imported energy is constrained in remote mountain areas, which are not served by roads, by high transport costs. The main aim of the first study in the present volume is to investigate the impact of the use of alternative energy and end-use technology on fuelwood use and its consequent impact on forest conservation.

The second study makes an attempt to estimate the retention of tourism income in local areas (Ghorepani and Ghandruk). Although tourism is believed to contribute to the local areas visited by tourists, the extent of this contribution is not well known. It is, however, fairly well known that local areas are unable to retain all the income that accrues through tourism. Comparisons are also made between conservation expenditure and tourism income.

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*Rejoinder: Letter to the editor*

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16 June, 1997

I was saddened to read Ms. Frechette's review of my book, *The Golden Yoke: The Legal Cosmology of Buddhist Tibet* (Vol. 16, No. 1-2 1996). It seemed obvious, both to myself and several others, that she was not describing an historical reconstruction of Tibetan Buddhist secular law but rather expounding her own disappointment that this book was not a theoretical work in current Himalayan political anthropology. I would recommend your readers to reviews in the *Yale Law Journal*, *Law and Social Inquiry* or the *Journal of Religion* for more detailed discussions of what the book actually says and does.

However, on the issue of narrative veracity, it is difficult to let Ms. Frechette's inaccurate criticisms lie because they impugn others. The description of the construction of each of the historical case narratives in the book begins in the Introduction and continues throughout the book: "Each [of the later] chapters is based on the exact wording of a single narrator and the corroboration of at least two other people who were there and knew the narrator. . . . Cases are presented in five formats: [discussion]. Each case in this book was sent back to the field researchers - often several times - for review, verification, and correction before being included." (pages 17-18)

While I cross-checked on the Tibetan plateau each map, floorplan, photograph, and description connected to the narratives, many others including Ani-la Karma Lekshe Tsomo currently at the University of Hawaii and Lobsang Shastri, Head of the Manuscript Section of the Library of Tibetan Works and Archives also helped in the detailed verification of each narrative with the original narrators, many of whom put themselves at great risk to contribute to the project.

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