

Outcomes of the International Workshop

"The Changing Face of Pastoralism in the Hindu Kush-Himalaya-Tibetan Plateau Highlands"

Lhasa, TAR, May 12-19, 2002

A strategy workshop jointly organized by The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) and The Tibetan Academy of Agriculture and Animal Sciences (TAAAS).

The rangelands of the Hindu Kush-Himalayan (HKH) - Central Asian highlands are a marginal resource, naturally low in productivity and diverse in character in terms of both precipitation and forage availability. They also reflect a diverse cultural landscape, concurrently shaped by physical forces and human use.

Rangelands are more than just a resource to sustain livestock, but rather as a complex environment, and a rich cultural milieu - their resources are of great significance in the livelihoods of diverse ethnic communities. These people increasingly find themselves at the fringes of modern society and the development process. Their economy, way of life and the environment upon which they depend poorly understood, they struggle to make ends meet. Yet these communities have proven themselves to be quite resilient and have adapted in the face of change, although swayed and constrained by the world around them.

This workshop sought to bring diverse players together, from a variety of backgrounds, to build mutual understanding about the realities of highland pastoralism of the HKH-Tibetan Plateau region.

What factors have contributed to the marginalisation of pastoral peoples? How have they responded? What are the challenges faced by development workers and policy makers for bringing pastoral communities into the "mainstream"? What programmes and policies have helped them to adapt to modern forces of globalization? What are future policy strategies that legitimise local knowledge and collective action in the management of rangeland resources?

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Proceedings and case studies will be published in 2003. For further information contact [Camille Richard](#), Rangeland Specialist.

(Adapted from a report originally submitted to Mountain Forum – Asia by Camille Richard.)