

## SEMINAR ON PROBLEMS AFFECTING RANGE AND PASTURE LAND DEVELOPMENT IN HIMALAYAN REGION

(November 20-26, 1989)

A regional seminar on problems affecting range and pasture land development in Himalayan region was held at Pakistan Forest Institute, Peshawar from 20th — 26th November, 1989. The seminar was sponsored by the FAO under its regional project entitled Himalayan Pasture and Fodder Research Network (RAS/79/121). This project was started in 1986 by the participating countries of Bhutan, Nepal, India and Pakistan with the headquarters at Kathmandu, Nepal. The long term objective of the project is to improve farming systems in the Himalayan areas for socio-economic well beings people and conservation of environment in the region. This is proposed to be achieved through appropriate networking arrangement between national research institutions of participating countries in the region; initially focusing on maintaining and strengthening the critical balance between crops, livestock and forestry and improving the productivity and use of pasture and forage grasses and other fodder crops including fodder trees.

The objectives of the regional seminar were:

1. To identify the problems of range and pasture lands development in the Himalayan region.
2. To discuss the possible solution of these problems and formulate an action plan for the development of pasture and rangelands in the region.
3. To explore possibility for further strengthening of national and regional capacities of range management through appropriate national and international linkages between concerned Institutions and individual scientists.

About 30 participants from regional countries attended the seminar, Twenty research papers were discussed in the seminar under 5 broad disciplines namely country report, socio-economic aspects of livestock rearing, range improvement techniques and conservation, fodder resources and institutional capacities of range management research. The concluding session of the seminar on 23rd November, 1989, dealt with broadbased recommendations regarding integrated and multi-disciplinary approaches to solving the problems and making the management decision at regional/international levels.

A field visit from 24th — 26th November, 1989 to rangelands areas and sheep farm in Mansehra as well as to National Agricultural Research Council, Islamabad was made by the delegates. The field visit included site observations and assessment of environmental problems, prevailing range management system, soil conservation and other activities on mountain slope development and improvement. The field visit was conducted by Dr. Bashir Hussain Shah, National Project Coordinator and Dr. S.M. Rafique, Range Management Officer, Pakistan Forest Institute, Peshawar.