



SUCCESSFUL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

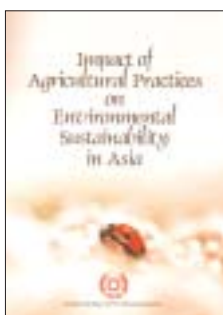
APO 366 pp. March 2002

This publication is a collection of exemplary rural community development stories from 15 member countries of the APO. The APO undertook a regional survey in 1999 to consolidate and document the findings and lessons of past APO Integrated Community Development Projects. The selected projects were analyzed by national experts deputed by the

APO to determine the principles, concepts, approaches, and strategies that led to their success. The projects covered a wide spectrum of subject areas: micro credit in India, a women's self-help group in Japan, and a vision village in Malaysia, among others.

Despite their variety, several common factors contributing to their success could be discerned. Among them were the active involvement and initiatives of the local people, the facilitating role of the government and/or non-governmental organizations, and the special consideration accorded to the weaker sectors of society. The survey was followed by a symposium in Japan in April 2000 to discuss the survey results and to find ways to enhance the effectiveness of the Integrated Community Development Program of the APO.

This publication consists of the survey report, the three symposium resource papers, and papers describing the 15 successful community development projects that now serve as models for others. It is a useful resource for all those engaged in local community development.



IMPACT OF AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES ON ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY IN ASIA

APO 388 pp. March 2002

Agriculture plays a pivotal role in ensuring food security and the prosperity of rural life in the Asia-Pacific region. In many Asian countries, however, inappropriate agricultural practices are causing the agricultural resource base and the environment to deteriorate

rapidly. Examples are intensive farming due to a rapid decline in the amount of arable land, large-scale deforestation to expand arable farming areas, mismanagement of the water supply, ecologically fragile uplands and marginal lands in the plains, and the improper use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides.

This situation calls for immediate remedial actions to be undertaken by all stakeholders. To address this issue, the APO organized the seminar on "Impact of Agricultural Practices on Environmental Sustainability" in Japan in September 2000 to discuss possible measures to minimize the adverse impacts of agricultural practices on the environment and the agricultural resource base.

This publication is a report on the proceedings of the seminar. It also includes the four resource papers and 14 country papers presented at the meeting. The volume represents a useful reference text for anyone interested in sustainable agriculture.

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