



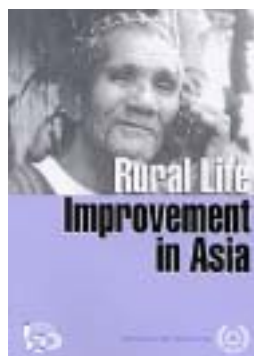
RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

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Rural development involves the introduction of new socio-economic activities and the construction of physical infrastructure and facilities to improve the quality of life in rural areas. However, these activities often result in depleting natural resources and degrading the environment. To avoid such conflicting consequences, rural communities familiar with local resources can often offer good ideas to reconcile them. The public sector on its part should endeavor to introduce a more vigilant and participatory approach in rural development

It was against this background that the APO organized a seminar on “Rural Development and Environmental Conservation” in Nepal in November 2001 to discuss issues arising from the interface between rural development and environmental conservation and to suggest policy measures to resolve them.

This publication is a report on the proceedings of the seminar. It includes a summary of the outcome of the seminar, four resource papers, and 14 country papers presented at the seminar. The resource papers dealt with the following topics: Issues and strategies in linking rural development and environment conservation in Asia and the Pacific; Case study of Nepal’s Royal Chitwan National Park’s buffer zone; and Empowering farmers with knowledge of environmental conservation. This volume is useful to all those interested or involved in rural development.



RURAL LIFE IMPROVEMENT IN ASIA

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Rural life improvement programs are concerned with improving both the production aspect of rural economic activities and the living conditions of the people. In the Asia-Pacific region, there are many examples of successful rural life improvement programs, such as those implemented in the Republic of China, Republic of Korea, Japan, and the Philippines. To provide an opportunity for an in-depth study of these successful programs and to identify the underlying key contributing factors, the APO organized a seminar on “Rural Life Improvement for Community Development” in Japan in April 2002.

This publication provides a summary of the findings of the seminar and the text of four resource papers and 17 country papers. Of the resource papers, three deal with the Japanese rural life improvement program, while the fourth has as its theme “An action-oriented approach to development intervention.” Like the publication introduced above, this volume should prove useful to all those who are actively involved in rural development.

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