



SUSTAINABLE FARMING SYSTEMS IN UPLAND AREAS

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Sustaining farming systems in upland areas in Asia is posing a major environmental challenge. Growing food demand and low income are driving farmers in many upland areas to use intensive farming methods that are more productive. The downside of this is that it causes deforestation, soil erosion, and reduction in land productivity. This problem is not only technical. It is also the result of limited investment on research in this area, sociopolitical neglect of marginalized upland societies, lack of awareness of the communities, and poor development planning. In recent years, however, there have been cases of successful sustainable upland farming.

Recognizing the importance of sustainable upland farming in Asia, the APO organized a study meeting in India, January 2001, to review recent developments in upland farming and attendant issues and constraints. This publication, a report of the proceedings of the meeting, provides a summary of the findings and the text of four resource papers and 12 country papers.



EVOLVING SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION SYSTEMS IN SLOPING UPLAND AREAS

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Sloplands provide food and livelihood to millions of people in Asia and the Pacific. They are, however, facing growing problems of population pressure, poverty, and environmental degradation. In many slopland areas, productivity is falling and yields are declining. An important reason for this is poor planning for the development of sloplands for agricultural and other uses. Proper classification of sloplands for different uses is thus required. In response to this need, the APO organized a study meeting in Japan, July 2002, to review land classification in sloping areas for sustainable production systems, identify policy-related issues, and formulate measures for improvement. This publication is also a report on the proceedings of the meeting and includes a summary of the findings and the text of five resource papers and 15 country papers.

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