

Introduction to the thematic session

**‘Disaster prevention functions in rural
areas and
disaster resistant sustainable
livelihoods’**

**World Conference on Disaster
Reduction – Kobe, Japan**

21 JANUARY 2005

ITDG-South Asia & MAFF

ITDG South Asia

- International development organisation
- Works with poor communities to develop appropriate technologies in food production, agro processing, energy, transport, small enterprises, shelter and disaster mitigation
- Reducing vulnerability to disasters is a priority theme of interventions

Duryog Nivaran

- **South Asia network for disaster mitigation- a network of organizations and individuals who are committed to an 'Alternative Perspective' for disaster mitigation and preparedness**
- **Alternative Perspective – identifies disasters as a part of the development process and defies the notion that they are isolated events**
- **Calls for reducing vulnerability and strengthening capacities at the policy and implementation levels to achieve disaster prepared communities**
- **Calls for addressing the underlying causes of vulnerability and poverty for disaster risk reduction**
- **Duryog Nivaran has a membership from all South Asian countries; Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka. ITDG South Asia and RDPI are member institutions, currently the secretariat is hosted by ITDG**

Disasters- livelihoods – poverty

- At present we are faced with the challenge of re- building the livelihoods of millions
- In-depth investigations carried out on the issues of disaster risk, development, poverty and livelihoods
- Identification of intricate dynamics within the South Asia subcontinent between 3 main issue areas: disasters- livelihoods – poverty

Disaster Resistant Sustainable Livelihoods

- Present the framework and its application modalities within the currently existing governance systems in the sub continent
- Challenge some of the familiar notions such as 'community based disaster management'
- Discuss ideas to tackle the root causes of disasters and poverty

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