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
• 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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