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PREFACE

One of the important goals of the Lamosangu-Jiri Road Project (LJRP) in East Nepal was erosion control. My husband was Co-Manager of this joint Nepali-Swiss project from 1981 till 1986. In 1982, during the intensive planting campaign of summer, I got quite involved in the discussions and measures that were taken. This gave the impulse for the present study. Since then I had to overcome numerous hurdles, which I could not have done without the support of a large number of people. First of all I should like to thank Professor Dr. F. Klötzli for guiding me through this research with his wide knowledge on ecological contexts; then Professor Dr. H. Wanner (Institute of Plant Physiology, University of Zürich) who smoothed out the first difficulties; with Professor Dr. H. Sticher I had fruitful discussions on soil; Professor Dr. B. Messerli, Dr. H. Hurni and Dr. H. Kienholz (Geographical Institute, University of Berne) gave invaluable advice on my erosion research; I am grateful to all these experts for their help. My thanks also go to the Swiss Technical Cooperation for their financial assistance and their permission to use the facilities of LJRP and the Integrated Hill Development Project (IHDP).

Among the many other persons and institutions involved in my study I would like to mention the following ones:

- Mr. A. Frischknecht, Director Swiss Association for Technical Assistance in Nepal, and Mr. H. Moos, Co-Manager IHDP, who gave me any support necessary.
- Dr. Kk. Panday, International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development ICIMOD, Kathmandu, introduced me to different institutions in Kathmandu; he was always ready for any assistance and extensive discussions about my study.
- The whole staff of LJRP was very cooperative: especially Mr. N. Joshi and Mr. R. Schräml helped with technical advice and practically; the farmers Bim Bahadur Bhandari and Khil Bahadur Bhandari were reliable assistants in my field work.
- I was allowed to use the Herbarium of the Department of Medicinal Plants (Director Dr. S.B. Malla) and I got direct help from Mrs. Dr. V.L. Gurung, Dr. K.R. Rajbandari, Dr. P.R. Shakya with the identification of questionable species.
- The Meteorological Service of Nepal provided a recording raingauge for the erosion research.

- I could use the Laboratory of the National Potato Development Project in Kumaltar, Kathmandu, to treat the soil samples.
- Mrs. M. Bigler and Mrs. C. Hayden made valuable suggestions on style and use of the English language.
- Mr. D. Vuichard, Institute of Mineralogy and Petrography, University of Berne, gave an extensive introduction into the geology of my project region.
- The staff of the Geobotanical Institute ETH, especially Mr. H.R. Binz, was very helpful during the mathematical evaluations; Mrs. R. Flubacher and Mrs. A. Honegger word-processed the final draft.
- The Swiss Federal Research Station for Agronomy, Reckenholz, Zürich, promptly analysed the soil samples.
- Mrs. Dr. P. Geissler of the Herbarium of Geneva identified the mosses.
- The Güller family gave me great support during the hard time of the evaluations in January 1986 in Switzerland.
- Mrs. L. Guttentag, Mrs. I. and Dr. K. Hausherr helped decide on the feasibility of the study.
- My parents were always willing to shop for things not available in Nepal.

My sincere thanks go to all these persons and institutes as well as to numerous people not mentioned here.

But most of all I want to thank my husband, who has given me tremendous support in word and deed from the beginning, and my children, who had to manage without me during the long weeks of the field survey in Nepal and the time of the evaluations in Switzerland.