

FOREWORD

During 1994 and 2002 a team of scholars from Switzerland and India, all from different research and development institutions got together to carry out research on the theme of Rural Livelihood Systems. The research itself was financed by the Swiss National Science Foundation within its framework of a longer-term initiative to stimulate South-North Research and Teaching Collaboration. According to this framework, research process on Rural Livelihood Systems (henceforth RLS) had to share and exchange the results with a number of similar international research projects with focus on Asia, Africa, and Latin America. The RLS Project had, as partners, scholars from Institute for Rural Management, Anand (Gujarat), SAMPARK, a Bangalore based NGO, Institute for Social and Economic Change, Bangalore and from the Swiss side the Post-Graduate Course on Developing Countries (NADEL), Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich.

Each research institution carried out the research on inter-related themes at different locations in different parts of India. The team from ISEC carried out research, in two phases in a few villages of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka States.

This Monograph brings together the findings of research, mainly focusing on Karnataka village. It is in this village that the team of researchers re-examined a few hypotheses pertaining to changing livelihood systems, management of natural resources and emerging rural leadership.

I am very happy that Dr. G. K. Karanth and Dr. V. Ramaswamy have brought these findings together in the form of a Monograph for wider dissemination. I am also happy that besides Sir Ratan Tata Trust (SRTT), the Swiss National Science Foundation and the Swiss Agency for Development Co-operation supported the publication of this Monograph. As in all our other publications, I look forward to a good and critical acclaim for this work also.

April 19, 2005
Bangalore

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