

Draft Power in South Asian Foodgrain Production: Analysis of the Problem and Suggestions for Policy

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This study takes a look at the energy, land, and food connections as they express themselves in one major area of rural energy use — that of mechanical energy for agricultural production. Specifically, we focus on the use of draft animals in agriculture. In order to keep the scope of the study, we limit specific examples to four countries in South Asia: Bangladesh, India, Nepal, and Pakistan.

We analyze this problem by taking into account the multiple resource constraints which rural people face and the situations of considerable economic and social tension and conflict within which these constraints are located. The intention is to draw some lessons for rural energy policy in the Third World in regard to the provision of adequate mechanical power for agriculture, and possible roles for U.S. policy.

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