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PROPOSAL FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF MURREE-KAHUTA HILLY AREAS  
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A few suggestions/ideas are given below for considerations:

1. Causes of degradation of land

To enlist causes of present state-of-affairs in the area  
i.e. the causes of degradation of lands:

- i. continued mis-use through deforestation.
- ii. unchecked grazing.
- iii. irresponsible extension of cultivation.

To keep in view these causes in future planning and working.

2. Feasibility survey

Feasibility survey of the area is essential to have necessary basic data for project formulation. During feasibility survey the land should be classified according to its capability and priorities determined.

3. Preparation of master plan

We must envisage initially the total quantum of problem and then we may proceed to solve it in a well defined phased manner according to the availability of funds. A master plan should, therefore, be prepared for this region. A multi-disciplinary team would be required to prepare the master plan. It will be worth spending quite a few million rupees for feasibility survey and preparation of master plan.

4. Phased programme

After preparation of master plan a pilot project should be first formulated and implemented. Based on its experience larger projects can be executed.

5. Integrated development

Proper land and water resource-use, planning and management are vital to economical and ecological security in the region. For that it is necessary to provide integrated multi-disciplinary task covering works of forestry, horticulture, agriculture, animal husbandry and integrating ecological considerations (Soil conservation and watershed management). It will result in overall development of the area.

6. Involvement of local community

Local community should be involved in this important development activity.

7. Special problems of hill region

Special problems of hilly region should be kept in view while formulating projects:

- . Highly labour intensive operations.
- . Heavy transportation and construction costs.
- . Long gestation period of projects.
- . Inadequate basic infrastructural facilities of roads, irrigation, power, marketing and credit.
- . Lack of industrialization.
- . Poor institutional support.
- . Absence of suitable technologies of development.