



## Invitation

Tuesday, December 1st, 2015, 2 pm

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### **In the Lap of the Mountains: The Irrigation Systems of Ladakh's Farming Communities**

#### **Film screening and discussion with Joe Hill**

#### **Venue**

Zentrum Moderner Orient  
Kirchweg 33  
14129 Berlin

In the lap of the Himalayan and Karakoram mountain ranges farming communities thrive at some of the world's highest altitudes, by channelling snow melt to their farmland. The management of water resources is one of the most important tasks performed by communities – for without the judicious control and use of water, it would be impossible for humans and their animals to live in this region. In recent decades the lifestyles and expectations of villagers have dramatically changed – due to government policies and programmes, political and economic developments, and cultural influences. However, communities appear to be adapting to these changes by embracing new opportunities while continuing to work collectively to manage their village infrastructure. This documentary looks at how communities manage their irrigation systems, with a view to understanding why they are so successful. It centres on Karchay Khar gram panchayat in the Suru valley where director Joe Hill conducted field research in 2013 and 2014. More than anything, harsh climatic and ecological conditions ensure that, even in these times of rapid societal change, communities continue to work collectively to manage their water resources.

**Joe Hill** holds a PhD from the School of International Development (DEV), University of East Anglia, UK. His work focuses on the livelihoods and well-being of rural farming communities, especially on agriculture, water management, and seed varieties, and on development interventions by government and non-government agencies. He has spent a total of over 4 years carrying out research work in rural India and has also worked in rural Pakistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Nepal, Bangladesh and Ethiopia. In addition, he has worked as a lecturer, a trainer, a PhD supervisor, and has volunteered for several NGOs. Currently he is volunteering with the International Federation for Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM) and will take up a job as lecturer in Rural Management at a college in Ranchi, India in 2016.

GEFÖRDERT VOM



Bundesministerium  
für Bildung  
und Forschung