Preface

This book is an outcome of a research project we initiated as part of UNIDO’s preparatory activities for the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg, 2002). Our objective was to gain a better understanding of what motivates industry in developing countries to adopt environmentally sound technology (EST).

We started the research by formulating a heuristic model of EST adoption derived from a review of the literature on technology diffusion and technological capabilities, and of empirical studies of EST adoption in developing countries. On the basis of this model we prepared a semi-structured questionnaire to be used in interviewing plant managers and key informants in three industrial sub-sectors in eight countries. We then contracted country teams to carry out the survey in each country in late 2001 and early 2002 and to provide background data on the country and the sub-sector investigated. On the basis of their findings, we wrote country chapters, analysed the survey data and identified policy implications and programme proposals that could accelerate the adoption of EST.

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