

Some Sources on Rapid, Relaxed and Participatory Rural Appraisal

Rapid Rural Appraisal (RRA) and Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) can have much in common, and both are useful; but in approach RRA is more extractive, and more likely to be a one-off event, while PRA involves rural people more in the generation, analysis and ownership of information, and is more likely to be part of a continuing participatory process.

In methods, there is much overlap between RRA and PRA; but RRA has tended to pay more attention to semi-structured interviewing of individuals, and to the interactions in an outside team, while PRA tends to emphasise group discussions and diagramming by rural people and to pay special attention to outsiders' behaviour, attitudes and interactions with them.

The explosion of activity and inventiveness in the late 1980s and early 1990s has generated a large literature. More is coming. The best way to keep informed is to receive \*\*\* RRA Notes.

FREE SOURCES

\* = free on request from Helen McLaren, Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex, Brighton BN1 9RE, UK  
 telephone: (44) 273 678490  
 telex: 877997 IDSBTN G  
 fax: (44) 273 621202

\*\* = free on request from MYRADA, 2 Service Road, Domlur Layout, Bangalore 560 071  
 telephone: (91) 812 576166

\*\*\* = free on request from The Sustainable Agriculture Programme, International Institute for Environment and Development, 3 Endsleigh Street, London WC1H 0DD  
 telephone: (44) 71-388-2117  
 telex: 261681 EASCAN G  
 fax: (44) 71-388-2826

Most of the sources listed below are of two types: classics, and those reporting recent experiences, methods and ideas. There is a great deal else of value, but these sources should enable you selectively to get a good sense of the background, methods and recent developments.

If you find these lists too much, and are just starting, please do not be put off. Start with the \* How to do its, and some dipping into \*\*\* RRA Notes 13 in which see especially pages 35, 35A, and 36.

A. General Sources and Series on RRA and PRA

\*\*\* RRA Notes 1 - 13 continuing. This informal publication contains a wealth of recent experience shared by RRA/PRA practitioners from all over the world. Number 13 is a bumper issue reporting experiences from India, and is the most wide-ranging single source on PRA at present. See e.g. the Overview pp 10-48, and Aloysius Fernandez, James Mascarenhas and Vidya Ramachandran 1991 "Sharing Our Limited Experience for Trainers", pp 58-68

\*\* PRA/PALM Series, A useful and insightful series of papers from MYRADA, including papers on transects, participatory mapping and modelling, and how to make PRA more participatory. (PALM = participatory learning methods).

Publications of the Popular Participation Programme, Development Studies Unit, Department of Social Anthropology, Stockholm University, Annex 1, S-106 91, Stockholm (probably free on request). Several of these are on RRA/PRA.

\* Rapid and Participatory Rural Appraisal, intermittently updated, about 15 pages

\* Notes on Relaxed and Participatory Rural Appraisal, intermittently updated, about 12 pages

Campbell, Lorna and Gerard J.Gill Participatory Rural Appraisal for Nepal: Concepts and Methods, HMG Ministry of Agriculture-Winrock International, Research Support Series Number 4, February 1991, Winrock International, PO Box 1312, Kathmandu, Nepal.

Probably not available, but conceivably demand might generate supply (Gill is an economist). A very limited edition guide with coloured photographs to a slide presentation, 148 pages. Really excellent as an introduction.

Gill, Gerard ed Rapid and Participatory rural Appraisal for Nepal: a practical handbook, Winrock International, PO Box 1312, Kathmandu, Nepal, forthcoming. This will be a book of practically oriented readings in R and PRA.

Participatory Rural Appraisal Handbook: Conducting PRAs in Kenya - for this and other manuals see section K below

\* How-to-do-its. Five deliberately crude sheets on how to do participatory mapping and modelling, transects, seasonal analysis, change and trend analysis, and matrix ranking and scoring. They encourage practitioners to get on with it, and also to invent their own variants and methods.

\*\*\* McCracken, Jennifer A., Jules N.Pretty and Gordon R.Conway An Introduction to Rapid Rural Appraisal for Agricultural Development, IIED, 1989. An influential monograph outlining the philosophy and scope of RRA, the suite of techniques, types of RRA etc, with specimen diagrams and a bibliography

\*\*\* Kabutha, Charity and Richard Ford "Using RRA to Formulate a Village Resources Management Plan, Mbusanyi, Kenya", RRA Notes 2 pp 4-11 October 1988

Khon Kaen University, Rapid Rural Appraisal, Proceedings of the 1985 International Conference, Rural Systems Research and Farming Systems Research Projects, Khon Kaen, Thailand, 1987. 357 pages. Bibliography with 181 items. Believed to cost \$10. A classic statement on RRA, with a lot on rationale, tools and techniques, including a paper by Grandstaff and Grandstaff on semi-structured interviewing.

Agricultural Administration, vol 8 no 6 1981, Special Issue on Rapid Rural Appraisal, and Richard Longhurst ed. IDS Bulletin vol 12 no 4, Rapid Rural Appraisal: social structure and rural economy, Institute of Development studies, University of Sussex, Brighton BN1 9RE, UK. These are two early sources which still contain a lot that is of value, e.g. the papers by Collinson and Hildebrand

Longhurst, Richard ed. 1991 Rapid Rural Appraisal: social structure and rural economy, IDS Bulletin vol 12 no 4, Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex, Brighton BN1 9RE, UK. Includes critiques, rationale and examples of RRA

#### B. Participatory Mapping, Modelling and Transects

\*\*\* Mascarenhas, James and Prem Kumar 1991 "Participatory Mapping and Modelling: Users' Notes" RRA Notes 12 (July) pp 9-20

\*\*\* Farmer Participatory Research in North Omo, Ethiopia, a report of a training course in Rapid Rural Appraisal held at Soddo, July 16th - 27th, 1991, IIED and Farm Africa, pp 46-51. Includes contrasting models/maps by men, women and children of the same area

\*\*\* Gibson, Tony 1991 "Planning for Real: the approach of the Neighbourhood Initiatives Foundation in the UK", RRA Notes 11 (May) pp 29-30

King, Angela 1991 "Mapping your roots", Geographical Magazine (May) pp 40-43. Participatory Parish mapping in the UK (over 1,000 maps so far)

\*\* Mascarenhas, James Transects in PRA, PALM Series IVE

#### C. Participatory Analysis of Aerial Photographs

\*\*\* Dewees, Peter 1989 "Aerial photography and household studies in Kenya", RRA Notes 7 (September) pp 9-12

\*\*\* Mearns, Robin 1989 "Aerial photographs in rapid land resource appraisal, Papua New Guinea", RRA Notes 7 (September) pp 12-14A

\*\*\* Sandford, Dick 1989 "A Note on the Use of Aerial Photographs for Land Use Planning on a Settlement Site in Ethiopia" RRA Notes 6 (June) pp 18-19

(There has been a lot of recent activity and more reports can be expected)

#### D. Wealth and Wellbeing Ranking

\*\*\* A forthcoming (target January 1992) issue of RRA Notes will be on wealth and wellbeing ranking, reporting on a joint IIED/IDS workshop. Since this will cover so much, few sources are given here though a lot has now been written about the numerous variants.

\* Some Sources on Wealth and Wellbeing Ranking (1991, September)  
A selective brief annotated list of sources. Will be overtaken by the forthcoming RRA Notes

\* Swift, Jeremy and Abdi Noor Umar 1991 Participatory Pastoral Development in the Isiolo District Livestock Development Project, Final Report, Isiolo Livestock Development Project EMI ASAL Programme, pp 52-58 and 74-80. Describes the use of wealth ranking combined with participatory problem and solution identification, showing the different priorities of different wealth groups

Grandin, Barbara 1988 Wealth Ranking in Smallholder Communities: a field manual, Intermediate Technology Publications, 103 Southampton Row, London WC1B 4HH. Cost £4.95 plus p and p. The original manual for the classic method of wealth ranking.

#### E. Numbers: Ranking, Scoring, and Estimating

\* PRA Methods for Quantifying and Ranking April 1990

\* Joseph, Sam 1989 Fodder Preference Ranking by Farmers of Kistagiri Village, District Mahboob Nagar, Andhra Pradesh

\*\*\* RRA Notes 7a (various authors) pp 28-32

\*\*\* Bayer, Wolfgang 1988 Ranking of Browse Species by Cattlekeepers in Nigeria, RRA Notes 3 December pp 4-10

\*\*\* Mearns, Robin 1988 Direct Matrix Ranking in Papua New Guinea, RRA Notes 3 December pp 11-15

\*\*\* Conway, Gordon 1988 Pairwise Ranking in Ethiopia, RRA Notes 1 June pp 10-13

\*\*\* Chambers, Robert 1988 Direct Matrix Ranking in Kenya and West Bengal, RRA Notes 1 June pp 13-18

\* Barker, David 1979 Appropriate Methodology: an example using a traditional African board game to measure farmers' attitudes and environmental images, IDS Bulletin, Whose Knowledge Counts? 10,2 January pp 37-40

#### F. Gender

\* Various reports on all-women's PRAs, available as a set from IDS

\* Welbourn, Alice RRA, Gender and Health - alternative ways of listening to needs

\*\*\* Hosain, Mehreen 1991 Rapid Appraisal for Women in the North West Frontier of Pakistan, RRA Notes 12 pp 21-31

\*\*\* Grady, Heather et al 1991 Assessing Women's Needs in Gaza Using Participatory Rapid Appraisal Techniques, RRA Notes 10 February pp 12-19

### G. Health and Nutrition

\*\*\* a forthcoming (target January 1992) issue of RRA Notes will be on applications in health and nutrition, reporting on a joint IIED/IDS workshop, and including reports from SPEECH (Madurai) and ActionAid (Bangalore)

\* until that is available, a six-page list of actual and potential applications of PRA methods in health and nutrition is available from IDS

\* Welbourne, Alice The Social and Economic Dimensions of Poverty and Ill-health, based on fieldwork in Sierra Leone, Uganda and Ghana, Department of International Community Health, Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, January 1991. Findings about hidden groups, health problems and needs, stress, services, community participation, solutions etc, with an annex on methodology

\* Chambers, Robert 1990 Rapid and Participatory Appraisal for Health and Nutrition, IDS, University of Sussex, April 1991. Some background on RRA and PRA, and an attempt to summarise actual and potential applications. Will be overtaken by the RRA Notes on health and nutrition.

Heaver, Richard Participative Rural Appraisal: Potential Applications to Family Planning, Health and Nutrition Programs, Asia Technical Department, Departmental Papers Series No 3, World Bank, 1818 H Street NW, Washington DC 20433, September 1991. Lists potential applications in health programmes in India, distinguishing those for routine use in every village, for programme monitoring and management, and for facilitating research and development; discusses institutionalising the process.

Scrimshaw, Susan C.M. and Elena Hurtado Rapid Assessment Procedures for Nutrition and Primary Health Care: anthropological approaches to improving programme effectiveness, UNU, Tokyo, UNICEF/United Nations Children's Fund, and UCLA Latin American Center Publications, University of California, Los Angeles, 1987. The classic RAP procedures, including types of information records, observation techniques, interview and conversation techniques, focus groups, selection, training and supervision of field workers, data analysis etc...

RAP News, available from United Nations University Food and Nutrition Programme, 22 Plympton Street, Cambridge MA 02138, USA

### H. Soil, Water, Watersheds, and Zoning

\*\*\* Shah, Parmesh, Girish Bharadwaj and Ranjit Ambastha 1991 "Participatory Rural Appraisal and Planning (PRAP): The Experience of AKRSP" RRA Notes 13 pp 69-83

\*\*\* (as above) 1991 "Participatory Impact Monitoring of a Soil and Water Conservation Programme by Farmers, Extension Volunteers and AKRSP", RRA Notes 13 pp 127-131

\*\*\* Pretty, Jules 1990 Rapid Catchment Analysis for Extension Agents, Notes on the 1990 Kericho Training Workshop for the Ministry of Agriculture, Kenya, IIED

\*\*\* Pretty, Jules 1988 Rapid Agroecosystem Zoning of Alpuri Sub-division, Swat District, Northwest Frontier Province, Pakistan, IIED

\*\*\* McCracken, Jennifer A. 1988 Participatory Rapid Rural Appraisal in Gujarat: a trial model for the Aga Khan Rural Support Programme (India) IIED, November

\*\*\* Much of the agroecosystem analysis literature is relevant

#### I. Irrigation

Write to International Irrigation Management Institute, 64 Lotus Road, Colombo 1, Sri Lanka for recent sources.

Potten, David H. 1985 Rapid Rural Appraisal - Emergence of a Methodology and Its Application to Irrigation, a bibliographical review, IIMI, Colombo

#### J. Forestry

Freudenthal, Solveig and Judith Narowe Focus on People and Trees: a guide to designing and conducting community baseline studies for community forestry, Report No 20, Development Studies Unit, Department of Social Anthropology, Stockholm University, 1991

\*\*\* Inglis, Andy 1991 Harvesting Local Forestry Knowledge: a comparison of RRA and Conventional Surveys, RRA Notes 12 pp 32-40

Davis-Case, D'Arcy 1989 Community Forestry: participatory assessment, monitoring and evaluation, Community Forestry Note 2, FAO Rome (available free from Forestry Planning and Institutions Service, FAO, Via delle Terme di Caracalla, Rome 00100)

Molnar, Augusta 1989 Community Forestry: rapid appraisal, a review paper, Community Forestry Note 3, FAO Rome (available as above)

\*\*\* Soussan, John and Els Gevers 1989 Rapid Appraisal for Fuelwood Planning in Nepal, RRA Notes 5 pp 11-14

#### K. Manuals

Manuals can be good sources of ideas, but they can also intimidate and inhibit. Good PRA is adaptable and inventive, and does not slavishly follow set rules. For this reason, I recommend without reserve:

Management Training Manual, Krishi Gram Vikas Kendra, Vikas Vidyalaya, P.O.Neori, Ranchi, Bihar, India

This carefully crafted masterpiece by Ravi Jayakaran is destined to become a priceless collector's item. It has 8 printed words and a little over 100 blank pages.

Other useful sources are now numerous, and include:

Participatory Rural Appraisal Handbook: Conducting PRAs in Kenya, prepared jointly by National Environment Secretariat, Egerton University, Clark University, and the Center for International Development and Environment of the World Resources Institute, ?1989

\$10 from the World Resource Institute, 1709 New York Avenue, NW, Washington DC 20006. A handbook for preparing a village resource management plan with examples of diagrams, checklists and guidelines. A shorter version is An Introduction to Participatory Rural appraisal for Rural Resources Management, Programme for International Development, Clark University, Worcester, Mass., and National Environment Secretariat, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, Nairobi, November 1989

\*\*\* Gueye, Bara and Karen Schoonmaker Freudenberg 1991 Introduction a la Methode Acceleree de Recherche Participative (MARF), quelques notes pour appuyer une formation pratique, IIED, London, August

\*\*\* Theis, Joachim and Heather M. Grady 1991 Participatory Rapid Appraisal for Community Development, a training manual based on experiences in the Middle East and North Africa, IIED and Save the Children Federation

Rudqvist, Anders 1991 Fieldwork Methods for Consultations and Popular Participation, Working Paper No 9, Popular Participation Programme, Department of Social Anthropology, Stockholm University, 1991

A mine for ideas and experiences will be the forthcoming publications of IIED:

\*\*\* A Practical Guide for Trainers

\*\*\* Semi-structured Interviewing

\*\*\* Participatory Diagramming, Mapping and Modelling

\*\*\* Quantitative Methods in PRA: Ranking and Scoring

\*\*\* Case Studies

\*\*\* An Annotated Bibliography

Apology. Much that is good has not been included, sometimes inadvertently. There is a large literature on farmer participatory research/farmer-first approaches which I have not attempted to cover (but see appendix C for free sources). This note will be overtaken soon by the IIED Annotated Bibliography.

Please note also that this listing will quickly be out-of-date. Perhaps you can help make it so.

9 December 1991

Robert Chambers  
Institute of Development Studies  
University of Sussex  
Brighton BN1 9RE, UK

APPENDIX A

CONTENTS OF RRA NOTES BACKCOPIES

RRA Notes 1: June 1988

- |   |                    |
|---|--------------------|
| 1. RRA Methods Workshop in Thailand               | Jules Pretty       |
| 2. Notes of an RRA Meeting held in Sussex         | Robert Chambers    |
| 3. Pairwise Ranking in Ethiopia                   | Gordon Conway      |
| 4. Direct Matrix Ranking in Kenya and West Bengal | Robert Chambers    |
| 5. Recent Publications                            | Jennifer McCracken |

RRA Notes 2: October 1988

- |  |                                |
|--|--------------------------------|
| 1. Using RRA to Formulate a Village Resources Management Plan, Mbusanyi, Kenya | Charity Kabutha & Richard Ford |
| 2. Learning About Wealth: An example from Zimbabwe                             | Ian Scoones                    |
| 3. Investigating Poverty; An example from Tanzania                             | Sheila Smith and John Sender   |

RRA Notes 3: December 1988

- |  |                |
|--|----------------|
| 1. Ranking of Browse Species by Cattlekeepers in Nigeria | Wolfgang Bayer |
| 2. Direct Matrix Ranking in Papua New Guinea             | Robin Mearns   |
| 3. Sustainability Analysis                               | Iain Craig     |
| 4. Oral Histories and Local Calendars                    | Robin Mearns   |
| 5. Portraits and Stories                                 | Jules Pretty   |
| 6. Bibliographic Notes                                   |                |

RRA Notes 4: February 1989

- |  |                      |
|--|----------------------|
| 1. Wealth Ranking in a Caste Area of India     | Ruth Grosvenor-Alsop |
| 2. Popular Theatre through Video in Costa Rica | Keith Anderson       |
| 3. Participatory RRA in Gujarat                | Jennifer McCracken   |
| 4. Successful Networking!                      |                      |
| 5. Distribution List                           |                      |

RRA Notes 5: May 1989

- |   |                           |
|---|---------------------------|
| 1. Letter to the Editor   | Barbara Grandin           |
| 2. The "Fertiliser Bush" Game: A Participatory Means of Communication | Kristin Cashman           |
| 3. Rapid Appraisal for Fuelwood Planning in Nepal                     | John Soussan & Els Gevers |
| 4. Rapid Food Security Assessment: A Pilot Exercise in Sudan          | Simon Maxwell             |
| 5. RRA Has a Role to Play in Developed Countries                      | Peter Ampt & Raymond Ison |



RRA Notes 6: June 1989

1. Rapid Assessment of Artisanal Systems:  
A Case Study of Rural Carpentry  
Enterprises in Zimbabwe Godfrey Cromwell
2. The Rural Rides of William Cobbett:  
RRA and Sustainable Agriculture in 1820s Jules Pretty
3. A Note on the Use of Aerial Photographs  
for Land Use Planning on a Settlement Site  
in Ethiopia Dick Sandford
4. Using Rapid Rural appraisal for Project  
Identification: Report on a training  
exercise in Jama' are Local Government  
Area, Bauchi State, Northern Nigeria Michael Hubbard  
Robert Leurs  
& Andrew Nickson
5. Visualising Group Discussions with  
Impromptu Cartoons Ueli Scheuermeier
6. The Use of Community Theatre in  
Project Evaluation: An Experiment  
from Zimbabwe Andrea Cornwall,  
Mathou Chakavanda,  
Simbisai Makumbirofa,  
Gulter Shumba &  
Abraham Mawere

RRA Notes 7: September 1989

Special Issue of proceedings of second joint IDS/IIED RRA Review Workshop, Sussex, England. Includes summaries of presented papers on topics of diagrams, aerial photographs, interviews and groups, ranking, health, participatory approaches, and monitoring and evaluation. also includes notes on discussions of these topics, plus the ideology of RRA, the dangers of RRA, training in RRA, and the future of RRA.

RRA Notes 8: January 1990

1. Nutrition and RRA Judith Appleton
2. The Use of Wealth Ranking in Nutrition  
Surveys in Sudan Helen Young
3. The Role of Community Participants in  
RRA Methods in Ethiopia Dessalegn Debebe
4. Attitudes to Income-Earning Opportunities;  
Report of a Ranking Exercise in Ethiopia Simon Maxwell
5. Economic Classification of a Community  
Using Locally Generated Criteria Parmesh Shah
6. Publications: Manuals and Guidelines Jennifer McCracken

RRA Notes 9: August 1990

1. Wealth Ranking: A Method to Identify the Poorest Verona Groverman
2. Rapid Rural Appraisal; Lessons Learnt from Experiences in the Philippines Victoria Ortega-Espaldon & Leonardo Florece
3. Some Techniques for Rapid Rural Appraisal of Artisanal Infrastructures Godfrey Cromwell
4. Hearing Aids for Interviewing John Mitchell and Hugo Slim
5. Participatory Rural Appraisal: Is it Culturally Neutral? Thoughts from a PRA in Guinea-Bissau Weyman Fussell

RRA Notes 10: February 1990

1. Farmer Participation on On-Farm Varietal Trials: Multilocational Testing under Resource Poor Conditions The women of Sangams, Pastapur, & Michel Pimbert
2. Rural Development in the Highlands of North America: The Highlander Economic Education Project John Gaventa & Helen Lewis
3. Assessing Women's Needs in Gaza Using Participatory Rapid Appraisal Techniques Heather Grady, Amal Abu Daqqa, Fadwa Hassanein, Fatma Soboh, Itimad Muhana, Maysoon Louzon, Noha el-Beheisi, Rawhiya Fayyad, Salwa el-Tibi and Joachim Theis
4. The Bias of Interviewing John Mitchell & Hugo Slim
5. The Outsider Effect Ueli Scheuermeier
6. Focussing Formal Surveys in Thailand: A Use for Rapid Rural appraisal Karen Ehlers & Christine Martins

RRA Notes 11: May 1991

Special issue of proceedings of joint IIED and Development Administration Group (University of Birmingham), Local Level Adaptive Planning Workshop, London. Includes a summary of workshop presentations and discussions (Jules Pretty and Ian Scoones) and 15 individual papers covering five thematic areas, namely: A Critique of Landuse Planning (Barry Dalal-Clayton, Adrian Wood); Applications of Participatory Planning Approaches (Tony Gibson, Margie Buchanan Smith and Susanna Davies, Chris Roche, Melissa Leach); Institutionalising Local Level Planning (Donald Curtis, Robin Grimble, Martin Adams, Mary Tiffin, Henri Roggeri, Robert Leurs, Mal Jumare, A Andeley and S Ogede); Governments and NGOs Linkages (Kate Wellard, Tony Bebbington); and Organisational and Management Issues (Alan Fowler).

RRA Notes 12: July 1991

1. Some Advantages to Having an Outsider  
on the Team Don Messerschmidt
2. Revolutionary Rural Appraisal Susan Johnson
3. Participatory Mapping and Modelling:  
User's Notes James Mascarenhas  
& P D Prem Kumar
4. Rapid Appraisal for Women in the North  
West Frontier of Pakistan Mehreen Hosain
5. Harvesting Local Forestry Knowledge;  
A Comparison of RRA and Conventional Surveys Andy Inglis
6. Beyond Chapatis Mick Howes
7. Topical Surveys as a Tool for a More  
Dynamic Farmer-Extension Worker  
Relationship Antony van der Loo
8. End Notes

RRA NOTES 13 CONTENTS

PARTICIPANTS AT PRA TRAINERS WORKSHOP

A: OVERVIEW OF WORKSHOP

PRA in India: Review and Future Directions - James Mascarenhas, Parmesh Shah, Sam Joseph, Ravi Jayakaran, John Devavaram, Vidya Ramachandran, Aloysius Fernandez, Robert Chambers and Jules Pretty page...10

B: PRA PAPERS

1. PRA and Participatory Learning Methods: Recent Experiences from MYRADA and South India - James Mascarenhas page...49
2. Sharing our Limited Experience for Trainers - Aloysius Fernandez, James Mascarenhas and Vidya Ramachandran page...58
3. Participatory Rural Appraisal and Planning (PRAP): The Experience of AKRSP - Parmesh Shah, Girish Bharadwaj and Ranjit Ambastha page...69
4. Farmers as Analysts and Facilitators in Participatory Rural Appraisal and Planning - Parmesh Shah, Girish Bharadwaj and Ranjit Ambastha page...84
5. PRA in Malda District, West Bengal: Report of a Training Workshop for ActionAid India and Tagore Society for Rural Development - Thomas Joseph and Sam Joseph page...95
6. PRA for Rural Resource Management - John Devavaram, Ms Nalini, J. Vimalnathan, Abdul Sukkar, Krishnan, A P Mayandi and Karunanidhi page...102
7. Anantapur Experiment in PRA Training - Somesh Kumar page...112
8. PRA Camp at Mahilong, Bihar: Krishi Gram Vikas Kendra - Ravi Jayakaran page... 118
9. Wealth Ranking in Mahilong, Bihar - Anup Sarkar page...123

10. PRA Approach and Strategy: the HIDA/MYRADA Agroforestry Programme in Andhra Pradesh - Eva Robinson  
page...125
11. Participatory Impact Monitoring of a Soil and Water Conservation Programme by Farmers, Extension Volunteers and AKRSP - Parmesh Shah, Girish Bharadwaj and Ranjit Ambastha  
page...127
12. PRA: A Brief Note on ActionAid's Experience - Sam Joseph  
page...132
13. MYRADA Kamasamudram Project: A Brief Report - A L Shivaraja, Rajendra Prasad, T G Bhat, Anjaneya Reddy, Amarnatha Jadav and Benedicta Cutinha  
page...134

C: ENDNOTES

1. Contacts for PRA field learning experience
2. Free sources on RRA/PRA

D: CONTENTS OF BACKCOPIES OF RRA NOTES 1-12

APPENDIX B

VIDEOS ON PARTICIPATORY APPRAISAL AND RESEARCH

This is an interim listing of known videos and how to obtain them.

\* The IPRA Method (? 1989).

This video shows how farmers can participate in agricultural research. It is based on the interactions of an agronomist and a social anthropologist with farmers in Colombia, and field trials with different varieties of beans and of cassava. It shows the farmers taking part in designing experiments, carrying them out, and evaluating the results. Recommended especially for explaining why farmers should be involved, for how to learn from farmers, and for rural people's evaluation of agricultural technology.

Available, cost not known, possibly free, from The IPRA Programme, CIAT (Centro Internacional de Agricultura Tropical (check), AA 6713, Cali, Colombia

\* Rapid Assessment Procedures for Nutrition and Primary Health Care (exact title not known)

This is a 17-minute instructional video which shows the application of Rapid Assessment Procedure (RAP) techniques to a Foster Parents Plan project in Guatemala. The video demonstrates the techniques, which are largely anthropological, and their applications and principles.

The video costing \$17.40 (or \$35.00 in the PAL version) can be obtained by sending an order and cheque (payable to Regents--U.C.) to UCLA Latin American Center, University of California, Los Angeles CA 90024-1447, USA

\* A Participant's Diary of a PRA Exercise: Garuda-Kempanahalli, May 22 - 24, 1990 (1990)

A 25-30 minute video sponsored by MYRADA, an NGO in South India, which shows a participatory rural appraisal exercise and methods where an outside team camps in a village. This includes outsiders being taught village tasks by villagers, participatory modelling, transects, seasonal diagramming, and matrix ranking. The commentary has a male American voice which should not be allowed to distract from the quality and range of the video. Recommended as the best introduction to PRA.

\* Participatory Research with Women Farmers (1991)

A 25-30 minute highly professional video showing Indian women farmers' conducting trials and selection of pest-resistant pigeon-pea varieties, in consultation with an ICRISAT entomologist. Explains and shows the why and how of farmer participation, including matrix ranking by farmers of different pigeon-pea varieties according to ten criteria of their choice. This leads to the rejection of one national release and one ICRISAT variety. This video stresses the importance of biological diversity to farmers. Recommended for presenting the case for new roles for scientists and farmers, for offsetting gender biases, for biological diversity, and for involving farmers in the research process.

Available from TVE, Postbox 7, 3700 AA Zeist, The Netherlands, free of charge to organizations in developing countries. For organizations in the developed world, a charge of £20 will be made. Please enclose your remittance with your order.

This video deals with ways of involving farming communities in the production of pest-resistant cultivars for the complex, risk-prone agriculture of the semi-arid tropics. The video is designed as an educational tool which:

1. explains why farmers should be involved in the evaluation of pest-resistant lines developed on research stations where conditions differ from those on farmers' fields in the semi-arid tropics;
2. shows how scientists can facilitate a process whereby resource-poor farmers assess genetic material grown under their circumstances and with their own management. Farmers are effectively involved in a decentralized research mode that seeks to complement the transfer of technology model of agricultural research and development.

Through its focus on participatory research with women farmers the video implicitly or explicitly invites reflection and public debate on the following topics:

- The choice of research styles that best support diversity as a means to sustainability and food security in risk-prone, complex environments.
- The need to acknowledge and formally reward women farmers for their contributions to the creation, conservation, and use of genetic diversity as part of their food-provisioning activities.
- How to integrate formal plant breeding and local seed selection in ways that will ensure the survival of biological diversity at the farm level and democratic control over the information built into seeds—the first link in the food chain.
- The changes in institutions, attitudes and behavior that allow people to learn and create knowledge through a process of mutual dialogue and collective enquiry, in the context of Noeleen Heyzer's statement: *"The issue of concern is who makes the choice of technology. Normally, those least affected by the choice are the ones responsible for determining that choice, while those who are forced to live with the technology have the least say in the matter"*.

A film conceived by Michel P. Pimbert, Principal Entomologist, Legumes Program, ICRISAT, directed by P.V. Sathesh, and created by Development Perspectives, Hyderabad, India.

### Order Form

Copies available from T.V.E., Postbox 7, 3700 AA Zeist, The Netherlands; telephone (31) 3404 20499; fax (31) 3404 22484; e-mail GEONET Geo2: TVE-NL

Please send me ..... copies of the video *Participatory Research with Women Farmers* to:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Organization: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I require the video in the following formats and languages (please tick box):

Format	Standard	Language
VHS <input type="checkbox"/>	PAL <input type="checkbox"/>	English <input type="checkbox"/>
BETAMAX <input type="checkbox"/>	NTSC <input type="checkbox"/>	French <input type="checkbox"/>
	SECAM <input type="checkbox"/>	Spanish <input type="checkbox"/>

(For broadcast use) : BVU (Hi-band)  U-MATIC (Lo-Band)

This video is available free of charge to organizations in developing countries. For organizations in the developed world, a charge of £ 20 will be made. Please enclose your remittance with your order.

I enclose information on our organization and how the video will be used. Yes  No   
 I would like more information on the videos TVE distributes. Yes  No

# Participatory Research with Women Farmers

*New Video*



*"...a splendid effort in every way. It hits many nails on the head, firmly and without fanfare... women are farmers, farmers participate in trials and selection, their criteria often differ from scientists, farmers can use matrix ranking, scientists can have good rapport with farmers, rainfed farming is complex and different, and needs diversity..."*

*"Methodologically, it is at the cutting edge for the agricultural professions. And as a professional production it is difficult to fault!"*

*Robert Chambers, Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex, UK*



*"I am quite convinced this will make a significant impact on research, planning and extension institutions worldwide. The messages, substance and learning points are very clear..."*

*Stiles N. Pretty, Director, Sustainable Agriculture Programme, International Institute for Environment and Development, London, UK*



**Television Trust for the Environment (TVE)**

**International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT)**



### *Appendix: Sources of further information which are free to Third World readers*

Some of the main sources of information are still highly priced journals like *Agricultural Administration and Extension* (now merged with *Agricultural Systems* to become the *Journal of Agricultural Systems*) which many libraries let alone individuals, cannot afford. Access to free information is now harder because of the astonishing error of judgment of FAO in suspending or terminating *Ceres* and *Unasyva*, which were free to Third World Readers. Readers who wish to remain up-to-date with developments and/or to share their methods and experiences with others do have other sources available free of cost. In some cases, there are charges for those on first world salaries.

CIAT – Centro Internacional de Agricultura Tropical, AA 6713, Cali, Colombia. A bibliography on farmer participatory research, with 35 per cent of the entries in Spanish. Also a video on farmer participation in agricultural research can be obtained free in VHS or Beta for USA standard television by sending a blank tape to the Co-ordinator, Participatory Research Projects, CIAT.

*CIKARD News*, concentrating on indigenous knowledge systems, decision-making, organization and innovations, available from Center for Indigenous Knowledge for Agriculture and Rural Development, Iowa State University, 319 Curtiss Hall, Ames, IA 50011, USA.

CTA – Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Co-operation (ACP-EEC Lome Convention), Postbus 380, 6700 AJ Wageningen, The Netherlands. Established to improve access to technical information on agricultural development for ACP (Africa, Caribbean, Pacific) states. ACP nationals may request free subscriptions to the bimonthly bulletin *Spore* and free access to Question-Answer and Document Delivery Services.

*Agroforestry Today*. Available from the International Council for Research in Agroforestry, PO Box 30677, Nairobi, Kenya, quarterly.

*ILEIA Newsletter*. Individuals and organizations in the Third World may request free subscriptions from Information Centre for Low External Input Agriculture, PO Box 64, 3830 AB Leusden, The Netherlands, quarterly, 28pp. Two issues in May 1988 covered sources of information: *Towards Sustainable Agriculture: Part 1, abstracts, periodicals, organizations; Part 2 bibliography*. The October 1988 issue was on *Participative Technology Development* (also in French). Also free to the Third World, *Proceedings of the ILEIA Workshop on Participatory Technology Development in Sustainable Agriculture, April 1988*.

International Institute for Environment and Development, 3 Endsleigh Street, London WC1H 0DD, UK, produces an informal newsheet, *RRA Notes*, with information on rapid rural appraisal methods and experiences. Also McCracken, JA., Pretty JN and Conway GR, 1988, *An Introduction to Rapid Rural Appraisal for Agricultural Development* is available free to the Third World. The Drylands Development Programme, IIED, publishes *Haramata*, a quarterly newsletter, which aims to network between researchers, NGOs and policy makers involved in dryland development questions, and investigates current dryland development issues. Available free to the Third World.

Overseas Development Institute, Regent's College, Inner Circle, Regent's Park, London NW1 4NS, UK, has an *Agricultural Administration (Research and Extension) Network Newsletter and Discussion Papers*, including farmer participatory research, issued twice yearly. Also available while stocks last: *Experimental Agriculture* vol 24 part 3 1988 (special issue on farmer participatory research) and John Farrington and Adrienne Martin, *Farmer Participatory Research: a review of concepts and Practices*, *ODI Occasional Paper No 9*. A Network Paper containing abstracts of some 200 papers on farmer participatory research will be available in spring 1989. ODI has a specialist Agricultural Administration library with computerized search facilities available to visitors. ODI's other networks (on Social Forestry, Pastoral Development and Irrigation Management) operate similarly and also carry papers on participatory approaches to management and technology development.

*Reading Rural Development Communications Bulletin*, published by the Agricultural Extension and Rural Development Department, University of Reading, London Road, Reading RG1 5AQ, UK, twice yearly, covering a range of participatory approaches. Free of charge on an exchange basis, or £7.50 per four issues.

*World Neighbors in Action*, a newsletter with practical new ideas and tested practices in Third World agriculture, published by World Neighbors 5116 Portland Avenue, Oklahoma City, OK 73112, USA. Available free to the Third World.

The following organisations have opened their doors to others who wish to gain field experience of PRA. This often takes the form of a 3 to 5 day camp in a village, during which a number of PRA methods are used by villagers and outsiders.

These are the contact addresses in alphabetical order. Some of the organisations work in a number of different places.

<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Chief Executive or equivalent</u>	<u>Telephone</u>
Action Aid 3 Resthours Road Bangalore 560 001	Ravi Narayanan	0812 564 682/3
Activists for Social Alternatives 19-B Mallisahib Street Tiruchirapalli 620 008	S. Devaraj	
Aga Khan Rural Support Programme Choice Premises Swastik Cross Road Navrangpura Ahmedabad 380 009 Gujarat	Anil C Shah	Tel: 0272 464029 0272 464730 Telex: 0121 257 ARSP IN
Krishi Gram Vikas Kendra Vikas Vidyalaya PO Neori Ranchi Bihar	Ravi Jayakaran	0651 7268
MYRADA 2 Service Road Domlur Layout Bangalore 560 071	Aloysius Fernandez	0812 572028 0812 576166
Seva Bharati PO Kapgari District Midnapur West Bengal 721 505	Kamal Kar	JGM EX KAP EXTN-1
SPEECH 14 Jeyaraja Illam Kiruba Nagar Madurai 625 014	John Devavaram	0452 46370

Action Aid, Bangalore is acting as a clearing house for information about forthcoming field camps, workshops and training, and may be the best first contact if you want to find out more.

11 August 1991

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#### FREE SOURCES ON RRA/PRA

There is now a large literature. Quite a lot of it is specialised, for investigations of health, agroecology, soils, irrigation, social forestry, watershed management, and so on. Quite a lot of it is also ephemeral.

All the items below are free on request. It is simply up to you to write for them. It is amazing how many people do not write when it comes to the crunch, even when they are active practitioners! But that is a shame, because a lot of ideas can be picked up quickly from these various writings. And by writing your own notes for RRA Notes you can share your experience with others.

#### Keeping Up-to-date

There have been many developments in the past twelve months and India is probably the major current centre of innovation in the world. More innovations can be expected. If you want to find out about these, and keep up-to-date, write and request these two series of papers:

- \* The PRA/PALM Series, available from Vidya Ramachandran, MYRADA, 2 Service Road, Domlur Layout, Bangalore 650 071.

PALM stands for Participatory Learning Methods. Ask for back numbers. This series reports on MYRADA's extensive and expanding experience.

- \* RRA Notes, available from Jules Pretty, International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), 3 Endsleigh Street, London WC1H 0DD. This makes available experience gained in many countries, including India. Ask for back numbers. All this will cost you is the price of an aerogramme.

#### Sources on Participatory Rural Appraisal

- \* Mascarenhas, James, 1990. Planning and Implementing a PRA, MYRADA PALM Series IVa; Interviewing in PRA, MYRADA PALM Series IVb; Enhancing Participation in PRAs, MYRADA PALM Series IVc.
- \* Fernandez, Aloysius, James Mascarenhas and Vidya Ramachandran, 1990 (Reflections on Recent Experience), MYRADA PALM Series 5.
- \* The PALM Series also has a paper on participatory mapping and modelling.
- \* McCracken, Jennifer, 1988, Participatory Rapid Rural Appraisal in Gujarat: a trial model for the Aga Khan Rural Support Programme (India), IIED, London.
- \* An Introduction to Participatory Rural Appraisal for Rural Resources Management. A brief but useful summary, based on Kenyan experience. Also a larger PRA Handbook. Both available from IIED.
- \* IIED is also producing a series of six manuals this year, to be published and distributed free by FAO. For copies, write to IIED.

Robert Chambers  
17 July 1991