

For Uganda Bibliography

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~~Draft~~

It is an honour to be invited to write this foreword. As elsewhere, so in Uganda, PRA has spread fast. At the same time, some practitioners and writers have been openly self-critical, setting an example to others, and helping all of us to learn. That makes this publication both timely and useful.

As PRA has spread, the need to document, analyse and share experience has become acute. Much has been written, but clear and practical guides to good sources of information and insight have been few. This annotated bibliography helps to fill that gap. It is to my knowledge the first to collect and review materials from a single country. And the range of applications is impressive, including literacy, training, research, children, natural resources management, community health care, water and sanitation, gender, and community planning, action and dynamics.

This bibliography sets an example which should inspire others to follow elsewhere. It will be good, too, if it encourages Ugandans and others to continue and intensify recording and writing about PRA-related experiences. Two sets of topics, neglected world-wide, stand out as opportunities for a special Ugandan contribution.

The first is continuing to learn about engagement with communities over time, and their internal processes after PRA activities. Not enough is known or understood about PRA and community dynamics - who takes part, who is left out, who gains and who loses, from PRA-related processes, and how they can be made more equitable.

The second ~~contribution~~ concerns scaling up: what happens when PRA approaches and methods are spread fast and widely, with all the dangers that entails, and what should best be done and not done.

With both these concerns, there is much for all of us to learn. And there are many, in other countries and continents, who could benefit from past and future innovations and experiences in Uganda.

This annotated bibliography is a fine start. Let me hope that it will be widely available within Uganda and internationally, be well used, and inspire more practitioners to share their experiences through writing.

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