

PTD CIRCULAR

Six-monthly update on Participatory Technology Development

No. 11, September 1999

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Introduction

Welcome to PTD Circular No. 11!

From this issue onwards, the Circular will be sent to subscribers in electronic form - at least to all subscribers who have given us an email address. We are sending the Circular as an attachment in Rich Text Format. If you have trouble opening the attachment, please let us know and we will send you the Circular as simple text in the email message itself. If a large number of email subscribers prefer to receive the Circular as simple text, we will convert completely to that with the next issue

If you would like to obtain the PTD Circular with the previous type of layout - and if you have access to the WorldWideWeb and have the Adobe Acrobat Reader software - you can download the PDF file from both the ETC website and the ILEIA website.

Those of you without access to email will receive photocopies of a printout by post. Organisations in some countries (e.g. Cameroon, Ethiopia, India, Mexico, Sri Lanka) have offered to download a formatted version of the Circular from the Web and mail printouts to subscribers in their area who do not have email. This helps us by reducing costs and helps them by bringing them into closer contact with people in their own area who are interested in PTD. If you would like to be involved in networking in this way, please let us know!

This new system will need some time to be set up properly. We apologise for any delay in communications to you.

Why a PTD Circular?

For those of you who are reading this Circular for the first time, we want to let you know how and why it started and what we are trying to achieve with it.

The PTD Circular is compiled with the aim of informing a wide readership about documentation on experiences in Participatory Technology Development (PTD) in low-external-input and sustainable agriculture (LEISA) and in natural resource management (NRM). The initiative was proposed by the St Ulrich Group, an informal association of Europe-based PTD practitioners. The Group felt that many interesting experiences are being made in the field, but most are not formally published and need to be made more widely known. Moreover, from the mass of information actually published on "participation", it is difficult to sift out what is useful to people working in PTD in the field. This we try to do.

The Circular is mainly an annotated bibliography of recent publications, reports and sometimes audiovisuals, but also includes short items about past and upcoming events (e.g. workshops, training activities, exchange meetings) related to PTD, as well as short notes on networks and on programmes in progress. It is intended for both PTD practitioners and PTD analysts.

PTD involves a series of activities: facilitating situation analysis by resource users, looking for promising opportunities, supporting farmer experimentation, joint monitoring and evaluation, farmer-to-farmer extension, and institutional development and networking to sustain the process. The Circular focuses on experimentation and extension by farmers, related experiences in monitoring and evaluation, and institutional aspects of scaling up PTD.

The Circular is prepared roughly every six months. Its content depends on what is submitted to the editors. If you have new information about activities related to PTD, please let us know, mentioning the source, and send us a copy. Documents mentioned in the Circular should be ordered directly from the source. If no source is given, photocopies are available from ILEIA at cost price.

The first 10 issues of the Circular were distributed in print; the texts can be accessed via the ETC website (www.etcint.org) and the ILEIA website (www.oneworld.org/ileia). Click in the righthand windowframe on "Newsletters", then click on "PTD Circular". A limited number of back issues is still available in print (see address at end of text).

Finally, please note that correspondence regarding subscriptions and dissemination will be handled from now on by the ILEIA secretariat. We would like to thank Ellen Radstake for the administrative support she gave to the Circular in the past three years, and we also thank Jan Hiensch for his work in laying out the Circular since its first issue.

We welcome your comments and suggestions regarding the PTD Circular and, of course, your contributions of information to be included in it!

The editors

● Annotated publications

Blaikie P, Brown K, Stocking M, Tang L, Dixon P & Sillitoe P. 1997. **Knowledge in action: local knowledge as a development resource and barriers to its incorporation in natural resource research and development.** *Agricultural Systems* 55 (2): 217-237.

Key words: development, intellectual property rights, local knowledge, natural resources, research

Examines how local knowledge (LK) is viewed in the dynamics of technical change in classic, neo-liberal and neo-populist approaches to development. Where holders of local and scientific knowledge interface, LK may be denied, appropriated, ventriloquised, esteemed, negotiated or used for empowerment. Discusses why LK has seldom played a role in British-funded development projects, suggests how structural and behavioural barriers to its incorporation could be removed, and identifies situations in which it may be inappropriate to promote LK as a development resource.

Carreno B, Flores A, Webb M & Pound B. 1999. **Experiencias en metodologías de investigación participativa en las provincias Ichilo y Sara.** 133 pp + annex. CIAT, Avda Ejército Nacional 131 (ciat@bibosi.scz.entelnet.bo) / Natural Resources Institute, Central Ave, Chatham, Kent ME4 4TB, UK (B. Pound@greenwich.ac.uk).

Key words: Bolivia, experimentation, farmer-scientist interaction, methodology, networking, participatory research

Description and critical analysis of methodologies of 5 years' participatory research with farmers who were validating and adapting technologies generated by CIAT and other international research centres for the margins of humid tropical forests.

Clark R. 1997. **Starting with a vision or the mess: a new technique to enable people to identify opportunities to**

change their practice. Second Australasia Pacific Extension Network Conference, Albany. 8 pp. Rural Extension Centre, University of Queensland, Gatton College, Lawes, Queensland 4343, Australia (ClarkR@prose.dpi.qld.gov.au).

Key words: Australia, farmer organisation, learning tool, local knowledge

Describes the "Local Best Practices" technique for understanding local situations, needs and constraints and identifying opportunities for action. This involves facilitating dialogue in small groups of farmers, based primarily on their own knowledge and experience, to feed into a farmer-led problem-solving process of situation analysis, problem identification, generating possible solutions, selecting appropriate solutions, trying them out and evaluating the results.

Critchley W, Miirio D, Ellis-Jones J, Briggs S & Tumuhairwe J. 1999. **Traditions and innovations in land husbandry: building on local knowledge in Kabale, Uganda.** Technical Report 20. 56 pp. Regional Land Management Unit, ICRAF House, POB 63403, Nairobi, Kenya.

Key words: Uganda, farmer innovators, land husbandry, local knowledge, on-farm trials, monitoring and evaluation, soil conservation, water

A condensed publication describing the process and results of a 4-year participatory research programme on soil and water conservation in Uganda. The approach evolved from studying local practices to collaboration between farmers, researchers and (to a lesser extent) extension workers in developing and disseminating relevant practices of soil and water conservation. An increasing number of farmer innovators assumed a central role in the programme. Cross visits and network development were important complementary activities.

DFID. 1999. **Socio-economic methodologies for natural resources research: best**

practice guidelines. 73 pp. NRI Catalogue Services, CAB International, Wallingford, Oxon OX10 8DE, UK.

Key words: dissemination, farmer-led extension, natural resources, participatory research, monitoring and evaluation, stakeholder analysis

A synthesis of practical guidelines written for researchers, research managers or others with a strong interest in research. It has 5 volumes: Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation, Participatory Research, Stakeholder Methodologies, Dissemination Pathways, and Local Knowledge. Each describes how the approach should be used, by whom, where and when. The first 2 volumes are particularly valuable and cover the theme well, while clearly distinguishing various levels of user participation.

Farrington J, Thirtle C & Henderson S. 1997. **Methodologies for monitoring and evaluating agricultural and natural resources research.** *Agricultural Systems* 55 (2): 272-300.

Key words: agricultural research, economic assessment, methods, monitoring and evaluation

Examines ways of monitoring and evaluating research in economic terms and by means of the Project Logical Framework (Logframe). Of greatest interest to PTD practitioners will be the section on adapting the Logframe for use in monitoring farmer participatory research. However, efforts to make the Logframe sensitive to process and to the diverse expectations of different stakeholders render it cumbersome. This increases the attraction of alternative, process-based ways of monitoring change.

Floyd S. 1999. **When is quantitative data collection appropriate in farmer participatory research and development? Who should analyse the data and how?** *AgREN Network Paper* 92, pp 9-14. ODI Agricultural Research & Extension Network, Portland House, Stag Place, London

SW1E 5DP, UK; Fax +44-171-3931699 (agren@odi.org.uk). *Key words: data analysis, data collection, statistical methods, participatory research*

Focuses on the choice between quantitative and qualitative methods in farmer participatory research. Stresses the importance of understanding the relationship between research objectives and the types of trials that will ensure these objectives are met. Shows the usefulness - also to farmers - of statistical analysis and modelling in understanding variations in outcomes of joint experimentation.

FTPP. 1999. **Farmer-scientist partnerships in the Philippines: strengthening the spirit of sharing.** *Forests, Trees and People Newsletter* 39: 24-27. Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Dept of Rural Development Studies, Box 7005, 750 07 Uppsala, Sweden; Fax +46-18-673420 (ftpp.network@lbutv.slu.se).

Key words: Philippines, farmer organisation, farmer-scientist linkages, genetic resources, maize, plant breeding, rice

Interview with Oscar Zamora, professor at the University of the Philippines at Los Baños, about MASIPAG (Farmer-Scientist Partnership for Development), a network of farmer organisations and local communities that develop locally-adapted crop varieties, mainly of rice and maize, for chemical-free farming. The programme promotes genetic diversity, including maintenance of local varieties, and involves plant breeding, crossing and related experimentation by farmers in consultation with scientists.

Guijt I & van Veldhuizen L. 1998. **What tools? Which steps? Comparing PRA and PTD.** Issue Paper 79. 33 pp. International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), 3 Endsleigh St, London WC1H 0DD, UK; Fax +44-171-3882826 (drylands@iied.org).

Key words: methodology, participatory development, PRA, PTD

Assesses the relative

strengths and weaknesses of Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) and Participatory Technology Development (PTD) and how these approaches to agricultural research and development complement each other. Describes the origins and methodology of each approach, highlights the differences and explains, with examples, in what situations these approaches are most applicable. Useful for anyone who finds all the "P..." acronyms confusing.

Hagmann J, Chuma E, Murwira K & Connolly M. 1999. **Putting process into practice: operationalising participatory extension.** *AgREN Network Paper 94*. 18 pp. ODI Agricultural Research & Extension Network, Portland House, Stag Place, London SW1E 5DP, UK; Fax +44-171-3931699 (agren@odi.org.uk).

Key words: Zimbabwe, community development, institutionalisation, learning, process approach, participatory extension

The participatory extension approach applied in Zimbabwe is systematised into steps, to allow extension agents to understand the process dynamics but avoid a blueprint implementation. The approach is based on social mobilisation through community-based action planning and experiential learning, during which new ideas are tried out and the results evaluated. Innovations result from social negotiation and are spread through good organisation and communication at community level. Extension is geared to strengthening mechanisms for joint learning and sharing of experiences among farmers and between farmers and outsiders.

Hall A & Nahdy S. 1999. **New methods and old institutions: the 'systems context' of farmer participatory research in national agricultural research systems - the case of Uganda.** *AgREN Network Paper 93*. 10 pp. Overseas Development Institute Agricultural Research & Extension Network, Portland House, Stag Place, London SW1E 5DP, UK; Fax +44-171-3931699 (agren@odi.org.uk).

Key words: Uganda, farmer participatory research, institutional issues, national research systems

A case study in Uganda shows that, despite apparent acceptance of a participatory approach in the national research system, the fundamental nature of the relationship between scientists and farmers remains unchanged. The professional behaviour of scientists, resulting from historical patterns of institutional development, and the complex interrelationships of actors and resources in the system makes participatory research incompatible. Advocacy of participation becomes prescriptive and coercive. This is a systemic problem and requires fundamental institutional change.

Harmmeijer J, Waters-Bayer A & Bayer W. 1999. **Dimensions of participation: experiences from Zimbabwe and the Sudan.** Gatekeeper Series No. 83. 20 pp. IIED Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Livelihoods Programme, 3 Endsleigh St, London WC1H 0DD, UK (sustag@iied.org).

Key words: Sudan, Zimbabwe, participatory evaluation, pastoral development, water development

Analysis of experience with participatory evaluation (PE) in a small-dam rehabilitation project in Zimbabwe and a development programme with Beja pastoralists in the Red Sea Hills of the Sudan. Argues that participatory evaluation can refer to participation not only of communities but also of other stakeholders such as project staff, local authorities and funding agencies. The principles and methods described are relevant to evaluation activities within PTD.

Haverkort B & Hiemstra W (eds). 1999. **Food for thought: ancient visions and new experiments of rural people.** 237 pp. ZED Books, 7 Cynthia St, London N1 9JF, UK (sales@zedbooks.demon.co.uk) / Books for Change, 28 Castle St, Ashok Nagar, Bangalore 560 025, India; Fax +91-80-5586284 / COMPAS, POB 64, NL-3830 AB Leusden, Netherlands

(compas@etcnl.nl).

Key words: cosmovision, culture, endogenous development, farmer experimentation, health, local knowledge, spirituality, sustainable agriculture

This book takes the understanding of indigenous knowledge in a new direction. It goes beyond the usual technical dimensions and deals with traditional worldviews and the role of traditional, often spiritual, leaders. It provides rich case material on how innovative development organisations, often NGOs, support rural people to carry out experiments based on local holistic concepts. It argues that PTD can successfully promote endogenous development only if change agents heed and accept the cultural and spiritual aspects of local people's knowledge.

Igbokwe EM. 1999. **From process to innovation: land use intensity practices among smallholder rice farmers in Eastern Nigeria.** *Indigenous Knowledge and Development Monitor 7* (1): 3-7 (ikdm@nuffic.nl).

Key words: Nigeria, farmer innovation, intensive farming, rice, smallholder farmers

Examines how smallholders select components of technical packages disseminated by extension, to use in their own experimentation for their specific needs. Farmer innovations include yam/rice rotation and making mounds to incorporate organic matter in rice fields. Argues that the contact-farmer approach of the Training-and-Visit system tends to overlook local innovation.

IIRR. 1999. **Farmers changing the face of technology: choices and adaptations of technology options.** 67 pp. International Institute of Rural Reconstruction, Silang, Cavite, Philippines (iirr@cav.pworld.net.ph).

Key words: Philippines, Vietnam, farmer experimentation, farmer groups, farmer-to-farmer extension, participatory research, policy development, upland development

Very interesting publication

summarising the main findings of participatory research on technology use, adoption and adaptation in 4 participatory extension projects. Reveals how farmers in the project areas used the introduced technologies in greatly varied ways, adopted only components and adapted other parts. This relegates the concept of mere "adoption" completely to the past: farmers' technology is obviously in continuous transition. Although all 4 projects promoted some form of farmer-to-farmer extension, the poorer farmers were not reached adequately. The role of groups had been overstressed and the farmer extensionists did little to encourage other farmers to experiment with the various techniques.

Jackson ET & Kassam Y (eds). 1998. **Knowledge shared: participatory evaluation in development cooperation.** 252 pp. International Development Research Centre (IDRC), POB 8500, Ottawa K1G 3H9, Canada / Kumarian Press, 14 Oakwood Ave, West Hartford, Connecticut 06119-2127, USA.

Key words: development projects, empowerment, ethics, human resource development, impact assessment, participatory evaluation, process evaluation

Compilation of contributions documenting practical experiences with participatory evaluation. Though it includes little specifically about agricultural development activities, a number of contributions present very useful lessons, e.g. on setting indicators for less tangible programme outputs such as strengthened capacities for community development.

Kolli RD, Lanting H & Naidu YD. 1998. **Leaf wetness counter: a case study of institutional partnership towards sustainable groundnut production in South India.** Paper for International Workshop on Research Partnerships between NGOs and Agricultural Research Institutions. 20 pp. Agriculture Man Ecology Programme, POB 7836, JP Nagar, Bangalore 560078, India (amebang@giasbg01.vsnl.net.in).

Key words: India, groundnuts, research partnership, small-holder farming

Account of ongoing collaboration between small and marginal groundnut farmers in Andhra Pradesh, NGOs and an international agricultural research institute (ICRISAT) to develop an early-warning system for the spread of leaf spot in groundnuts. Describes the process of jointly developing the leaf-wetness counter, and the role of the various actors in this process.

Leeuwen L van. 1998. **Approaches for successful merging of indigenous forest-related knowledge with formal forest management.** Working Paper IKC-N W-165. 45 pp. NLG 10 (free for requesters outside the Netherlands). National Reference Centre for Nature Management, POB 30, NL-6700 AA Wageningen, Netherlands; Fax +31-317-474930 (c.h.de.pater@ikcn.agro.nl).

Key words: certification, community forestry, farmer-scientist interaction, indigenous peoples, local knowledge, local organisation, nature conservation, property rights

Reports the results of a desk study and expert consultation on forest-related indigenous knowledge (IK). A rich overview that presents IK not as something technical to be validated by others but as part of local peoples' culture and life to be taken as starting point for development work. A PTD approach is recommended for this, with the full realisation that internalisation of such an approach in the forestry sector will not be easy.

Martin A & Sherington J. 1997. **Participatory research methods: implementation, effectiveness and institutional context.** *Agricultural Systems* 55 (2): 195-216.

Key words: Bolivia, Kenya, Uganda, communication, data analysis, gender issues, institutional issues, monitoring, participatory research, statistical methods

Outlines the main debates in participatory research and

PTD: wider applicability of findings, issues of data analysis and use of statistics, resources required, monitoring and evaluation, and gender issues. Assessment of effectiveness of PTD is based on cases involving agriculture in forest margins in Bolivia, dryland farming in Kenya, and research on soil fertility and on plant disease in Uganda. Discusses problems of institutionalising PTD in national research and extension.

Mavedzenge BZ, Murimbarimba F & Mudzivo C. 1999. **Experiences of farmer participation in soil fertility research in Southern Zimbabwe.** *Managing Africa's Soils* No. 5. 18 pp. IIED Drylands Programme, 4 Hanover St, Edinburgh EH2 2EN, UK (thea.hilhorst@iied.org).

Key words: Zimbabwe, participatory research, soil fertility

Documents the experiences of the Farming Research Unit with participatory research on soil fertility in Chivi, Zimbabwe. Special focus is on the empowerment process used to convert farmers from spectators in on-farm research to co-researchers involved in planning for their own technology development. During implementation, it was found that working with farmer research groups gave better results than the individual approach. Farmer experiments with new maize varieties led to adoption rates as high as 74%, whereas new soil fertility technology showed much lower adoption rates (ca. 26%).

McCartney A, Rea E, Clark R & Robinson E. 1997. **Best practices: extension that makes a difference to practices and performance.** Second Australasia Pacific Extension Network Conference, Albury. 7 pp. Kunwarara Best Practices Group, Princhester, Kunwarara via Rockhampton, Queensland 47032, Australia.

Key words: Australia, extension, farmer organisation, learning tool, local knowledge
A group of land managers in Australia describe how they learn through a "Best Practices" process, which involves planning, understanding principles and benefits, changing

attitudes and focusing dialogue. The six critical questions in the process are: Where are we now? What will make a difference? What can we do? What target do we aim for? How will we know? How will we learn best and fastest? Includes a SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats) analysis of the process.

McCown RL, Carberry PS, Foale MA, Hochman Z, Coutts JA & Dalgliesh NP. 1998. **The FARMSCAPE approach to farming systems research.** *Proceedings of 9th Australian Agronomy Conference, Wagga Wagga, New South Wales*, pp 633-636.

Key words: Australia, action research, farming systems, on-farm research, simulation, soil monitoring

From 6 years of participatory action research has emerged Farmers', Advisers' and Researchers' Monitoring, Simulation, Communication And Performance Evaluation (FARMSCAPE) as an approach to supporting farmers' management of dryland crop production. The partners discuss management options and implications on the basis of a simulation model of farmers' own land, crops and management. This allows joint experimentation, learning and technology development by simulation, before testing the most promising adaptations in the field. Farmers' interest in soil sampling to improve the simulation has increased greatly.

Nathaniels N. 1998. **Development of participatory agriculture in Lindi and Mtwara.** In: *Paths for change: experiences in participation and democratisation in Lindi and Mtwara Regions, Tanzania*, pp 36-42. Rural Integrated Project Support (RIPS) Programme Phase II, Box 113, Mtwara, Tanzania/Embassy of Finland, PO Box 2455, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

Key words: Tanzania, institutionalisation, participatory extension, training

RIPS worked for 4 years with the regional and district extension services to develop and implement a participatory ex-

tension approach. A series of training activities was undertaken on, among other things, PRA, training and facilitation, and planning. Working from within the existing structure, an effort was made to transform it gradually to suit the requirements of a participatory orientation to extension.

Pound B. 1999. **The appropriate use of qualitative information in participatory research and development: what are the issues for farmers and researchers?**

AgREN Network Paper 92, pp 16-19. ODI Agricultural Research & Extension Network, Portland House, Stag Place, London SW1E 5DP, UK; Fax +44-171-3931699 (agren@odi.org.uk)

Key words: methods, participatory research, qualitative data

Analyses the role of qualitative methods in farmer participatory research. Shows how collecting, interpreting and using qualitative data can help strengthen the participation and confidence of those involved in the research process. Shows the complementarity of qualitative and quantitative methods, particularly in complex situations of NRM where a mixture of stakeholders, disciplines and different agendas is involved.

Scheuermeier U & Zellweger T. 1999. **Modules for discussing participatory development of agricultural innovations on farmers fields.** ca. 75 pp. Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) / Landwirtschaftliche Beratungszentrale Lindau (LBL), CH-8315 Lindau, Switzerland (EZA@lbl.agri.ch).

Key words: innovation, on-farm research, workshop methods

A set of visual modules to serve as overhead transparencies to stimulate workshop discussions on participatory procedures in on-farm research, drawn from the book *Participatory development of agricultural innovations* by Juergen Werner (see PTD Circular 2). The drawings and simple texts convey well the message that farmers and sci-

entists are equal partners in improving farming systems. Clear guidelines are given for effective use of the overheads. A valuable workshop tool.

Sutherland A. 1999. **Linkages between farmer-oriented and formal research and development approaches.**

AgREN Network Paper 92, pp 1-7. ODI Agricultural Research & Extension Network, Portland House, Stag Place, London SW1E 5DP, UK; Fax +44-171-3931699 (agren@odi.org.uk).

Key words: Kenya, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, participatory research, knowledge systems

Farmers, researchers, donors and NGOs have different expectations from the research progress. Using practical field examples, the paper highlights projects that successfully combined farmer-led and more formal research. It stresses the need to find forms of experimentation to which all major stakeholders can subscribe.

Visser I, Cawley S & Roeling N. 1998. **A co-learning approach to extension: soil nitrogen workshops in Queensland, Australia.** *Journal of Agricultural Education and Extension* 5 (3): 179-191.

Key words: Australia, extension, learning, nitrogen, soil fertility, workshops

A workshop curriculum was developed to help farmers understand basic soil-nitrogen processes so that they can interpret responses of their soils to nitrogen management, understand recommendations of others, and make and test their own management decisions. The workshops mix transfer-of-technology and participatory approaches. The co-learning process worked, among other things, because technical information was tailored to farmers' socio-economic context and the model and process used made the invisible (nitrogen) visible.

Witcombe J, Virk D & Farrington J. 1998. **Seeds of choice: making the most of new varieties.** 271 pp. Intermediate Technology Publications, 103-105 Southampton Row, London WC1B 4HH, UK; Fax +44-

171-4362013 (itpubs@itpubs.org.uk).

Key words: India, on-farm trails, participatory research, plant breeding, seed supply, selection

Compiles the results of a series of efforts to involve farmers in varietal selection. Interesting are the suggestions made on how to speed up the dissemination of farmer-developed or farmer-tested varieties, going outside the time-consuming procedures of formal release.

● **Electronic publications and services**

Interdev Natural Resources Management. New initiative of the CGIAR-NGO Committee to link global knowledge with local wisdom by making scientific and technical information more readily available for practitioners in grassroots development. It will consist of a database run jointly by institutions from research, extension, NGOs and farmer organisations from the North and South and will include databases on methodologies and technologies, practical experiences, resource organisations and persons, multimedia and bibliographic references. *More information: Didier Pillot, GRET, 211-213 rue LaFayette, F-75010 Paris, France, Fax +33-1-40056110 (pilot@gret.org).*

Participatory Learning and Action CD-ROM. Database of 2200 bibliographic references on participatory methodologies and approaches, including index of *PLA Notes* with abstracts. *Available from: Resource Centre for PLA, IIED, 3 Endsleigh St., London WC1H 0DD, UK. Fax +44-171-3882826 (claubia.sambo@iied.org).*

SEPO/SWAP Web CD. SEPO/SWAP (related to SWOT: Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) is a tool for self-evaluation. This CD available from GTZ (German Agency for Technical Cooperation) gives the results of pilot activities in Yemen and Morocco which

involved using SEPO to enhance the efficiency of agricultural research and extension. *For information about obtaining the CD: Stefan Kachelriess-Matthess (S.Kachelriess@gmx.net).*

Online Resource Guide on Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation. ELDIS is an information gateway that provides access to development and information resources worldwide. Its Participation page lists WWW sites, bibliographical resources, organisations, networks and discussion lists. A "hot" theme is PM&E, about which full-text documents are available free on the Internet. Conceptual background and methodologies are covered, and key references, good practices guides and training manuals included. *Website: <http://nt1.ids.ac.uk/eldis/hot/pme.htm>*

Web-to-email service. For people who do not have easy access to Internet, ELDIS offers an automated service to deliver documents by email. To receive instructions on how to obtain information and documents (including the above-mentioned documents on PM&E) from the Web by email, send an email to: getweb@webinfo.ids.ac.uk Don't put anything in the subject field. The only text of your message should be: <http://nt1.ids.ac.uk/eldis/embul.htm>

● **Further publications**

Bayer W & Waters-Bayer A. 1999. **La Gestion des Fourrages.** 230 pp. US\$ 30 / DM 40. Margaf Verlag, BP 1205, D-97985 Weikersheim, Germany (margraf@compuserve.com). French version of English edition annotated in PTD Circular 10. *Key words: forage, livestock, participatory research, pastoralists, smallholder farmers, subtropics, tropics.*

Fetien A, Mitiku H & Waters-Bayer A. 1999. **Dynamics in IK: innovation in land husbandry in Ethiopia.** *Indigenous Knowledge and Development Monitor* 7 (2): 14-15 (ikdm@nuffic.nl).

Key words: Ethiopia, farmer innovation, local knowledge, natural resource management, water harvesting.

Guendel S. 1998. **Participatory innovation development and diffusion: adoption and adaptation of introduced legumes in the traditional slash-and-burn peasant farming system in Yucatan, Mexico.** 81 pp. GTZ Tropical Forest Research Project, POB 5180, D-65726 Eschborn, Germany (TOEB@gtz.de). DM 10. Shorter version of thesis with same title annotated in PTD Circular 9; also available in Spanish.

Key words: Mexico, cover crops, farmer-to-farmer extension, innovation, local knowledge, legumes, shifting cultivation, sustainable land management.

Pijnenburg B. 1998. **Limits to farmer participation.** *Agricultural Research and Extension Network Newsletter* 37: 12-16. *Key words: Zambia, farmer participatory research, farmer organisation, farming systems research, local knowledge.*

PMHE. 1999. Sinhala version of **Developing Technology with Farmers** translated and adapted for Sri Lanka by the project Promoting Multifunctional Household Environments (PMHE), POB 154, Kandy, Sri Lanka (pmhe@slt.lk).

Key words: farmer experimentation, participatory methods, sustainable agriculture, technology development, training guide

Waters-Bayer, Mitiku H & Alebikiya M. 1999. **Stimulating processes of joint learning in sustainable use of drylands.** In: Eldridge D & Freudenberger D (eds), *People and rangelands building the future: proceedings of the VI International Rangeland Congress*, Townsville, Vol. 1, pp 344-349.

Key words: Ethiopia, Ghana, farmer experimentation, farmer innovation, stakeholder platforms, university education.

Winarto YT. 1998. **When farmers are partners.** *International Agricultural Development* May/June 1998: 17-18.

Key words: Indonesia, farmer experimentation, genetic diversity, rice, seed exchange, traditional varieties.

Journals

COMPAS Newsletter for Endogenous Development. The first issue of this new journal, which promotes exchange of experience on cosmovisions, sustainable land use and endogenous development, is focused on "Experimenting within farmers' worldviews". Free of charge. Available in English: COMPAS, POB 64, NL-3830 AB Leusden, Netherlands; Fax +31-33-4943086 (compas@etcnl.nl); in Spanish: AGRUCO, Casilla 3392, Cochabamba, Bolivia (agruco@pino.cbb.entelnet.bo).

Ground Up. This magazine produced by the PELUM Association is intended to promote networking and learning in eastern and southern Africa about participatory methodologies, approaches and innovations related to land management. One article, entitled "Can Farmers Innovate?", describes efforts to encourage farmer innovation in Tanzania. Another article "Looking beyond Methods and Approaches" makes for insightful reading about participation. More information: Mutizwa Mukute, PELUM, PO Box MP 159, Mount Pleasant, Harare, Zimbabwe (pelum@zimsurf.co.zw).

Organic Fields is the newsletter of the Sino-German Organic Farming Development Project in Nanjing, China. The first issue (1999) includes a report on a PTD workshop for project staff, extension workers and farmers, who are now applying PTD in their efforts to convert to organic farming. More information: Song Rong or Johanna Pennarz, GTZ Organic Farming Development Project, 8 Jiangwangmiao St, 210042 Nanjing, China (gtzng@public1.ptt.js.cn).

Networking

Conservation Tillage for

Sustainable Agriculture was the focus of an international workshop held in Harare to review African experiences in developing and disseminating conservation-tillage practices. Based on case materials, the workshop brought intensive debate on the benefits of PTD vs package dissemination approaches. Draft International Guidelines on Conservation Tillage were prepared. More information: www.fao.org/waicent/faoinfo/agricult/ags/AGSE/Memorias/Part I

Dare-to-Share Fair on participatory approaches to research and development.

The next Fair will be hosted by NEDA (Netherlands Development Assistance) in The Hague on 13-14 October 1999. It will include an interactive market, mini-workshops, audiovisuals and spontaneous open-space events. Free of charge to all interested. More information: Willem van Weperen (Willem.van.Weperen@etcnl.nl).

Deepening the basis of rural resource management.

IS-NAR (International Service for National Agricultural Research) is planning a workshop and book on methods that support farmers' and communities' decisionmaking in resource management where key aspects are poorly visible to them. The focus will be on processes and aids/tools that stimulate learning and local experimentation. Dates: 14-17 Feb 2000. Place: somewhere in Latin America. More information: Michael Loevinsohn (m.loevinsohn@cgiar.org) or Irene Guijt (iguijt@worldonline.nl) or Julio Berdegue (berdegue@reuna.cl).

ERICA: Researchers and farmers for sustainable improvement of production systems.

An initiative of a group of researchers from Benin and Germany, ERICA aims to encourage, develop and implement collaborative research activities among researchers, farmers, NGOs and the private sector to meet present problems and demands from the farmer community. The programme is open for proposals. More information: Roch Mongbo, BP 526, Cotonou, Benin (rmongbo@bow.

intnet.bj).

European Farming and Rural Systems Research and Extension.

The European Group of the International Farming Systems Association (IFSA, formerly AFSRE) will hold its next symposium at the University of Thessaly. A workshop on "Farming and Rural Systems Methodologies" will give attention to participatory research methods; another workshop deals with participatory methods in education and training for farming systems research and extension. Dates: 3-7 April 2000. Place: Volos, Greece. More information: Alex Koutsouris, Development Agency of Karditsa, Artesianou 5, 43100 Karditsa, Greece, Fax +30-441-71636 (alex@kar.forthnet.gr).

Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR) on research partnerships.

On 21-23 May 2000 the GFAR 2000 will be held in Dresden, Germany, with a focus on innovative partnerships for collaborative agricultural research, including the domain of ecological agriculture and NRM. For information about GFAR contacts in your country: GFAR Secretariat (aderevier@worldbank.org) or National Agricultural Research Systems Secretariat (NARS-Secretariat@fao.org).

Participatory Learning and Action (PLA) in Europe.

The Swiss Centre for Agricultural Extension (LBL) and the Swiss College of Agriculture are holding a workshop on the suitability of PLA for development efforts in Europe. It is intended for European PLA practitioners and advisory services and NGOs considering inclusion of PLA in their approach to agricultural development in Europe. Dates: 23-27 Nov 1999. Place: Schoenenengrund, Canton Appenzell, Switzerland. Registration fee: SFr 750. More information: LBL, PLA Workshop, CH-8315 Lindau, Switzerland, Fax +41-52-3549797 (lbl@agri.ch).

St Ulrich Meeting on PTD in Europe. The next annual meeting of the St Ulrich Group on 19-21 Sept 1999 in the Black Forest of Germany will

be devoted to case studies and discussion about what PTD has to offer and learn in the process of horizontal and vertical linkages in European agriculture. More information: Willem van Weperen (Willem.van.Weperen@etcnl.nl) or Simon Anderson/Sabine Guendel (sabine.guendel@greenwich.ac.uk).

PTD Circular: Six-monthly update on Participatory Technology Development

This Circular aims to make experiences on participatory technology development (PTD) in low-external-input and sustainable agriculture (LEISA) and natural resource management (NRM) more widely known to practitioners and analysts of PTD.

If you have new information about publications, workshops, training activities, events, audiovisuals, websites, electronic discussion groups or networks concerned with PTD, please let us know.

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