

PTD CIRCULAR

Six-monthly update on Participatory Technology Development

No. 12, June 2000

Contents:

- Introduction
- Annotated publications
- Further publications (without annotations)
- Workshop/training reports
- Journals
- Audiovisuals
- Networking

Introduction

In the previous Circular, we proudly announced our move to a primarily electronic form of publication and distribution. We underestimated, however, the various aspects of this change, particularly in view of the limited time of the editors and office staff to devote to the task. We do apologise, particularly to our readers without regular Email access, for the delay in sending you the promised hardcopy of PTD Circular 11. You will now receive Circulars 11 and 12 together. Please note the new system for receiving the Circular:

- All subscribers with access to Email will receive the Circular as simple text file, directly at their Email address. **Please send your Email address or update to our administration as soon as possible.** From now on, subscribers in Europe, USA, Japan, Australia and other "Northern" countries will receive only the electronic version of the Circular.
- The Circular can also be downloaded in the familiar formatted version from the ILEIA homepage (www.oneworld.org/ileia).
- Only people in the South without electronic means of communication will receive a hardcopy. This will be mostly through local distribution points, which are being set up in a/o Sri Lanka, India, Mexico, Ethiopia, Cameroon, Nigeria, Burkina Faso and Zimbabwe. Elsewhere in this Circular, you will find further details. If your country is not in this list, you will continue to receive a hardcopy from the Netherlands. But please inform us if you have suggestions who could become local distributor in your country.

On to other news. The St Ulrich Group, which launched the PTD Circular back in 1993, will meet next time, for a change not in St Ulrich in the Black Forest of Germany but rather in Kent, England. Go to the Networking section for more information about this meeting, which will be focused on PTD in natural resource management (NRM) at landscape level.

The St Ulrich Group also launched the idea of the Dare-to-Share Fair on participatory development approaches. The first one was hosted by the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ) in 1994. The most recent one was hosted by the Netherlands Development Cooperation within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (DGIS) in October 1999. Over 40 organisations, mainly from the South, presented and shared their experiences. An attractive 26-page booklet on the event, entitled "Trading Places, Trading Ideas", has been written by the freelance journalist Bram Posthumus and is available from ETC Ecoculture (office@etcnl.nl).

Although many of our readers will be sceptical about the relevance of large international fora, the recent Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR) held in Germany brought good news for advocates of PTD. The majority of the more than 400 representatives of farmers, NGOs, research, extension and the private sector attending the GFAR responded favourably to the NGO call for more farmer-led research and development programmes. Outlining a new initiative under the name of PRO-LINNOVA (**P**romoting **L**ocal **I**nnovation in ecologically oriented agriculture and natural resource management), the NGOs called for support to farmers' own innovation efforts. They challenged research and development actors to seek ways to strengthen farmers' capacities in experimentation and learning as an important vehicle to achieve sustainable agricultural development. Following the GFAR's positive response, ETC Ecoculture has initiated a consultation with key partners in order to arrive at widely supported, operational plans. More information about the GFAR can be found on the internet (www.egfar.org) and more information about PRO-LINNOVA can be obtained from the editors.

One activity that fits very well into the PRO-LINNOVA concept is a study-cum-workshop on new approaches and methods in PTD – variations on the "classical" PTD approach. A comparative analysis will be made of new cases from people who have learned from and improved the PTD practices pioneered in the 1980s and early 1990s. Go to the Networking section for more details. Expressions of interest will be most welcome!

After the "teething problems" in the transition to electronic distribution, we hope that the PTD Circular will now appear more regularly. In this issue, many titles are given without abstracts. We invite you all to share information about publications, reports, audiovisuals, events etc. related to PTD and to include abstracts, wherever possible. We had agreed to put the information together into a Circular, but not necessarily to generate it all ourselves! Please note that you can send information directly to our new email address ptdc@ileia.nl - or you can continue to write directly to us (I.van.veldhuizen@etcnl.nl; wb.waters@link-goe.de; willem.van.weperen@etcnl.nl).

The editors

● Annotated publications

Braun A & Hocde H. 1999. **Farmer participatory research in Latin America:** four cases. Paper presented at ACIAR workshop "Working with farmers: the key to adoption of forage technologies", October 1999, Cagayan de Oro, The Philippines. 40 pp.

Key words: Latin America, facilitation, farmer experimentation, farmer-led research, farmer participatory research, farmer-to-farmer extension

Four cases of participatory research are analysed: 1) the Farmer-to-Farmer programme in Nicaragua based on volunteer farmer-promoters working on low-external-input agriculture; 2) the DIP (Diagnosis, Investigation, Participation) approach of the Autonomous University of Yucatan in Mexico working at the forest-agriculture interface; 3) the farmer experimentation approach of PRIAG (Regional Program for Reinforcement of Agronomic Research on Basic Grains) in Central America working with small- and medium-scale producers; and 4) the local agricultural research committees (CIALs) developed by CIAT-Colombia to strengthen rural communities' capacities to innovate in agriculture and to exert demand on the formal research and development system. Similarities and differences are discussed with respect to processes, principles, and farmers' and scientists' roles and relationships. A good analysis of how farmers and their organisations are increasingly assuming responsibility for decision-making in research for agricultural development.

Cheatle R.J. 1998. **Farmers voice in West Kenya.** In: Ranaweera NFC, Gunasena HPM & Senanayake YDA (eds), *Changing agricultural opportunities: the role of farming systems approaches* (Peradeniya, Sri Lanka: Asian Farming Systems Association), pp 99-110.

Key words: Kenya, conservation farming, farmers' research, organic matter management, networking

Self-help groups of farmers working with the Organic Matter Management Network in Kenya have moved beyond joint research on topics suggested by facilitators (field crops for home consumption) to topics the farmers are interested in exploring (horticultural crops for the market). They are interested in conservation practices when these make good business sense. The paper highlights how methods of participatory appraisal, action planning and scientists' participation in farmers' research have strengthened the farmer's voice in giving direction to research.

Connell JG. 1998. **Developing production of a non-traditional crop in southeast Asia: wheat in Thailand.** Wheat Program Special Report 44. 60 pp. CIMMYT (International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre), Lisboa 27, Apto Postal 6-641, 06600 Mexico, DF Mexico.

Key words: Thailand, farmer experimentation, maize, participatory extension

Describes the processes and dynamics of wheat's introduction and expansion as a new crop grown by smallholders in Thailand. In fairly informal on-farm trials, farmers played an active role in adapting and innovating appropriate technologies, such as broadcasting instead of row seeding, minimum tillage instead of soil preparation, and the use of mulch to alter the microclimate of the crop. An extension approach of offering farmers a number of alternative technologies was effective in engaging them to evaluate and adapt the technologies, and to finetune them themselves.

Corbeels M, Abebe Shiferaw & Mitiku Haile. 2000. **Farmers' knowledge of soil fertility and local management strategies in Tigray, Ethiopia.** *Managing Africa's Soils* 10. 24 pp. IIED Drylands Programme, 4 Hanover St, Edinburgh EH2 2EN, UK, Fax +44-131-6247050 (thea.hilhorst@iied.org)

Key words: Ethiopia, farmer experimentation, indigenous

knowledge, local indicators, semiarid areas, soil fertility management, water conservation

A study of how farmers categorise their soils and assess soil fertility was a first step towards a research and development programme geared to improving integrated nutrient management practices. Farmers' main indicators for declining soil fertility were reduced yield, more weeds, rocky outcrops and crops wilting early in the growing cycle. Farmers' experimentation with new practices, such as ways to intensify the use of crop residues, produce more animal manure and complement organic with mineral fertilisers, is an important element of site-specific learning that enables them to adapt the new practices to their local conditions.

Diop JM & Laban P. 1999. **Experiences with farmer experimental design workshops in Egypt.** PTD Working Paper 1. ETC Ecoculture, POB 64, NL-3830 AB Leusden, Netherlands (office@etcnl.nl)

Key words: Egypt, organic fertiliser, waste recycling, women's participation

Report on the steps followed in workshops in two projects, where researchers and farmers worked out together how they would design trials implemented by men and women in small-farm households.

Diop JM & Onduru D. 1999. **Farmer experimental design workshop for the LEINUTS project in Kenya: a low-potential area case.** PTD Working Paper 2. ETC Ecoculture, POB 64, NL-3830 AB Leusden, Netherlands (office@etcnl.nl).

Key words: Kenya, on-farm experimentation, organic farming, soil fertility

Description of the procedure followed by researchers in a workshop with farmers to design the PTD experiments with compost and liquid manure described further in Onduru et al (see below).

Fliert E van de & Braun AR. 1999. **Farmer Field School**

for integrated crop management of sweet potato: field guides and technical manual. 272 pp. IPC Regional Office for East, Southeast Asia and the Pacific, POB 929, Bogor 16309, Indonesia.

Keywords: Indonesia, farmer field school, participatory extension, training, integrated crop management, integrated pest management, sweet potato, farmer experimentation

This very comprehensive guide is the outcome of an action research/PTD process in itself involving farmers, an NGO, and researchers (vd Fliert et al. annotated in PTD Circular 6). The present guide is excellent resource material for running an FFS on sweet potato as it combines a good overview of the fundamental principles of this participatory extension approach, a long list of concrete examples of how to implement it in the case of sweet potato, with a compilation of the most relevant technical information. Contrary to many other FFS approaches, this manual encourages active experimentation by farmers during and after the FFS season on issues relevant to them as an important element of the learning process.

Geilfus F. 1998. **From 'tree-haters' to tree farmers: promoting farm forestry in the Dominican Republic.** Rural Development Forestry Network Paper 22d. 20 pp. Overseas Development Institute, Portland House, Stag Place, London SW1E 5DP, UK, Fax +44-171-3931699 (forestry@odi.org.uk).

Keywords: Dominican Republic, agroforestry, farmer experimentation, social incentives, trees

The Zambrina project supported by ENDA-Caribe gave farmers maximum flexibility to choose between different tree species and technology options. Respected and older farmers were encouraged to develop their existing interest in trees. The farmer-experimenter potential thus released, together with a breakthrough in terms of overcoming regulations constraining tree harvesting, led to widespread adoption of new

tree-management practices.

Hoskins M. 1999. **Research, extension and innovative farmers.** Forest, Trees and People Newsletter 39: 4-6. Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Dept of Rural Development Studies, Box 7005, S-75007 Uppsala, Sweden (ftpp.network@lbutv.slu.se).

Key words: community forestry, farmer extension, farmer research, farmer-research links, poverty issues

The author draws on her long experience with community forestry to explore the difference between scientists' and farmers' research, and between extensionists' and farmers' ways of sharing options and experiences. She addresses the challenge of discovering and stimulating the creativity of poor farmers, rather than the more prosperous ones who initially appear to be more adventurous in trying out new techniques.

Kibwana OT, Mitiku Haile, van Veldhuizen L & Waters-Bayer A. 2000. **Clapping with two hands.** ETC Ecoculture Annual Report 1999. 12 pp. ETC Ecoculture, POB 64, NL-3830 AB Leusden, Netherlands (office@etcnl.nl).

Key words: Ethiopia, Tanzania, education, farmer innovation, training

The programmes for Indigenous Soil and Water Conservation (ISWC) in Tanzania and Ethiopia initially focused on identifying farmer innovators and innovations as entry points to PTD. This paper describes how multiple stakeholders in research and development were drawn into the search for innovators and planning for participatory research, and how the PTD/farmer-innovation approach is being incorporated into the curriculum of agricultural colleges.

McAllister K. 1999. **Understanding participation: monitoring and evaluating process, outputs and outcomes.** 42 pp. Community-Based Natural Resource Management Programs Branch, International Development

Research Centre (IDRC), POB 8500, Ottawa, Ontario K1G 3H9, Canada.

Key words: adaptive learning, methodology, natural resource management, participatory research, process monitoring,

Examines the challenges and proposes an approach for monitoring and evaluating both the process and outcomes of participatory research in NRM. It focuses on M&E as a tool for adaptive learning and project management and for understanding the links between how participatory research is done and what is achieved from whose perspective

Millar J & Curtis A. 1999. **Challenging the boundaries of local and scientific knowledge in Australia: opportunities for social learning in managing temperate upland pastures.** Agriculture and Human Values 16: 389-399.

Key words: Australia, local knowledge, native grasses, scientific knowledge, social learning, temperate grasslands

Gives evidence of an emerging focus on the role of farmer knowledge in developed countries and examines the relationship between local and scientist knowledge in pasture management. The building of farmer knowledge and skills through social learning was explored in group case studies. The effectiveness of social learning was greatest in collaborative programmes based on small groups of farmers and scientists involved in monitoring and evaluating whole-farm pasture and grazing systems.

Onduru DD, Gachini GN, de Jager A & Diop JM. 1999. **Participatory research on compost and liquid manure in Kenya.** Managing Africa's Soils 8. 24 pp. IIED Drylands Programme, 4 Hanover St, Edinburgh EH2 2EN, UK, Fax +44-131-6247050 (thea.hilhorst@iied.org).

Key words: Kenya, compost, ecological agriculture, on-farm research, manure, nutrient budget, organic matter management, soil fertility

management

This working paper presents the methodology and results of PTD experiments on the use of compost and liquid manure on maize. It started with a debate between researchers and the two groups of farmers - conventional and LEISA (low-external-input and sustainable agriculture) - on soil fertility management and possibilities to explore. Both groups chose the same technologies to test, and examined their impact on soil nutrient balances and economic performance. The data collected by the researchers correlated well with the farmers' evaluation.

PMHE Project. 1999. **Sinhala translation of "Developing technology with farmers: a trainer's guide for participatory learning"** by L van Veldhuizen, A Waters-Bayer & H de Zeeuw. Kandy: PMHE. 130 pp. PMHE, POB 154, Kandy, Sri Lanka (pmhe1@slt.lk).

Key words: Sri Lanka, participatory methods, training guide

Considering the big demand for PTD training material in Sri Lanka, PMHE undertook the task of translating an adapted version of this training guide with permission from the authors. Several field examples and illustrations from Sri Lanka have been used in the guide, which makes it more tangible for trainers in Sri Lanka.

Simpson BM. 1999. **The roots of change: human behaviour and agricultural evolution in Mali.** Intermediate Technology Publications, 103/1205 Southampton Row, London WC1B 4HH, UK. ISBN 1 85339 468 8. GBP 15.95.

Key words: Mali, agrarian change, agricultural research, communication, extension, farmer experimentation, indigenous knowledge, livelihood systems, sociocultural aspects

This study of change in farming systems in southwestern Mali and how these changes occurred shows that local farmers' creativity and innovativeness, reinforced by social interaction, has been the ma-

in force in the development of local production systems over the last 30 years. Explores patterns of behaviour of individual farmers and groups of farmers in generating, adapting and spreading new agricultural practices, and suggests how the creative potential of farmers and fieldworkers can be stimulated. A good literature review, particularly of work in Mali, into which some results of own fieldwork are incorporated; fairly academic in style.

Sthapit BR & Joshi KD. 1999. **Participatory plant breeding for *in situ* conservation of crop genetic resources: a case study of high altitude rice in Nepal.** In: Partap T & Sthapit B (eds), Managing agrobiodiversity: farmers' changing perspectives and institutional responses in the Hindu-Kush-Himalayan region, pp 311-328. International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), GPO Box 3226, Kathmandu, Nepal.

Key words: Nepal, biodiversity, genetic resources, in situ conservation, participatory breeding, rice, selection

Synthesis of experiences of the Lumle Agricultural Research Station in actively involving farmers in breeding and selecting suitable rice varieties. Farmers not only provide insight into their preferences and criteria but also test and select over a number of years their own preferred varieties from bulk seed. These were found to perform better than varieties generated by formal research.

Stoll G. 2000. **Natural crop protection in the tropics: letting information coming to life.** 390 pp. AGRECOL / Margraf Verlag, POB 1205, D-97990 Weikersheim, Germany, Fax +49-7934-8156 (margraf@compuserve.com).

Key words: crop protection, farmer participatory research, indigenous knowledge, natural pesticides, pest management, storage

A revised edition of a popular book that first appeared in 1986 and was translated into seven languages. In the recognition that techniques of

natural crop protection derive from local, traditional and scientific sources and must often be verified, adapted or improved, this new version includes a section on approaches and methods of participatory research. The case studies on developing and verifying pest control methods with farmers bring the detailed technical information to life.

Uphoff N (ed). 1999. **Alternatives to conventional modern agriculture for meeting world needs in the next century: report of a conference on sustainable agriculture 2** Evaluation of New Paradigms and Old Practices", 26-30 April 1999, Bellagio, Italy. 37pp. Cornell International Institute for Food, Agriculture and Development (CIIFAD, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, USA (www.ciifad.cornell.edu/ciifad/pdfs/bellagio.pdf).

Key words: Africa, Asia, Latin America, agroecology, food production, innovation, small-holders

Summary of discussions of an international conference supported by Rockefeller Foundation to assess agroecological approaches to raising agricultural production worldwide. Includes several examples of the development of management- and knowledge-intensive technologies together with farmers, as well as brief analyses of farmer-led experimentation and extension processes. Pleads eloquently for reorientation of agricultural extension systems and staff to support PTD in ecologically-oriented agriculture. A special issue of the journal "Environment, Development and Sustainability" will include many of the case studies presented at the conference.

Walsum, E van & Kolli RD. 1999. **Mainstreaming gender in participatory technology development: dynamics between farmers groups, NGOs and a support organisation in developing sustainable dryland agriculture in South India.** In: Murthi RK (ed.), *Gender transformative training and mainstreaming at the community level: Indian experiences* (New Delhi: Sage

Publications). Contact: AME Programme, POB 7836, JP Nagar, Bangalore 560 078, India, Fax +91-80-6653471 (amebang@giasbg01.vsnl.net.in)

Key word: India, farmer perceptions, gender, groundnuts, institutionalisation, social organisation, sustainable agriculture

Case study on the collaboration between the support organisation AME (Agriculture Man Ecology) and three NGOs engaged in PTD with men and women farmers in Rayalaseema Region of Andhra Pradesh. It looks at different forms of social organisation among the farmers and the implications for the PTD process. The women's and men's perceptions of both the technologies tested and the PTD process itself are recorded. Finally, the stumbling blocks and stepping stones for mainstreaming gender are analysed. The process of mobilising knowledge in PTD gives women more self-confidence, control and respect in agricultural decision making.

Wuest SB, McCool DK, Miller BC & Veseth RJ. 1999. **Development of more effective conservation farming systems through participatory on-farm research.** *American Journal of Alternative Agriculture* 14 (3): 98-102.

Key words: USA, conservation farming, research agenda, sustainable agriculture

Gives examples of joint research by American farmers and researchers to reduce runoff from winter wheat fields, based on both scientists' and farmers' ideas. One example of the latter is research on burn/no-till practice; the intense data collection showed that soil erosion was minimal. Encouraging farmers to compare the performance of their own methods with alternative or recommended methods encouraged led to quicker and more cost-effective development and validation of conservation technologies and has created new scientific knowledge.

● Further publications (without annotations)

Anderson S, Guendel S, Marais M & Wondewossen T. 1999. **Consultative appraisal: linking farmers' and researchers' perspectives for a mediation of a more sustainable agriculture** In: Doppler W & Calatrava J (eds), *Technical and social systems approaches for sustainable rural development*, Proceedings of the 2nd European Symposium of the Association of Farming Systems Research and extension, Granada, Spain. Margraf Verlag, POB 1295, D-97985 Weikersheim, Germany, Fax +49-7934-8156 (margraf@compuserve.com).

Asiabaka CC & James BD. 1999. **Farmer Field Schools for participatory cassava IPM technology development in West Africa.** In: Renard G et al (eds), *Farmers and scientists in a changing environment: assessing research in West Africa*. Proceedings of the Regional Workshop, University of Hohenheim, D-70599 Stuttgart, Germany, INRAB, INRAN and UNB/FSA, 22-26 February 1999, Cotonou, Benin, pp 301-306.

Connell JG. 1998. **Developing production of a non-traditional crop in southeast Asia: wheat in Thailand.** *Wheat Program Special Report* 44. 60 pp. CIMMYT (International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre), Lisboa 27, Apto Postal 6-641, 06600 Mexico, DF Mexico.

Critchley W. 1999. **Who are farmer innovators and what are their innovations?** An initial analysis of characterisation data from PFI. Paper presented to the Sub-Regional Workshop on 'Promoting Farmer Innovation' in Dodoma, Tanzania, February 1999. Centre for Development Cooperation Services, Free University of Amsterdam, De Boelelaan 1115, NL-1081 HV Amsterdam, Netherlands, Fax +31-20-4449095 (wrs.critchley@dienst.vu.nl).

Guijt I. 1998. **Assessing the merits of participatory devel-**

opment of sustainable agriculture: experiences from Brazil and Central America. In: Blauert J & Zadek S (eds), *Mediating sustainability: growing policy from the grassroots* (Kumarian Press Inc., 14 Oakwood Avenue, West Hartford, CT. 06119-2127 USA) (kpbooks@aol.com), pp 100-128.

Hagmann J. 1999. **Learning together for change: facilitating innovation in natural resource management through learning process approaches in rural livelihoods in Zimbabwe.** 330 pp. Margraf Verlag, POB 1295, D-97985 Weikersheim, Germany, Fax +49-7934-8156 (margraf@compuserve.com).

Harris D, Joshi A, Khan PA, Gothkar P & Sodhi PS. 1999. **On-farm seed priming in semi-arid agriculture: development and evaluation of maize, rice and chickpea in India using participatory methods.** *Experimental Agriculture* 35: 15-29.

Kouton T & Affognon H. 1999. **Développement participatif de technologie post-récolte: analyse du rôle des différents acteurs.** In: Renard G et al (eds), *Farmers and scientists in a changing environment: assessing research in West Africa*. Proceedings of the Regional Workshop, University of Hohenheim, D-70599 Stuttgart, Germany, INRAB, INRAN and UNB/FSA, 22-26 February 1999, Cotonou, Benin, pp 71-78.

Mueller D, Gbonbou C, De Groote H, Badou R & Lange-wald J. 1999. **Farmer participatory development of a control strategy for the variegated grasshopper with a bio-pesticide in the northern Mono, Benin.** In: Renard G et al (eds), *Farmers and scientists in a changing environment: assessing research in West Africa*. Proceedings of the Regional Workshop, University of Hohenheim, D-70599 Stuttgart, Germany, INRAB, INRAN and UNB/FSA, 22-26 February 1999, Cotonou, Benin, pp 177-184.

Munyemana A, Bernard M & von Oppen M. 1999. **Participatory design and genera-**

tion of soil fertility management technologies: confronting research results together with farmers' views. In: Renard G et al (eds), *Farmers and scientists in a changing environment: assessing research in West Africa*. Proceedings of the Regional Workshop, University of Hohenheim, D-70599 Stuttgart, Germany, INRAB, INRAN and UNB/FSA, 22-26 February 1999, Cotonou, Benin, pp 131-141.

Padonou E, Bernard M & Maliki R. 1999. **Développement participatif de technologies de restauration de la fertilité des sols: les méthodes et les outils d'une recherche participative.** In: Renard G et al (eds), *Farmers and scientists in a changing environment: assessing research in West Africa*. Proceedings of the Regional Workshop, University of Hohenheim, D-70599 Stuttgart, Germany, INRAB, INRAN and UNB/FSA, 22-26 February 1999, Cotonou, Benin, pp 111-118.

Petersen P, Tardin JM, Marochi F & Marochi R. 2000. **Participatory development of no tillage systems without herbicides for family farming: the experience of the Center-South Region of Parana.** Paper prepared for international workshop "Going to Scale: Can We Bring More Benefits to More People more quickly?", 10-14 April 2000, International Institute of Rural Reconstruction (IIRR), Silang, Cavite, Philippines. 22 pp. AS-PTA, Av. Rui Barbosa, 80 apto 1.101, 22.020-020 Rio de Janeiro RJ, Brazil (aspta@ax.apc.org).

Pichon FJ & Uquillas JE. 1998. **Sustainable agriculture through farmer participation: agricultural research and technology development in Latin America's risk-prone areas.** In: Blauert J & Zadek S (eds), *Mediating sustainability: growing policy from the grassroots* (Kumarian Press Inc., 14 Oakwood Avenue, West Hartford, CT. 06119-2127 USA) (kpbooks@aol.com), pp 21-54.

Steins N. 1999. **All hands on**

deck: an interactive perspective on complex common-pool resource management based on case studies in the coastal waters of the Isle of Wight (UK), Connemara (Ireland) and the Dutch Wadden Sea. PhD thesis. Dept of Communication and Innovation Studies. Wageningen Agricultural University, Netherlands (tel. +31-317-484310).

Witcombe JR, Petre R, Jones S & Joshi A. 1999. **Farmer participatory crop improvement. IV. The spread and impact of a rice variety identified by participatory varietal selection.** *Experimental Agriculture* 35: 471-487.

● **Workshop/ Training reports**

Gonsalves J (ed.) 1999. **Research partnership: issues and lessons from collaboration of NGOs and agricultural research institutions.** 102 pp. International Institute for Rural Reconstruction (IIRR), YC James Yen Center, Silang, Cavite 4118, Philippines, Fax +63-46-4142420 (etd-iirr@cav.pworld.net.ph).

Report on a workshop that studied 12 cases of partnerships between NGOs and national and/or international research organisations in Bangladesh, Brazil, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Ghana, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Mali, Philippines and Zimbabwe, some of them involving PTD-like approaches. Analyses the role of farmers in research partnerships, methodological and institutional issues, costs and benefits, incentives, and issues of scaling-up research results.

ISWC (Indigenous Soil and Water Conservation) Zimbabwe. 1999. **Participatory extension approach (PEA) workshop held at Alvord Training Centre, Masvingo, 28 June – 2 July 1992:** workshop report. 37 pp. ISWC Zimbabwe National Coordinator Edward Chuma, (erudo@esanel.zw) or Kudakwashe Murwira, ITDG, POB

1744, Harare, Zimbabwe (itdg@samara.co.zw).

ISWC Zimbabwe organises regular training activities in Participatory Agricultural Extension (PEA). This recent report on a training workshop in Masvingo presents a clear overview of the training schedule and the flow of each module. The 16 modules include a number of introductory activities, main principles of participatory extension, problem analysis and prioritisation, experimentation, conflict resolution, planning, and monitoring and evaluation.

LBL (Swiss Centre for Agricultural and Rural Extension) / KSAP (Kyrgyz-Swiss Agriculture Project). 1999. **Manual for introducing PTD in an area.** 80pp. Available in English and Russian. LBL, CH-8315 Lindau, Switzerland, Fax +44-52-3549797 (eza@lbl.ch) or KSAP, 503 Frunze St, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan (ksap@helvet.elcat.kg).

Contains the modules used during a workshop with field extensionists and farmers designed to initiate PTD activities in the RADS (Rural Advisory and Development Service) extension system in Kyrgyzstan. Some of the modules are also available on the internet at: <http://www.viltec.ch/forum/forum.html>

LBL / SFSP (Social Forestry Support Programme). 1999 and 2000. **Initiating PTD in a village: documentation of a training workshop for SFSP working partner institutions.** 80 pp and 120pp. Available in English and Vietnamese. LBL, CH-8315 Lindau, Switzerland, Fax +44-52-3549797 (eza@lbl.ch) or SFSP, Hanoi, Vietnam (sfsp@hn.vnn.vn).

Contains the modules and the outputs of a workshop with teaching staff of forest faculties, extensionists and villagers, designed to initiate PTD activities in social forestry in northern Vietnam, in Thai Nguyen (1999 report) and Dak Lak (2000).

PMHE Project. 1999. **Towards sustainable development in Mahaweli settlements through farmer participation: report on semi-**

nar/workshop of May 1999. PMHE Project, POB 154, Kandy, Sri Lanka (pmhe1@slt.lk). 10 pages + annexes.

This seminar organised by PMHE, which has several years' experience in facilitating PTD, brought together officers from all levels of the Mahaweli Authority (MASL) of Sri Lanka, the government agency responsible for development activities in all Mahaweli irrigation settlements. Representatives from the donor community, projects in the MASL, and other governmental and non-governmental agencies took part. In the presentations, farmer participation was put at the centre of development activities. The implications for MASL in adopting and sustaining a participatory approach were then explored.

Sutherland A & Sandford S. 1999. **Incorporation of farmer participatory research in the Southern Region of Ethiopia: proceedings of a workshop held in Awassa 18-19 March 1998.** 112 pp. Farmers' Research Project, FARM-Africa, POB 5746, Addis Ababa, Fax +251-1-552143 (FARM. FRP@telecom.net.et) / Institute for Sustainable Development, POB 30231, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Fax +251-1-552350 (sustain@telecom.net.et).

The Farmers' Research Project started in 1991 in North Omo Zone of southern Ethiopia. One objective was to incorporate Farmer Participatory research into the activities of government agencies and NGOs in the project area. This workshop brought together stakeholders to discuss the results of impact assessment studies into how farmers are engaged in identifying and prioritising production constraints, defining and testing potential solutions, and selecting and applying technologies that enhance agricultural production and productivity.

Sutherland A & Sandford S. 1999. **Review of experiences with participatory on-farm trials in the Southern Region of Ethiopia: proceedings of a workshop held in Soddo 17-22 May 1998.** 288 pp. Farmers' Research Project,

FARM Africa, POB 5746, Addis Ababa, Fax +251-1-552143 (FARM. FRP@telecom.net.et) / Institute for Sustainable Development, POB 30231, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Fax +251-1-552350 (sustain@telecom.net.et).

The overall aim of the Farmers' Research Project was to increase incomes of resource-poor households through improved agricultural technology achieved through farmer participatory research. It promoted better linkages among farmer, researchers and extension staff; better knowledge about how research involving farmers can be conducted in Ethiopia; and enhanced capacity of government and NGO staff to enable farmers to do their own research. A central feature was the participatory on-farm trial (POFT). The workshop proceedings contain the outcomes of peer reviews of the POFTs and of discussions about spreading technologies and methods and institutionalising POFTs in farmers' organisations, the Bureau of Agriculture, research institutions and academic institutions.

Song Rong. 1999. **Workshop on 'Technology Development of Organic Farming'**. Organic Fields 3: 3-4. GTZ Development of Organic Farming Project, 8 Jianwangmiao St, 210042 Nanjing, PR China (gtznj@public1.ptt.js.cn).

Brief report on a workshop to introduce the concepts of PTD for development of organic farming technology in China.

Temu AEM, Malley ZJU & Mruma AO. 1999. **Report on the farmer experimentation workshop held at ADP Uk-wile, 9-11 November 1999**. 34 pp. ISWC in Africa Programme Tanzania, Co-operative College, POB 474, Moshi, Tanzania (iswcp@form-net.com).

This workshop brought together 14 farmer innovators, 5 village extension staff, 2 researchers and a trainer associated with the ISWC programme, to evaluate joint experimentation experiences of the previous season and to

plan for next-season activities. The open discussions enabled the participants with so different backgrounds to arrive at a common understanding of how next-season experimentation should be best undertaken to be practical yet give interesting results from cross-farmer comparison. This workshop is part of a series of related activities undertaken and reported in Tanzania and in various other countries in Africa. For further information, see contact address above.

● Journals

ILEIA Newsletter. Recent issues have brought numerous articles related to PTD.:

- "Finding Common Ground" (Vol. 15, No.1/2, Sept. 1999) is devoted to the experiences of the ILEIA Collaborative Research Programme, building on Stakeholder Concerted Action, PTD and Participatory Assessment. Accounts are given of how farmers, researchers, extension agents and university staff joined forces in developing and evaluating LEISA technologies in the Philippines, Ghana, Peru and India.

- "Seeds for Agrobiodiversity" (Vol. 15, No. 3/4, Dec. 1999) contains several articles on participatory plant breeding and collaborative crop improvement.

- "Livelihoods Reborn: Communities Combating Desertification" (Vol. 16, No. 1, March 2000) includes an article by G Lopez and R Bunch on "Farmers developing technology: the researcher's role revised" (pp 22-23). It tells how farmer experimenters in Central America, who are seeking profitable ways of using micro-catchments for water harvesting, are challenging formal researchers to take on new, supportive roles.

- "Grassroots Innovation" (Vol. 16, No. 2, June 2000) is devoted to farmers' own innovation and experimentation, and the efforts of researchers and extension agents to support these initiatives. The topic was proposed by pan-African partners in the programme Indigenous Soil and Water Conservation (ISWC), who were involved in co-editing the issue. All Newsletter issues are avail-

able in English and Spanish from ILEIA, POB 64, NL-3830 AB Leusden, Netherlands (ileia@ileia.nl). The special issue on farmer innovation will appear also in French and possibly also Arabic.

The Savanna Farmer: Newsletter of the Northern Ghana LEISA Working Group. The first issue (October 1999) contains several articles on the PTD experiences made by farmers, non-governmental organisations, government research and extension services, and university staff in northern Ghana. The joint research involves both crop and livestock production, and relates not only to biophysical but also to sociocultural aspects. Describes how networking, lobbying and advocacy have helped to influence policy regarding agricultural research and development from community to national level. More information: NGLWG c/o ACDEP (Association of Church Development Projects), POB 1411, Tamale, Ghana, Fax +233-71-23808 (acdep@ghana.com).

● Audiovisuals

Land Stewardship Project. 1998. **Close to the Ground**. Video together with Monitoring Tool Box to provide farm families and other rural residents a management tool they can use to achieve the goals they set themselves. It focuses on learning for creative planning and decision making. Available for US\$35 + \$7 for shipping from the Land Stewardship Project, POB 130, Lewiston MN 55952, USA (tel. +1-707-5233366).

PMHE Project. 1999. **Strong together**. Video, ca. 18 min. (in Sinhala, English, French and German). Produced by Media House, Open University of Sri Lanka, and PMHE Project, POB 154, Kandy, Sri Lanka (pmhe1@slt.lk). Copies available from: ETC-Lanka, 12 Tickell Rd, Colombo 8, Sri Lanka (etc@sri.lanka.net). This video was made to share the experiences of PMHE in promoting PTD in Mahaweli System C, a large irrigation settlement scheme in Sri Lanka. It shows concisely the

process taken in identifying the "real" constraints to development, finding a strategy for participatory development to address these constraints, and scaling up this strategy within a large government agency, the Mahaweli Authority of Sri Lanka (MASL). It documents the main elements of the strategy and how they contributed to giving farmers the central role in development. It focuses on capacity building of MASL staff, which enabled them to take on the role of facilitators in development.

● Networking

Advancing PTD. This study-cum-workshop will look at recent developments in PTD methodology, such as using novel entry points (e.g. indigenous innovators) and ways of institutionalising PTD within large research, extension and training organisations. The proposed study during 2000/2001 will culminate in a workshop in late 2001. The organisers – IIRR (Philippines), CIIFAD (USA), ETC (NL) and tINNOVATEc (Switzerland/Germany/NL) – are seeking cases of advances in PTD that help advance its development and scaling-up. Cases should cover several years' experience, and can come from both South and North. If you want to offer a case, contact: Ellen Radstake, ETC, POB 64, NL-3830 AB Leusden, Netherlands (office@etcnl.nl).

Extension BAZAAR. This is the very beginning of an idea which may grow into a general forum among practitioners, educationists, administrators and funders of what is still called "extension". The aims are to link up people who face similar challenges in extension and to enhance the debate of basic concepts and practical procedures. The stalls set up thus far are about: Running the BAZAAR, Riches vs. poverty, What is extension for, Learning to use the internet and using the internet to learn, The discussion of the Neuchatel Initiative, PTD (including the report on the 1999 St Ulrich meeting), and Information & Communication Technologies in extension.

The BAZAAR site is being developed by Ueli Scheuermeier of the Agricultural Extension Centre in Lindau (LBL), Switzerland <<http://www.viltec.ch/bazaar/welcome.mtml>>.

International Workshop on Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation (PM&E), 10-15 July 2000, Ottawa, Canada. Mosaic.net International is hosting this workshop on project monitoring and evaluation involving local people, project stakeholders and development agencies, who decide together how to measure results and what actions should follow once this information has been obtained. A 6-day experiential workshop including 3-day community assignment. For details, see website: <http://www.mosaic-net-intl.ca> or Françoise Coupal, 705 Roosevelt Ave, Ottawa K2A 2A8, Canada, Fax +1-613-7281154 (workshop@mosaic-net-intl.ca).

Civil Society Strategy Workshop on Agricultural Research for Development. NGOs and organisations of small-scale farmers will be meeting in Washington DC on 19-20 October 2000, immediately before the International Centres Week of the CGIAR, to work out a strategy for gaining more influence of small-scale farmers and supporting organisations of civil society on research in agriculture and NRM. This is a logical further development of PTD approaches at the grassroots. For more information, contact Peter Rosset, Institute for Food and Development Policy, 398 60th St, Oakland CA 94618, USA, Fax +1-510-6544551 (rosset@foodfirst.org).

Participatory Research on NRM – Project Inventory. The Participatory Research and Gender Analysis (PRGA) Programme is compiling an inventory to find out where, how, why and by whom participatory research and gender/stakeholder analysis are being used in NRM research, and what the outcomes and impacts have been thus far. The inventory will allow analysis of patterns and trends in such research and will be a tool for linking up researchers, development practitioners, donors

and others interested in PR in NRM. Contact: Nina Lilja (Nina_Lilja@umit.maine.edu). Further information, including a toolbox (references, some downloadable) on PR and GA tools, publication list and information on upcoming events, can be accessed under the PRGA website (<http://www.prgaprogram.org/prga>).

St Ulrich Meeting on PTD in NRM. On 22-24 September 2000, the St Ulrich Group will meet in Kent, UK. The discussion will be on "Participatory research at the landscape level" in the management of renewable natural resources such as watersheds, forests, grazing lands, water bodies, wildlife and biodiversity. Increasingly, local people are being encouraged to take responsibility for NRM. Improvements in management on a landscape scale demand a learning-process approach which is based on good information for decision-making. This must reach from the local level also into policy formulation at higher levels, if policy is to support local-level management and is to tackle causes of environmental degradation which are beyond local influence. Case studies of PTD at landscape level which show clearly how this differs from PTD at farm level are still being sought. Contact: Sabine Guendel, University of Greenwich (S.Guendel@greenwich.ac.uk).

Participatory Research Working Group. This group, which meets occasionally at the University of Hohenheim in Stuttgart, Germany, has been compiling some useful information on participatory research, including PTD. For a list of www-links on participatory (action) research, see <<http://www.uni-hohenheim.de/~i430a/links/pr-links.htm>> and <.../ar-links.htm>. A list is now being compiled of literature and films on P(A)R. If you would like to contribute information, contact Thomas Becker (thbecker@uni-hohenheim.de) or Kirsten Probst (kprobst@uni-hohenheim.de).

Resource Centre for Participatory Research and Action. IIED in London, UK, is well known for its efforts in promot-

ing participatory development approaches. It has recently expanded its focus to go beyond PRA and include participatory research and action (PLA), PTD, etc. Its Resource Centre for PLA is now fully operational. The services provided include information delivery, question and answer, and publication of the catalogue on CR-ROM. The centre is open from Monday to Friday by appointment only, and at a small fee. Further information: www.rcpla.org or RCPLA, IIED, 3 Endsleigh St, London WC1H 0DD, UK (resourcecentre@iied.org).

**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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