

**Participatory Rural
Appraisal :
Tools & Techniques
for Need Assessment**

**By Manish Kanwat &
P Suresh Kumar**

Agrotech Publishing Academy

PARTICIPATORY RURAL APPRAISAL :

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Preface

When the world is invigorating up to take a plunge into 21st century, we are taking of ushering into a millennium, while still facing the hunger and poverty. About 30 percent of population still lives below the poverty line and around 72 million families spend part of their lives scrounging for a square meal. Farmer's death becomes routine due to wrong policies. This is despite of 50 years of freedom, planned development and thousands of rupees spent on subsidies, in terms of cheap food grain, fertilizers, electricity and water. It is therefore, time to think what actually went wrong? Why this elaborate planning of last 50 years did not bear the expected result? As of today, thousand of technologies have been developed by our devoted scientists but still the technologies are in laboratories and the farmers are not getting the benefits from them as some of the technologies are not related with the farming situation and the farmers could not harness their benefits and help the country to achieve the self adequacy in terms of sustainable production.

This book is the humble attempt to answer these questions and other like why the planning was not so sound or why it was not evident in the farmer's field. The main aim of this book is to encourage the participatory methods and their use in planning and accordingly design the schemes for the rural development. The task of understanding the farming situation and the farmers need are not so easy. Conventional methods are time taking, lengthy and the overall data are not so much worthy as they are not able to provide clear picture about the rural situation. Instead of conventional methods, participatory rural appraisal will provide the clear picture of the situation and the collected data are credible because in participatory methods people will give chance to people for their active participation. The PRA can get the advantages over the RRA that the participation in the sense that it seeks the active participation not only at later stage but also in taking initiative at all the stages. This book will give chance to understand the techniques and methods which are used for identifying the clear picture of the situations and interpretation of the data. This book will help to fill the gap and will serve as guide and tool in the hands of the researcher in the use of new methods of collecting and

analyzing information on farming systems.

The first part of the book comprises conventional methods *i.e.* Survey methods, RRA and their importance, and it includes the genesis of PRA, features, principles, guidelines types and their characteristics. The second part provides the steps and practical guidelines for using major PRA tools under Mapping, Diagramming, Transect walk, Seasonal analysis, Matrix analysis and added some new advanced technologies which can be utilized for assessing the real farming situation. The next part continues the attempt to remove the qualm of doubt of PTD/PALM/PLA methods as applied for micro level planning. If content of this book could further accelerate the process, in some modest way, these efforts will be deemed more than rewarded.

The present book on need assessment through PRA perhaps is the unique of its kind. It is hoped that the book shall prove to be informative and useful for trainers, extension professionals, academician, policy makers, administrators, social scientist, entrepreneurs, Non-government Organizations, Government departments, activists and the research scholar of need assessment of the farmers or the end users. The case study examples presented in this book will be an effective tool for learning and training the future professionals.

With god's grace and the timely helps of many, we were able to complete the task in time. So we like to keep our sincere thanks to all in our heart rather than scribbling some words of formality. The authors greatly acknowledge their contributions. However, we accord our special heartfelt gratitude to Dr. S.V. Ngachan, Director, ICAR RC NEH region, Barapani, Meghalaya for his constant encouragement and allowing us to use some part of NAIP results to simplify the technologies to readers. We will always regret if we forget to put our accord to Dr. R.Bhagawati, Joint Director, AP Centre, Basar Arunachal Pradesh who is our constant motivator to take difficult task. His involvement to give time to time suggestion, improvisation and fatherly encouragement are highly acknowledged. We record our thanks to NAARM, Hyderabad especially the coordinators of 80th FOCARS for their involvement to improvise the FET report. We further place our thanks to all our colleagues for their effort to correct the manuscript and give shape to the

book. Family is behind the success of any person. We reckon and thank our family for being with us in all the hard time and motivation to go further. The author's have no words of appreciation of the painstaking efforts of the publisher M/s Agrotech Publishing Academy, Udaipur for the personal and emotional encouragement in bringing the book into its present form. At last we welcome all the critical suggestion from all our beloved readers for further addition and improvement for this small piece of work.

Manish Kanwat
P. Suresh Kumar

About the Book

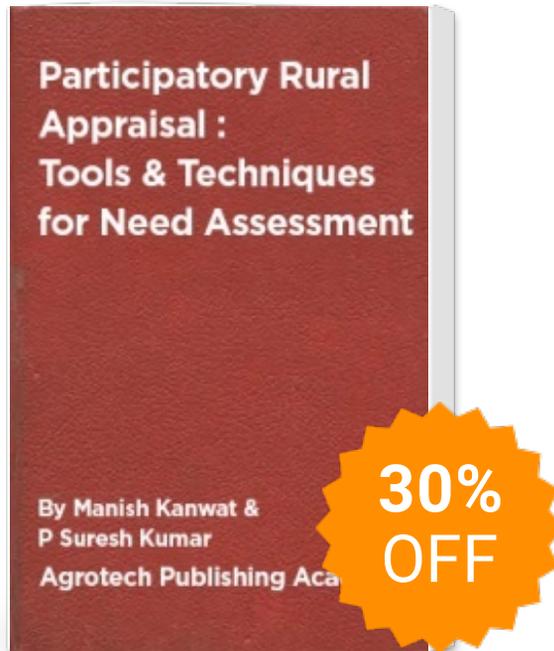
The social surveys have been used widely for identifying the problems, resources, prospects in particular locality. The social survey usually is participatory process, the success of which depends on the participation of the people and the extension personnel in entire activities. Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) provides a cost-effective and efficient method that reflects the local perceptions of disability and involves local people. These factors are important for sustainability in resource-poor countries. Participatory rural appraisal (PRA) is a family of methods that enables communities to share and enhance their experience and to plan and act together with external service-providers to enrich their lives. This book introduces PRA, and illustrates some of its advantages. In this book we have tried to throw light on social surveys, the way it works and their merits and demerits besides why the social scientist and the extension personnel would like to go for PRA approach. We compiled different methods and participatory techniques which help to identify needs of the people, their available resources and how we can motivate the people to solve their problem by using their own resources and help for their community development. We incorporated some new sophisticated techniques and methods which will be suitable in the coming years. We hope this book will be an assets for Scientist, Extension Professional, KVK's personnel and all other people who are working at the field level. In addition, it will also help and guide them how to work in the rural area, the way to assess the actual needs with their own participatory efforts.

About the Authors

Dr. Manish Kanwat is Subject Matter Specialist (Agril. Extension) in KVK West Siang, ICAR RC for NEH Region AP Centre, Basar Arunachal Pradesh. He took graduate degree from RAU Bikaner and M.Sc. degree from Banaras Hindu University (BHU), Uttar Pradesh through Junior Research Fellowship. He has also been selected for the CZECH government Scholarship - 2006-07 for his Ph.D. programme from Mendel University of Agriculture and Forestry in Brno, Czech Republic. Natural Resource management, Indigenous Traditional Knowledge in agriculture, Communication, Participatory Rural Appraisal based research and FSRP, *etc.* are the key areas of his research. He is also engaged in a number of projects funded by NAIP. He has published many research papers in reputed journals, book chapters, folders, popular articles in national magazine and the leading newspapers. He has been deputed by the state government as Evaluator of the Integrated Wasteland Development Project (IWDP) running in Arunachal Pradesh. He has been bestowed with the Extension Education Society's Best KVK Professional Award.

Dr. P. Suresh Kumar is a scientist (Horticulture), presently working at ICAR RC NEH Region, AP Centre, Basar, Arunachal Pradesh. He obtained his M.Sc. (Horticulture) at ANGRAU, Hyderabad and Ph.D. (Horticulture) with the specialization in Post Harvest Technology of horticultural crops at IARI, New Delhi. He has been awarded JRF and IARI Scholarship for M.Sc. PG by Ph.D. programme. He secured first rank in his ARS examination in fruit science held by the ASRB, New Delhi. He is a member of several scientific societies and referee to reputed post harvest and Horticulture journals. He is currently handling CSS Technology Mission project for Horticulture Development in NE states, NAIP Projects on livelihood improvement via establishment of low cost polyhouse, 5 different NHB projects for holistic development of Horticulture promotion in Arunachal Pradesh and various ICAR sponsored institute projects including processing and value addition in Bamboo, germplasm conservation of citrus, *etc.* He has published about 20 research papers of national and international repute, besides 15 popular articles and many review articles. He has edited souvenir, written many book chapters and published one book on Post Harvest Physiology of Fruits and Vegetables.

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