

PARTICIPATORY RURAL APPRAISAL (PRA)

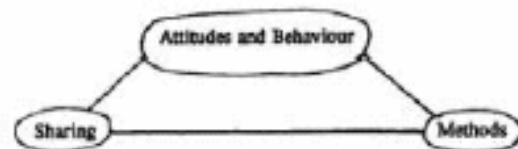
- What are the PRA techniques?
- What are the methods?
- How can we do PRA in villages?

- Will all the villagers participate?
- Can we conduct PRA in a new village?
- What are the problems? How to approach the villagers?
- How can the villagers and outside participants do this together?

PARTICIPATORY RURAL APPRAISAL

- Participatory Rural Appraisal broadly aims at enabling the rural people to assemble together, analyze their past, examine their present and envisage their future by assessing their socio-economic and geographic situation,
- identifying their problems, exploring locally available resources, hammering out feasible solutions and formulating action plans, realizable during certain time span.
- PRA uses group animation and exercises to facilitate information sharing, analysis, and action among stakeholders.

The three legs of PRA:



Key Tenets of PRA

- *Participation.*
- *Teamwork*
- *Flexibility*
- *Optimal ignorance*
- *Triangulation*

PRA Tools

- Semi structured interviewing
- Focus group discussions
- Preference ranking
- Mapping and modeling
- Seasonal and historical diagramming.

Which information can you acquire through PRA?

- ◆ Socio-economic indicators
- ◆ Reliable historical data
- ◆ Institutions and their influence
- ◆ Various maps and transects
- ◆ Seasonal variations on workload etc.

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Who's the target group?

- ◆ Smaller communities, be it rural or urban
- ◆ Single respondents
- ◆ Groups of respondents
- ◆ Rich as well as poor. Highly educated as well as uneducated
- ◆ One time interviews as well as recurrent interviews

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Organizing PRA

- A typical PRA activity involves a team of people working for two to three weeks on workshop discussions, analyses, and fieldwork. Several organizational aspects should be considered:

- Logistical arrangements should consider nearby accommodations, arrangements for lunch for fieldwork days, sufficient vehicles
- Training of team members may be required, particularly if the PRA has the second objective of training in addition to data collection
- PRA results are influenced by the length of time allowed to conduct the exercise, scheduling and assignment of report writing, and critical analysis of all data, conclusions, and recommendations.

- A PRA covering relatively few topics in a small area (perhaps two to four communities) should take between ten days and four weeks,
- Reports are best written immediately after the fieldwork period, based on notes from PRA team members. A preliminary report should be available within a week or so of the fieldwork

Participatory Learning Methods (PALM)

- Let the villagers teach you!

Applications

PALM could be applied to a variety of situations.

Some of these are:

1. Watershed programmes
2. Agriculture and other related activities
3. Non farm activities
4. Studying customs of rural life

Layout of a typical PALM/PRA

DAY I: INTRODUCTORY

- History of the Village
- Village layout
- Village infrastructure
- Preferences, etc.

DAY II: EXPLORATORY (SIMPLE)

- Study of resources
- Livelihoods
- Trends, etc.

DAY III: EXPLORATORY (SIMPLE)

- Seasonality
- Identifying resources
- Wealth ranking
- Class and cast stratification, conflict, etc.

DAY IV: CONVERGENCE

- Identifying opportunities
- Listing priorities and best bets
- Identifying roles and responsibilities (defining participants of the various partners including the people.), Causes & effects, etc.

• DAY V: CONCLUDING

- Operational plan
- Documentation, etc.
- Such gatherings are usually lively with the village folk correcting one another and arriving at consensus on various issues, events,
- practices and other information. Thus an important principle of PRA/PALM is met - that of "*triangulation*" of information.

Sequence of Techniques

PRA techniques can be combined in a number of different ways, depending on the topic under investigation.

- Mapping and modeling are good techniques to start with because they involve several people, stimulate much discussion and enthusiasm, provide the PRA team with an overview of the area, and deal with non- controversial information.
- Maps and models may lead to transect walks, perhaps accompanied by some of the people who have constructed the map.

- The current situation can be shown using maps and models, but subsequent seasonal and historical diagramming exercises can reveal changes and trends, throughout a single year or over several years.
- Preference ranking is a good icebreaker at the beginning of a group interview and helps focus the discussion. Later, individual interviews can follow up on the different preferences among the group members and the reasons for these differences.

Rich pictures

Purpose :

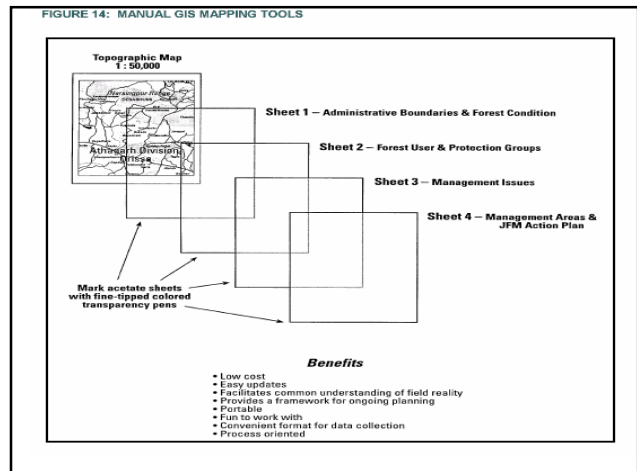
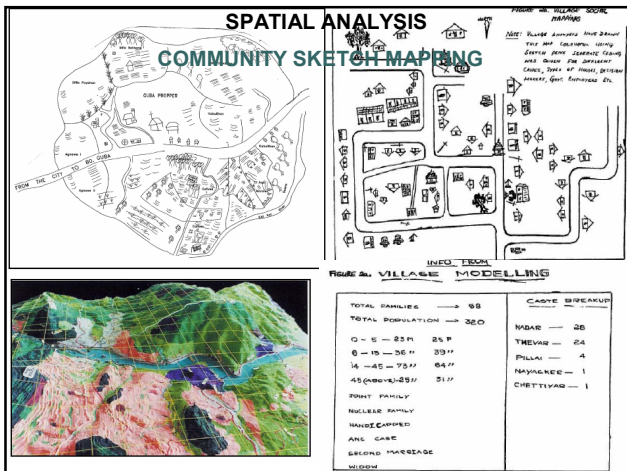
- To make a pictorial representation of all the things that need to be taken into consideration or are important to a particular situation.
- This is a good way for a group to come to a broad, shared understanding of a situation.

Locality mapping

Purpose :

To draw on the knowledge of local people to develop a map of the local area.

Description : Using large sheets of butchers paper, draw the outline of the local area, for example, roads, towns, rivers and property boundaries



Brainstorming

- **Purpose :** To quickly gain a lot of ideas from a group without getting caught up in detailed discussion.
- **Description :** Ask the group to think of as many ideas as they can about the topic in question, then go around the group asking each person to briefly state their idea.
- Don't let the activity get bogged down in detailed discussion or debate.

Visioning

Purpose :

- To develop a shared vision of what a group would like the outcome of a project. This helps people think creatively and let go of immediate problems.
- **Description :** Ask people to describe how they would like things to be in the future. It is possible to do this in an imaginary way

Questionnaires and surveys

- Purpose :** To gain information from a large number of people in a structured way according to specific questions.
- **Description :** Questionnaires and surveys can range from being very simple to quite complex. The terms questionnaire and survey are often used interchangeably, however, if a distinction is to be made a questionnaire is a form of questions people fill in

Mind mapping

Purpose :

- To cluster similar ideas, to see links between them and to pick out the most important issues when discussing or brainstorming. As in rich picturing, this is a good way of making sure all aspects of a situation have been considered.
- **Description :** On butchers paper or a whiteboard, start with the central issue or question and then build a dendrogram (like a tree) of ideas from the central question. You can put down the most important or higher order things first and then build on these

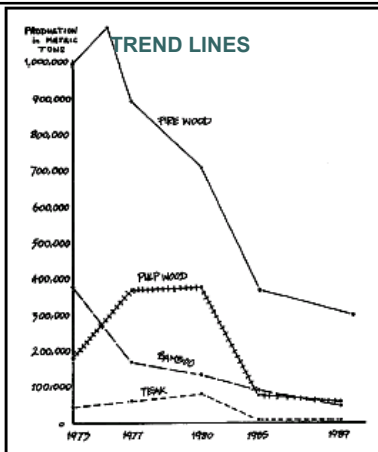
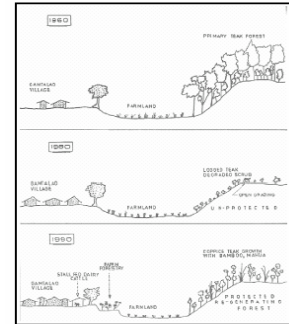
Cause and effect mapping

Purpose : To explore the contributing causes or reasons for a particular problem or issue and to help identify root causes rather than symptoms

Historical analysis

Purpose :

- To understand the history and background to a situation or project. It is a valuable way of exploring how change has occurred, why things are the way they are and why different groups or individuals hold the views they do.



DATE	EVENT	TIME LINE
1922	Original village established	
1925	Phulwadi talia founded	
1947	Independence	
1950s	Private land allocation and titling	
1968-1970	Commercial clear-felling of forests in the area	
1970	Kotwalia basket-makers begin to settle in Phulwadi	
1980-1987	Repeated attempts and failures to reforest Gamtalao area with <i>Acacia auriculiformis</i> and <i>Eucalyptus</i>	
1988	Circle conservator and GFD staff hold meeting with Gamtalao villagers to discuss reforestation, community needs, and collaborative management possibilities	
1988	Formation of Gamtalao Forest Protection Committee (unregistered); 25 hectares protected with enrichment planting of local species	
1989	Gamtalao village begins protecting 60 additional hectares; Phulwadi villagers request the people of Gamtalao to allocate 35 hectares of forest land under their protection	
1990	Gamtalao FPC places 20 more hectares under community protection	
1991	First gobar gas plant set up (12 total)	
1992	Phulwadi women propose to establish Mahila Mandal	

Focus groups

- **Purpose :** To collect general information about an issue from a small group of selected people through group discussion.
- **Description :** A broad question, for example : ‘What impact do you think the WDC group has had in achieving sustainable land use?’ is given to a group of about eight to discuss for one or two hours.

FLOW DIAGRAM

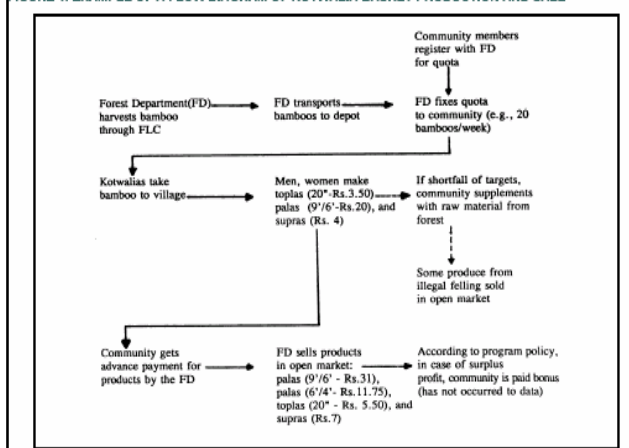
Method:

Semi-structured interviews and group discussing with the villagers as well as direct observations,

market research and consultation with middlemen, retailers and government officials.

The aim is to track the product through the market, recording the price variations at each stage. Figure 4 illustrates a case example from the Kotwalias of South Gujarat, India.

FIGURE 4: EXAMPLE OF A FLOW DIAGRAM OF KOTWALIA BASKET PRODUCTION AND SALE



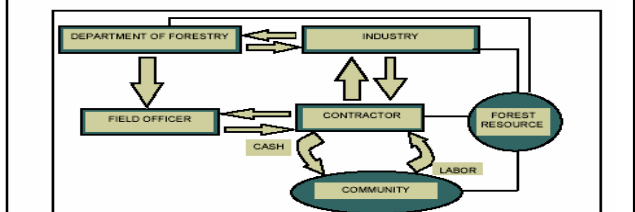
SYSTEMS DIAGRAM

This technique is a way to illustrate the user groups, (including village communities, government field staff, commercial interests, NGO researchers) and the interaction between user groups and the resource.

Method:

Information on user groups can be collected by using the semi-structural interviews of key informants and through group discussions. This information can then be diagramed in a systematic way.

FIGURE 2: EXAMPLE OF A SYSTEMS DIAGRAM



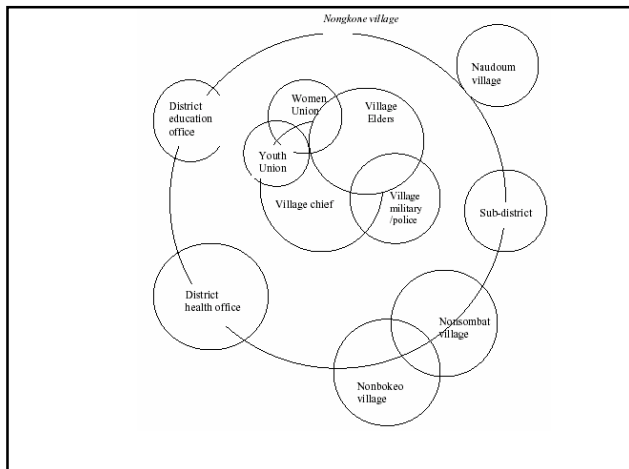
Strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) analysis

- **Purpose :** To identify the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats in relation to a project or group.

Institutional linkage (Venn) diagrams

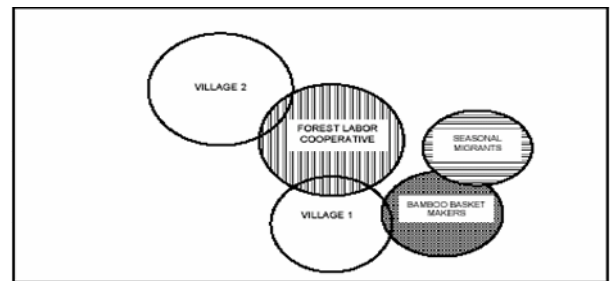
A Venn diagram is a PRA method that shows

- The key institutions, organizations, or
- Groups as well as influential individuals in a village and
- Their relationships and importance in decision making. A Venn diagram can be prepared on the ground, a large sheet of paper, or a blackboard.



VENN DIAGRAM DIAGRAMS & LISTS

- Define the user groups (e.g. flower collectors, basket makers etc) and represent these user groups will be reflected in a number of settlements also.
- This will be reflected in overlapping circles on the Venn diagram.



LIST MAKING

Method:

- Set aside enough time (2-3 hours) when villagers have time to think carefully and are not under pressure to perform other tasks.
- Separating groups into men and women to list.
- These lists of species can be cross-checked and elaborated on by walking through the forest with knowledgeable local people.

FIGURE 7: EXAMPLE OF LIST MAKING

FOREST PRODUCT	COMMERCIAL USE	SUBSISTENCE USE
Fig Fruit	X	X
Guava		X
Teak Poles	X	X
Bamboo	X	X
Mahua Flowers	X	X
Pine Nuts		X
Acorns		X
Siris Branches		X
Eucalyptus Timber		X

Information tabulation and graphing

- **Purpose :** To represent information in a way that makes it easy to comprehend and analyse. For example, tabulating the number of different types of activities run by a landcare group or graphing the distances from a service

FIGURE 4.
LINKAGE DIAGRAM

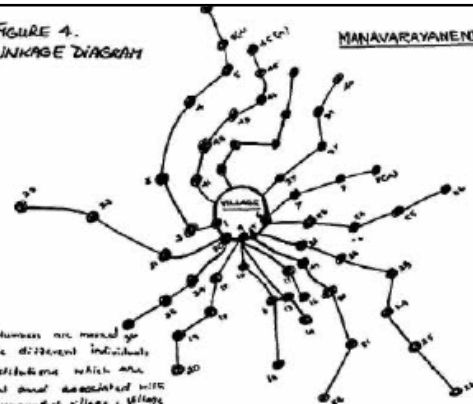


FIGURE 3. SICKNESS ACTION MATRIX (SAM)

RANKING	SYMPTOMS	VILLAGE TREATMENT	INDICATOR	PREVENTION
1.	STOMACHACHE ●●●●●●●● ●●●●●●●●	●	●●	●●●●
2.	KNEE PAIN ●●●●●● ●●●●●●	●	●●	●●●●
3.	EYE/HEADACHE ●●●●●● ●●●●●●	●	●●	●●●●
4.	POX ●●●●●●●● ●●●●●●●●	NIL	NIL	NIL
5.	WATER EYE ●●●●●● ●●●●●●	●	●●	NIL
6.	TOOTH PAIN ●●●●●● ●●●●●●	NIL	●	●●
7.	HEAVY ●●●●●●●● ●●●●●●●●	●	NIL	NIL
8.	WHITE DISCHARGE ●●●●●● ●●●●●●	●	●	●●

Matrix analysis

- **Purpose** : Rank the value of a particular activity or item according to a range of criteria.

Ranking

Basic needs	Score	Rank
Road	5	1
Irrigation	4	2
School	3	3
Temple	2	4
Health center	1	5
Latrine	0	6

Wealth Ranking

Examples of PRA techniques

Wealth ranking

- Can point out extreme cases
- Allows for discussion of wealth criteria, power, vulnerability etc.
- Allows for discussion of social events etc. (e.g. a person who moves from one wealth group to another)
- Not relevant in very poor or stressed groups
- Respondents need to know one another well
- Sorting cards in wealth groups
- Social mapping within group interviews

Card technique

Card technique (organising and ranking information, also called delphi – technique)

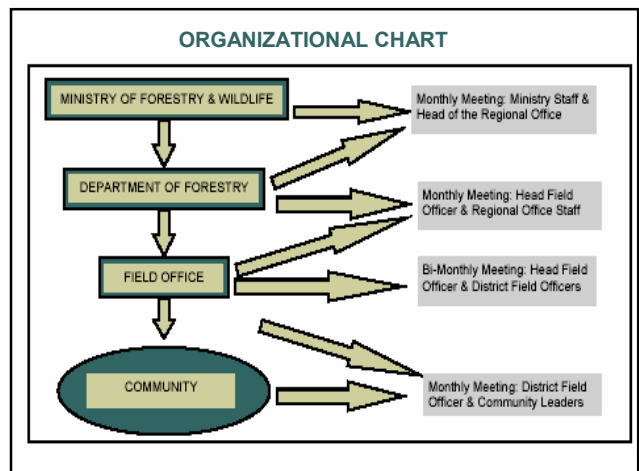
- **Purpose :** To cluster, organise and rank information. This is one of the most useful and widely used techniques in workshop settings because of the ease with which many ideas can be quickly collated and organised

Issue analysis

Purpose : To identify the major issues that have been raised by people from a range of other tools, such as focus groups and semi-structured interviews, and then to group these into major themes. This process is important in making sense of a lot of qualitative information.

Interrelationship diagrams

Purposes : To identify which out of a series of contributing causes are the most important and how they relate to each other.

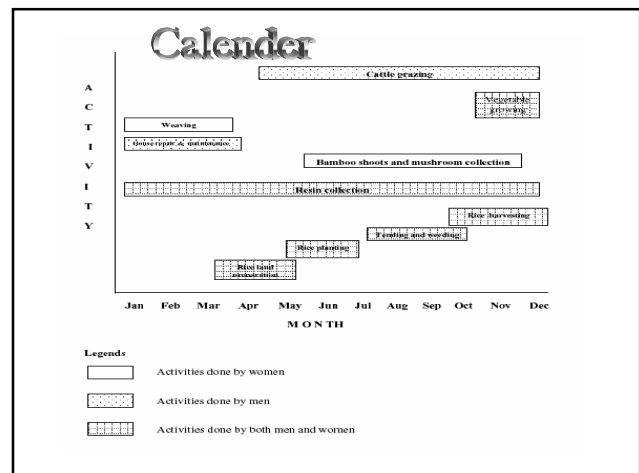
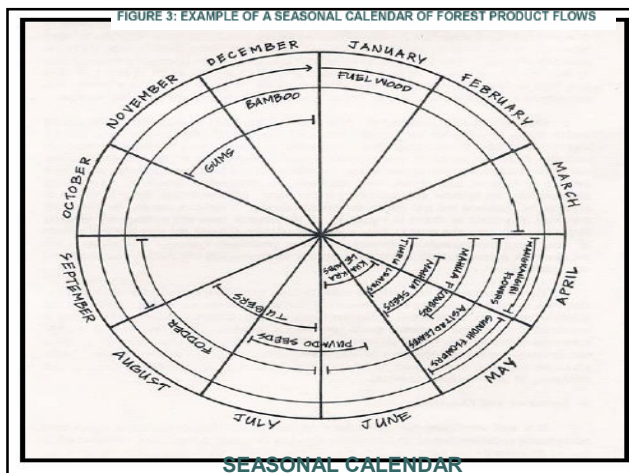


Nominal group technique

- **Purpose :** To enable a group to quickly develop a ranked list of problems, issues or actions.
- **Description :** Develop a list of the problems, issues or actions that need to be ranked. Express each as clearly as possible to avoid confusion

Action planning

- **Purpose :** To identify the specific tasks, resources, timetables and responsibilities required to achieve a particular objective.



DIALOGUE PROCESS

SEMI-STRUCTURED INTERVIEWS

Method:

- Prepare the topics for discussion and identify the individuals or groups you want to talk to. Select an appropriate time to conduct the interview. Ask open-ended questions that promote discussion and allow for flexibility in discussion so the issues that arise can be fully explored.

- At least one member of the PRA team should take notes.

After the interview, the team should discuss the information and write-up a complete report.

GROUP DISCUSSION

Method:

Select an appropriate time and location where the meeting will not interrupt activities or be disturbed. Encourage the participation of a variety of forest user groups such that wide cross-section of information and opinions are involved.

Promote

techniques that encourage participation. Use open-ended questions to promote explanations and opinions. Agree on how the group meeting should be conducted but allow for flexibility in conversation so that issues can be explored as they arise.

Conclusions

- Need to focus on partnership formation
- Common understanding, perception and problem identification
- Improve links with key role players in rural development
- Increase our knowledge base and skills in community based natural resource management
- Develop appropriate technologies
- Document, disseminate and share experiences
- Co-construction, co-operation and communication (the three C's)