Participatory Approach and Tools for Livelihood Context Analysis

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Participatory approaches in farming systems development

Participatory approaches
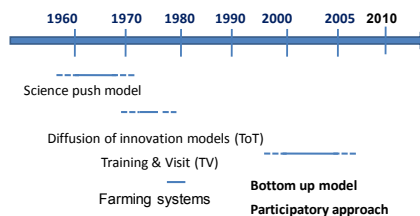
- **Common principles:**
  - enable farmers to play an active and influential part in making decisions which affect their lives
  - Respect for local knowledge and experience
  - External interventions reflect local realities and are relevant to farmers' context
  - Leading to social change

Progression of extension models in Thailand

1960 1970 1980 1990 2000 2005 2010

Science push model

Diffusion of innovation models (ToT)

Training & Visit (TV)

Farming systems

Bottom up model

Participatory approach

Slide 5 (table):

Elements	1970s	2000s
Science/technology	Genetics & breeding	Genetic engineering, IT, Geo-informatics, Bio-informatics, Data mining
Social learning	Extension	Learning organization
Food system	Hunger, Food security, Food surplus	Food safety
Impact	Farmer adoption	Adaptive Management
Interactive process	Techno-centric	Holo-centric

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Slide 6:

- Rapid Rural Appraisal (RRA)
- Agro-ecosystem analysis (AEA)
- Farming Systems Research (FSR)

- Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA)

All embrace interaction, reflection, learning and an understanding of power and relationships

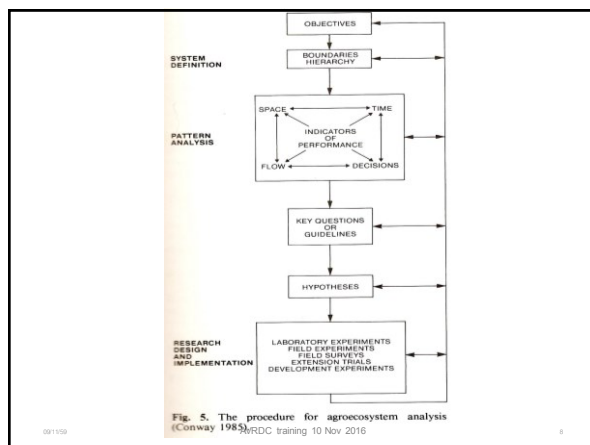09/11/59   AVRDC training 10 Nov 2016   6

Slide 7:

Agro-ecosystem analysis

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Slide 8:

Fig. 5. The procedure for agroecosystem analysis (Conway 1985)

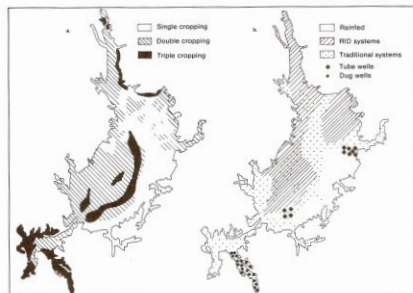09/11/59   AVRDC training 10 Nov 2016   8

Fig. 6. Spatial patterns in the Chiang Mai Valley, Thailand: (a) cropping intensity, (b) government (RID) and non-government irrigation systems (Gypmantasiri et al. 1980).
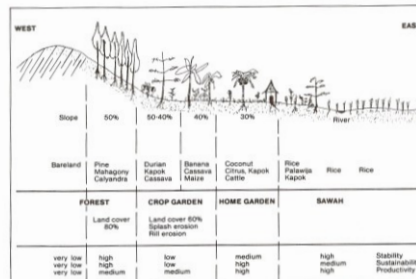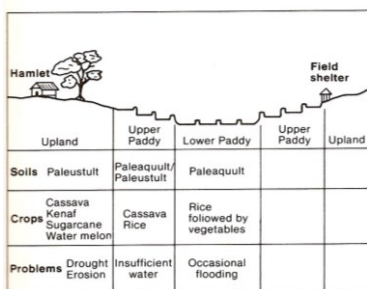
Fig. 7. Transect of an upland agroecosystem in East Java (KEPAS 1985a).

Fig. 8. Transect of a mini-watershed in Northeast Thailand (KKU-Ford Cropping Systems Project 1983a).
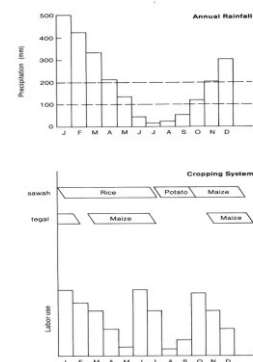
Fig. 9. Crop calendar for an upland agroecosystem in East Java (KEPAS 1985a).
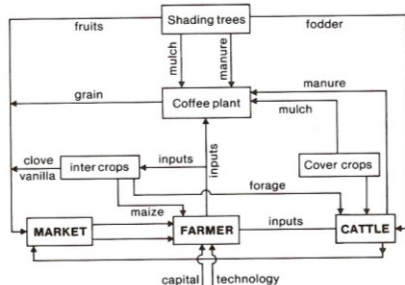
Fig. 10. Flow diagram of an upland coffee garden in East Java (KEPAS 1985a).
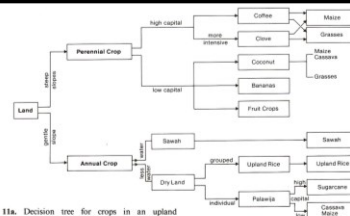

Fig. 11a. Decision tree for crops in an upland agroecosystem in East Java (KEPAS 1985a).

Fig. 11b. Decision tree for livestock in an upland agroecosystem in East Java (KEPAS 1985a).

Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA)

By the early 1980's, there was growing dissatisfaction among development experts with both the reductionism of formal surveys, and the biases of typical field visits.

In 1983, Robert Chambers, a Fellow at the Institute of Development Studies (UK), used the term *Rapid Rural Appraisal* to describe techniques that could bring about a 'reversal of learning'.

Two years later, the first international conference to share experiences relating to **RRA** was held in Thailand. This was followed by a rapid growth in the development of methods that involved rural people in examining their own problems, setting their own goals, and monitoring their own achievements.

By the mid 1990's, the term RRA had been replaced by a number of other terms including **'Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA)'** and **'Participatory Learning and Action' (PLA).**

PRA tools

1. **Group dynamics**, e.g. learning contracts, role reversals, feedback sessions
2. **Sampling**, e.g. transect walks, wealth ranking, social mapping
3. **Interviewing**, e.g. focus group discussions, semi-structured interviews, triangulation
4. **Visualization** e.g. venn diagrams, matrix scoring, timelines

Village map/village setting

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Village map

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Transect walk

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PRA ranking exercise

PRA ranking exercise with card technique

Historical narrowtive

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Mind mapping

Visualizing (Venn diagram)
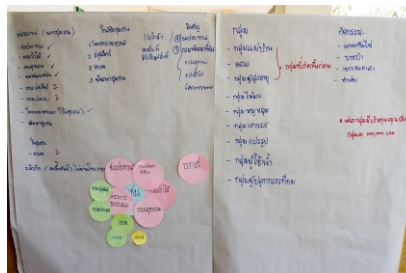
Key principles of PLA

- The right to participate
- Hearing unheard voice
- Seeking local knowledge and diversity
- Reversing learning
- Using diverse methods
- Handing over the stick
- Attitude and behavioral change

The King Rama 9th 's rural development "Inside-out" approach

- Understanding (Khao Jai)
  - data, information, analysis, synthesis, communications,
  - local context, farmers' circumstances,
  - social-cultural setting
- Participatory and interactive learning and action, trust-building (Khao Theung)
- Development (Patthana)
  - implementation, monitoring and evaluation
  - Empowerment, self-reliance
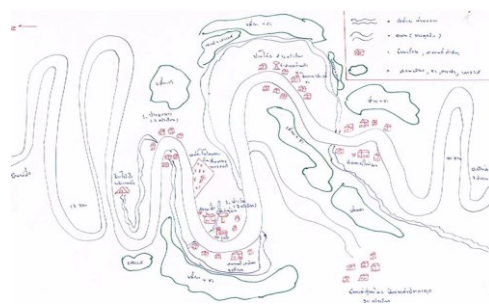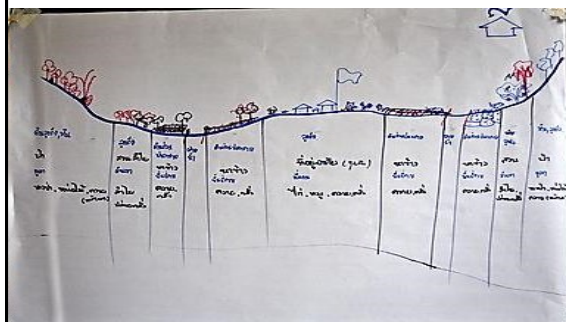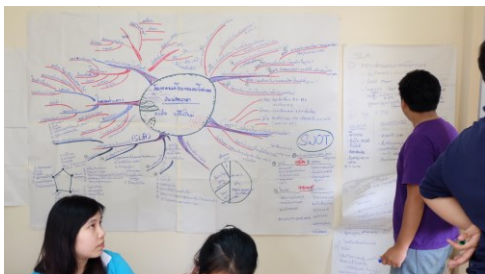
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The Royal Initiative Projects

Exercise

Country	Context	Farming type	PRA
Tuvalu			
Swaziland			
R Marshall Island			
Bukina Faso			
Nigeria			
Malaysia			
Lebanon			
Thailand			
Tajikistan			
Cambodia			

Gaining ideas

Brainstorming

TOOLS

Organizing and ranking ideas, factors, issues

· Cause and effect mapping
· Card techniques (Metaplan)
· Delphi techniques
· Mind mapping
· Nominal group techniques

Analysis factors, steps, relationships

· Conceptual model
· Flow diagram
· Force field analysis
· Interrelationship diagrams
· Issue analysis
· Matrix analysis
· SWOT

Participatory learning tools

· Historical analysis
· Locality mapping
· Timeline
· Time trend
· Empowerment circle
· Institutional linkage (Venn diagrams)
· Rich picture
· Role play

Collecting information

· Focus groups discussions
· Historical narratives
· Questionnaires and surveys
· Semi-structured interviewing

Monitoring

· Most Significant Change
· Performance indicators
· Logical Framework Approach
· Theory-based evaluation
· Formal surveys
· Rapid appraisal methods
· Participatory methods
· Public expenditure tracking surveys
· Cost-benefit/Cost-effectiveness analysis
· Impact evaluation

Planning

· Visioning
· Problem tree analysis

http://www.mspguide.org/tools-and-methods

Mind mapping

- cluster similar ideas, to see links between them and to pick out the most important issues when discussing or brainstorming

Source: http://www.thinksmart.com/mission/workout/mindmapping_intro.html

Matrix analysis

- Rank the value of a particular activity or item according to a range of criteria

Steps;
- decide what it is that you want to compare
- determine what criteria will be used
- Score each item against the criteria
- If some criteria are deemed more important they can be given extra weight
- The totals can be added to show which is the most beneficial item

SWOT analysis

"identify the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) in relation to a project or group"

- <u>*Strengths*</u>: Those things that are working well in a project or situation. The aspects people are proud to talk about.
- <u>*Weaknesses*</u>: Those things that have not worked so well.
- <u>*Opportunities*</u>: Ideas on how to overcome weaknesses and build on strengths
- <u>*Threats*</u>: The things that constrain or threaten the range of opportunities for change

Focus groups discussions

Used to collect general information, clarify details or gather opinions about an issue from a small group of selected people who represent different viewpoints

Steps:
- Determine the participants (four to eight people is ideal). Depending on purpose, homogenous/heterogeneous group.
- Present the group with a broad question
- Discuss this question for the time period agreed upon beforehand, one or two hours maximum.
- Take detailed notes of the discussion.

Historical narratives

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

Steps:
- Set up a large sheet of butchers paper with rows and columns.
- Put dates down the side and beside them put topics such as key local events, key external events, influence of local personalities/groups, major changes (social, environmental, economic) and key trends.
- With a group, fill in the table that has been created.
- This takes from one to several hours and can be effective with quite large groups.

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Locality mapping
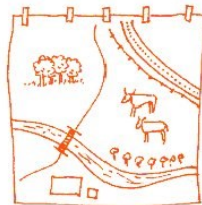
provide a visual representation of information in a particular geographical context based on stakeholders' perceptions of any focus issue

http://portals.wi.wur.nl.msp.?page-1230

http://www.mspguide.org/tools-and-methods

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Timeline

- participatory tool to understand a kind of history of a community.
- gives a quick impression of the community how it is moving forward or what history has been carried by the community
- generates information of the major events of the community which has a certain impact in the society
- useful to build rapport in the community
- useful to understand and analyze the conflict situation on how the conflict evolved and came to the present situation

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- Identify the Key Informant in the community (in many cases old knowledgeable people would be the Key person for the historical events)
- Clarify the objective of using this tool to the community
- Ask them to tell about the past major events happened the community that has certain impact and they still remember it.
- Facilitate to explain about only one event at a time with date so that you can note down the information
- Make a simple format containing columns of Date, Major events, Impact and record the information
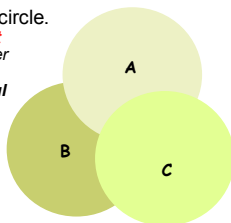
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Institutional linkage (Venn diagrams)

To illustrate the extent to which individuals, organizations, projects or services interact with each other or overlap and the importance of each, and their efforts, to the issue being evaluated.

- Each entity is represented by a circle.
  - *The larger circle is more important*
  - *The closer circles are to each other the more interaction there is*
  - **Large circles represent powerful organizations**
  - *Overlapping circles represent interacting organizations*
  - *A small circle within a larger circle represents a component of that organization.*
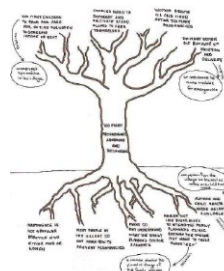
A

B   *C*

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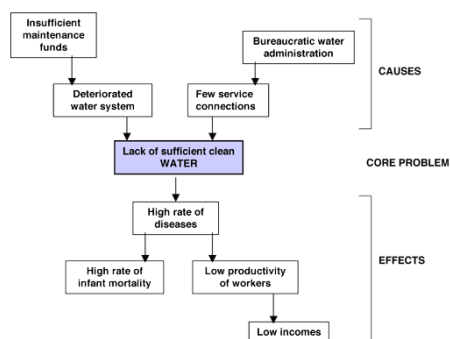
Problem Tree Analysis

- Problem tree analysis is central to many forms of project planning and is well developed among development agencies

- Problem tree analysis (Situational analysis) helps to find solutions by mapping out the anatomy of cause and effect around an issue in a similar way to a Mind map, but with more structure

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Insufficient maintenance funds	Bureaucratic water administration	CAUSES
Deteriorated water system	Few service connections	
Lack of sufficient clean WATER		CORE PROBLEM
High rate of diseases		EFFECTS
High rate of infant mortality	Low productivity of workers	
Low incomes		

http://web.mit.edu/urbanupgrading/upgrading/issues-tools/tools/problem-tree.html   47

Formal surveys

- used to collect standardized information from a carefully selected sample of people or households
- often collect comparable information for a relatively large number of people in particular target groups

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Rapid appraisal methods

Rapid appraisal methods are;
- Quick
- low-cost

to gather the views and feedback of beneficiaries and other stakeholders, in order to respond to decision-makers' needs for information.

Cost-benefit/ Cost-effectiveness analysis

Tools for assessing whether or not the costs of an activity can be justified by the outcomes and impacts
- *Cost-benefit analysis* measures both inputs and outputs in monetary terms
- *Cost-effectiveness analysis* estimates inputs in monetary terms and outcomes in non-monetary quantitative terms (such as improvements in student reading scores).

Group exercise: PAR tools

- Divided 3 groups
- 1 case study from each group
- Using some of the tools to analyze the context :
  - Venn diagram
  - Historical time line
  - problem tree
  - etc