

## Endnotes

### Successful networking! (or: The real impact of a consultant)

#### Jennifer McCracken

The success of communication in rural development undoubtedly depends on the type of information to be communicated. If it is interesting/relevant/worthwhile, it will be passed on more readily. Or if it is amusing!...

On the last evening of an RRA consultancy trip to Java back in 1987, I was sitting with a group of local FSR researchers in a lakeside restaurant, enjoying the food and drink. The accompanying stories and jokes became sillier and sillier and a joke I told went down well:

There were three rural development experts, each of whom was given an assignment which entailed them trudging for many days across the Sahara. They were allowed to take with them one thing to help them in the heat.

"Well", said the first expert, "I would like a solar powered fan to cool me as I walk".

The second expert thought for a moment and said, "I would like a portable sprinkler system to spray cool water over me".

"What stupid ideas!" exclaimed the third expert. "All I want to take is a car door".

The others looked at him strangely, "A car door?" they asked "Whatever for?"

"Well," he replied, "when I get too hot, I can I always wind down the window".

Eight months later, I was back on another RRA trip, to a different district of Java, and working with a different group of local FSR researchers. One evening in the field, one of the researchers asked me "Have you heard the joke about the man who is sent to the desert and he wants to carry a car door?"

Amazing but true. If you have any silly stories or jokes which you feel deserve to be sent worldwide, please send them to me for inclusion in this space.

• Jennifer McCracken