

Editorial

This fifth issue of RRA Notes includes for the first time a short comment on a previous article. The correspondent suggests an alternative way in which the ranking of browse species (in RRA Notes 3) could have been conducted, to give the pastoralists more say in deciding the final ranked categories. We would welcome more comments on previous articles, or indeed letters with more general comments, criticisms etc.

The four articles in this issue illustrate a very wide range of applications of the RRA approach:

- Introducing the idea of farming to alley communities in Nigeria.

The article describes how a participatory drama, 'The Fertiliser Bush', got around some of the initial communication barriers and became a springboard for discussions on the alley farming technology.

- Planning fuelwood initiatives in Nepal.

The authors describe the whole sequence of an exploratory RRA, which covered many other issues in addition to the fuelwood focus, and which combined technical measurements with more qualitative investigative techniques.

- Assessing food security in Sudan.

This RRA used an apt ranking technique of looking at food security, dividing a plate of sorghum grain into different portions, each representing a particular group within the community.

- Involving farmers in agricultural research in Australia

This article describes one of the few examples of where RRA has been applied in a developed country, and illustrates well how the RRA techniques are equally applicable to such situations.

As a final note, if any names and addresses were misspelt in the distribution list (sent with RRA Notes 4) or in the subsequent up-date lists, or if you know of anyone else who should be on the list, please let us know.

• Jennifer McCracken
