

Editorial

Once again, we would like to thank so many of you for having returned copies of the readership survey. The results will be published in issue No. 14, as RRA Notes 13 will be solely devoted to reporting recent developments in Participatory Rural Appraisal in India.

This issue contains seven articles. The first two take further the comments and discussions raised by Weyman Fussell and Ueli Scheuermeier in previous issues. Don Messerschmidt draws attention to the importance that outsiders can play in group and team dynamics during rural investigation in Nepal, and Susan Johnson raises further questions about the whole nature of projects and interventions. In the third article James Mascarenhas and Prem Kumar of MYRADA review their considerable experience of participatory mapping and modelling to present guidelines in the form of Users' Notes. Mehreen Hosain reflects on a rapid appraisal designed to elucidate women's views and values in north west Pakistan, and concludes that the exercise not only produced valuable information on social structures that varied from village to village, but also raised the awareness of women in the villages

investigated. Andy Inglis makes an important contribution to the debates about the comparative accuracy of the participatory qualitative methodologies embodied by rapid rural appraisal and formal questionnaires. He led a team to investigate fuelwood issues in Sierra Leone, and was able to -compare the results with those from a questionnaire conducted just before. He concludes that the RRA survey not only generated useful results but was probably better suited to the gathering of complex socio-economic and socio-ecological information. The results of the RRA were presented the day after the fieldwork was concluded; close to a year later the questionnaire results had still not been analysed. In the sixth article Mick Howes. Goes beyond the 'chapati' diagram to suggest new ways of diagrammatically representing formal and informal social relationships. Lastly Antony van der Loo reports on the use of topical surveys to produce closer farmer-extension worker relationships in Mozambique. We conclude with a new section, End Notes, that will report on a range of issues - on this occasion a new newsletter on qualitative methods, and a request for information on experiences with wealth ranking.

• **Jules Pretty**, IIED, 3 Endsleigh Street, London WC1H 0DD, UK.