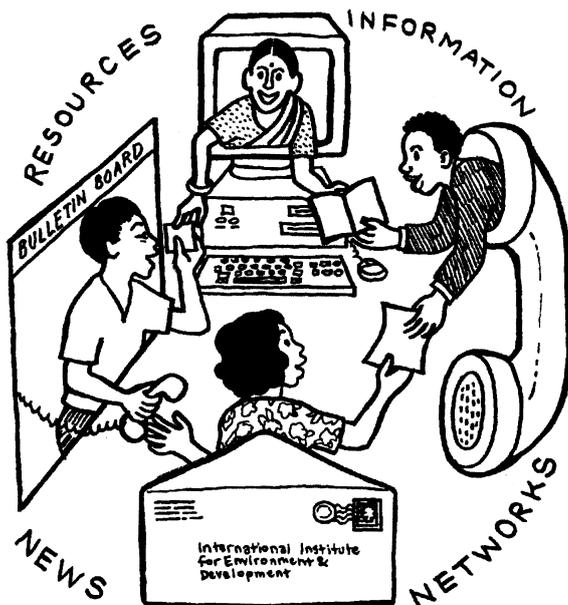


in touch



Welcome to the In Touch section of *Participatory Learning and Action*. Through these pages we hope to create a more participatory resource for the *Participatory Learning and Action* audience, to put you, as a reader, in touch with other readers. We want this section to be a key source of up-to-date information on training, publications, and networks. Your help is vital in keeping us all in touch about:

- **Networks.** Do you have links with recognised local, national or international networks for practitioners of participatory learning? If so, what does this network provide – training? newsletters? resource material/library? a forum for sharing experiences? Please tell us about the network and provide contact details for other readers.
- **Training.** Do you know of any forthcoming training events or courses in participatory methodologies? Are you a trainer yourself? Are you aware of any key

training materials that you would like to share with other trainers?

- **Publications.** Do you know of any key publications on participatory methodologies and their use? Have you (or has your organisation) produced any books, reports, or videos that you would like other readers to know about?
- **Electronic information.** Do you know of any electronic conferences or pages on the Internet which exchange or provide information on participatory methodologies?
- **Other information.** Perhaps you have ideas about other types of information that would be useful for this section. If so, please let us know.

Please send your responses to:
Participatory Learning and Action,
IIED, 3 Endsleigh Street, London
WC1H 0DD, UK.
Fax: + 44 20 7388 2826;
Email: pla.notes@iied.org
Participatory Learning and Action is published in April, August, and December. Please submit material two months before the publication date.

Book reviews



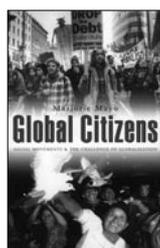
Ideas for Development

● Robert Chambers
Earthscan Publications,
London, UK

Originally intended as a compendium of sorts, in this book Robert Chambers reflects on his past written work about participatory development. As he explains in his introduction, 'I soon found that I had to reflect and comment in the light of what had happened since the time of writing, and then think about the future'. The themes (from words into action; administrative capacity; institutional change; creative applications; going to scale; attitudes and behaviour; and responsible well-being) have been selected as having particular relevance still for development today.

Each chapter first provides a review of his previous work. From this, Chambers then presents his evolving 'ideas for development', finding new potentials for participation and participatory approaches, and inviting the reader to adapt and take their own ideas forward in their work and practice. Rather than tackling specific development issues – such as agriculture or climate change – it focuses on ideas for action, reflection, and learning – and how these are key to creating 'good change'.

■ Available from: Earthscan, 8-12 Camden High Street, London, NW1 0JH, UK. Tel: +44 20 7387 8558; Fax: +44 20 7387 8998 or order online at www.earthscan.co.uk/ where there is a special 10% discount on all books (correct at time of going to press). Available in hardback (price £35.00), ISBN 1844070875; or paperback (price £8.99), ISBN 1844070883.



Global Citizens: social movements and the challenge of globalization

● Marjorie Mayo
Zed Books, 2005
ISBN: 1 84277 138 8 HB;
184277 139 6 Pb

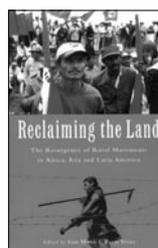
The emergence of global citizen action has been widely recognised as having become key to the discourse and practice of democratic politics and social change. This book sets out to explore the context for anti-globalisation movements and their potential implications for active global citizenship, for social justice, human rights and social transformation based upon new forms of solidarity between North and South. The book explores differing definitions and perspectives of globalisation and takes up themes of governance and the changing role of civil society. It looks at differing approaches to the study of social movements, locally as well as globally. The book draws upon interviews with activists, advocates, campaigners, policy makers, professionals and academics as well as policy researchers from a range of groups, organisations and movements and includes case studies of particular networks, movements and campaigns where the causes of social inequality and social injustice are explored and more transformatory approaches are developed.

■ Available from: Zed Books, 7 Cynthia Street, London N1 9JF, UK. Website www.zedbooks.co.uk

Reclaiming the Land: the resurgence of rural movements in Africa, Asia and Latin America

● Edited by Sam Moyo & Paris Yeros
Zed Books, 2005

ISBN 1 84277 424 7 Hb;
1 84277 425 5 Pb



Rural movements have emerged to become some of the most important social forces in opposition to neoliberalism. The book brings together country studies from three continents and looks at their social composition, strategies, tactics and ideologies to assess their relations with other social actors and to examine their most common tactic, the land occupation, its origins, pace and patterns as well as the responses of governments and landowners. The book looks at new land tenure arrangements and new land uses linked to global markets and how these have undermined the social reproduction of the rural labour force and created the conditions for popular resistance. It demonstrates the longer-term potential impact of these movements to tackle land redistribution and reorganisation of production on a more efficient and socially responsible basis.

Available from Zed Books, 7 Cynthia Street, London N1 9JF, UK. Website: www.zedbooks.co.uk



Participatory evaluation and budgetary processes

● Bara Guèye
Drylands Issue Paper No. 135, IIED, 2005
Published in English and

French ISBN English: 1 84369 564 2 ISBN
French: 1 84369 567 7

To be effective participation needs to ensure that citizens play a meaningful role in decentralisation programmes. A genuinely participatory democracy must include continuous dialogue

among stakeholders underpinned by a joint analysis and identification of priorities. The promotion of local governance recognises that participation can have a significant effect on the impact of decentralisation. As a result, various approaches and methods are being tried out and disseminated by multi-lateral and bi-lateral development agencies and NGOs to facilitate this process. These include gender-sensitive approaches, citizen juries and forums for public debate, as well as tools for tracking public expenditure, the national budget, participatory budgeting, participatory monitoring of public programme performance etc. While the ultimate aim remains the same, these mechanisms offer a wide range of entry points. This paper draws on experience using participatory budgeting in Fissel and Ndiaganiao, two rural municipalities in Senegal, West Africa.

■ Available from www.earthprint.com or downloadable from www.iied.org/drylands/pubs/issuepapers.html

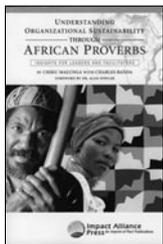


Training package on Participatory Agricultural Extension Methodology (PAEM)

This training package, developed in Vietnam and which includes a CD Rom, offers a multi-layer training package for training of trainers and

training of field level extension staff. It focuses on the improvement of facilitation skills necessary for participatory agricultural extension and provides technical modules on sustainable (upland) cultivation techniques and how to transfer them to farmers.

■ For more information on PAEM contact one of the following organisations:
 SFDP Song Da, No 1A Nguyen Cong Tru, Hanoi, Vietnam. Email: gtzsfdp@hn.vnn.vn
 SNV Vietnam, 105-112 Van Phuc Diplomatic Compound – Kim Ma, Hanoi, Vietnam. Email: snvvn@snv.org.vn Website: www.snv.org.vn
 Son La – Lai Chau Rural Development Project, No 101, Street 14, Tan Thanh Ward – Dien Bien Phu City, Vietnam. Email: eulaichau@hn.vnn.vn



Understanding Organizational Sustainability through African Proverbs: insights for leaders and facilitators

● Chiku Malunga with

Charles Banda
 ISBN: 1-888753-36-6
 Impact Alliance Press, 2004

When cobwebs unite, they can tie up a lion. This and other proverbs are used throughout the book to discuss what organisations are, how they function, how they grow and develop and what makes them effective. The book discusses the following topics:

- The role of African proverbs in understanding and improving organisational effectiveness
- Organisational culture

- Leadership and vision
- Strategic planning and management
- Roles, responsibilities and relationships in organisations
- Organisational and financial sustainability
- Self-development for organisational consultants
- Assessing organisations and individuals using proverbs based tools

The book upholds a strong belief that an enhanced understanding of organisations and what makes them work will greatly improve their performance. The use of African proverbs gives a ‘new language’ that the readers will use to understand and communicate organisational issues. The book finishes with two innovative rated proverbs based assessment tools.

■ Available to order from Pact Publications www.pactpublications.org or from Impact Alliance – write to Smriti Lakhey, email books@pacthq.org. Price US\$18.95.



Bt Cotton in Andhra Pradesh: a three year fraud.....

● Community Media Trust

This 30 minute video compact disc (VCD) complements the report of the three year assessment of Bt cotton in Andhra Pradesh, which was published in 2002. The film shows vivid accounts narrated by farmers of the terrible pain, loss and anger which led to violence and death following the introduction of Bt cotton to Warangal District.

This was made by women filmmakers from Community Media Trust, who are small and marginal farmers themselves, and who have sensitively captured the images and voices of the farmers.

■ Available from Community Media Trust, Pastapur Vilage, Zahrabad, Andhra Pradesh. Email: ddsrural@sanchamet.in



Power Tools: Resource Box and Website

● Sonja Vermeulen *et al.* IIED, 2005
 ISBN: 1 84369 541 3

The management of natural resources is routine for many people, but the majority do not have the opportunity to contribute to the policies and institutions that govern their use. The Power Tools initiative aims to close this gap. Coordinated by IIED in partnership with NGOs and policy researchers in Africa, Latin America and Asia, the initiative develops and shares tools, tactics and approaches to ensure policy influence for change. The resource box contains *Power Tools: Handbook to tools and resources for policy influence in natural resource management*, as well as 26 tool summary cards. The resource box is available in English, French, Portuguese and Spanish. For more information visit www.policy-powertools.org

■ Available from www.earthprint.com
 Stock number: 9513IIED
 Price: USD 40.00 Free for non-oecd.

Events and training

Evaluation by design: how do they know they know?

**Global Learning Partners, Canada
Toronto: 17th – 19th November 2005**

This two and a half day workshop explores how to document the impact of any learning programme. Its very practical approach to conducting quantitative and qualitative evaluations will help you verify the impact that the training has in the learner's work place or in the community. Please see www.globalearning.com/EBD.htm for more details.

**The GLP Teacher Certification Course
Global Learning Partners, Canada
Toronto: 21st – 25th November 2005**

This course helps experienced practitioners of dialogue education to master the principles and practices of dialogue education, and become certified to teach the Learning to Listen, Learning to Teach course on behalf of Global Learning Partners. Please see www.globalearning.com/TC.htm for details.

**Advanced Learning Design
Global Learning Partners, Canada
Toronto: 10th – 13th January 2006**

Advanced Learning Design builds on the foundation of Learning to Listen, Learning to Teach with a focus on design principles. Each participant revises a course design from her/his workplace based on peer and instructor feedback. To learn more, please visit www.globalearning.com/ALD.htm

Please also visit the website to find alternative course dates in the USA. You can contact Global Learning

Partners for a quotation for a customised, in-house course on dialogue education. Global Learning Partners are happy to send facilitators anywhere in the world. They also offer workshops on Results-Based Management and other consulting and facilitation services.

■ For more information, please contact: Dwayne Hodgson, GLP Canadian and International Programmes Director. Email: dhodgson@globalearning.com; Tel: +1 866 284 4572 (toll free); Fax: +613 598 0094

**Participation in Extension: Farmer-led Approaches
19th September – 7th October, 2005
International Institute of Rural Reconstruction**

Y.C. James Yen Center, Silang, Cavite, Philippines
Designed for rural development extension staff, officers, and specialists, this course helps extension professionals to develop new capacities for planning, managing and evaluating participatory approaches to agricultural extension programmes. The design of the course carefully considers opportunities for interaction between participants, farmers, extension officers from NGOs and the government (the Department of Agriculture in the Philippines) through a field exercise in a Philippine village. The course also features case study experiences that focus on transitions in extension approaches within organisations. It also provides opportunity for participants to reflect on their learning and plan for the application of these learnings when they return back to their organisations.

■ For more information or to receive a course application form, please contact: Training Associate, International Course on Participation in Extension: Farmer-led Approaches, Regional Center for Asia,

International Institute of Rural Reconstruction, Y.C. James Yen Center, Silang 4118, Cavite, Philippines
Tel: +63 46 414 2417 local 521; Fax: +63 46 414 2417 local 2
Email: Education&Training@iirr.org
Website: www.iirr.org

**The Deep Dynamics of Stakeholder Relationships
An International Training Event
8th – 11th November 2005**

**Noordwijk, The Netherlands
The International Institute for Facilitation and Consensus**

In the life of a project or an organisation there are often dynamics below the surface that can hinder the project from developing its full potential. They are felt by nearly everyone, yet are not part of the stated mission and seldom the topic of any formal reflection. If left unaddressed, these forces can:

- reduce collaboration and trust among key stakeholders
- stifle innovation and creativity
- distort accountability
- prevent implementation of ideas and decisions
- waste valuable resources

The course methodology is interdisciplinary, and weaves together methods and approaches from Appreciative Inquiry, Applied Social Complexity, NLP, Dialogue and Social Psychology.

This is an experiential training. The participants will receive thorough theoretical grounding and will be able to test their skills through applying the learning to their own real life situations.

Participation is limited to 24 people and we encourage colleagues or small teams to attend together to maximise the impact on their projects or organisations.

■ Bookings and Information:
 Email: info@cohesiveid.com
 Website: www.ultimoround.com/workshops/

**Participation Works!
 ICA:UK's ToP course schedule to
 December 2005**

The Technology of Participation has been developed and refined by ICA in over 30 years of working with communities and organisations around the world. Today, the ToP methodology is applied by a wide variety of groups and organisations in the public, private and voluntary sectors.

Facilitators enable groups to work together more effectively. Around the world management and leadership styles are changing. The need for authentic participation in planning, problem solving and decision-making has never been clearer.

In a series of one and two-day training courses, ICA presents its Technology of Participation (ToP), a system of practical methods that will enable you, as a facilitator, to:

- actively involve all members of a group in decision-making
- maximise individuals' commitment and engagement
- build a team spirit that lasts
- achieve consensus
- articulate a shared vision
- make plans that really happen

The Foundation Course for ToP facilitation

**Group facilitation methods
 7th-8th September, 2005 -
 Manchester**

13th-14th September, 2005 - London

**27th-28th September, 2005 - Derry
 City**

4th-5th October, 2005 - Bristol

**2nd-3rd November, 2005 , 2005 -
 London**

8th-9th November, 2005 - Manchester

A structured introduction to the basic ToP Focused Conversation and Consensus Workshop methods. Presents the foundations of the ToP methodology in a practical and participatory way, demonstrating, discussing and practicing each method.

Explore the role and skills of the facilitator

Group facilitation skills

15th September, 2005 - London

6th October, 2005 - Bristol

10th November, 2005 - Manchester

Facilitating participatory processes goes beyond being able to design events and knowing which methods to use.

There is a whole range of skills that a facilitator needs to bring into play both before, during and after the event itself in order to ensure that the process and the methods employed are effective.

This one-day course is scheduled back-to-back with Group Facilitation Methods to allow from one to three days of training.

**Build on the skills you have learned
 Applied group facilitation methods
 22nd-23rd November, 2005 - London**

Group facilitation methods is a pre-requisite for this course and prior experience of applying ToP methods is recommended. Introduces a powerful, complex application of the basic Focused Conversation and Consensus Workshop methods, the ToP Action Planning Method, and enables participants to more effectively apply ToP methods in their own situations.

Action Planning Method

- Enable participants to visualise the completed task
- Assist participants to analyse the current situation
- Maximise involvement
- Develop an action timeline

A process to enable the successful

implementation of a project.

Participants learn to focus the group to clarify its direction in order to align its resources with its task. They also learn to define what they want to achieve, to evaluate their situation, determine implementing actions, build a timeline, and designate leadership roles. The method is excellent for planning short term projects or completing projects that have stalled.

ToP Applications Design

- Examines the wider context in which the methods can be used
- Introduces a framework for the design of participatory events
- Explores the role of the facilitator

An opportunity to work in small teams with ToP trainers assisting you in designing facilitation solutions, strengthening your facilitation skills, and fostering your capacity to design and facilitate events.

Lead diversity into action

**Participatory strategic planning
 19th-20th October, 2005 - Manchester**

Group Facilitation Methods is a pre-requisite for this course. Presents a structured long-range planning process which incorporates the Consensus Workshop method for building consensus, the Focused Conversation method for effective group communication and an implementation process for turning ideas into productive action and concrete accomplishments.

Additional courses may be scheduled during the year. For details, and on-line bookings, please visit www.ica-uk.org.uk

■ For further details and bookings for all courses, please contact: Humey Saeed or Martin Gilbraith, ICA:UK

Tel: +44 161 232 8444

Email: top@ica-uk.org.uk

Website: www.ica-uk.org.uk



e-participation

ODI's Africa Web Portal

www.odi.org.uk/Africa_Portal/

This has been updated and restructured. Links now follow the chapter headings of the Commission for Africa Report:

1. Governance and capacity building
2. Peace and security
3. Investing in people
4. Growth and poverty reduction
5. Trade
6. Resources
7. Making it happen.

These links lead directly to ODI material on Africa: ODI research reports, Briefing Papers, Opinion pieces and meeting reports on these themes, together with reports of work carried out directly for the Commission, including the results of e-consultations in Africa.

Oxfam UKPP Social Inclusion Directory

www.oxfamgb.org/ukpp/sid/index.htm

The Oxfam UK Poverty Programme (UKPP) has recently launched its Social Inclusion Directory (SID). SID is an online database of resources and information about organisations and individuals working in the areas of gender, participation and social inclusion at a UK-wide level and in Scotland, Wales and the North of England. It also contains details of resources, both UK-produced and international, which are relevant to work in these areas.

The Directory allows you to search for resources by topic, and includes

links to these resources online. From the Oxfam UK Poverty Programme home page, follow the link to the SID Directory, and then click on 'Search for resources'. Here you can search by subject area (e.g. gender, participatory budgeting), geographical area (international, UK-wide, England-London etc.), and also by your level of interest (e.g. background information to training materials etc.).

MSP Resource Portal

www.iac.wur.nl/msp/home.php

The Multi-Stakeholder Processes and Social Learning (MSP) portal is an online resource hosted by the International Agricultural Centre (IAC), The Netherlands. Multi-stakeholder processes and social learning are about setting up and facilitating long-term processes that bring different groups into constructive engagement, dialogue and decision-making.

The site includes an introduction to the concepts, principles and background of MSPs, as well as online, detailed information about tools and methodologies, including participatory learning tools, planning and analysis. It will also include a section on facilitation skills (not available at the time of going to print).

There are also numerous resources available free to read and download online, in Word format, as well as case studies, a glossary, news and events and links.

PPM&E Resource Portal

www.iac.wur.nl/ppme/index.php

In addition to the MSP Resource Portal, IAC also host a Participatory Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (PPM&E) resource portal for managing and learning for impact in rural development. The site includes sections on theory and background, including some useful diagrams e.g. of PPM&E in projects and programme cycles. It has information about methodologies and approaches, tools and methods, and a large range of online links to resources which are free to download. It also includes links to other organisations doing related work.

UNCDF Local Development

www.uncdf.org

The United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) Local Development website regularly publishes a wide range of reports on issues related to decentralisation, local governance, and pro-poor infrastructure and service delivery. The website includes thematic reports and papers online on areas such as poverty and local governments; fiscal decentralisation; natural resource management; and participatory development planning. The site also includes project reports from Bangladesh, Madagascar, Senegal, Nicaragua, Nepal, Mozambique, Malawi and Eritrea.

RCPLA Network

In this section, we aim to update readers on activities of the **Resource Centres for Participatory Learning and Action Network (RCPLA) Network** (www.rcpla.org) and its members. RCPLA is a diverse, international network of 17 national-level organisations which brings together development practitioners from around the globe. It was formally established in 1997 to promote the use of participatory approaches to development. The network is dedicated to capturing and disseminating development perspectives from the South. For more information please contact the RCPLA Network Steering Group:

RCPLA Coordination: Tom Thomas (Network Coordinator), Director, Institute for Participatory Practices (Praxis), S-75 South Extension, Part II, New Delhi, India 110 049. Tel/Fax: +91 11 5164 2348 to 51; Email: tomt@praxisindia.org or catherinek@praxisindia.org

Liz Carlile, Director of Communications, Institute for Environment & Development (IIED), 3 Endsleigh Street, London WC1H 0DD, UK. Tel: +44 20 7388 2117; Email: Liz.Carlile@iied.org; Website: www.iied.org

Asian Region: Jayatissa Samaranayake, Institute for Participatory Interaction in Development (IPID), 591 Havelock Road, Colombo 06, Sri Lanka. Tel: +94 1 555521; Tel/Fax: +94 1 587361; Email: ipidc@panlanka.net

News from the RCPLA coordinator

Over the past few months, RCPLA members have been busy organising writeshops, and working to expand the membership of the network.

Writeshops were held in Bolivia and Kenya (see news from PAMFORK), and participants explored themes of citizen participation in governance in both writeshops in great depth. This series of writeshops is a critical component of RCPLA's efforts to bring the voices of Southern practitioners to the forefront of the development dialogue. In both Bolivia and Kenya, rich field experiences have been captured, which provide a fresh lens for how we conceive of bringing effective citizen participation into governance initiatives. Through

these events RCPLA was able to network with a number of organisations in Peru, Ecuador, Brazil, Uganda, and Zambia, in an effort to further strengthen RCPLA's scope and relevance.

In parallel with this, RCPLA has been busy strategising about the network's Communication for Change (C4C) initiative. In order to explore the theoretical backdrop of C4C, RCPLA organised a consultation on 'Media Democratisation and Governance' in India. Through this consultation we sought to underscore the importance of communication, especially community communication, in social change.

Access to information has been universally acknowledged as a vital

West Africa Region: Awa Faly Ba, IIED Programme Sahel, Point E, Rue 6 X A, B.P. 5579, Dakar, Sénégal. Tel: +221 824 4417; Fax: +221 824 4413; Email: awafba@sentoo.sn

European Region: Jane Stevens, Participation Group, Institute of Development Studies (IDS), University of Sussex, Brighton BN1 9RE, UK. Tel: + 44 1273 678690; Fax: + 44 1273 21202; Email: participation@ids.ac.uk; Participation group website: www.ids.ac.uk/ids/particip

Latin American Region: Jordi Surkin Beneria, Grupo Nacional de Trabajo para la Participacion, Calle Padre Musani #40, Santa Cruz, Bolivia. Tel/fax: +591 3 337 607; Email: jbeneria@cotas.com.bo; Website: www.gntparticipa.org

North Africa & Middle East Region: Ali Mokhtar, Center for Development Services (CDS), 4 Ahmed Pasha Street, Citibank Building, Garden City, Cairo, Egypt. Tel: +20 2 795 7558; Fax: +20 2 794 7278; Email: cds.lrc@neareast.org; Website: www.neareast.org/explore/cds/index.htm

Southern and Eastern Africa Region: Eliud Wakwabubi, Participatory Methodologies Forum of Kenya (PAMFORK), Jabavu Road, PCEA Jitegemea Flats, Flat No. D3, P.O. Box 2645, KNH Post Office, Nairobi, Kenya. Tel/Fax: +254 2 716609; Email: pamfork@nbnnet.co.ke

ingredient for social change. However, in the current climate of globalisation, access has proved to be a double-edged sword. While globalisation affords several opportunities for enhancing communication and information-based channels, many of these channels remain outside the realm of access for the 'common person'. Experience has demonstrated that conduits and channels do not drive social change by themselves; they are at best tools or instruments. Change is driven and sustained by communities.

Through the consultation, we brought together a number of leading activists and media personnel in India, to explore both citizenry-led movements and forms and

mechanisms of community communication. We specifically explored the significance of the Indian Right to Information and Disclosure campaign as a vital catalyst in accelerating the pace of governance and social change. Underlying many of these efforts is the increasing significance of communication. Communities – especially poor communities – who are producers of information need to communicate it in a manner they deem appropriate.

Throughout the consultation we sought to utilise the expertise of our participants to understand how the synergy between information and communication contributes to accelerating social change.

We concluded that the information age has not as yet brought about the democratisation of media in India. The Indian media landscape reflects two traditions of media – public and private. The third tier of the media – community media – unfortunately, has not kept pace. We focused on specific community media initiatives and showcased the work of communities who, despite a non-level playing field, have developed and driven community media initiatives for their empowerment. Sometimes, as in the case of community radio, the issue of legitimacy needs to be addressed. Despite other examples of community-based media – primarily in the form of NGO initiatives – this third tier remains to find an equitable place in the sun. Ironically, its need today is greater than ever before. Notwithstanding the vertical growth of mainstream media, both public and private, its horizontal spread and impact are still to yield desired dividends in terms of development

and governance. Community media can and does plug this gap.

The consultation's focus on both the macro and micro allowed the group to formulate an agenda of action for the future. The participants became a critical network for RCPLA, as we seek to expand the scope of community media and strengthen its legitimacy throughout the region.

These insights from our consultation have played a significant role in fine-tuning our approach to Communication for Change. As this issue of *Participatory Learning and Action* goes to press, the network is busy preparing for the international launch of the initiative, and more specifically the resource kit. This is scheduled to take place in early August 2005 in Colombo, Sri Lanka, after a RCPLA Steering Group meeting.

News from PAMFORK

Sustainable human development aims to eliminate poverty, promote human dignity and rights, and provide equitable opportunities for all through good governance, thereby promoting the realisation of all human rights – economic, social, cultural, civil, and political rights (UNDP 1998: 6). It is against this backdrop that PAMFORK initiated a process of strengthening the capacities of practitioners and researchers to take advantage of new spaces opened for citizen participation in policy-making, implementation, and monitoring processes.

PAMFORK recognises that documentation of best practices is an essential component for empowerment of practitioners and researchers, and thereafter wider dissemination and replication of such

practices elsewhere. PAMFORK identified various practitioners and researchers who were requested to write case studies on the theme of 'rights-based approaches and citizen participation'. With the support of RCPLA, PAMFORK then organised a writeshop on this theme, which was held on 15th-18th February, 2005 in Nairobi, Kenya. The writeshop brought together the authors of the case studies to share their experiences and enhance their documentation skills. Participants were drawn from NGOs in Kenya, Uganda, and Zimbabwe which are implementing rights-based approaches. Fifteen case studies were presented and discussed, covering a range of areas, from HIV/AIDS, to famine and refugees, service delivery, education and justice. The case studies will be published by PAMFORK in the near future. For further information about the writeshop outcomes, contact Eliud Wakwabubi at PAMFORK.

News from the Institute of Development Studies

The Participation Group at Institute of Development Studies (IDS) recently hosted an international writeshop called 'Creating and Evolving Participatory Methodologies'. Its aim was to explore the ways in which participatory ways of finding out have been developed, applied, and scaled-up. Eighteen practitioners from seven countries came together to explore the creative processes of evolving and adapting participatory methodologies, an area that has been relatively neglected in much description and analysis. Participants shared lessons from their own experiences of using participatory methodologies in their work. This included the context,

genealogy, and history of the methodologies they were developing, key insights from their own practice, as well as personal reflections. Some important questions emerged around themes such as:

- enabling and disabling conditions for creativity
- phases in evolving participatory methodologies and their opportunities, vulnerabilities and challenges
- tensions and trade-offs
- creative diversity
- innovators and practitioners

- what we have learnt
- what we still need to learn

Participants spent much of the time writing case studies or thematic papers based on their experiences. These papers will be edited and published in some form. For more information please contact participation@ids.ac.uk.

News from IIED

In April this year, the Sustainable Agriculture and Livelihoods (SARL) programme, where *Participatory Learning and Action* is edited,

merged with the Biodiversity and Livelihoods group (BLG) to become the Sustainable Agriculture, Biodiversity and Livelihoods (SABL) programme, under the umbrella of the Natural Resources Group at IIED. SABL seeks to promote sustainable agri-food systems based on local diversity and participatory democracy and, in doing so, find ways to yield more sustainable livelihood opportunities out of biodiversity for the poor. The new merger will enable common themes to be brought together more effectively.



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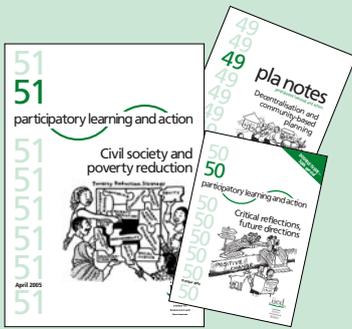
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