

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



Inclusive Aid: Changing power and relationships in international development

● Edited by Leslie Groves and Rachel Hinton, Earthscan, London UK. 2004

This edited volume brings together a number of papers presented at an IDS workshop on “Power, procedures and relationships”. It is divided into three sections, i) history; ii) current tensions within aid agencies and between such agencies and other development institutions; and iii) proposals to improve relationships. The editors recognise that the changes in respect of participation and citizenship have been significant, but suggest that further organisational changes are needed in order that aid agencies be more effective. In sum they explain, “We argue that if the new development agency is to succeed, then new behavioural traits and capacities need to be prioritised”. Such new behaviours include flexible, innovative procedures, multiple lines of accountability and the development of new skills for relationship building, such as language and cultural understanding. Internally, new organisational norms based on learning, growth and mutual respect would encourage teamwork. However, stacked against such ambitions is the distribution of overt and covert power and its operation within and between organisations.

The first section includes a review of recent aid from the perspective of the multilateral institutions as well as

a discussion of present tools (and associated relationships) for understanding organisational change processes. The section features papers from individuals involved with different aid organisations. The final section develops strategies for change. There are papers on organizational learning, institutional reform, personal change (and commitment to change), and donors' objectives and strategies.

The volume argues that some progress has been made but much remains to be done. Overall, the authors are firmly (although not uniquely) of the opinion that well-motivated and committed aid agency staff can succeed in changing institutional realities to ensure that aid supports social justice and the meeting of basic needs. There is little consideration of the structural constraints on such a transformation, nor is there much reflection or historical analysis in respect of earlier attempts to reform aid.

Reviewed by Diana Mitlin

■ Available from Earthscan/James & James, 8-12 Camden High Street, London NW1 0JH, UK. Email: earthinfo@earthscan.co.uk
Website: www.earthscan.co.uk



Making waves: integrating coastal conservation and development

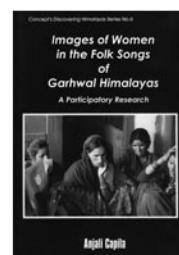
● Katrina Brown, Emma Tompkins and Neil Adger. Earthscan, London, UK. 2002. ISBN 1-85383-912-4.

Making Waves was published two years ago – but so far may not have been making many waves outside the coastal management sector. It is surely time for wider circulation, since the book's straightforward, pragmatic

guidance on how to negotiate conservation and development trade-offs is relevant to all land and marine sectors. Based on experience in coastal management in the Caribbean, particularly the Buccoo reef area of Tobago, the book is a careful blend of abstract concepts and real-life examples. The first two chapters deal succinctly with the key ecological and social issues of coastlines (did you know that around 70% of the world's population lives within a day's walk of the sea?) Chapter 3 takes an interesting look at the limits to joint decision-making and the role of collective action and social capital, using examples from fisheries around the world, to develop principles for "deliberative inclusionary processes". More guidance follows on selecting who needs to be included and how engagement can be managed. Chapter 5 is the crux of the book: it takes the reader step-by-step through a trade-off analysis tool, which has many potential applications and adaptations. Specifically designed as an aid to multi-stakeholder negotiations, the tool uses a clever blend of quantitative and qualitative exercises, none of them too complicated, to encourage stakeholders to articulate their priorities in realistic, transparent and comparable ways. The authors rightfully refer to this trade-off analysis tool as "citizen-oriented science". The book's final chapters revisit the messy business of how to manage pluralist processes, offering good advice gleaned from the Caribbean experience.

Reviewed by Sonja Vermeulen

■ Available from Earthscan/James & James, 8-12 Camden High Street, London NW1 0JH, UK. Email: earthinfo@earthscan.co.uk
Website: www.earthscan.co.uk



Images of Women in the Folk Songs of Garhwal Himalayas. A Participatory Research

● Anjali Capila
Concept's Discovering Himalayas Series No. 6, 2002

The book looks at folk songs as a source material for understanding women's lives. It studies the relationship between the life patterns of women in Garhwal and the songs by analysing their content with special reference to women and environment, life-cycle events, social relations, work roles and activities performed, aesthetic depiction and contemporary issues.

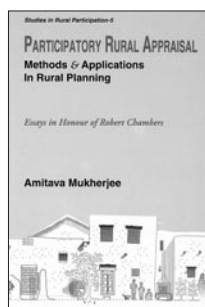
The way the songs have been looked at in this book provides significant answers in terms of the new directions which need to be taken into account wherever human communities are involved. This is especially relevant for India because cultural traditions are largely transmitted orally. This is the core methodology of this book. The conceptual-theoretical framework provides a background to show that folk songs are to be understood as a matter of actual experience, through participation and observation. At this level, folk songs provide cohesiveness to a community.

This is discussed in the introduction along with the importance of oral traditions in the context of Indian civilisation, with special emphasis on folk songs. It looks at various definitions of folk songs, locating these songs as entry points to a culture. The second chapter gives a geographical profile of Garhwal, as well as its history and culture. The third chapter looks at the theoretical aspects of the research and

focuses on the notion of participation as an integral aspect of all stages of the study. The fourth chapter looks at the natural and socio-cultural framework.

The summary and conclusion chapter reiterate the important contribution of this research. Visuals form an integral part of the book – the visual images created by the songs are presented in the form of line drawings. The book also contains some colour photographs. The appendices consist of the songs translated into English by the author, the transcribed interviews with various people in Hindi, and a compilation of the socio-economic cultural background of the people of Garhwal, also in Hindi. Overall, this book has an esoteric quality and is highly specialised.

■ Available from Concept Publishing Company, A/15-16 Commercial Block, Mohan Garden, New Delhi-110059. Fax: +91 11 5648053. E-mail: publishing@conceptpub.com



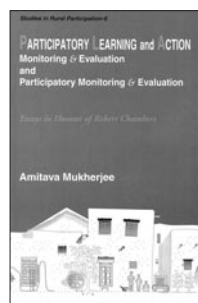
Participatory Rural Appraisal. Methods & Applications in Rural Planning

● Studies in Rural Participation-5, second revised edition 2004
Amitava Mukherjee

Essays in Honour of Robert Chambers

The intention of the book is to encourage wider use of participatory methods in micro-level planning for rural development. The first edition of this book ran out of print in 1998. It was used extensively for training development workers from the development sector, government departments and academicians. The

second edition has been revised in terms of organisation of the chapters and content. In this edition, two separate chapters have been included on methodology – the “soft-system approach”, that is a methodology for micro-level planning where no problem is assumed to exist. The second deals with the “hard-system approach” to micro-level planning, where a problem has been identified and the process of micro-level planning initiated to tackle the problem. In the first edition, there was a chapter on assessment, monitoring and evaluation, which has been dropped from the second edition and given full treatment in the companion volume reviewed below. Though the primary focus of the book is on micro-level planning for rural areas, the principles and methodologies apply as much to urban planning as well. This book, like its earlier edition, is an invaluable guide to all who are interested in micro-level planning.



Participatory Learning and Action. Monitoring & Evaluation and Participatory Monitoring & Evaluation

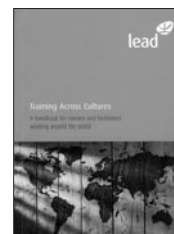
● Studies in Rural Participation-6, 2004

Amitava Mukherjee
Essays in Honour of Robert Chambers

This book, a companion to *Studies in Rural Participation-5*, examines the difference between Traditional Monitoring and Evaluation using PLA Tools and Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation (PM&E). The book is a combination of conceptual specifications

of PM&E, four case studies from India, where participatory tools have been used for traditional evaluation and two case studies on participatory evaluation from Nepal and Sri Lanka. It shows how the two systems of evaluation can be carried out in different kinds of projects and environments and is an invaluable guide to development workers, development organisations, international donors, government departments engaged in M&E and students of development economics.

■ Both volumes available from Concept Publishing Company, A/15-16 Commercial Block, Mohan Garden, New Delhi-110059, India. Fax: +91-011-25357103. Email: publishing@conceptpub.com



Training across cultures. A handbook for trainers and facilitators working around the world

● Lead International, London, UK, 2004

In order to engage effectively and sensitively with participants from different cultures, trainers and facilitators need to adapt their behaviour and training style in ways that are culturally appropriate. This handbook is an interesting collection of short chapters aimed to help a newcomer engaged in training or facilitation in Brazil, Canada, China, the Commonwealth of Independent States (former Soviet Union), francophone Africa, United Kingdom, India, Indonesia, Japan, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan or Southern Africa. Practical tips and information are offered to help trainers prepare and adapt aspects of the training, from content delivery to logistics and social time, to understanding the nuances

of a new culture and how to build trust and meet participants' expectations.

■ Available from LEAD International, 48 Prince's Gardens, London SW7 2PE, UK. Tel: +44 870 220 2900. Fax: +44 870 220 2910. Email: info@lead.org Website: www.lead.org



Participation: Sharing our resources

● FAO, Rome, 2004

A resource CD-ROM on participatory approaches, methods and tools available in English, French and Spanish from the Informal Working Group on Participatory Approaches and Methods to Support Sustainable Livelihoods and Food Security at FAO. This CD-ROM contains a selection of 215 full-text FAO documents pertaining to participation in development and a database featuring 135 participatory approaches, methods and tools.

■ Available from FAO Participation Website Team, Rural Development Division, Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00100 Rome, Italy. Email: IWG-PA-Webbox@fao.org Website: www.fao.org/participation

Palar Panchayat (Children's Parliament)

● SPEECH/CCFF, India, 2004

On 4th October 2003, the village of Oorampatti, Tamil Nadu, India held the first ever election for a *Palar Panchayat*: a children's parliament. This fascinating film, available on DVD, was co-produced by SPEECH, the Child Rights Protection Centre and CCFF. In India, the *Panchayat Raj* system is central to local governance. The children's parliament has actively involved local kids between the ages

of 14 and 18 in the realities of the democratic process. It follows the children on their election campaigns and shows how PRA methods and processes – such as social mapping and role play – enable children to learn about good governance, leadership, decentralisation, gender, child rights and welfare. The newly elected children will play a key role in the village, working alongside the adult *Panchayat* elected members. As one child comments, from now on they will know to 'review passed performance before voting!'

■ Available from SPEECH, 2/1060 Manoranjitham Street, Ezhil Nagar, Madurai 625 014, India. Email: rcps@sify.com. Cost for orders delivered outside of India: £5.00. Cost for orders delivered in India: Rs.250

Participatory videos

The following are not new, but are included in this special issue as useful resources

Lines in the Dust

● Karpus / CIRAC, 2002

This video explores the Reflect approach through telling the personal stories of Sanatu, a village trader in Ghana, who gains the confidence to challenge the traditional roles of men and women in rural Ghana, and Balama, a farmer in India who becomes active in a people's movement – making links between the changing pressures on her village and wider issues of economic globalisation and privatisation.

20 minutes, originally broadcast on BBC World Service TV (available in English, French and Spanish, in Betacam or VHS, PAL or NTSC version).

■ Available from www.reflect-action.org or knezman@actionaid.org.uk



Participatory Research with Women Farmers

● Television Trust for the Environment (TVE), International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), 1991

Through their large share of work in food production, storage and food preparation, women play a key role in extending and conserving genetic diversity. This film shows how ICRISAT is working with women farmers to preserve and promote their valuable knowledge for the future. Through its focus on participatory research, the video invites reflection on the changes in institutions and attitudes that allow people to learn through a process of mutual dialogue. It is designed as an education tool which:

- Explains why farmers should be involved in the evaluation of pest-resistant lines developed on research stations where conditions differ from those on farmers; fields in the semi-arid tropics.

- Shows how scientists can facilitate a process whereby resource-poor farmers assess genetic material grown under their circumstances and with their own management. Farmers are effectively involved in a decentralized research mode that seeks to complement the transfer of technology model of agricultural research and development.

■ 30 minutes, Available from www.icrisat.org



Questions of Difference: PRA, Gender and Environment. A Training Video

● IIED, London, 1995

How women and men use, manage and are affected by their natural

environment is strongly influenced by their socially-determined roles and responsibilities. PRA can help development workers explore the links between gender and the environment, enabling more effective work with local communities. This video is part of a trainer's pack and complements the trainer's guide and slide set. The thought-provoking images in the overview and case studies can be used to stimulate discussion and lead into exercises. The overview presents a summary of the key elements for using PRA to

understand gender and environment. Structured as a series of short thematic segments ranging from 2-14 minutes, trainers can select sections to stimulate discussion for specific training objectives. The sections deal with people's roles, images and realities, key questions, an introduction to PRA, thinking about communication, PRA methods for analysis, revealing difference. The case studies show workshop participants using PRA methods to explore gender and environment issues in the field. Each case study takes place in a

unique socio-cultural and environmental setting, allowing the trainer to choose the most appropriate context for specific training needs. The case studies (28 minutes each) can be used as fieldwork examples or for more extended class-based analysis, together with the handouts in the Trainer's Guide. The case studies consist of (1) Exploring Mangrove Use in Pakistan; (2) Exploring Drylands Use in Burkina Faso; (3) Exploring Biodiversity in Brazil.

● Available from www.earthprint.com

Events and training

Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation

28th February – 18th March 2005
IIRR, Philippines.

Course fee: US\$2,500

This course is intended to broaden participants' understanding of PM&E as a support to programme/project management at different levels and as a tool for strengthening participation, enhancing local capacity, and increasing local people's confidence and control over development decisions and processes. The course examines PM&E concepts and principles, as well as methods, tools and techniques, which have been tested and used in the field. Drawing from a range of significant experiences, the course also highlights key elements that enrich the application and maintenance of PM&E system.

■ For more information about these courses, please contact: Course Coordinator, International Institute of Rural

Reconstruction (IIRR), Y.C. James Yen Centre, Silang 4118, Cavite, The Philippines.
Tel: +63 (46) 4142417; Fax: +(63) 46 4142420;
Email: Education&Training@iirr.org;
Website: www.iirr.org

Five-day Participatory Appraisal training course

24th – 28th January 2005

PEANuT, UK

Course fee: Full cost £380; voluntary/not for profit sector £190

(inclusive of all course materials and refreshments and lunches on 4 days, but not overnight accommodation).

Alongside 'traditional' users of such course provision (for example, those who are employed in community-based work such as health professionals, youth workers, carers, support workers, housing officers, teachers etc.) participatory appraisal (PA) is explicitly designed to further the ability of local people in identifying and effecting the changes they desire in their communities. These PA courses are open to anyone with an interest in the communities in which they live and/or work.

During the course participants learn about the background and

philosophies of participatory appraisal and how to use the tools and techniques with confidence. Pre-arranged fieldwork placements enable students (in teams) to practice their skills in an ongoing, real-world project. Themes of previous placements have included homelessness, consulting young people and financial exclusion.

■ For more information contact: PEANuT, Northumbria University, Division of Geography, Lipman Building, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 8ST, UK.
Tel: +44 (0)191 227 3848 or 227 3753;
Fax: +44 (0)191 227 4715;
Email: ge.peanut@northumbria.ac.uk;
Website: <http://northumbria.ac.uk/business/pa/pacourses/>

Courses available at the Coady Institute, Canada

The Coady International Institute provides leaders, managers and staff of non-profit or development organisations with opportunities to build their capacity to bring about more just, sustainable and equitable outcomes at the community level. Coady offers a range of educational programmes for practitioners at the Certificate, Diploma and Master's level.

Certificate Programmes May and September 2005

Course fees: tuition: CAN \$2,000; accommodation: CAN \$1,000; total: CAN \$3,000. Bursary assistance may be available for qualified applicants.

The Coady Institute offers several short certificate courses each year, which are open to development practitioners from the North and South:

- **Community-based microfinance**
- **Community-based resource management**
- **Advocacy and networking**
- **Management of development organisations**
- **Community-based conflict transformation and peacebuilding**

Conducted by Coady staff, the Certificate Programmes are highly participatory, providing candidates with an opportunity to share ideas and to exchange experiences with each other and with participants in the Institute's Diploma Programme.

Diploma and Master Programmes

The Coady Diploma Programme runs from July to December. A new joint Master of Adult Education Programme will have its first intake in April, 2005. Because of the long lead-time, international participants should register as soon as possible in order to acquire visas, make arrangements for leave, funding, etc. Course fees: Master of Adult Education:

tuition only: CAN \$9,970 for international students or CAN \$6,070 for Canadian students. Bursary assistance for tuition is available for qualified applicants.

Diploma in Adult Education: Tuition: CAN \$9,500; Accommodation: CAN \$4,300; Total: CAN \$13,800. Bursary assistance for tuition is available for qualified applicants.

■ For more information, please contact: Nancy Peters, Programme Associate, Recruitment, Coady International Institute, PO Box 5000, Antigonish, NS B2G 2W5, Canada. Email: coadyreg@stfx.ca or visit www.stfx.ca/institutes/coady

Australian Aid Resource And Training Guide (AARTG)

The Australian Aid Resource and Training Guide (AARTG) is a window into for aid practitioners to plug into the humanitarian and development world. It consists of four main sections: advice for those seeking overseas work; useful Australian contacts in the aid field; useful overseas or international contacts related to the aid field.

It is also the main guide to aid-related training courses on offer in Australia. The AARTG is produced by TorqAid, an Australian overseas aid consultancy specialising in disaster management, training, project management, and human resource management.

■ For more information and to subscribe to their monthly newsletter, contact:

Chris Piper, Director, TorqAid, PO Box 13, Torquay 3228, Australia. Tel: +41 2497317; Email: pipercm@iprimus.com.au

Building Communities from the Grassroots Empowering Communities for the Future

**20th March – 25th March 2005
Community Development Academy,
Excelsior Springs, Missouri, USA**

Course fees (per course): US\$500 non-credit (4.0 CEUs); US\$764.40 (3 semester credit hours undergraduate credit); US\$899.70 (3 semester credit hours graduate credit). Food and accommodation is separate. Financial assistance may be available – contact CDA. The University of Missouri Community Development Extension Programme offers a series of courses called the Community Development Academy.

Each of the courses is an intensive, experiential, five-day course that explores ideas and develops practical skills for effectively involving and empowering local citizens and leaders in community-based efforts. Courses can be taken for University Credit or professional development.

■ For additional course information and to register, contact: Lorie Bousquet: Tel: +1 (573) 882 6059; Email: BousquetL@missouri.edu or Becky Humphrey: +1 (573) 882 8320; Email: HumphreyB@missouri.edu or visit www.muconf.missouri.edu/CommDevelopmentAcademy



e-participation

For this issue we have decided to expand our e-participation resources section to include reviews of several websites mentioned in our theme articles in this issue. You will find a wide range of topics covered by these websites. Some have been reviewed in previous issues, but are listed here again to take into account new updates and additions.

The International Community of Women Living with AIDS (ICW)

www.icw.org

This website is a fantastic resource for anyone who is working with or affected by HIV and AIDS. ICW is a network of over 19 million women worldwide, with offices based in the Africa, Asia-Pacific, the Caribbean, Europe, UK, North America and Latin America. It hosts the Women Living with HIV/AIDS forum – a space for women to engage, network, and share experiences and learning. The site includes guidelines on ethical participatory research with HIV positive women, and has a substantial and searchable links directory, sub-divided into categories such as community-based help, positive living etc. There is also a searchable list of current and archived articles, including key texts from events such as the International AIDS Conference in Barcelona; other documents online, such as *Positive Women – Voices & Choices*; and ICW News Bulletins and fact sheets. All publications are in Portable Document Format (PDF) including *A Positive Women's Survival Kit* in both English and Spanish. Plus information about current ICW activities, conferences, and how to submit articles.

The UK Consortium on AIDS and International Development

www.aidsconsortium.org.uk

The UK Consortium on AIDS and International Development is a group of more than 70 UK-based organisations. They work together to understand and develop effective approaches to the problems created by the HIV epidemic in developing countries through information exchange, networking, advocacy and campaigning. There are several key publications and documents relating to ongoing initiatives online in PDF format, such as the *HIV/AIDS Prevention of Mother-to-Child-Transmission Best practice recommendations*. Access to some areas of the site, such as the monthly bulletin, are restricted to members of the Consortium only – membership is open to all civil society organisations that are based in the UK and are concerned about issues of HIV/AIDS and development.

Oxfam GB UK Poverty Programme

www.oxfamgb.org/ukpp

This website focuses on issues of poverty in the UK. It includes a useful online resources section, covering general poverty-related issues, as well as asylum, participation, gender and diversity, and livelihoods. Documents are free to download in PDF format, and include reports such as *From input to influence: Participatory approaches to research on poverty* which gives a UK overview of 'participatory' approaches that respect the expertise of people with direct experience of poverty and give them more control over the research process and more influence over how findings are used. There is also *Have you been PA'd? Using Participatory Appraisal to shape local services* – a report that introduces Participatory Appraisal, showing what it is (and what it is not) and what it can achieve.

In late summer 2004, a new online resource will be available, the Social Inclusion Database, through which information on participation, gender and livelihoods in the UK can be found.

The Catalyst Centre: Promoting cultures of learning for positive social change

www.catalystcentre.ca

The Catalyst Centre is an online resource for popular education and research (pop-ed), an umbrella term for social justice education. The site seeks to maintain and further develop the Canadian community of organisations and individuals involved in social justice education. It includes links to its newsletter *Networker* as well as other online resources – articles, journals, educational kits and websites – that deal with popular education and other relevant themes. Categories include popular education and theory, Paulo Freire, popular theatre and literacy etc. Although some of the links do not work or have become out of date, it is still a useful resource for anyone interested in pop-ed.

In addition, the Catalyst Centre and partners have been developing a concept of a democracy – or activist – school. A current working paper on the idea can be found on the site and the project will soon have its own dedicated website. The site also has information about their Popular Education Mapping Project, which seeks to create a 'living map' to reflect the growing and constantly changing nature of the popular education and social justice movements.

Development Focus

www.devfocus.org.uk

This site is currently working as a

homepage for Development Focus, which focuses on community participation in the UK. However, it will soon include e.g. online reports from Community Assessment and Action processes. Watch this space!

Joseph Rowntree Foundation

www.jrf.org.uk

Joseph Rowntree Foundation carries out work on a range of issues relating to poverty and social exclusion in the UK. Of particular interest is their *Findings* series, which are short summaries of their main reports from the Community Links Social Enterprise Zone (SEZ). The SEZ is a test bed for new policies and services tackling regeneration in deprived areas. Users of public services and front-line workers generate all the ideas. The *Findings* are produced by those involved in running the SEZ and report on the lessons from its first years.

There are also archives of discussion forums, although there are no forums running on the site currently, and a good links section.

Renewal.net

www.renewal.net

A web-based resource established by the Neighbourhood Renewal Unit that covers a range of issues relevant to regeneration in the UK. Although previously reviewed in *Participatory Learning and Action*, the site has some new resources, documents, forums and links online, as well as events listings and other relevant information. Forums include discussions e.g. around health, education, housing and local economies. In addition to the Local Strategic Partnerships toolkit, there is now also a sport, physical activity and renewal toolkit online.

Reflect

www.reflect-action.org

As discussed in our article in this issue by David Archer, *Reflect* is an approach to adult learning and social change, used by over 350 diverse organisations in more than 60 countries. This website is a great online resource, and includes PDF versions of the Communications and Power manual, one of which is included in this issue in our Tips for Trainers section. This manual contains over 70 two-page, easy to follow PDF documents that are split into themes such as the written word, spoken word, numbers and images. There is also a Reflect calendar highlighting some (though not all!) Reflect activities going on around the world.

BRIDGE

www.bridge.ids.ac.uk

BRIDGE is an Institute for Development Studies collaborative initiative which supports gender advocacy and mainstreaming efforts by bridging the gaps between theory, policy and practice. It has accessible and diverse gender information in print and online. The site is a 'virtual bookcase' where you can download copies of all BRIDGE publications. These are searchable by theme or by type of publication. Titles include, for example, *Gender and Development: concepts and definitions* and *Gender and Monitoring: review of practical experiences*. There are also links to www.Siyanda.org, a searchable collection of international materials including tools, case studies, policy papers and research. The site is also a space where gender practitioners can share ideas, experiences and resources.

BRIDGE also includes several *Cutting Edge* packs – such as gender

and citizenship, gender and participation, gender and armed conflict, and gender and budgets, available to download in both Word and PDF versions, and many in French and Spanish as well as English.

Engender

www.engender.org

Engender is an information, research and networking organisation for women in Scotland in the UK, working with other groups locally and internationally to improve women's lives and increase their power and influence. The organisation campaigns to ensure that woman and their concerns have greater visibility and equal representation at all levels of Scottish society.

The website lists events, conferences and seminars, and although it does not contain many PDF documents to download, most documents listed can be posted as hard copies if you request them and send in a stamp addressed envelope. The links section includes, amongst others, links to related websites on disability, feminism, health, women and the media, women and the web, women in employment, women in politics and research as well as links to other related online publications.

Just Associates (JASS)

www.justassociates.org

Just Associates (JASS) is a strategic support and learning network committed to strengthening the leadership, strategies and impact of organisations that promote human rights, equality and economic justice. It seeks to enable organisations to engage in and promote active citizen participation, democratic practice and accountability for more equitable and healthy societies through effective

capacity building – combining political analysis, popular and political education, community development, citizen action, strategic planning, conflict transformation and advocacy.

The website contains online versions of two publications that have both previously been reviewed in *PLA Notes 43 – Advocacy and Citizen Participation: A New Weave of Power, People & Politics: The Action Guide for Advocacy and Citizen Participation and Making Change Happen: Advocacy and Citizen Participation*. In addition, there are numerous reports and some training tools.

Community Integrated Pest Management

www.communityipm.org

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is an ecological approach to plant protection. In the last two decades, Asian Governments, NGOs and international agencies have been working together to organise training that helps farmers to learn about the ecology of their fields and, as a result, enables them to make and implement decisions, which are safe, productive and sustainable. In recent years, IPM farmers have started organising themselves in order to carry out field experiments, train other farmers, and interact more effectively with government agencies. These developments have given rise to a new term, Community IPM. This website is a source of information about Community IPM in Asia. The site is divided into the several major sections, including news, online reports, a newsletter, members, links and case studies.

Online reports include the recent FAO report *From Farmer Field Schools to Community IPM: Ten Years of IPM Training in Asia*. This is broken down

into easy to download chunks, with a list of contents, and each chapter downloadable in either Word or PDF formats.

Institutionalising Participation case studies

www.iied.org/sarl/pubs/institutpart.html

The Institutionalising Participation project has conducted a comprehensive assessment of the dynamics of scaling up and institutionalising people-centred processes and participatory approaches for natural resource management (NRM) in a variety of settings. How can large organisations working in NRM actually facilitate, rather than inhibit, participation and the adaptive management of natural resources? How do roles, rights, responsibilities and the distribution of costs and benefits need to change among actors in civil society, government and the private sector?

This link to the IIED website takes you directly to an online listing of PDF case study publications, as well as a useful summary document. Each case study details both the organisational and impact analysis used to determine the impact of key policies and events that have influenced the design and institutionalisation of participatory and people-centred approaches.

The Self Employed Women's Association

www.sewa.org

The Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA) is an organisation of poor, self-employed women workers. SEWA's main goals are to organise women workers for self-reliance through self-employment, helping to ensure work security, income security, food security and social security (at least health care,

child care and shelter) and by promoting women's capacity to be autonomous and self-reliant – individually and collectively – both economically and in terms of their decision-making ability.

The website details information about the movement, their campaigns, events, and lists related services such as the SEWA bank (www.sewabank.org/) which aims to empower women through the support and provision of micro-credit, such as for the Women Farmers Credit Scheme and the Housing Finance Scheme. It also links to the SEWA fortnightly newsletter www.anasooya.org. Anasooya focuses on injustices done to the employed women and the way they are exploited, policies for the self-employed.

Society for the Promotion of Area Resource Centres (SPARC)

www.sparcindia.org

This website is a great resource for anyone who wants to find out more about urban issues and the work of the Alliance between SPARC, Mahila Milan and the National Slum Dwellers Federation and with other partners. It contains information on relevant topics such as international exchanges between organisations, and has lists of current projects e.g. about resettlement programmes and community toilets. There are stories and policy briefings e.g. about slums and a good links page. There are some great reports with photos e.g. housing exhibitions by Mahila Milan, and household enumeration surveys. It also has a host of online publications and reports, from water and sanitation issues to capacity building to savings and credit schemes to housing.

The Nigerian Development Research Centre

www2.ids.ac.uk/drc/citizen/highlights/Abuja.htm

The Nigerian DRC on Citizenship, Participation and Accountability aims to identify ways of ensuring that development policy and practice provide more effective support for poor people's own efforts to transform their rights into realities. It is convened by Theatre for Development at Ahmadu Bello University, with collaborating researchers from NPTA, the University of Jos and Legal Watch. This excellent website has information about three current research programmes: Encountering Citizens: perceptions, realities and practices in Nigeria; Theatre for Development and citizenship in Nigeria and India; and Understanding and expressing citizenship through Theatre for Development. It also contains links to publications, working papers, news and bulletins, and recent research highlights.

International HIV/AIDS Alliance

www.aidsalliance.org

International HIV/AIDS Alliance is a development organisation specialised in supporting communities in developing countries to tackle the spread and impact of HIV/AIDS. It includes various online toolkits, such as the *HIV/AIDS NGO/CBO Support Toolkit*, in both English and Portuguese. There is also the *Antiretroviral Treatment Toolkit* which provides user-friendly technical guidance on planning and implementing ARV treatment programmes in resource-limited settings. There is an extensive list of other online publications and toolkits in different languages, ranging from civil society and development to orphans and vulnerable children, to more general publications.

Open Forum on Participatory Geographic Information Systems and Technologies

www.PPGIS.net

PPGIS is an informal network of development/GIS practitioners and researchers operating in developing countries and elsewhere. Members share common interests in participatory spatial information and communication management, community mapping, participatory GIS practice and science, spatial thinking, memory, and language, cognitive maps, and more. Their aim is to provide disadvantaged groups in society with added knowledge-based resources in interacting with higher-level institutions, negotiating territorial issues, participating in land/resource use planning, management and decision-making, and influencing policy-making. Members can share information and lessons learnt and post questions, resource documents and announcements which are relevant to the practice.