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participatory learning and action



“For participation, I know of no other periodical in the world to touch it.”

Robert Chambers

"... a source of material, a guide and morale booster. It chronicles the fact that dreams can become reality to those willing to work together regardless of community, class, and education."
J Ochieng Manyonge, Ministry of Agriculture, Kenya



Published by the
International Institute
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participatory learning and action

● Are you new to participatory approaches and seeking practical tips and guidance?

● Or an experienced practitioner or trainer looking for new ideas and ways of sharing your experience with others?

Participatory Learning and Action is the world's leading informal journal on participatory approaches and methods, reaching over 10,000 readers in more than 50 countries. Since its first issue in 1988, it has provided a forum for those engaged in participatory work – community workers, activists and researchers

– to share their experiences and learning with others, providing a genuine 'voice from the field'. All the material is copyright-free.

Participatory Learning and Action draws on the expertise of guest editors and authors to provide up-to-the-minute accounts and critical analysis of the use of participatory methods in specific fields.

It is a vital resource for those working to enhance the participation of ordinary people in local, regional, national and international decision-making, in both North and South.

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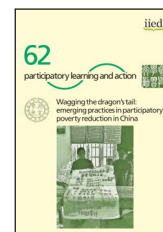
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- Special themed section on latest developments and emerging fields of participation
- Articles on participation in a wide range of sectors and countries
- Practical tips for trainers in participatory methods
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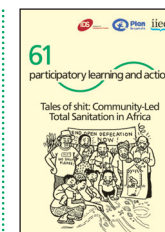
Recent issues



Wagging the dragon's tail: emerging practices in participatory poverty reduction in China (PLA 62)

China's social transformation over the last 30 years has been dramatic ones. Fundamental changes are taking place in the relationship between the state and citizens. While in the past rural citizens were seen as passive recipients of target focused top-down programmes, official development planning in China now emphasises 'people-centred development'. Participatory approaches are playing a significant role in this transformation.

This issue reflects on emerging practices in participatory poverty reduction in China, and is comprised of edited case studies from the Poor Rural Communities Development Project (PRCDP) and other relevant articles, as well as resources and tips for trainers.



Tales of shit: community-led total sanitation in Africa (PLA 61)

Community-led total sanitation (CLTS) is a participatory approach which mobilises communities to confront the crude reality about mass open defecation and environmental contamination. CLTS draws on and uses simple PRA visual tools to enable the communities to analyse and learn from their hygiene habits and practices and come up with collective action plans. This issue provides examples from eastern and southern Africa. It is also available as a multimedia DVD in English and French which includes other resources and video documentaries.



Community-based adaptation to climate change (PLA 60)

Those likely to be worst affected by climate change are the world's poorest countries – especially poor and marginalised communities. Most adaptation efforts tend to be top-down, with little attention paid to communities' experiences of climate change and their efforts to cope with their changing environments. This special issue focuses on recent approaches to climate change adaptation which are community-based and participatory. It highlights innovative participatory methods to help communities analyse the causes and effects of climate change, integrate scientific and community knowledge, and plan appropriate adaptation measures.