

PRA TECHNIQUE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF ARID HORTICULTURE IN ARID ZONE

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Today management of agricultural production systems is not only limited to the soil and water conservation but it's profitability and of agriculture and animal husbandry, ultimately upliftment of socio-economic status of people through increasing agricultural productivity basis . In the past many decades we are trying our best for transfer of the advance technologies but achieved on lay unto a very limited success due to lack of past history of the area, people \ users where the technology has to be transferred and by whom the technology has to be adopted specially in field of horticultural development .In this sense our new knowledge system has often failed us socially, culturally and environmentally. During the past three\four years there have been a tremendous development in the participatory approaches. Not only in new innovations, refinement of existing methods, which are used, but in real sense to know about the basic principles & methods must be adhered.

Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) describes the approaches and methods to enable local people to share, enhance and analyze their knowledge of life and condition to plan and act. In this process information is more shared and owned by local people. PRA is can be used successfully for taking out the possibility of the development of the horticulture in the villages of arid zone. There have been shifts in the past decades in approaches of agricultural & rural development. These shifts include the new familiar reversals from top down to bottom up from centralized standardization of local diversity & leading processes.

Need:

With the change in awareness and value of local knowledge, a need of timely & good information and insights become more clearly evident. The different development works despite its isolated successes the problem was not solved fully. The information gathered through long & large scale questioners survey was costly,

late receiving of information inaccurate and was having little use. Thus the solution of the problem or technologies could not reached up to the people.

The failing of these approaches insulated and isolated senior and powerful people from rural realities. The main purposes of PRA in watershed development are (1) to use farmers criteria, choices and understand the local environment with clear local priorities, (2) To learn farmers indigenous technologies, (3) To achieve for triangulation using different methods and involving various people to check and recheck the findings, and (4) To develop self critical analysis and direct contact with local needs and communities etc.

PRINCIPLES OF PRA

PRA represents an extension and application of social anthropological insights. The good performance of RRA and PRA required practitioners and facilitators follow basic principles. The most accepted principles are as under.

1. Direct learning from rural people on site ,face to face for local physical Technical and social knowledge,
2. Learning rapidly, progressively with conscious exploration, flexible use of methods,
3. Cross - checking not following the blue print program.
4. Off-setting biases, rural development tourism by being relaxed not rushing, listening not lecturing, probing instead of passing, seeking out poorer people , women learning their concerns & priorities.

5. Optimizing trade off, learning truthful information with trade off between quantity relevance accuracy and limestone.
6. Seeking diversity taking variability rather than average.

PRA-OPERATIONAL INSTRUCTIONS

Meet the villagers with open and frank mind tell them your purpose and introduction. Personal rapport with villagers. Identify the persons willing to share their experience. Show full interest and enthusiasm. Make favorable atmosphere by relaxing tension before interview. Select suitable place.

Careful listening, show empathy, be patient. Intense and careful observation. Understand villager's way of reasoning. Do not interrupt suggest or prescribe. Be polite gentle and accommodative. Try to adjust with villagers. Do not lecture. Respect villagers as human beings, head nodding . Follow customs and traditions. Participate whole-heartedly. Accept villagers offer of hospitality. Lead towards important and sensitive issues. Avoid question issue. Allow full time to them for answering. Detail noting of answers, discussions and information generation, quick sketching of subject. Individual trying to dominate in discussion should be prevented carefully. Change in topic should be smooth. Use killings seven servants what, when, where, who, why, and how. Thank individually, sit down with all members and record all the information's collected and process of information generation.

PRA -TECHNIQUE

The best PRA instrument is --- HANDING OVER THE STICK with having a good support with the people start by what people know. Learn to unlearn; Encourage local people to use their own criteria & categories for analysis & planning . Embrace & Learn from errors. Have confidence that they can do it. Try not to impose your values, commonsense due to setting you have not enough knowledge of people. The PRA techniques \ tools are given as under;

1. Participatory mapping.
 - I. Resource mapping .
 - II. Social mapping .
2. Transact walk.
3. Indigenous Technical Knowledge.
4. Time line .
5. Matrix ranking.
6. Seasonality.
7. VENN diagram.
8. Wealth ranking.

1. PARTICIPATORY MAPPING

Mapping of village including resource mapping and social mapping with the help of rural people through indigenous material available at village .The main purpose of participatory mapping is to get the impression of social and physical layout of the village. To understand globally the social structure who live where, location etc. To get an impression of natural resources.

Decide the type and purpose of map to be drawn. Collect related information. Involve and discuss with good number of villagers of different age group. Have marker and all materials preferably choose the place /ground as a paper.