



# WIRFP Participatory Planning Approach for Livelihoods Enhancement

This paper presents the participatory planning processes developed and used by Western India Rainfed Farming Project.

## Livelihoods development

This refers to an integrated approach to enhance farming techniques. In most villages, this typically involves the introduction of improved crops and crop varieties, soil and water conservation, livestock, joint forest management, agroforestry and minor irrigation.

## Indicators of achievement

- have identified and overcome any suspicions held about the project
- all villagers have met with the project staff and have had an opportunity to discuss the project
- village leaders agree to help arrange the Participatory Rural Appraisals (PRA)

Western India Rainfed Farming Project - (WIRFP) is managed by Gramin Vikas Trust (GVT) with support from Department for International Development (DFID), United Kingdom, Government of India, State Governments, and Krishak Bharati Cooperative Limited (KRIBHCO). This is a participatory, poverty and gender focused farming systems, livelihoods project located in seven districts i.e. Jhabua, Dhar & Ratlam (M.P.), Banswara & Dungarpur (Rajasthan), Dahod and Panchmahal (Gujarat). The project aims to improve the long term livelihoods of poor women & men farmers in the region, most of whom are tribal people from the Bhil community.

## Cluster Selection

Clusters of Villages are chosen in which most villages satisfy the following criteria :

- no basic amenities, not infrastructure facilities are available within 5-km radius (such as hospitals, schools, transportation);
- scheduled castes and tribes constitute over 80% of the population;
- Less than 15% forest land and relatively degraded.
- Prevalence of poverty (indicated by high rates of seasonal out-migration, quality of housing, low rates of school attendance).
- Some indications of community organization (e.g. community facilities and groups; management of common resources).
- Village selection is on a watershed basis and the village is treated as a "development Unit".

## Village Entry/ Rapport Building

- Establish identity and purpose of the project.
- Stress the project's interest in natural resource development, poverty reduction and the aim of working with women and men of local communities in identifying problems and priorities.
- Discuss development possibilities, understand the local issue and recent development experiences.
- Learn about local patterns and leadership style.

## Tips for rapport building

- Discuss with men and women in meetings and by individual contacts. Establish friendly relations with people from all sections of the community.
- Participate in village events, take interest in on going activities and learn from, understand and respect tribal culture.

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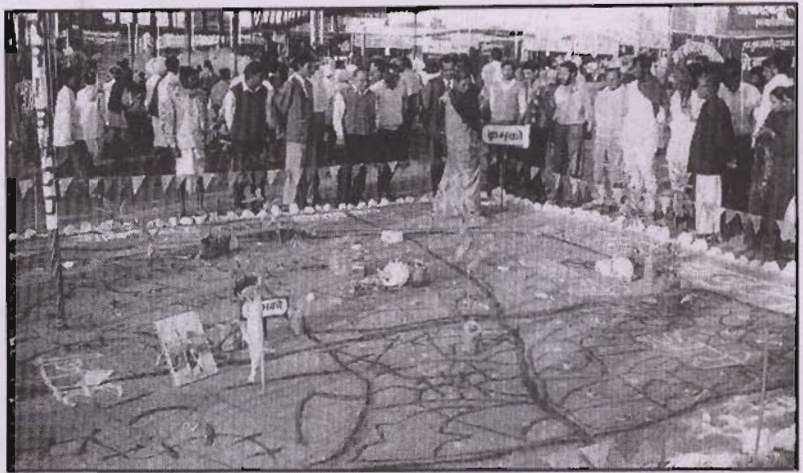
## Introductory PRA

### Objectives

- Promote rapport building.
- Demonstrate the respect of the project for the knowledge and views of the villagers.
- Identify, together with the villagers, local problems and areas of concern.
- Collect baseline information on social organisation and farming systems in the village.

### Several exercises could be used to meet these objectives :

- Collection of village agro-ecological information - **natural resource map** ;
- Analysis of village socio-economic information - **Social map**;
- Establish information on village historical events - **time line**; and
- Establish information on cropping system, trees and livestock - **farming system diagram/ calender/Matrix**.
- Explore and priorities options on livelihoods - **Seasonality**



*A Women Jankar demonstrating a Village natural & social map in an Agricultural fair.*

### Note

In undertaking CPA, the project may use a variety of methods such as group discussions, role plays and other PRA techniques.

## Group Identification

- Identify existing kinship/natural village groups.
- Mobilise people for collective action.
- Develop guidelines for establishing rules and norms.
- Strengthen groups through exposure visits and trainings.
- Start regular meetings and small savings, identify Women and Men *jankars* separately (volunteers).

## Community Problem Analysis (CPA)

*CPA is an extension of the PRA method that can be used for in-depth analysis of local problems by the people, for the people, with the people.*

It follows sequences of "why" in order to reach a critical "why". It also shows the **cause** and **effect** relationship of local problems. CPA is used to analyse complex and interrelated problems of farming systems development using inputs from men and women from different groups in order to :

- better understand the inter-related nature of these problems and identify their root causes; and
- enhance the skills and levels of understanding of the local community so that they can be active participants in planning.

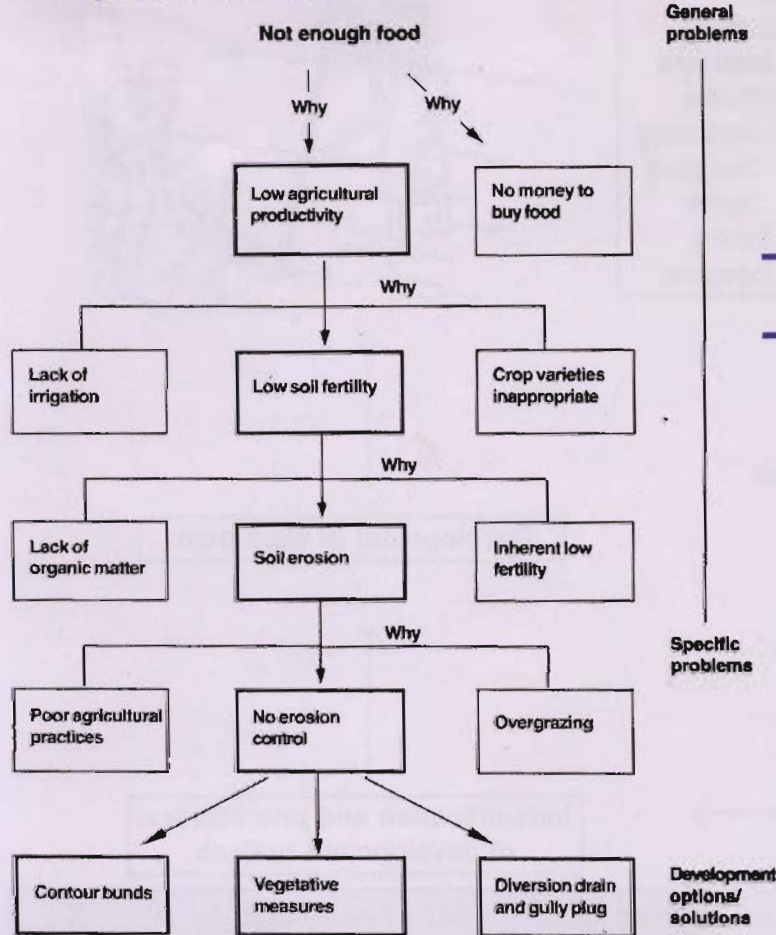


*A Village Social Map.*

## CPA Methodology

CPA leads to the identification of development options for different social groups.

### Example of a CPA process



## Grouping the main problems

Simple problems can immediately be tackled and will involve only the following :

- low cost, involving little or no financial input from the project;
- activities with short term benefits and involve low or no risks.
- encourage collective action, as well as involving women.

### Note

There is no one standard way of organising a PRA. Carrying out a PRA will vary from village to village, situation to situation.

## Identification and prioritisation of development options

Prioritisation may be easier in relatively homogenous communities in terms of wealth status, access to resources, etc. Homogeneity prioritisation differs in less homogenous areas. CPA seeks to

reconcile potential differences to ensure that all groups gain from the process of village development. For example, before developing an irrigation project, prioritisation is required to reconcile the needs of people with access to water and those without. Those without access may decide to opt for a Joint Forest Management scheme to gain the same kinds of potential benefits that irrigated water might bring to those with access to water. This way, village priorities may be different but the equitable distribution of the benefits from village development is ensured. Prioritisation may involve issue-focused PRAs on topics such as :

**The prioritisation of activities will be reviewed in village groups/ meetings**

### Well-being ranking and livelihood analysis

The livelihoods of different socio-economic groups, especially the poor and their constraints and development priorities.

### Women's knowledge and perspectives

Women's roles in farming systems, the distinctive needs and priorities of women, assessment of ways to overcome constraints to their participation in the project.

### Farming systems

Constraints and potential of the present farming system need to be identified and discussed together with the local communities.

### Development of village work plan

The work plan is a calendar of activities intended to be undertaken during a set period. It is to be developed jointly by the community and the project. The Village Work Plan highlights resource planning, contributions in costs and responsibility sharing.



Prioritisation of Village problems in a village work plan which are to be taken on yearly basis. Each circle indicates an year.

# The WIRFP Participatory Planning Approach

Cluster/village selection



Village entry/rapport building



General planning/ PRA



Community problem analysis



Process accelerators

1. Small-scale activities
  - health camp
  - hand pump repairs
2. Training
3. Exposures

Implementation of work plan



Development of work plan



Identification and prioritization of development options



Contributions have been made by DFID; TC consultants + GVT Team Members.

plan

## Self-Help Groups

1,261 SHGs including 258 women SHGs with more than Rs. 70 lacs of Savings generated in SHGs in project villages.

## Unique Combination

- A three - pronged approach
- Participatory planning process
  - Local institution - Self-help groups
  - Local capacity - Jankar system

## Jankar System

More than 1,185 multidisciplinary jankars, both women and men, identified and trained in the project villages.

- A *Jankar* is a female or male member of the community, identified by the community, who can act as internal catalyst, information bank, service provider, trainer, knowledge disseminator and innovator. The *Jankar* provides help in monitoring, and acts as a link between Government or any extension agency and the community.



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