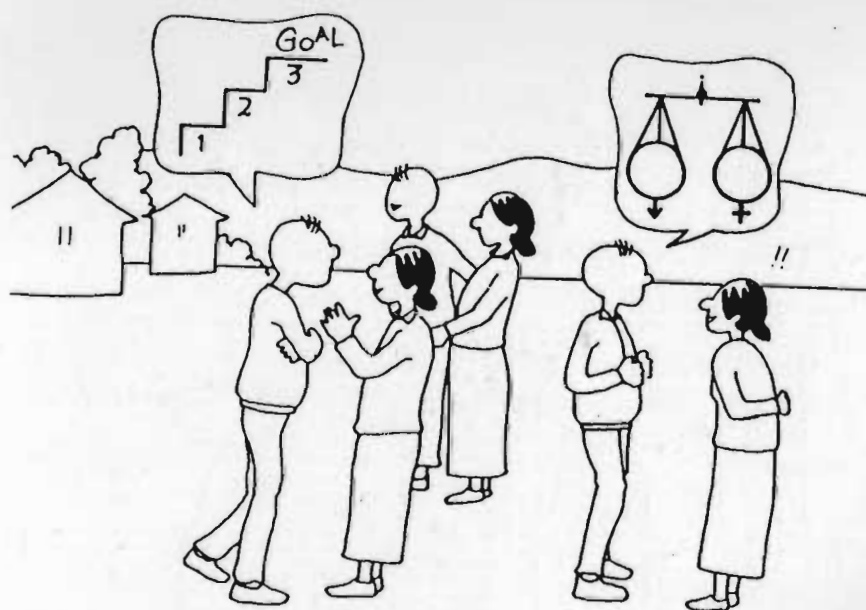


Capacity-Building in Participatory Upland Watershed Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation

A Resource Kit



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Foreword

The current situation of Asia's upland watersheds can be described as a vicious cycle of increased population pressure, poverty, land degradation, and overall scarcity of land resources to sustain the livelihoods of the farming communities there. Although serious efforts are being made through government interventions in some Asian countries, they are mostly focussed on technological and management practices, and thus are only partially successful. A more holistic approach to participatory watershed management is needed. Case studies of successful experiences of watershed management indicate the need to incorporate several social and institutional concerns into a comprehensive approach to watershed management in which local farming communities are equal partners. Lack of trained manpower is a major gap in this regard.

The participatory Watershed Management Training Programme in Asia (PWMTA) (GCP/RAS/161/NET, FAO/Netherlands) is designed to provide human resources' development in participatory watershed management and in this way contribute to sustainable use and management of natural resources by improving skills and national capabilities to plan, implement, evaluate, and monitor participatory watershed rehabilitation programmes. This is being achieved by regional training, workshops, seminars, and national and regional watershed management networking.

The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) has joined with the PWMTA programme to develop materials required for human resources' development in this field. The present trainers' resource kit focussing on Participatory Planning, Monitoring, and Evaluation (P-PME) has been prepared to help develop facilitators for programmes enabling farmers to own and implement their own watershed management plans. Key aspects required to facilitate implementation of participatory processes for integrated watershed management include capacity-building leading to farmer-led planning, farmer-managed funding and implementation, and farmer-led monitoring and evaluation. This process nurtures and supports farmers as they analyse their current situations, visualise a better future and the steps needed to get there, and develop simple yet meaningful indicators to evaluate and monitor their progress along the way.

Training in this respect necessitates a shift in focus from target-based to process-based approaches and familiarisation with participatory methods and tools such as Participatory Rapid Appraisal, Appreciative Planning and Action, and Community Envisioning. In addition, P-PME must involve the actual participation of the entire community, both men and women, and all castes and ethnic groups. This requires the assessment tools of gender analysis to ensure that gender and equity concerns are adequately accounted for and acknowledged.

This resource kit for trainers was prepared by a panel of experts from ICIMOD and FAO and tested in a regional trainers' training course. Based on feedback from the participants, the material has been revised and is now being published for wider use in human resources' development for participatory planning, monitoring, and evaluation. Attempts were made to prepare this resource kit in a manner that facilitates dialogue between trainees and trainers rather than in a one-way lecture mode.

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