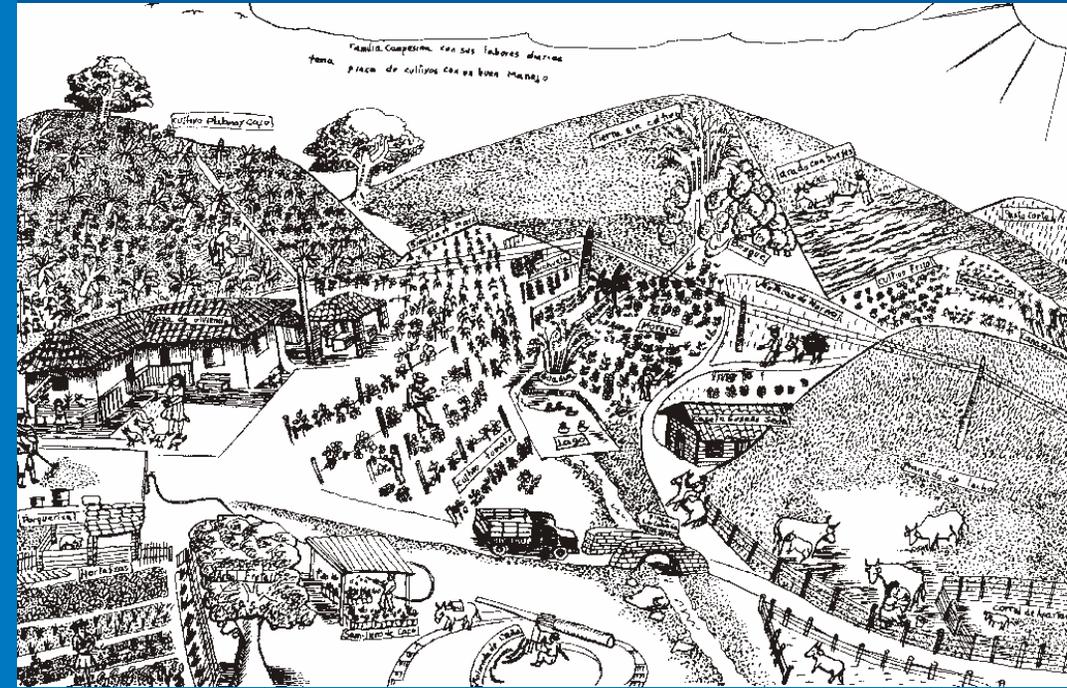


Sharing the Results of Our Experiment

08



ISBN 958-9183-34-4



The International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) is dedicated to the alleviation of hunger and poverty in tropical developing countries, through the application of science to increase agricultural production while conserving natural resources. CIAT is one of 18 international centers of the Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research (CGIAR). The CGIAR is a group of 40 countries and international agencies that support agricultural research for development in the tropical countries of the world.

Participatory Research in Agriculture (IPRA) is a CIAT special project created in 1987 with the objective of developing methodology for involving small-scale farmers in the design and evaluation of appropriate agricultural technology. IPRA is sponsored by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

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Handbooks for CIAL

Sharing the Results of Our Experiment

HANDBOOK No. 08



Presentation

This handbook is the result of participatory research carried out by several institutions and rural communities. The handbooks were designed by farmers. The examples are based on real cases and form part of the experience of the Local Agricultural Research Committees (CIALs) that participated in the project from the beginning. The following CIALs collaborated in the preparation of this handbook: Cinco Días, El Diviso, Pescador, San Bosco, Sotará and Portachuelo in the state of Cauca, Colombia.

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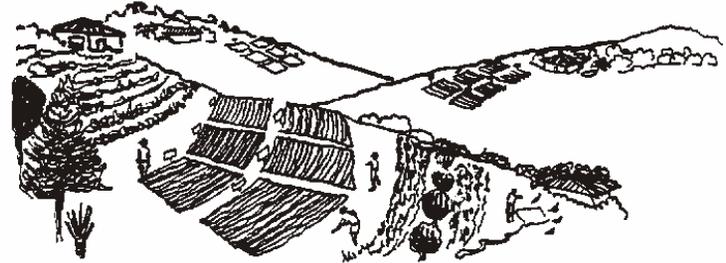
IPRA Project (Participatory Research in Agriculture). 1996. CIAL Handbooks; Local Agricultural Research Committees (CIALs). Handbook No. 10. Sharing The Results of Our Experiment. Centro Internacional de Agricultura Tropical (CIAT), Cali, Colombia. 25p.

1. Agricultura - Ensayos - Materiales didácticos. 2 .Agricultores - Materiales didácticos. I. Centro Internacional de Agricultura Tropical.

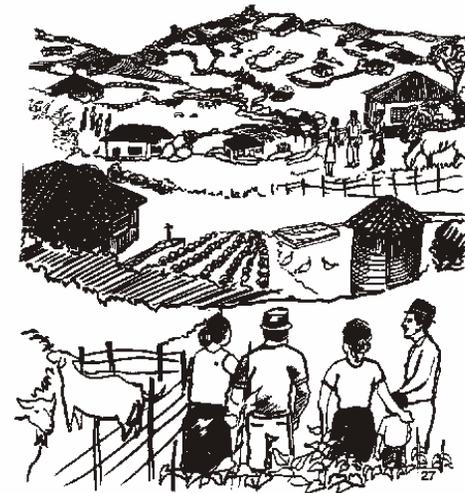
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Local Agricultural Research Committees investigate ways to improve farming in our community.



Improvements in farming can benefit all of us.



Our community participates actively in our research.
The community members elected our committee.



We draw upon the knowledge of the many experienced farmers from our area.



Researchers and extension officers from the local agricultural services also collaborate with us.
They help us obtain the information that we need for our research.

Research means walking along new paths.
To do **research** we have to go through several **steps**:

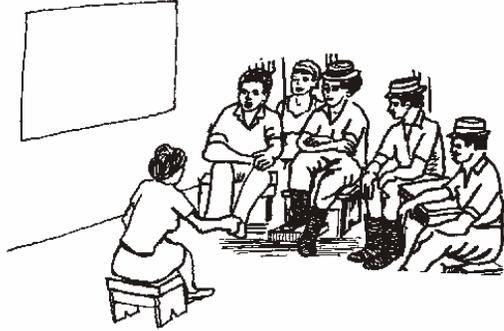


In the **diagnosis** we analyze the **principal problems** and **opportunities** in our agriculture.
Then we propose the solutions or changes that we would like to try



In **planning** our experiments we first **define a clear objective**.

Once our objective is clear, we plan the details and carefully work out in advance all the preparations that need to be made.

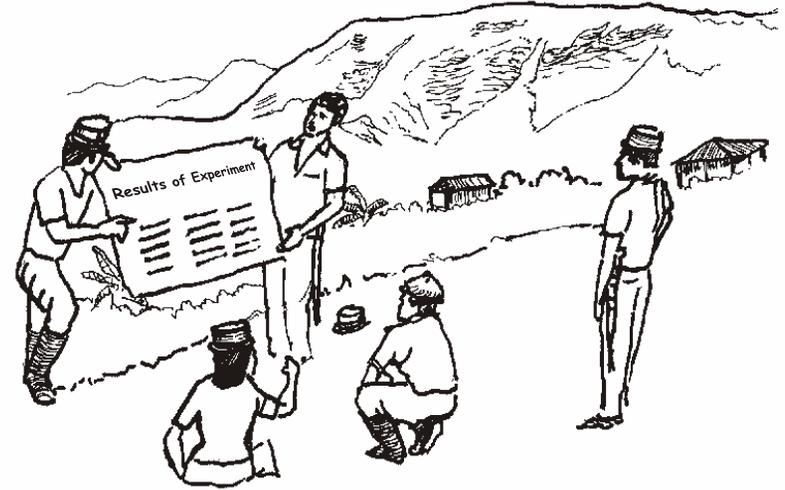


We plant or set up the experiment.
Then we observe it carefully until harvest time or until the products are ready.



We analyze the results of the experiment, comparing the control and treatments.

The control is what we usually do.
The treatments are the new things we want to try.



If the control turns out better than the treatments, we know it is better to not to make any change in the way we do things.

If one or more of the treatments turns out better than the control, we check our results by doing more experiments.

The results of the experiments help us to decide which changes are most appropriate for our agriculture.

We farmer researchers share the results of each experiment with our community.

When the community recognizes that our work is for the benefit of all, they are happy to collaborate with us.

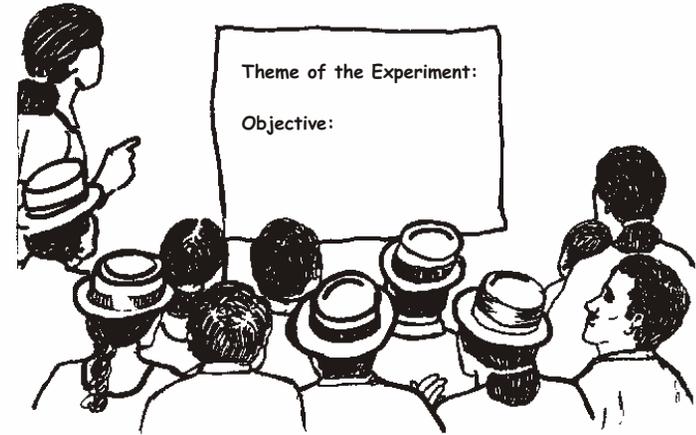


And we all work together to improve our agriculture.

We organise meetings in our community to share the results of our experiments.

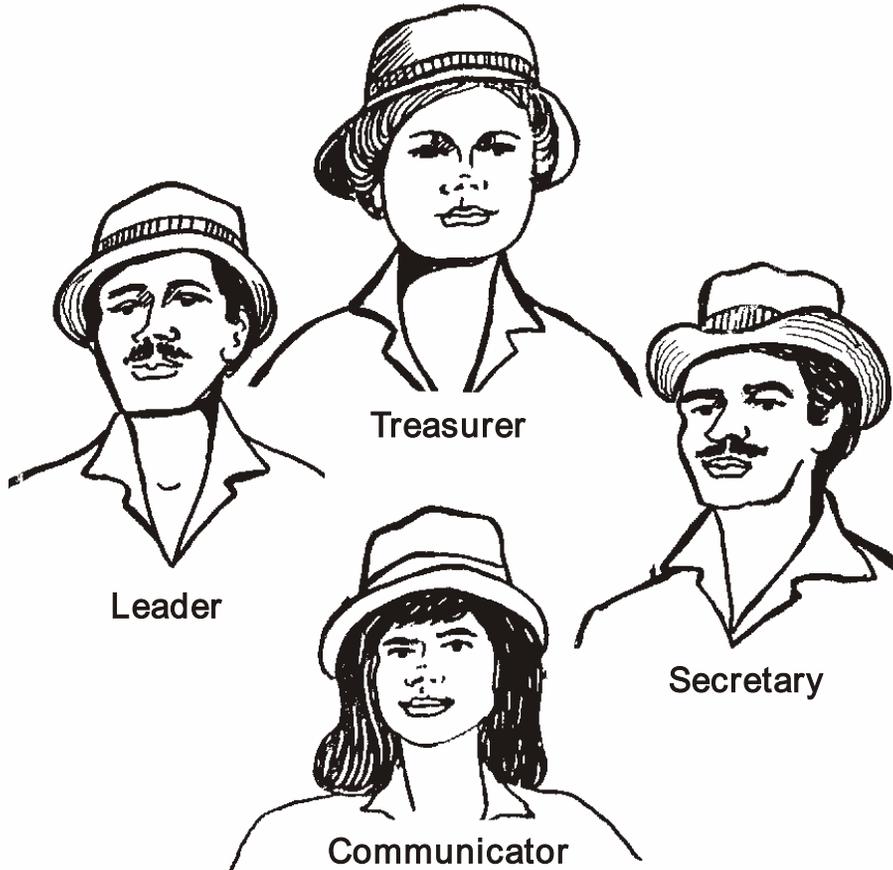


We plan our meetings with the community in the same careful way that we plan our experiments. Good planning is the base for getting good results.



It's very important to present well organized information to the community.

The members of our research committee work as a team, but each one of us has a particular responsibility and manages important information.

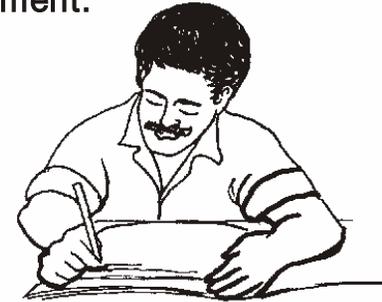


Each person is responsible for preparing a certain type information for our meetings with the community.

The leader prepares information about the work of each member of the Committee.



The Communicator explains the results of the experiment.



The Secretary prepares the Activity Record and the Experiment Diary.



The treasurer organises our receipts and notebook with a record of our accounts.

A few questions help us to organize this information, and to prepare the recommendations that we make our the community.

What was our experiment?

Why did we do this experiment?

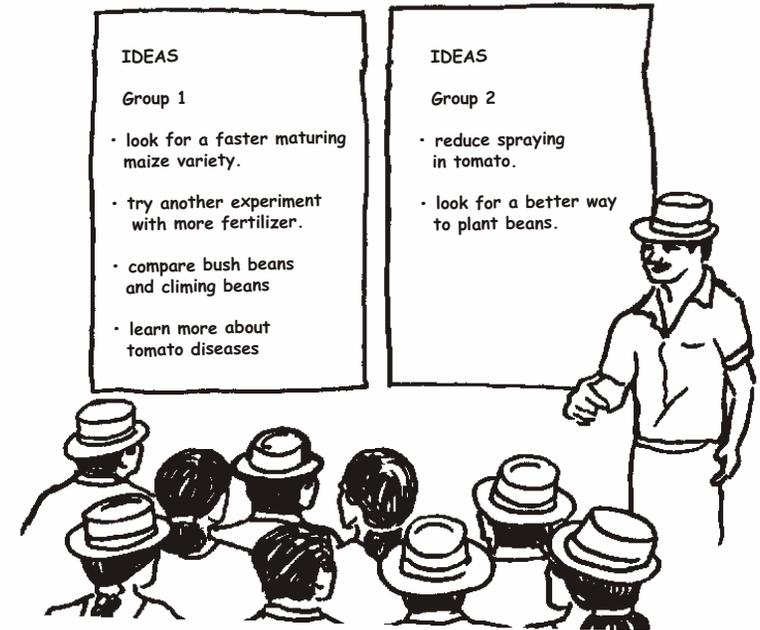
How did we do it?

How much did it cost?



What results did we obtain?

What are the suggestions, new ideas or new experiments that we want to share based on our experiment?



How was the work of our research Committee?

What experiment did we do?
Why did we choose this experiment?



To respond we review the results of the diagnosis that the community did, and the planning meetings for deciding on the objectives of the experiment.



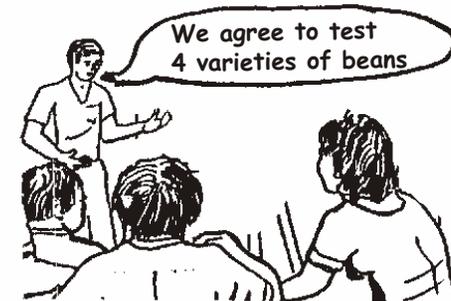
All this information is recorded in the Experiment Diary.

How did we do the experiment?



To respond we review the planning of the experiment when we decided about:

- The control and the treatments.
- The inputs.
- How to organize the work.
- The locations for the replications.
- Who would help us.



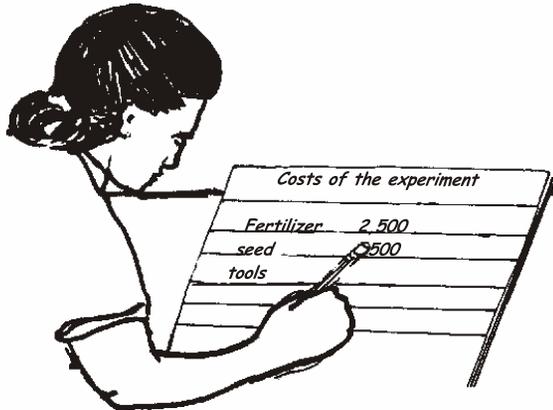
To remember all the details we consult the Experiment Diary.

How much did the experiment cost?

We have a list of all the items we bought and their prices.



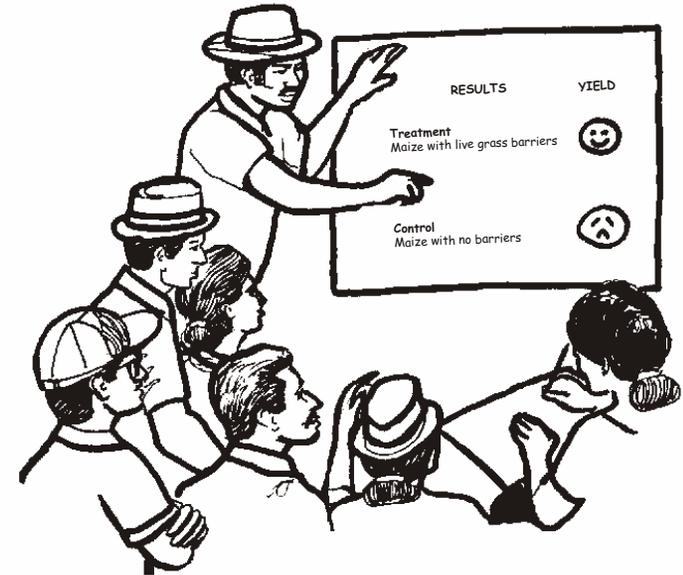
Costs	
Fertilizer	2500
seed	500
tools	3000
transport	1000
stakes	1000
meals	2000
others	2000
<hr/>	
Total cost	\$12,000



Our treasurer keeps the records up to date.

What were the results of the experiment?
What differences were found between the control and the treatments?

This is a key question for sharing information with the community.



What are our conclusions, the lessons we learned and our recommendations or suggestions for the community?

What are our ideas for new things that we want to try in our experiments?

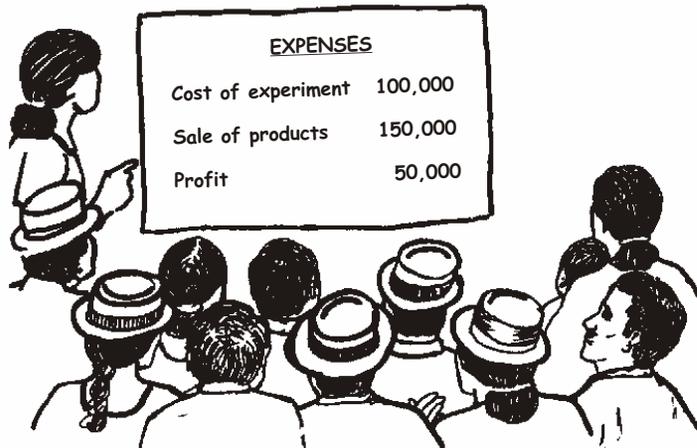
It's important that our community knows about the decisions that we made about the products of our experiment.



How did we divide the products?

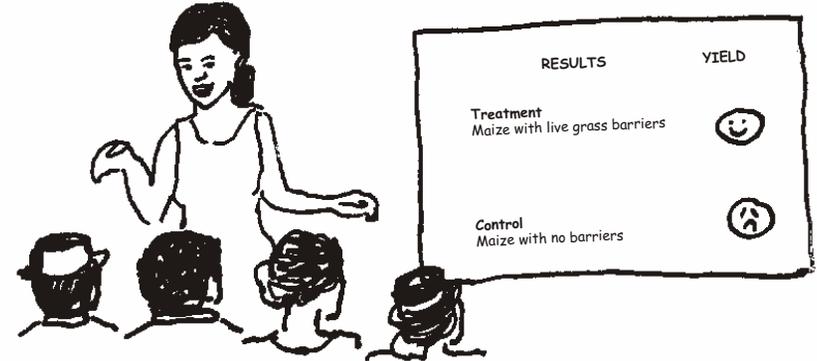
How much did we reinvest for the future work of our research committee?

What resources are available for supporting other experiments?



When we meet with the community to share our results we also talk about our experience of working together.

How do we feel about the Committee?



Are we able to meet our commitments

...to carry out the experiments?

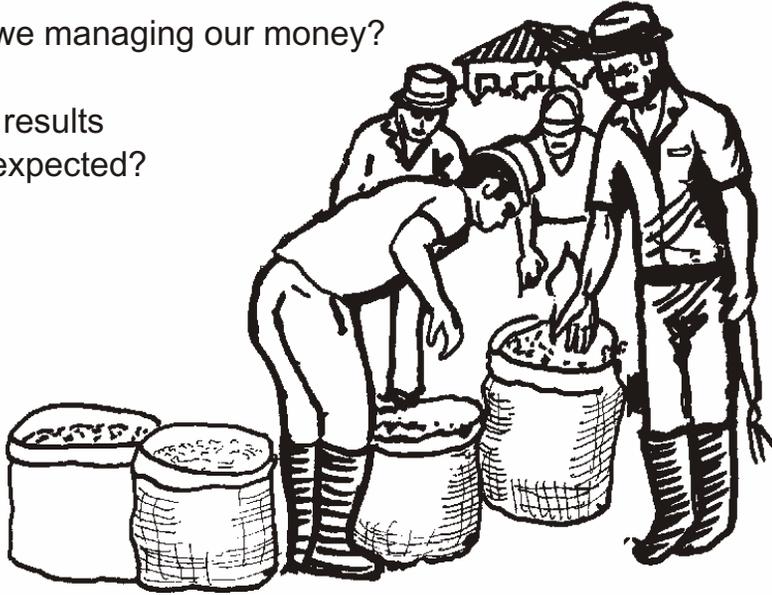
...to attend the Committee's meetings?

How often do we meet?



How are we managing our money?

Were our results
what we expected?



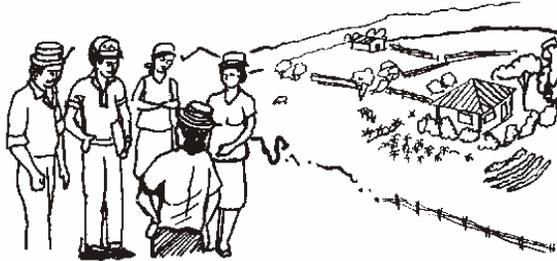
Have we visited other research committees
to learn about their work?



What support have we received
from the local agricultural services?

Has the extension officer come to see our work?

Are we satisfied with our work?



Have other Committees come to see our experiments?

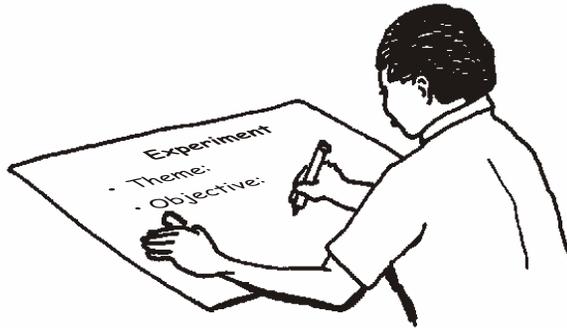


We learn important things from our meetings
with other farmer research committees.

We look for ways to present our information to the community.

Each one of us takes responsibility for a theme.

We write the most important information on a large sheet of paper using large, clear letters.



Another way of showing our results is to take samples from our harvest or other products from our experiments



During our meeting with the community, all of us are ready to respond to questions or concerns about our research.

Now that we know what information we will present, we set a date for our meeting with the community.

First we chose the date and time.



We choose a date, time and place that will make it easy for many people to attend.

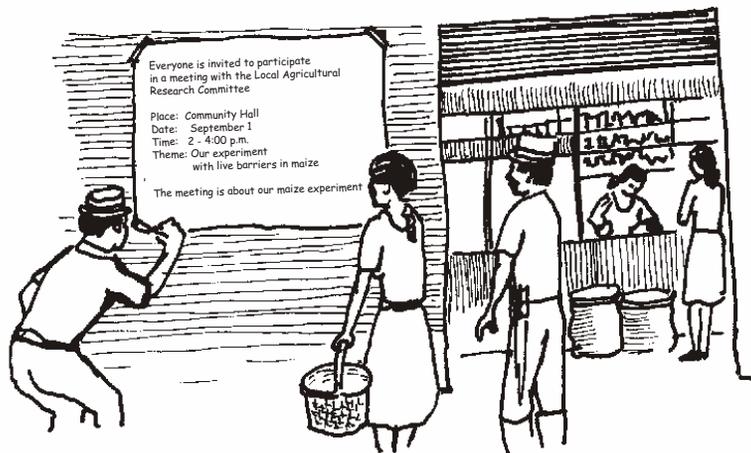
Then we invite the community to our meeting.

We explain why this meeting is important to us and to the community.



We make posters to advertise the meeting and put them up where everyone will see them.

On the posters we write the reason for the meeting, the date, time and place.



All of us work to motivate the community so that many people will attend the meeting.



We also invite the people from our local agricultural services to attend the meeting as observers.

We know that the presentations and discussions at our meetings are beneficial for their work.

Telling the community about our work
is an important way of reaching our goal
as a Local Agricultural Research Committee...



Improving the agriculture
in our community.

Doing research means walking new paths...



La falta
de agua no se podía tocar,
la espiga estirando el brazo

We'll always have problems
to resolve and new things
to explore in our research work!