

CGIAR Systemwide Program on
Participatory Research and Gender Analysis
for Technology Development and Institutional Innovation
(PRGA Program)

Phase II (2003–2007)

Partnerships



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PRGA Program, 2006. *Phase 2 (2003–2007) Partnerships*. Systemwide Program on Participatory Research and Gender Analysis for Technology Development and Institutional Innovation (PRGA Program), Cali, Colombia, 27 p.

The PRGA Program is convened by CIAT, and is co-sponsored by CIMMYT, ICARDA and IRRI.

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PART 1: GUIDELINES FOR RESEARCH PARTNERSHIPS WITH THE PRGA PROGRAM

Research and capacity-development partnerships between the PRGA Program and partner institutions are based on the following selection criteria. Partners and institutions with interest in establishing a partnership with the Program must follow the criteria stated for partnering arrangements.

Selection criteria:

1. Collaborations should have strategic relevance to the goals of the PRGA Program.
2. Partnerships must contribute to the outputs contained in the PRGA logframe.
3. To the extent possible, all collaborative activities should contain a co-financing arrangement.
4. Priority will be given to regional networks over individual institutions or members of organizations; with an exception of partnerships for production of scientific publications only.
5. All proposals are encouraged to have a strong gender focus.
6. The proposal of the collaborating institution or project should contain and be guided by the following:
 - A clear and focused research issue and work-plan, and defined expected output of the partnership;
 - Evidence that the project activities will involve farmers' organizations or groups;
 - Explicit consideration of social-inclusion issues, particularly based on gender and difference, in the proposed research;
 - A strategy for multidisciplinary team work involving social and natural science skills;
 - A plan to build on farmers' skills and capabilities, such as experimentation, organizational capacity;
 - A plan for monitoring, evaluation and impact assessment;
 - A clear definition of the roles of all partners in the research and capacity-building process;
 - A statement of resources available and resources required;
 - A plan for sustaining project activities at community and organizational level beyond the proposed project cycle.

Partners should be willing to:

- Participate in comparative analyses across Program partnerships and projects.
- Implement interventions agreed upon jointly.
- Monitor impact using similar (standardized) procedures and indicators, and process documentation.
- Organize a yearly broad-based participatory research (PR) and gender analysis (GA) seminar or workshop in their organization.

- Share experiences in planned international workshops organized by the PRGA Program and submit research findings for peer review.
- Co-publish with local partners and with the PRGA Program.
- If there is funding from the PRGA Program, provide an account of how project resources will be allocated among their partners.

Partner institutions can expect to gain:

- Information on the impact of PR and GA in agricultural research and technology development.
- Exchange of information and experience with a wider research network and through inclusion in the PRGA Program's communities of practice in plant breeding, natural-resource management, gender analysis, institutional change and impact assessment.
- Lessons about what works and what doesn't work in terms of PR and GA methods and their institutionalization, including "best practices."
- Enhanced capacity for implementing PR and GA methods, assessing impact for learning and change, and institutionalizing PR and GA methods through organizational change.
- Opportunities to publish research results.

PART 2: INVENTORY OF PARTNERSHIPS

Mainstreaming of Participatory Research and Gender Analysis in Agricultural and Natural-Resource Management Research

1. Building capacity in social/gender analysis in the Eastern Himalayas

Countries: Eastern Himalayan Region (Bhutan, India, Nepal)

Partners involved:

- NEN (North East Network)
- Workshop participants: Network of researchers from Northeast India, Nepal and Bhutan, representing NARS, NGOs and universities.

Objectives:

- To support research partners to enhance their capacity to develop and adapt methods to integrate and implement social/gender analysis (SA/GA) in natural-resource management (NRM) projects—thus, training, support and general developing of skills and knowledge were central to the design and implementation.
- To identify literature, case studies and human resources working on SA/GA and NRM in the eastern Himalayas and compile a bibliography from all existing material.
- To coordinate training, writing and final workshops.
- To establish a network.
- To develop cluster group meeting.

Project duration: January 2003 to July 2004

PRGA direct financial contribution: US\$ 41,902

Outputs/achievements:

- That participants identified change agents for SA/GA in their parent organizations demonstrates their high levels of commitment, and their understanding of the linkages between gender focus in implementation and gender equality in the organizations engaged in NRM research and development.
- Lessons learned that indicate the need for using different modalities to support research partners in integrating SA/GA into projects.
- Adapted and built the framework on Engendering Research in Vietnam by working with regional partners in the design and development of the program, building on the lessons learned.
- A manual on social and gender research was provided to the workshop participants, together with handouts used in the training and supplemental materials to aid their research projects and knowledge about gender analysis.
- Twelve small-grant research studies were conducted.

- Training workshop on SA/GA in NRM and Biodiversity in the Eastern Himalayas.
- Informal “peer networks” of researchers engaged in SA/GA in NRM within the region have developed and are emerging more broadly across the region.

Publication:

- Final technical report submitted to the International Development Research Centre (IDRC). 2005. PRGA Program, Cali, Colombia.

2. Technological innovation and small breeders

Countries: Cuba, Honduras, Bolivia

Partner involved:

- PBA Foundation (Foundation for the participatory and sustainable development of small farmers)

Objectives:

- To compile interesting technology innovation experiences with small-scale breeders in order to show their importance for rural development.
- To suggest strategic elements for promoting technology innovation.

Project duration: November–December 2003

Project budget and PRGA contribution:

- ***Partner contribution:*** US\$ 75,935
- ***PRGA direct financial contribution:*** US\$ 37,000

Outputs/achievements:

Five cases were studied:

- Instituto Nacional de Ciencias Agrícolas (INCA), Cuba: Participatory plant breeding: promoting biodiversity and food security.
- Mexico: Indigenous communities’ experiences in participatory NRM.
- PBA Foundation: Participatory and sustainable development of small breeders in Colombia.
- PROINPA Foundation (Research and Promotion of Andean Crops): Chemical control strategy for potato rust in Bolivia.
- Zamorano University in Honduras with emphasis on Nicaragua: Integrated pest management program in Central America.

Publications:

- Reports on each of the five case studies were submitted.

3. Farmer-led participatory maize breeding in middle hills of Nepal

Country: Nepal

Partner involved:

- LiBird (Local Initiatives for Biodiversity Research and Development)

Objective:

To strengthen institutional capacity of Farmers' Research Committees (FRCs) and subcommittees in group mobilization, resource generation and marketing their expertise and/or participatory plant breeding (PPB) products.

Project duration: January 2004 to December 2006

PRGA direct financial contribution: US\$ 34,337

Outputs/achievements:

- FRCs and subcommittees to be established as learning organizations.
- The FRCs will be able to market their expertise and PPB products to the neighboring districts as resource-generating and livelihood options.
- The mechanisms of equitable benefits sharing of intellectual property rights (IPRs) of PPB products within and among their farmers, FRCs and subcommittees will be developed, implanted and documented.
- Joint workshop enabled 30 members of LiBird to conduct an institutional assessment of their institution.

4. Participatory plant breeding: A new challenge in the development and adoption of potato varieties by farmers in Bolivia

Country: Bolivia

Partner involved:

- PROINPA Foundation (Research and Promotion of Andean Crops)

Objectives:

- To develop and adapt methodologies for obtaining advanced clones with genetic resistance to stresses.
- To draw out the research capacity of farmers so that they may solve the production problems of their own region.
- To train farmers in the techniques of hybridization, and management and selection of seedlings in household seedbeds and in the field to obtain new varieties.
- To contribute to the conservation and use of potato genetic resources.
- To develop varieties with good resistance to late blight, good yield, and acceptable culinary qualities for household and industrial consumption.

- To conduct economic analyses of conventional plant breeding and participatory plant breeding.

Project duration: January 2004 to December 2005

Project budget and PRGA contribution:

- **Partner contribution:** US\$ 19,300
- **PRGA direct financial contribution:** US\$ 46,300

Outputs/achievements:

- Methodologies for obtaining advanced clones with genetic resistance to stresses developed and adapted.
- Research capacity of farmers enhanced so they can solve the production problems of their own region.
- Farmers trained in the techniques of hybridization, and management and selection of seedlings in household seedbeds and in the field to obtain new varieties.
- Potato genetic resources conserved and used.
- Varieties developed with good resistance to late blight, good yield, and acceptable culinary qualities for household and industrial consumption.
- Economic analyses conduct of conventional plant breeding and participatory plant breeding.

Publication:

- Gabriel J; Herbas J; Salazar M; Ruiz J; Lopez J; Villaroel J; Cossio D, 2004. Fitomejoramiento Participativo: Un Nuevo Desafío en la Generación y Apropiación Variedades por los agricultores de Papa en Bolivia. *Working Document No. 22*. PRGA Program, Cali, Colombia.

5. Learning Workshop: Integrating gender factor in agricultural research

Country: Uganda

Partner involved:

- ECAPAPA (Eastern and Central Africa Programme for Agricultural Policy Analysis, of ASARECA, Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa)

Objectives:

- To identify gaps and opportunities for capacity development in PR and GA.
- To formulate a plan of action for mainstreaming GA in the ASARECA region.

Project duration: March 22–24, 2004

Project budget and PRGA contribution:

- ***Partner contribution:*** US\$ 10,000
- ***PRGA direct financial contribution:*** US\$ 23,000

Outputs/achievements:

- Sharing of experiences, particularly the opportunities for and constraints to mainstreaming gender.
- Basis for formulating a plan of action for joint collaboration through a Capacity Development and Small Grants Program.

6. Support to student on participatory monitoring and evaluation tools

Country: Colombia

Partner involved:

- CIAT (International Center for Tropical Agriculture)

Objective:

To develop participatory monitoring and evaluation (PM&E) tools and deepen CIAT's understanding of the impacts of these tools through field research.

Project duration: March 2004 to March 2005

PRGA direct financial contribution: US\$ 75,600

Outputs/achievements:

- Participatory monitoring and evaluation tools document.

Publications:

- Knox A, 2005. Unearthing the “power” in empowerment: Is PM&E capable of meeting social justice objectives? PRGA Program Small Grant report.

7. Assessing participatory learning and action in China

Country: China

Partner involved:

- China Agricultural University

Objective:

Participatory assessment of the use of a participatory approach (learning and reflection process) in China, emphasizing:

- Development of a viable framework to accelerate learning;

- Identification of key areas for capacity development;
- Establishment of a network of innovators from the learning communities;
- Development of a high-level community of partners that can support the network of innovators and enhance the learning alliance.

Project duration: May 2004 to March 2006

PRGA direct financial contribution: US\$ 38,000

Outputs/achievements:

- Learning Workshop.
- Supported national Network of PR to conduct an assessment for institutionalization.
- High-level community of partners developed.

Publication:

- Final report (in prep.).

8. Support for a workshop entitled “Women Feeding Cities: Gender mainstreaming in urban food production and food security” and Strengthening innovative social science and high-quality participatory research at the International Potato Center (CIP)

Countries: Ghana, Peru

Partners involved:

- CIP (International Potato Center)
- Participants in the workshop were from the following organizations:
 - Urban Harvest (Systemwide Initiative on Urban and Periurban Agriculture)
 - IWMI (International Water Management Institute)
 - ETC-RUAF (Dutch-based development organization)

Objective:

To develop the capacity of the Social Science Unit (CIP) to support methodological innovation in PA and GA across CIP’s research program.

Project duration: June–December 2004

PRGA direct financial contribution: US\$ 15,000

Outputs/achievements:

- Workshop output: publication on methods and approaches.
- Social Sciences Unit web-page for research related to social sciences at CIP and participatory methods.
- Databases and library of social sciences updated and accessible on-line.

- Two seminars related to innovative methods in social sciences and PR and GA research.

Publication:

- Prain G; de Zeeuw H, 2004. Women feeding cities, gender mainstreaming in urban food production & food security. End-of-Project Workshop, Accra, Ghana, September 20–23, 2004.

9. Institutional assessment conducted with CARE/Laos: Organizational “best practices” for mainstreaming gender

Country: Lao PDR

Partner involved:

- CARE International in Lao PDR (International Relief and Development Agency)

Objectives:

- To measure the organizational processes associated with gender mainstreaming.
- To document the organizational “best practices” for mainstreaming gender.
- To identify the opportunities and constrains for mainstreaming.
- To identify key areas for further input, such as capacity development, reformulation of organizational policy, incentives for champions.

Project duration: June 2004 to January 2005

PRGA direct financial contribution: US\$ 10,000

Outputs/achievements:

- Report detailing CARE’s best practices for mainstreaming gender.

Publication:

- Sharp K, 2005. *Mapping Gender Mainstreaming: The CARE Laos Experience*. Lao PDR.

10. Assessment of participatory approaches in Luang Namtha Province, Lao PDR

Country: Lao PDR

Partner involved:

- University of Laos (Forestry Department)

Objectives:

- To investigate the impact of cash cropping on the local agricultural production system through action research in Sing District.

- To develop a participatory monitoring and evaluation process that improves resource use and management practices in the upland areas.
- To identify the main stakeholders and their relations in the cash-crop production that is rapidly being adopted in the upland areas.
- To involve local farmers and district agriculture and forestry officials, or local extension workers, from the beginning of the research to jointly assess the impact of cash cropping on uplands, and current obstacles faced by different stakeholders in agricultural production.
- To develop a management plan that links farmers and local extension workers.

Project duration: June 2004 to May 2005

PRGA direct financial contribution: US\$ 21,710

Outputs/achievements:

- Management plan report that links farmers and local extension workers.

Publications:

- Fujita Y; Thongmanivong S; Vongvisouk T, 2006. Stakeholder strategy for improving upland agricultural land use: Case study of Sing District, Luang Namtha Province. National University of Laos, Faculty of Forestry, Vientiane, Lao PDR.

11. Workshop: Scoping workshop on long-term global impacts of gender-focused investments and policy reforms

Country: USA

Partner involved:

- IFPRI (International Food Policy Research Institute)

Objectives:

- To determine what kind of gender-related data could be used in developing an impact model for assessing how gender-focused policy and investment can impact food-security, nutritional status, and well-being at a global (or regional) scale.
- To identify relevant indicators for investment and policy reforms in NRM.
- To identify gender parameters relevant for inclusion in a new gender-focused impact model.

Project duration: August 2004

PRGA direct financial contribution: US\$ 10,000

Outputs/achievements:

- While data/indicator constraints may limit what can be put into the model, qualitative discussion can serve to help in framing the model.
- Priority areas for the model were identified (i.e. education, fuel and time link, health and

nutrition, population growth, water supply and sanitation, information technology, health-related investments, effects of health improvements on anemia and consequence of anemia reduction on productivity and schooling).

- Based on the MDGs (Millennium Development Goals) and Beijing + 10 summit, a number of indicators were proposed as a starting point for assessing data availability and what could be included in the impact model (and how).
- Proposed follow up action included:
 - incorporating proposed gender parameters into the impact model;
 - identifying limits of the impact model for gender and suggestions as to how to address these;
 - developing a full research model.

Publication:

- IFPRI (International Food Policy Research Institute), [2004]. [Draft] Technical Report on Long-Term Impacts of Gender-Focused Investments and Policy Reforms: A Scoping Workshop, November 2–3, 2004, Warrenton, Virginia, USA.

12. Broadening the knowledge of technicians, rural extension agents and small farmers in participatory plant breeding methodologies and informal seed multiplication schemes

Country: Brazil

Partners involved:

- CNPMF (Biotechnology Research Unit of EMBRAPA, the Brazilian Enterprise for Agricultural Research)
- CENARGEN (Biotechnology and Genetics Resources, EMBRAPA)

Objective:

To broaden the knowledge base of researchers, extension agents and farmer communities in relation to participatory breeding methodologies and seed multiplication systems in cassava, maize and beans.

Project duration: August 1–8, 2004

PRGA direct financial contribution: US\$ 10,000

Outputs/achievements:

- Twenty participants from eight Brazilian states, along with research and extension personnel from national institutions and social projects duly trained.
- Selection criteria and qualifications for the technology components used by farmers and/or end-users identified.
- Field books on the handling the information generated in participatory evaluation projects.

- Guidelines for the establishment of seed multiplication schemes with the active participation of farmers.
- Network of collaborators developed among those committed to the application of participatory research methodologies, with emphasis on participatory breeding.
- Methodologies disseminated, with emphasis on participatory breeding and informal seed multiplication in cassava and associated crops in eight Brazilian states in the northeast and central-west regions.

13. Institutional assessment to identify gaps and opportunities in capacity development for participatory research and gender analysis at the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA)

Country: Syria

Partners involved:

- ICARDA (International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas)
- ICARDA's NARS partners

Objective:

To develop a plan of action for capacity in gender-sensitive participatory research in ICARDA and its national partners.

Project duration: September 2004 to February 2005

PRGA direct financial contribution: US\$ 17,500

Outputs/achievements:

- Capacity development needs assessed in ICARDA and its partner institutions.
- Plan of action/strategy for capacity development developed.
- Mechanisms identified for sustaining a network of national trainers to be associated with ICARDA.

Publication:

- Final report: Braun A, 2005. Assessment of Capacity Development for PR & GA among ICARDA and Partner institutions.

14. Building capacity for gender analysis and gender mainstreaming in the Eastern and Central African Region

Countries: Eastern and Central African Region (Ethiopia, Sudan, Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda and Madagascar)

Partner involved:

- ECAPAPA (Eastern and Central Africa Programme for Agricultural Policy Analysis, of ASARECA, Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa)

Objectives:

- To generate a viable set of “best practices” for mainstreaming gender-sensitive participatory approaches (PR and GA) within core programs of selected organizations in the region using a learning and change approach.
- To develop human resources through building capacity in participating organizations and their partners to replicate the framework (“best practices”) for mainstreaming PR and GA approaches (developed in Phase 1) in Phase 2.
- To establish a network of innovators in the eastern, central and southern African region for mainstreaming gender-sensitive participatory approaches in agricultural research-for-development.

Project duration: November 2004 to July 2006

PRGA direct financial contribution: US\$ 379,300

Outputs/achievements:

- Enhanced capacity of participants to design and practically implement gender research and analysis in their projects.
- Documentation of institutional opportunities and constraints for mainstreaming gender analysis and gender issues in their organizations.
- Research results/papers will be published and disseminated in various media.
- A peer-support network in the region of researchers involved in integrating social/gender analysis (SA/GA) will be established.
- A group of trainers for gender analysis and mainstreaming methods has been established in the region.
- Experience of the process will be documented for other researchers and organizations to use and consider in the development of training and capacity-building programs.
- A training manual will be developed.

Publications:

- Final report CIDA
- Final Report and evaluation due October 2006.

15. Sponsorship of the Approaches to Participatory Research and Scaling Up Workshop

Country: Kenya

Partner involved:

- AfNet (The African Network for Soil Biology and Fertility)

Objective:

To develop the capacity of The African Network for Soil Biology and Fertility (AfNet) member scientists in their knowledge and skill level of farmer participatory research (FPR) and scaling up (SU) approaches, and to enhance their ability to apply the FPR & SU approaches in their research and development work.

Project duration: September 19–30, 2005

PRGA direct financial contribution: US\$ 10,000

Outputs/achievements:

- Final training workshop report.
- Initial exposure of workshop participants to participatory research and scaling up/out, covering concepts, approaches, issues, methods and tools.
- AfNet scientists are able to communicate and relate more effectively and equitably with rural farmers—thinking critically and reflectively about their own role in research.
- Increased relevance and impact of research for integrated soil-fertility management (ISFM), NRM and for the livelihoods of local farmers.
- Participatory research expertise identified and incorporated into interdisciplinary teams for more effective research.
- Community of learning created among the scientists along with an ongoing network of support.
- Action plans developed and personal approaches to research and interaction with farmers and stakeholders in the field duly improved.
- Approaches applied with farmers in the field and reviewed by AfNet scientists.

Publication:

- Workshop Final report.

16. Institutionalizing social/gender analysis for poverty alleviation in agricultural research and development in the Eastern Himalayan Region

Countries: Nepal, India, Bhutan, Laos

Partner involved:

- WOCAN (Women Organizing for Change in Agriculture and Natural Resources Management)

Objectives:

- To build the capacities of rural women in the Eastern Himalayas to meet their needs for food security and income-generating opportunities through local organizations and agro-enterprise development.
- To support partner agricultural and NRM organizations in the Eastern Himalayas to institutionalize a planning and delivery process that is more responsive to the needs of rural women through facilitating organizational change.
- To generate a viable set of “good practices” for mainstreaming gender-sensitive participatory R&D approaches within selected organizations through action research, and assessing the impacts of these methodologies for learning and change.

Project duration: October 2005 to April 2008

PRGA direct financial contribution: US\$ 137,500

Outputs/achievements:

- Rural women’s agriculture R&D committees established in five areas of the Eastern Himalayas in three countries.
- A network of female professionals in agricultural service agencies of these countries acting as brokers for the rural women’s interactions with the agency, and as change agents for their own organizations.
- Set of “best practices” to institutionalize the mainstreaming of gender-sensitive participatory R&D approaches to make agriculture organizations responsive to the needs of poor rural women. The “best practices” will be documented in a format accessible to rural women and agriculture professionals.

17. Mainstreaming gender analysis in the research process of the International Potato Center (CIP)

Countries: Peru; one country from Sub-Saharan Africa

Partners involved:

- CIP (International Potato Center)
- One NARI from Eastern Africa

Objectives:

- To initiate a process of gender mainstreaming in CIP through institutional mechanisms as well as by piloting the approach in the Sub-Saharan Africa region through Urban Harvest, other CIP Divisions, and at least one NARI partner.
- To initiate institution-wide adoption of an approach to gender mainstreaming through internal e-debate and management support.
- To complete pilot testing of the Urban Harvest Strategy for Gender Mainstreaming developed under the previous PRGA grant in 2004.
- To complement the capacity development activities of PRGA by working with selected officers of at least one NARI in Eastern Africa, on Urban Harvest and other CIP project activities dealing with participatory research and gender analysis.
- To strengthen the capacity of Urban Harvest and other CIP staff to support the work of partners on participatory research and gender analysis activities, as a basis for a later internal capacity-building program in CIP.

Project duration: November 2005 to October 2006

PRGA direct financial contribution: US\$ 11,210

Outputs/achievements:

- At least two PR and GA field activities involving selected NARI personnel, Urban Harvest and CIP staff.
- Prototype guidelines on application of PR and GA activities on urban and peri-urban agriculture and other CIP projects in Sub-Saharan Africa, based on the project activities.
- Framework for application of GA in CIP's research program, based on CIP staff involvement in development of prototype guidelines.

18. Mainstreaming gender-sensitive research in the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), phase one: Institutional analysis

Country: Ethiopia

Partner involved:

- ILRI (International Livestock Research Institute)

Objective:

- To develop a strategy for mainstreaming gender-sensitive research in ILRI. This will entail conducting an institutional assessment to identify the opportunities and constraints for mainstreaming gender-sensitive approaches in research. Using the results of the assessment, a concrete plan of action for mainstreaming will be developed and operationalized within ILRI.
- A position for a senior scientist funded jointly by the PRGA and ILRI, 2003–2006. The senior scientist has been responsible for providing support to ILRI projects in gender-sensitive PR methods, particularly in the area of forages development. He has also conducted a gender

audit and is working on the development of an action plan for mainstreaming gender analysis in the projects of ILRI.

Project duration: November 2005 to October 2006

PRGA direct financial contribution: US\$ 10,000

Outputs/achievements:

- Developed comprehensive survey questionnaire for institutional analysis.
- Institutional assessment completed.
- Action plan for mainstreaming gender analysis developed with support from management and senior leadership.

Impact Assessment of Participatory Research and Gender Analysis

1. Impact and cost of participatory plant breeding in Nepal

Country: Nepal

Partner involved:

- LiBird (Local Initiatives for Biodiversity, Research and Development)

Objective:

To assess the impact of LiBird's participatory maize-breeding project, as one component of the Program's larger effort to study institutional change.

Project duration: November 2002 to October 2003

PRGA direct financial contribution: US\$ 12,000

Outputs/achievements:

A workshop was conducted in 2003 to assess the institutional opportunities for and constraints to mainstreaming participatory approaches.

2. Participatory cassava breeding in northeast Brazil: Who adopts and why?

Country: Brazil

Partner involved:

- EMBRAPA (Empresa Brasileira de Pesquisa Agropecuária).

Objective:

To examine the participatory research methodology implemented by a cassava-breeding project in four communities of northeast Brazil over an 8-year period.

Project duration: April 2003 to December 2004

PRGA direct financial contribution: US\$ 30,000

Outputs/achievements:

This study assessed the soundness of the participatory plant breeding methodology by testing whether participant farmers were representative of the farming communities in which the project was implemented. The study also investigated the adoption potential of the cassava varieties developed in the project, benefits perceived to have accrued from adoption, and the time spent on project activities by the participating farmers.

Publication:

- Saad N; Lilja N; Fukuda W, 2005. Participatory cassava breeding in Northeast Brazil: Who adopts the new varieties and why? *Working Document No. 24*. PRGA Program, Cali, Colombia. 27p.

3. Impact of participatory natural-resource management research in cassava-based cropping systems in Vietnam and Thailand

Countries: Thailand and Vietnam

Partners involved:

- SPIA (CGIAR Standing Panel on Impact Assessment)
- CIAT (International Center for Tropical Agriculture)
- Agrifood International
- University of Maine, Department of Resource Economics and Policy
- Government institutions involved primarily in research – the Department of Agriculture (DOA), Land Development Department (LDD), and the Thailand Tapioca Development Institute (TTDI) in Thailand; and the Institute of Agricultural Sciences (IAS), the Vietnam Agricultural Sciences Institute (VASI), and the National Institute for Soils and Fertilizers (NISF) in Vietnam
- Government institutions involved primarily in extension – the Department of Agricultural Extension (DOAE) in Thailand
- Agricultural universities – Kasetsart University (KU) in Thailand; University of Agriculture and Forestry II (UAF2), Hue Agricultural University, and Thai Nguyen Agricultural University (TNAU) in Vietnam

Objective:

To assess the impact of the CIAT/NARS participatory NRM research project “Improving the Sustainability of Cassava-based Cropping Systems in Asia” (Nippon Foundation-funded, 1994–2003). This involved assessing both adoption and impact of the project technologies as well as the contribution of the PR approach.

Project duration: October 2003 to December 2005

Outputs/achievements:

- The results of this study provide an example of an integrated NRM type of project that focused on the complementarities between NRM and genetic-improvement research. The study is unique as it provides a methodology that can be applied to separate the technology effects from the knowledge effects to be assumed from farmer participatory research.

Publications:

- Agrifood Consulting International, 2004. Integrating germplasm, natural resource and institutional innovations to enhance impact: The case of cassava-based cropping systems

research in Asia. CIAT-PRGA impact case study, a report prepared by Agrifood Consulting International, Ha Noi, Viet Nam. 506 p.

- Dalton T; Lilja N; Johnson N; Howeler R, *in press*. Impact of participatory natural resource management research in cassava-based cropping systems in Vietnam and Thailand. In: Zilberman D; Waibel H (ed.) *The Impact of Natural Resource Management Research in the CGIAR*. CAB International, Wallingford, UK.
- Dalton T; Lilja N; Johnson N; Howeler R, 2005. Impact of participatory natural resource management research in cassava-based cropping systems in Vietnam and Thailand. *Working Document No. 23* (revised). PRGA Program, Cali, Colombia. 27p.
- Dalton T; Lilja N; Johnson N; Howeler R. Human capital accumulation and productivity improvements in Asian cassava systems: Are participatory research approaches beneficial? Contributed paper presented at the American Agricultural Economics Association meeting, July 24–27, 2005, Providence, Rhode Island, USA.

4. Participatory research projects at the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT)

Partner involved:

- CIMMYT (International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center)

Objective:

To take a broad look at these issues and to record: (1) what is considered participatory research; (2) how it is implemented across CIMMYT projects; and (3) some of the lessons learned by scientists involved in these projects.

Project duration: April 2004 to December 2005

Project budget and PRGA contribution:

- ***Partner contribution (USAID linkage funds):*** US\$ 30,000
- ***PRGA direct financial contribution:*** US\$ 0

Outputs/achievements:

A systematic account of the experiences of the 19 participatory research projects at CIMMYT. One fundamental contribution of this study is the better to understanding and documentation of how participatory research is perceived and used by scientists within the organizational context in which they work. Thus, the main use of these results is for institutional review and learning purposes.

Publication:

- Lilja N; Bellon M, 2006. *Participatory research projects at the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT)*. PRGA Program, Cali, Columbia, and CIMMYT, Mexico, DF.

5. Institutional impacts of the Cassava Participatory Research and Extension Project in Thailand and Vietnam 1993–2004

Countries: Thailand and Vietnam

Partners involved:

- University of Laval (Centre for Research in the Economics of Agrifood)
- Center for Agricultural Research and Ecological Studies of Hanoi Agricultural University (CARES)
- CIAT (International Center for Tropical Agriculture)
- Government institutions involved primarily in research – the Department of Agriculture (DOA), Land Development Department (LDD), and the Thailand Tapioca Development Institute (TTDI) in Thailand; and the Institute of Agricultural Sciences (IAS), the Vietnam Agricultural Sciences Institute (VASI), and the National Institute for Soils and Fertilizers (NISF) in Vietnam
- Government institutions involved primarily in extension – the Department of Agricultural Extension (DOAE) in Thailand
- Agricultural universities – Kasetsart University (KU) in Thailand, University of Agriculture and Forestry II (UAF2), Hue Agricultural University, and Thai Nguyen Agricultural University (TNAU) in Vietnam

Objective:

To trace, measure and test the significance of the benefits to the implementing research and extension institutions of the Cassava Farmer Participatory Research and Extension (CFPRE) project in Thailand and Vietnam from 1993 to 2004.

Project duration: April 2004 to May 2005

PRGA direct financial contribution: US\$ 5000

Outputs/achievements:

The results of this study provide answers to three questions: (1) what are the greatest institutional benefits resulting from FPR; (2) how do the institutional benefits differ between the research partner institutes; and (3) what are the main institutional constraints for FPR.

Publication:

- Calkins P; Thao V, 2005. Institutional impacts of the cassava farmer participatory research and extension project in Thailand and Vietnam, 1993–2004. PRGA Program, Cali, Colombia. 66 p.

6. Study of the impact of local agricultural research committees (CIALs) in Cauca, Colombia

Country: Colombia

Partner involved:

- IPRA (CIAT Participatory Research in Agriculture Program)

Objective:

To assess whether farmer participatory research, in the form of community-based research services called Local Agricultural Research Committees (CIALs), makes research more pro-poor:

- To evaluate the changes in the livelihoods of the farmers, and their communities, that are attributable to the CIAL methodology;
- To assess the effectiveness of the CIAL methodology, the extent to which the problems addressed by the CIALs are relevant to the communities, and the benefits of CIALs to their members as well as to the communities in terms of the development of appropriate technologies and who benefits from the innovations;
- To examine how farmer participation in the agricultural research process affected the process itself, as well as the specific communities and individuals involved.

Project duration: May 2004 to December 2006

PRGA direct financial contribution: US\$ 0

Outputs/achievements:

The first level of analysis is completed and the results showed benefits to individual CIAL members. The study indicates that there are significant social- and human-capital benefits for CIAL members. CIAL members indicated that they had gained more knowledge about agriculture, were experimenting with new technology, and were seen as agricultural experts and advisors in their communities. They had also improved their communication and leadership skills, and had increased relationships with neighbors and with outside institutions.

Publication:

- Kaaria S; Lilja N; Sandoval V; Garcia J; Hincapié F; Sanchez F. Assessing impacts of farmer participatory research approaches: A case study of local agricultural research committees in Colombia. Paper presented at the Impact Assessment Workshop, October 19–21, 2005, CIMMYT, Mexico, DF.

7. Improving water productivity of cereals and food legumes in the Atbara River basin of Eritrea

Country: Eritrea

Partners involved:

- ICARDA-led Challenge Program on Water and Food
- University of Asmara
- Ministry of Agriculture, Eritrea
- National Agricultural Research Institute of Eritrea

Objectives:

- To identify major stakeholder-defined production constraints in the Mereb-Gash and Tekeze-Setit basins of Eritrea.
- To develop, in partnership with farmers, improved, drought-tolerant barley, wheat, chickpea, lentil, faba bean, cowpea, and grass pea varieties and related management practices that will increase the crop water productivity and ensure the sustainability of production systems.
- To develop, in partnership with farmers, sustainable options for an integrated pest management program and for integrated management of natural resources.
- To develop alternative seed-delivery system (linked to participatory crop-improvement approaches) to meet the diverse needs of small-scale resource-poor subsistence farmers and to ensure their access to new improved technologies.
- To diffuse the improved technologies and management practices to other farmers in the target area.
- To strengthen human capacity of national-program institutions and farmers' communities to conduct research.
- To develop a model, by documenting the project experience and identifying best practices of working with farmers at large scale, for rebuilding post-disaster agricultural research systems.

Project duration: July 2004 to July 2009

Project budget and PRGA contribution:

- ***Partner contribution (Water Challenge Program):*** US\$ 138,793
- ***PRGA direct financial contribution:*** US\$ 0

Outputs/achievements: Ongoing project

Publication:

- Project annual report 2005.

8. Impact Assessment Workshop

Country: Mexico

Partners involved:

- CIMMYT (International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center)
- Participants from: ICARDA, CIMMYT, CIP, IRRI, IITA, IPGRI, IWMI, ICRISAT, ICRAF, SPIA, Department of Forest Research and Survey, Nepal, University of Ottawa, HELVETAS, University of East Anglia, IIRR, DIIS, Wageningen, KARI-NARL, PBA Foundation, University of Hohenheim, FIELD Alliance, ECAPAPA/ASARECA

Objectives:

- To build participants' capacity in impact assessment.
- To foster mutual learning among impact-assessors within the CG Centers, by allowing participants to present their experiences and empirical results, as well as bringing outside experts to present on topics of interest.
- To address difficult-to-approach issues in impact assessment, such as: measurement of empowerment; project impact on women that goes beyond head-counting; use of information from stakeholder assessments in project evaluation; selection of a manageable set of local and global poverty indicators; cost structure of participatory research; and, a framework for measuring institutional learning.

Project duration: January 2005 to June 2006; Workshop: Oct 19–21, 2005

PRGA direct financial contribution: US\$ 57,937

Outputs/achievements:

- Edited summary proceedings of the workshop were published, including abstracts of all of the papers presented.
- Twelve workshop papers are in review for a special issue of a peer-reviewed journal.
- Twenty-five empirical impact studies were written and are available in the public domain via the PRGA Program website.
- An impact-assessment community of practice was established in the form of an electronic listserv of the workshop participants and others.

Publications:

- Lilja N; Dixon J; Manners G; La Rovere R; Hellin J; Feldstein HS, 2006. *New Avenues in Impact Assessment of Participatory Research and Gender Analysis*. Summary Proceedings of the Impact Assessment Workshop, CIMMYT Headquarters, Texcoco, Mexico, October 19–21, 2005. PRGA Program, Cali, Colombia; and CIMMYT, Texcoco, Mexico.
- Workshop website at <http://www.prgaprogram.org/IAWFTP/IA%20WEB/index.htm>

9. Strengthening rural innovation ecologies: Participatory development of a methodology for strengthening social networks

Country: Colombia

Partners involved:

- IPRA (CIAT Participatory Research in Agriculture Program)
- CIALs (Farmer Research Committees) in Colombia

Objective:

To research and develop a participatory methodology to help make rural innovation ecologies visible, help identify interventions for strengthening social networks, and then help monitor and evaluate subsequent interventions.

Project duration: May 2005 to April 2006

PRGA direct financial contribution: US\$ 5000

Outputs/achievements:

This pilot project developed a prototype of the tool and it was implemented in two communities. The social network maps generated are being used as communication and fund-raising tools by the CIAL groups included in the study. This prototype will be further developed and honed for application in other cases, and presented to NGOs, so it can hopefully go into a further stage of collaborative research (between NGOs themselves and with communities).

Publication:

- Douthwaite B; Hernández LA; Claros E; Alvarez S; Carvajal A. Strengthening rural innovation ecologies: Participatory development of a methodology for strengthening social networks. End of the project report to the PRGA Program. December 2005. CIAT, Cali, Colombia.

10. Generations Challenge Program: Strategy for reaching end-users

Partner involved:

- Generations Challenge Program (GCP), Sub-program 5

Objective:

The PRGA Program staff participated in an expert panel which was convened to develop a strategy for ensuring that the products of GCP research can and will be adopted, adapted and applied for the ultimate benefit of resource-poor farmers.

Project duration: July 2005

PRGA direct financial contribution: US\$ 0

Outputs/achievements:

The delivery strategy for the GCP was developed on the principle that all GCP products must be delivered to users and, therefore, the GCP must prioritize which user-needs it can and should meet. Thus, if all GCP research products must be delivered to users, then all GCP research projects must be anchored in a set of priorities so that research objectives can be identified, accomplished and measured.

Publication:

- Generations Challenge Programme. Enabling Delivery Strategy. September 2005.

11. Assessing the International Center for Agricultural Research (CIAT) experience with learning alliances in Central America

Country: Central American countries

Partner involved:

- CIAT Agro-enterprise project

Objectives:

- To assess and document organizational and institutional changes fostered by the Learning Alliance on rural agro-enterprise development, facilitated in Central America since 2003 by CIAT's Rural Agro-enterprise Development Project, and its development impact in selected sites.
- To learn and reflect on the experience and make the necessary adjustments to improve its effectiveness.

Project duration: February 2006 to February 2007

PRGA direct financial contribution: US\$ 30,000

Outputs/achievements: (new project)

Publications: (new project)

12. Poverty reduction and social inclusion: Evidence of effective ways of influencing research policy and practice

Country: multiple (case study selection ongoing)

Partners involved: multiple (case study selection ongoing)

Objectives:

To understand situations (through case study analysis) where participation gave rise to positive outcomes. Positive here means effectively bringing about changes that made technical and social science research more focused on poverty reduction and social inclusion issues.

Project duration: March 2006 to March 2007

PRGA direct financial contribution: US\$ 30,000

Outputs/achievements: (new project)

Publications: (new project)