

PTD a promising extension methodology for Pakistan

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The PTD facilitator helps them to find relevant information and, if needed, external advise. Still, the groups will procure information and link up with researchers or extensionists themselves. Once the experiments are set up, the group members jointly monitor and evaluate and finally its up to them to decide about a follow up and modification during the next cropping season. The PTD facilitator can, of course, draw their attention to new ventures and technologies. She/he may organize an exposure visit to a place where this

new venture or technology is being tried out. He/she may invite an expert for a presentation. The PTD facilitator is the "networker", leaving the decisions to be taken for probing development to the interest groups. PTD is a way to approach and collaborate with rural communities. In comparison with conventional extension methodologies or "package delivery", PTD improves ownership and self-learning of the groups involved and it makes the flow of information between research and farmers more effective and rewarding.

Exposure to Livestock Farmers' Field School in Kenya

Irshad Khan Abbasi, CTA CBRM

An 8-members team of CBRM visited Kenya this year. The objectives of the exposure visit were:

- To observe and learn from Kenyan field experience, especially participatory approaches like Farmers Field Schools (FFS) and Participatory Technology Development (PTD).
- Main interest was for FFS in Livestock.
- To learn about the support mechanism of different organizations regarding planning, implementation, monitoring, linkages, synergy, HID and participatory approaches.



The team visited various organizations including Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), Kenya Agriculture Research Institute (KARI), Kenya Forestry Research Institute, International Centre for Research in

Agro-Forestry (ICRAF) and CAB-International African Region. Following were our key observations:

1. FFS basically provides the rural communities a platform where they can think, plan, and implement their activities in an organized and participative manner. It also provides opportunities where they can jointly discuss other social and cultural issues.
2. Communities' capacity was built to implement logical FFS steps including baseline data collection, curriculum development, social organization, agro ecological analysis and consensus development. The facilitators were either trained community members or workers from different departments. They were linked with resource persons and organization for technical backstopping. Some of the FFSs were able to transform into apex bodies or

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associations. FFSs received funding from various organizations to implement identified PTD projects. Hence, PTD projects can evolve during the implementation of FFS.

3. A specific M&E framework had not evolved to check the process steps and impact. Participatory M&E is inherent to FFS. Due to financial support and other positive development, FFS were mushrooming in thousands. The facilitating teams concentrated finally on quality monitoring rather than on process and impact monitoring. How these FFS would sustain after withdrawal of donor funding, was the key question in many discussion. Majority of the FFSs attached high hopes to receive support from other sources after expiry of current support.

4. It was observed that communities in FFS heavily relied on improved technologies and there was little emphasis on the use of indigenous knowledge. Moreover, facilitator's role in this regard was not very prominent.
5. Marketing links were initially missing in FFSs. Focus was on household self-sufficiency. Only in a 2nd step the teams might go for surplus production and marketing, if need be.

CBRM, after returning from its visit to Kenya has taken the important steps for embarking in livestock FFS in its area of operation. A concept paper has been finalized a forum of experienced people in livestock has been initiated - a highly interactive and learning experience so far! The forum comprises of all relevant livestock departments (Animal In-service Training Institute, Department of Livestock and Dairy development, Department of Animal Husbandry University of Agriculture, Veterinary Research Institute), NGOs and other development agencies. An inventory of the important livestock management issues is on its way. It helped already in developing a livestock FFS curriculum that covers all main needs in the sub-sector related to animal nutrition, animal management, health etc. Pilot livestock FFSs have already been initiated in selected areas. Linkages of these FFSs with other horticulture and field crop FFSs will be established with the support of Post Project Support component of Project for Horticulture Promotion.