

Rapid Rural Appraisal Annotated Bibliography

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**RAPID RURAL APPRAISAL
ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY**

BY

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for

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ACRONYMS

ACC/SCN	United Nations Inter-Agency Coordinating Committee, Sub-Committee on Nutrition
AID	Agency for International Development (same as USAID)
CIMMYT	International Center for Maize and Wheat Improvement
DPMC/TAD/OICD/USDA	Development Project Management Center, Technical Assistance Division, Office of International Cooperation and Development
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
ICTA	Instituto de Ciencia y Tecnologia Agricola
IDS	Institute of Development Studies
NEG/TAD/OICD/USDA	Nutrition Economics Group, Technical Assistance Division, Office of International Cooperation and Development
NIAN	Nutrition in Agriculture Network
PROCAR/USAID	Projet de Developpement de la Production Agricole et de Commercialization Regionale, United States Agency for International Development (same as AID)

INTRODUCTION

This annotated bibliography surveys a selection of recent literature relevant to rapid rural appraisal. It is one of a series of publications prepared under a cooperative agreement involving the University of Arizona and the University of Kentucky with the Nutrition Economics Group, Office of International Cooperation and Development, and United States Department of Agriculture. Funding for this endeavour is provided by the Office of Nutrition, Bureau for Science and Technology, United States Agency for International Development.

The aim of RRA is to be able to develop a quick, cost-effective, and accurate understanding of the rural situation, be it farming, nutrition, health, food consumption, poverty, women's roles, etc., or a combination of any of these. It makes use of a sample that is both random and purposive. Researchers, working as part of a multi-disciplinary team, gather their own information through semi-structured or unstructured interviews. The data collection process is iterative and dynamic. Information obtained is evaluated and data needs are reformulated on a daily basis. The methodology is flexible in design and implementation. These features make RRA an appropriate and valuable tool for the collection of information on food consumption and nutrition-related issues. This is particularly useful for quickly identifying nutritionally vulnerable population groups and their food consumption problems at the household and community levels, and for subsequently undertaking suitable actions.

The bibliography includes discussions of key issues relevant to RRA. It also contains works that incorporate quantifying procedures, e.g., questionnaires, a design aspect not normally considered part of a typical RRA. They are included because of their adaptability to rapid appraisal. These procedures, when administered by experienced investigators, are both cost-effective and workable within the framework of quick, semi-structured interviews. Papers and volumes are classified under one of four separate categories to enable the researcher to access and use the bibliography effectively. The headings are: Overview, Health/Health Status, Nutrition/Nutritional Status, and Food Consumption/Food Expenditure. Wherever possible, a complete citation and an abstract are provided for each entry.

The first section, a general overview, provides a view of the concepts, methodology, strategy, and design perspectives used in rapid rural appraisal. Additionally, selections offer examples of application and, in some cases, what comprises the theoretical framework of the approach. Key principles are discussed, criticisms are presented, and suggested alternatives and methods for improvement are offered. Topics vary from the evolution of the concept to the techniques and different applications of the approach. How decisions are made in the field and the importance of incorporating indigenous knowledge and perceptions of rural problems are discussed. Some articles wrestle with the pros and cons of rapid reconnaissance. Case studies are drawn from various states in Africa, Asia, Central America, and the Pacific. While farming systems research and its concerns are overwhelmingly represented in this section there are articles focusing on other areas of interest in which RRA has been effectively employed, i.e. poverty, emergency situations and the importance of including women informants (and how to do it) in rapid

reconnaissance work.

The second section, health/health status, looks at the application of rapid assessment in sanitation, water supply, and disease control efforts. The articles focus on the problem of identifying ill-health. They analyze and present procedural changes showing how they can facilitate the investigator's work as well as enhance the chances of obtaining useful information.

The third section, nutrition/nutritional status, has several articles whose focus are on interventions and evaluation of nutritional projects. Guidelines and types of measurements used are presented. Crucial data necessary for studying the nutritional effects of rural development projects are outlined. Areal studies using varying perspectives of RRA are offered to elucidate both the applicability and adaptability of this approach in looking at nutritional concerns.

The final section, food consumption/food expenditure, contains discussions centered around methodology and the utility of taking food consumption surveys. Additionally, some papers look at variables in conjunction with one another, e.g., economic status and position in household and their respective influences on food use. Food expenditure, often studied together with consumption behavior, is reviewed critically, looking at such measurement factors as household income and sampling techniques. A few regional studies present exemplifying data on the effects national food policies are having on both monies spent on food and the types of food consumed.

OVERVIEW

Beebe, James

- 1985 Rapid Rural Appraisal: The Critical First Step in a Farming Systems Approach to Research. Farming Systems Support Project, Networking Paper No. 5, University of Florida.

Rapid rural appraisal is a way of organizing people and time for collecting and analyzing information when time constraints demand decisions before a local situation can be fully understood. It is a heuristic device to initiate additional formal studies and interventions. An important advantage is its flexibility. It assumes that in the beginning not enough is known of the problem to articulate specific questions and that a standardization of methodology would limit its flexibility. The paper establishes minimal requirements and outlines several methodological issues.

Beebe, James

- 1985 Rapid Appraisal: The Evolution of the Concept and the Definition of Issues. Paper presented at the International Conference on Rapid Rural Appraisal, 2-5 September 1985, Khon Kaen, Thailand.

This paper defines some of the key issues relevant to rapid appraisal and provides an introduction to how these issues have evolved. The author argues that rapid appraisal should be the first key step in identifying problems, usually through a combination of additional formal studies, documenting the responses to interventions, and participant observation. The author then outlines eleven issues facing practitioners of rapid appraisal: 1) definition of the concept, 2) duration of the study, 3) participation on the team, 4) research orientation, 5) structuring research time, 6) necessary prior information, 7) use of interviews, 8) observation, 9) report preparation, 10) incorporating results into project decisions, and 11) potential problems of this type of appraisal.

Belshaw, D.G.R.

- 1981 Village viability assessment procedures in Tanzania: decision-making with curtailed information requirements. Public Administration and Development 1: 3-13.

This article explains the methods developed for gathering necessary data to make assessments of village viability in Tanzania during the period 1975-78. The need for methods arose out of the consolidation into villages of dispersed rural settlements and the problem encountered by an unknown number of new villages of deficiencies in the available and accessible

physical environment. What was required was a means of identifying those villages where priority should be given to population resettlement and the identification of new village sites. The initial attempt at establishing a standard village viability assessment procedure involved devising a procedure which assumed the need for a high level of environmental data. This presupposed the use of staff with considerable expertise, and given the scale of the problem, this expertise was not available. A revised procedure was therefore developed which was based on more realistic assumptions about what was available. This involved making fresh estimates about the level of expertise, the amount of assessment time available and the degree of data accuracy required. On the basis of field testing a revised approach was developed. The main features of this approach are outlined, and its merits discussed. (Author's abstract.)

Blackman, Colin

1983 We can be farmers, just for one day. Food Policy 8(2): 155-156.

Academics from the University of Cambridge and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) have developed a simulation game of the role of agrarian change in a traditional community of small farmers in India. Following extensive data collection and trials of ad hoc games in a variety of institutions over the past ten years, the game has now been marketed in a commercial form as "The Green Revolution Game". The primary aim of the game is to give participants an idea of what life is like for a small farmer in a dynamic society in a developing country. The designers hope that it will be of value in training and sensitizing professionals and students in agricultural extension, project appraisal, rural and development planning, nutrition and economics. (Author's abstract.)

Byerlee, Derek, Larry Harrington, and Donald L. Winkelmann

1982 Farming systems research: issues in research strategy and technology design. American Journal of Agricultural Economics 64(5): 897-904.

A strategy emphasizing only a few research objectives and focusing on the capabilities of homogenous farmer groups is outlined. Next, the cost-effectiveness of different types of data collection is discussed, data collection techniques are reviewed, and a methodology for selecting farming technologies to be investigated is sketched. The paper concludes by pointing out the need to focus on only a few priority research opportunities and the importance of developing efficient research methodologies.

Carruthers, Ian

1981 A mental construct for unstructured on-farm interviews for use in rapid rural appraisal. Agricultural Administration 8: 271-278.

Procedures to promote the rapid appraisal of the opportunities and constraints facing peasant farmers have been neglected despite the evidence that research resources and the outcome of research are inadequate for present needs. In consequence decision-makers are often ill-briefed on rural matters. The potential biases of rapid rural appraisal are introduced. A framework for farmer interviews is suggested which is intended to help rapid investigation but to give comprehensive cover of farming activities, the rationale for the selected set of activities and the future intentions of farmers. (Author's abstract.)

Carruthers, Ian and Robert Chambers

1981 Rapid appraisal for rural development. Agricultural Administration 8:407-422.

In rural development there is rarely sufficient time or resources to deal as comprehensively with problems as might appear to be necessary. In most circumstances administrators and specialists must resort to short-cut methods when collecting information, but these methods need be neither second rate nor unprofessional. This article was the introductory paper presented at a conference on rapid appraisal methods held at the Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex, England. The authors' comments incorporate into the discussion general aspects, key principals, obstacles to improved methods and alternative methods for rapid appraisal.

Chambers, Robert

1979 Editorial. IDS Bulletin 10(2): 1-3.

This paper provides an introductory note to a series of papers concerned with the technical knowledge possessed by rural people and their capabilities for assimilating, adapting, communicating, and creating knowledge. The main thrust of the author's argument is that to neglect the stock of indigenous technical knowledge and the process by which rural people assimilate, adapt, communicate and create knowledge, is both inefficient and wrong.

Chambers, Robert

1981 Rapid rural appraisal: rationale and repertoire. Public Administration and Development 1: 95-106.

Decision makers need the right information at the right time but in rural development much information generated is too costly and

inappropriate. Rapid rural appraisal forms part of the attempt to learn about rural conditions in a cost effective way. Such appraisal involves avoiding the traps of quick and dirty or long and dirty methods and using instead methods that are more cost effective. To do this means ignoring inappropriate professional standards and instead applying a new rigour based on the two principles of optimal ignorance - knowing what it is not worth knowing - and proportionate accuracy - recognizing the degree of accuracy required. The article reviews a range of approaches and techniques for rapid rural appraisal that are less rigid and exhaustive than many traditional methods and yet more rigorous in relation to cost and use. Time is emphasized as a critical factor in effective appraisal and rapid rural appraisal methods increase the chance of reducing the bias against the poorer rural people in the promotion of rural development. (Author's abstract.)

Chambers, Robert

1981 Rural poverty unperceived: problems and remedies. World Development 9: 1-19.

The thesis of this paper is that there are major obstacles to perceiving the nature and the extent of rural poverty in developing countries. These obstacles originate not only in the nature of rural poverty itself, but also in the condition of those, not themselves of the rural poor, who do, or more significantly, do not perceive that poverty. The argument has implications for all rural development programmes and projects, and for the training of staff. The conclusion is that reversals of current positions and practices are required if the obstacles are to be surmounted, the nature and the extent of rural poverty are to be understood, and the projects of the future are to be successfully tailored to the needs of the rural poor.

Chambers, Robert

1985 Shortcut methods of gathering social information for rural development projects. In M. Cernea (ed.), Putting People First: Sociology and Development Projects. Washington, D.C.: World Bank, 399-415.

The author presents a method of data collection that is more cost-effective than traditional methods. Inaccuracies in data can be avoided if researchers use collection methods which are sensitive to each situation and population. While there is neither a correct nor incorrect way of conducting rapid rural appraisal, it incorporates some of the following: 1) using existing information, 2) learning indigenous technologies, 3) using key agricultural and economic indicators, 4) using teams of social and agricultural scientists to conduct reconnaissance of rural areas, 5) employing local researchers, 6) using direct

observation, 7) conducting both formal and informal interviews with key persons and groups, and 8) conducting aerial inspection and surveys.

Collinson, Michael

1981 A low cost approach to understanding small farmers. Agricultural Administration 8: 433-450.

The case for a farming systems approach to agricultural improvement is made. Elements of the CIMMYT field investigation procedure are outlined, including zoning into homogeneous recommendation domains and evaluation of farmers' social and economic circumstances. Details of the exploratory survey and subsequent field verification procedures are outlined. Detailed guidelines for field surveys, as tested in Zambia, are provided in an Appendix. (Author's abstract.)

Conway, Gordon

1985 Rapid Rural Appraisal and Agroecosystem Analysis: A Case Study From Northern Pakistan. Paper presented at the International Conference on Rapid Rural Appraisal, 2-5 September 1985, Khon Kaen, Thailand.

This paper describes an attempt to combine rapid rural appraisal and agroecosystem analysis in the context of a development project. After a brief summary of agroecosystem analysis and a description of how it has been adapted to serve development objectives, the author presents an outline of the Aga Khan Rural Support Programme as an aid in planning the development of some 400 villages in northern Pakistan. The author then proceeds to describe this region and provides an analysis of two of the villages, emphasizing the rapid rural appraisal techniques that were employed and the subsequent methods of dealing with the data.

de los Reyes, Romana

1985 Sociotechnical Profile - A Tool for Rapid Rural Appraisal. Paper presented at the International Conference on Rapid Rural Appraisal, 2-5 September 1985, Khon Kaen, Thailand.

The literature on rapid rural appraisal has, to date, primarily focused on methods appropriate for donor agencies and agricultural research institutions. In contrast, this paper discusses a rapid appraisal methodology that was developed for the use of an implementing agency. Called the sociotechnical profiling approach, this methodology was used by the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) in the Philippines both for deciding which small-scale irrigation projects it would assist in

a given year and planning the agency's initial technical and social interventions. The paper describes the instruments guiding the preparation, write up, and analysis of the sociotechnical profile; traces the history of how the instruments were developed and how the NIA staff learned to use them. It also discusses the impact of the profiling on the implementation process of NIA's small-scale irrigation program. (Author's abstract.)

Ellman, Anthony

1981 Rapid appraisal for rural project preparation. Agricultural Administration 8: 463-471.

Practical experience with extended and rapid assessment of rural development in Sri Lanka and Eastern Africa is contrasted. This is used to argue for less costly project planning procedures. The advantages of speed and flexibility in the survey are described, the guided interview technique which was used is detailed, and an example of the schedule applied in a survey of refugees from Southern Sudan is presented. (Author's abstract.)

Frankenberger, Timothy R. and John L. Lichte

1985 A Methodology for Conducting Reconnaissance Surveys in Africa. Farming Systems Support Project, Networking Paper No.10.

Reconnaissance surveys are usually implemented at the beginning of a farming systems research project to rapidly familiarize researchers with the key constraints facing farmers within a target area. The authors outline a stepwise procedure for conducting such surveys which was implemented in Liberia. The methodology is presented as a series of important considerations to be addressed prior to, during and after the reconnaissance survey is conducted.

Franzel, Steven

1984 Comparing the Results of an Informal Survey with those of a Formal Survey: A Case Study of Farming Systems Research/Extension Extension (FSR/E) in Middle Kirinyaga, Kenya. Paper submitted to the 1984 Farming Systems Research/Extension Symposium, Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kansas.

Farming systems practitioners generally make use of two types of surveys - informal and formal. Experience in Middle Kirinyaga support the hypothesis that the informal survey is an effective and sufficient method for developing an understanding of farming systems. It also suggests that a formal survey may be replaced by a slightly longer and more carefully managed informal survey or by two or more informal surveys. Brief and focused surveys may be important for verifying selected findings of the

informal survey, quantifying a few important variables, providing a cross-check for the informal survey and lending greater credibility to the diagnostic exercise.

Galt, Daniel L.

1985 Farming Systems Research Techniques; (1) Interdisciplinary Interactions and (2) Recurrent Diagnoses. Paper presented at the Second Annual SUAN (Southeast Asian University Agroecosystems Network) Meetings, Baguio, the Philippines.

This paper discusses why the phases of diagnoses (e.g. collection of socioeconomic data) and experimentation (e.g. farm trial research and data collection) in farming systems research methodology so often conflict with one another. The key to successful diagnoses is argued to be the use of rapid reconnaissance survey and carefully selected, tailored follow-up surveys to address those areas which need further study. The cyclical use of diagnosis by using any type of rapid reconnaissance survey is recommended not only for reaching interdisciplinary agreement on those areas which have the highest probability of being the most important researchable issues, but also for helping each farm household attain a better understanding of its own particular system.

Gibbs, Christopher J.N.

1985 Rapid Rural Appraisal: An Overview of Concepts and Applications. Paper presented at the International Conference on Rapid Rural Appraisal, 2-5 September 1985, Khon Kaen, Thailand.

This paper provides a brief overview of rapid rural appraisal (RRA), its concepts and applications. Initial sections describe RRA's context and unique methodological features. It reviews its applications in agriculture, rural development, nutrition, agroforestry, and in special areas such as women in development. A final section discusses the concerns raised by the fact that RRA: (1) challenges conventional views; (2) has virtues each of which is a potential pitfall; (3) must be institutionalized within a development organization to be successful; (4) may produce unrealistic expectations due to its popularity; (5) may be used when another methodology is more appropriate; and (6) runs the risk of depending too heavily on indicators that may not adequately represent the phenomenon under study. A concluding section notes, despite its problems and modest beginnings, RRA still offers highly distinctive information in a timely and economical manner. A four-page bibliography (1979-85) is appended.

Grandstaff, Somluckrat W and Terry Grandstaff

1985 Semi-Structured Interviewing. Paper presented at the

International Conference on Rapid Rural Appraisal, 2-5 September 1985, Khon Kaen, Thailand.

The semi-structured interview, the technique used in conducting rapid rural appraisal, uses general questions which are revised as the interview proceeds. To ensure reliability, the interviews are conducted from at least three disciplinary perspectives and findings are combined with those of at least two other data collection methods (triangulation). A successful interview requires organization of the research team, the establishment of protocols for team member behaviour, and careful choice of whom to interview, the interview site, and of whether to interview groups or individuals. The authors suggest that preliminary reports be made from field notes as soon as possible after the interview to avoid any loss or distortion of facts.

Grandstaff, Terry and Somluckrat Grandstaff
1985 A Conceptual Basis for Methodological Development in Rapid Rural Appraisal. Paper presented at the International Conference on Rapid Rural Appraisal, 2-5 September 1985, Khon Kaen, Thailand.

The authors argue for an understanding of rapid rural appraisal (RAA) as a rapid-learning process, during which researchers progressively learn from rural inhabitants, from each other, from observation and from secondary data. RRA activity is time-sectioned into iterations so that conscious decisions can be made about methodology through the process. It is through the flexibility of the process, not just the flexibility of particular methods and tools, that rapid learning can occur. The authors examine several constraining factors on RRA, delineate a potential "core" of RRA methodology, and identify training priorities.

Hildebrand, Peter E.
1981 Combining disciplines in rapid appraisal: The sondeo approach. Agricultural Administration 8: 423-432.

Multidisciplinary agricultural research teams can augment information on agricultural technology needs. In Guatemala a reconnaissance survey team of ten, equally split between socio-economists and technologists, has been used to assess farmer constraints and technology needs in advance of agricultural research. Qualified information and questionnaires are not required and the survey lasts only one week. The team investigated farmer conditions in pairs made up of a social scientist and a natural scientist. On each of four days the pairing changes. Daily post-survey team discussions are regarded as essential. Each member of the team prepares a report and these are finally amalgamated into one joint report. Experience has shown that combined disciplines can, if well managed, produce incisive and efficient diagnoses of rural conditions and needs and educate the

participants in multidisciplinary thinking. (Author's abstract.)

Hill, I. D.

1982

Natural resource surveys in agricultural development planning: a quick and clean method. Agricultural Administration 10: 181-188.

The application of techniques for rapid rural appraisal is examined in light of the practical experience of agricultural development planning in Indonesia. It is concluded that the speed of data collection would not have been dramatically increased by using these techniques. A major improvement would have resulted from collecting only the information that was actually used, but the experience highlights the difficulty of identifying useful information in advance. A pilot study is suggested as a means of ensuring the collection of appropriate information.

Honadle, George

1982

Supervising agricultural extension: Practices and procedures for improving field performance. Agricultural Administration 9: 29-45.

Lack of management skills and unrealistic or inappropriate organizational procedures constitute serious obstacles to agricultural programme implementation. This paper examines inter-personal and procedural factors which can be used to supervise and monitor agricultural extension. Case studies and means-ends logic are used as discussions frameworks. The primary focus is on the field supervisor level but programme level concerns are also identified. The roles of incentives and participatory decision-making receive particular emphasis. (Author's abstract.)

Honadle, George

1982

Rapid reconnaissance for development administration: mapping and moulding organizational landscapes. World Development 10(8): 633-649.

Recent discussion of rapid rural appraisal methods suffers from three weaknesses: a lack of attention to the situational sensitivity of indicators used; a lack of attention to the organization and management dimension of rural development; and a lack of attention to the fact that an objective of such exercises should be to enhance local capacity rather than just to inform outsiders. This essay examines the contextual nature of proxies, discusses six methods and two experiences relating to organizational reconnaissance, and suggests that the need for participatory approaches is a strength rather than a weakness of these methods. (Author's abstract.)

Howes, Mick

1981 Confessions of a fieldworker - how I stratified a rural population. IDS Bulletin 12(4): 40-46.

In his attempts at drawing a stratified random sample in comparing different small-scale irrigation techniques in Bangladesh, the author discusses methods and problems faced in classifying rural households. He argues that information gathered rapidly is often incorrect and in his particular project rapid methods would not have lent themselves to the solution of the type of problems involved. He claims the need to demystify the field work experience thus providing a basis for discussion of the problems which generally remain concealed behind formalistic presentations of methodology.

Jamieson, Neil

1985 The Paradigmatic Significance of Rapid Rural Appraisal. Paper presented at the International Conference on Rapid Rural Appraisal, 2-5 September 1985, Khon Kaen, Thailand.

In this paper the historical and philosophical underpinnings of development paradigms are discussed. The author argues for a paradigm shift that is progressively taking place and which questions notions of social evolution and progress as these have been understood for the past two centuries. Development is seen as a process of change driven by the need to solve problems rather than as the sequential, cumulative invention of new and better systems. Following a systems theory approach, the author argues for causality as circular and complex, not simple and lineal, and discusses how this imposes a very different set of epistemological conditions. He then argues that meaning and function are determined by context and for the need of an increased understanding of local conditions, goals, values, systems of meaning and knowledge. The final section of the paper discusses the potential of rapid rural appraisal to respond to the needs and opportunities inherent in this new view of development.

Kettering, Merlyn

1988 Making Technical Assistance Teams More Effective: Team Planning meeting (TPM) Advantage. DPMC/TAD/OICD/USDA.

The team planning meeting (TPM) is a technique for preparing teams for overseas assignments. This paper provides an overview of TPMs, what they are, their use for technical assistance activities and when they should be used. The author covers possible obstacles to success that a team may encounter in the field and the use of the TPM to reduce predictable problems at both the individual and group level. The design of the TPM is outlined and how it differs from orientation is elucidated. Its benefits, i.e.

a well prepared and integrated responsible field strategy, and good morale and performance are noted as important factors in enhancing technical assistance efforts.

Kettering, Merlyn, Y. Andualem, and Pat Isman
1984 Team Planning Meeting (TPM) Reference Handbook. DPMC/TAD/OICD/USDA

This work outlines the team planning meeting, the needs of technical assistance teams and how to improve performance. The authors present the basic TPM model, describing the process. The role of the TPM facilitator is defined as well as the nature of pre-TPM activities. An index of TPM tools and materials is provided.

Knipscheer, Hendrik
1982 Rapid labour data collection for secondary crops; cocoyan and soybean farming systems in Nigeria. Public Administration and Development 2: 265-272.

The challenge to effective farming systems research is to find methods of system appraisal that maximize the use of existing information and are timely while maintaining a certain measure of accuracy and validity - in other words to achieve rapid rural appraisal. The comparative method for the collection of labour utilization for secondary crops is based on literature study and field survey. Farmers compare foodcrops of which labour utilization data are known with crops of which labour requirements are unknown. From the rankings, the labour use of the unknown crops can be derived. The comparative method was applied for cocoyan and soybean farming systems in Nigeria. In both cases the farmers provided the absolute labour data. The method appears to be quick yet reliable; a means by which generally applicable labour utilization data can be obtained. (Author's abstract.)

Ladejinsky, Wolf
1977[1969] Punjab Field Trip. [Green Revolution in Punjab -- A field trip.] In Louis J. Walinsky (ed.), The Selected Papers of Wolf Ladejinsky: Agrarian Reform as Unfinished Business. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 432-442.

In this classic study on the early stages of the Green Revolution in India's Punjab, Ladejinsky possibly presents the first efforts in rapid rural appraisal. Following a brief visit (6 days) to two principal districts of Punjab to observe the conditions of the agricultural changes brought about by the new technology, he looked at, among other aspects, the absorption or employment of the rural landless. With this short time frame he avoided interviewing local officials and the collection of statistics, choosing instead to take his inquiries directly to the farmers. He found

that along with an obvious rise in production, there were soaring land values and rents, tenant exploitation and displacement, and growing inequity of income.

Ladejinsky, Wolf

1977[1969] Bihar Field Trip. [Green Revolution in Bihar -- The Kosi Area.] In Louis J. Walinsky (ed.), The Selected Papers of Wolf Ladejinsky: Agrarian Reform as Unfinished Business. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 442-462.

This paper, on two districts of Purnea and Saharsa in Bihar, is a more detailed portrait of the precursors and early effects of the Green Revolution than his earlier study done in Punjab. He first looks at the technological changes in Bihar: wheat, paddy, irrigation, fertilizer. With the anticipation of increased water availability, land values drastically rose for both irrigated and nonirrigated land areas. He found that real wages stood still during this time of agricultural expansion. From his sample of farmers, he discovered most had incomes one-quarter or one-third that of fully practicing "Green Revolutionaries." Based on his short reconnaissance he outlines the exploitive tenant relationship in the districts. Only 5% of the share-croppers interviewed were able to adopt the new technology. The others were held back by insecurity of tenures, lack of credit facilities, non-availability of inputs, and underdevelopment.

Limpinuntana, Viriya

1985 Conceptual Tools for RRA in Agrarian Society. Paper presented at the International Conference on Rapid Rural Appraisal, 2-5 September 1985, Khon Kaen, Thailand.

The author presents methods developed at Khon Kaen University, Thailand, to generate on-the-spot questions during the interview and allow researchers to probe for more immediate and detailed information. Conceptual tools discussed include subtopics or checklists, secondary information, on-the-spot mapping, calendars of agricultural activities, labor schedules, activity sequences, logic and decision trees, and local terms of folk taxonomy. Examples of each tool are given, as well as the strong and weak points of tool development and use.

Longhurst, Richard

1981 Research methodology and rural economy in northern Nigeria. IDS Bulletin 12(4): 23-31

This article draws on the experience of a research project in Malumfashi district in Northern Nigeria Hausaland to discuss how data collection could be more cost-effective. It provides sug-

gestions for what Chambers (1980) has called the 'middle zone' between excessively long term research projects and excessively quick appraisals and how the poor might be 'uncovered' during rapid rural appraisal. The intention is that the lessons drawn here will have implications not only for improving research methods but also judgement on rapid appraisals. (Author's abstract.)

Maxwell, Simon

1986 The role of case studies in farming systems research. Agri-cultural Administration 21: 147-180.

This paper discusses the case study method as a useful and cost-effective addition to the range of research tools used in multidisciplinary farming systems research. The case study method provides information that would be hard to obtain by other means, as well as an opportunity for close collaboration between social scientist, natural scientist and farmers. Practical problems include selection and representativeness; data and data collection; analysis and reporting; and follow-up. The argument is illustrated with an example from Santa Cruz, Bolivia. (Author's abstract.)

McCracken, Jennifer A.

1988 A working framework for rapid rural appraisal: lessons from a Fiji experience. Agricultural Administration 29: 163-184.

The purpose of a topical Rapid Rural Appraisal (RRA) is to answer specific questions on a subject and it does so by employing the usual RRA techniques of secondary data review, semi-structured interviewing, direct observation, and workshop formation. An investigation of the prevailing low sugarcane yields in Fiji was used to design a general structure for combining these techniques in the process of topical RRA. It also aimed to develop models (diagrammatic representations) which could be produced within this structure of techniques and in the planning and implementation of future topical RRAs. The working framework aims to provide practical guidelines for its practitioners and, by helping formalise the composition of the topical RRA, to strengthen its identity. (Author's abstract.)

Molnar, Augusta

1988 Rapid Rural Appraisal Methodology Applied to Project Planning and Implementation in Natural Resource Management: Controversies and New Directions. Paper presented at the American Anthropological Association Meetings, 16-20 November 1988, Phoenix, Arizona.

This paper reviews rapid rural appraisal from the perspective of

a series of interviews with forty development workers (primarily social scientists) in land-based natural resource management on their field methodology. Given the presence of a wide range of guidelines in RRA, the objective of the interviews was to identify the range of the techniques used and the consensus of opinion regarding controversial areas of methodology, as they affect the validity of the information collected and analyzed. The author summarizes some general issues and a short discussion of such key controversial issues as sampling, team interaction, low profile target groups, and using minimum data sets.

Moore, Mick

1981 Beyond the tarmac road: a guide for rural poverty watchers. IDS Bulletin 12(4): 47-49.

The author offers various methods for finding the poor while doing rapid appraisal. Aside from moving beyond the convenience of the main road, the researcher should look to the peripheral areas of villages. In looking for proxy variables for income or wealth, housing was found to be a good indicator.

Palmer, Ingrid

1981 Women's issues and project appraisal. IDS Bulletin 12(4): 32-39.

This article reviews how rapid appraisal has looked at and incorporated women's issues in traditional development studies, what they have assumed based on their ability to access the women and what they have misconstrued. The author looks at data collection, methodology, and interpretation. She notes the importance of being aware of the multiplex nature of women's domestic lives as well as their relative positions within households and the socio-economic realm in forming any appraisal of their situation. The author speaks to the benefits of informal interviewing techniques and the different levels and forms interviews can take with women who cannot be approached by male investigators. Information possibilities and methodological techniques are offered.

Rhoades, Robert

1985 The Art of the Informal Agricultural Interview. Paper presented at the International Conference on Rapid Rural Appraisal, 2-5 September 1985, Khon Kaen, Thailand.

The author discusses ethnographic techniques and methods which are valuable for the informal or exploratory agricultural survey, the first and crucial stage for many rural development projects. The survey has the advantage of placing project implementors in contact with their clients for the first time and on the client's home ground. Informal surveys can be conducted as part of a

feasibility study, as a reconnaissance to prepare formal surveys or as a planning tool for agricultural experiments. Pre-fieldwork preparation includes the following: a literature review of relevant secondary sources, the definition of the geographical region to be studied, the use of aerial photos and maps, and the generation of basic questions to ask the farmers. Practical recommendations for interview procedures are offered, the most important being observation, listening and recording. Advice is given on organizing data and defining relatively homogenous kinds of farmers and production zones.

Rhoades, Robert E.

1985 Informal survey methods for farming systems research. Human Organization 44(3): 215-218.

The author suggests that the informal survey, traditionally used as a preliminary diagnostic sounding in FSR, can also be used in other ways, e.g., in following the transfer and impact of technologies. The paper looks at the informal survey and how it works in evolving a picture of an agricultural situation. The main section of the article details the major aspects of the methodology: pre-fieldwork preparation, a step-by-step analysis of the interviewing process, and the selection of regional areas to study. Rhoades argues that the ethnographic methodology of the informal interview is well suited to the information-gathering needs of agronomists and economists.

Rhoades, Robert E. and Robert H. Booth

1982 Farmer-back-to-farmer: a model for generating acceptable agricultural technology. Agricultural Administration 11: 127-137.

Based on interdisciplinary post-harvest team research experience at the International Potato Center in Peru, this paper presents a model that outlines an alternative approach to solving farm-level technological problems. A series of logical activities addressing specific goals are discussed and illustrated. (Authors' abstract.)

Richards, Paul

1981 Appraising appraisal - towards improved dialogue in rural planning. IDS Bulletin 12(4): 8-11.

This paper argues the importance of political factors in the rural planning process. It stresses the importance of being able to negotiate research findings with interest groups and organizations affected by the process. The author stresses that awareness of indigenous research methodology and subsequent conclusions are important for rural planning. He sees RRA as a means for re-

establishing a political dialogue between the central and the local governments. To do this, RRA should include, among its tasks, the identification of interest groups and, upon completion of appraisals, ready feedback to them for discussion and comment.

Ruano, Sergio and Sandra Patricia Calderon

1982 Tecnicas basicas de entrevista al realizar investigacion sobre sistemas de cultivos [Basic interview techniques for use in the study of farming systems]. ICTA, Folleto Technico 18, Guatemala.

The authors argue that the only way to effectively know and understand farmers is by direct communication between researcher and farmer. The paper describes several interviewing techniques, offers a general theoretical framework, and practical examples of the interviewing process. It begins with a review of secondary data, how and where to meet farmers and how to limit inquiries to pertinent information. Practical advice is offered on how investigators should present themselves to farmers, how they should ask questions, and what general language etiquette they should observe in the Guatemalan western highlands and eastern plains.

Samart, Manatana

1985 Some Dimensions of Variations in RRA. Paper presented at the International Conference on Rapid Rural Appraisal, 2-5 September 1985, Khon Kaen, Thailand.

Experience at Khon Kaen University has shown the value of using rapid appraisal techniques for many types of research, such as food habits, fuelwood use, water resources, and cooperative labor. Accumulated experience has also revealed some of the lessons learned in doing rapid rural appraisal in different ways: with different criteria for site and respondent selection, different forms of organization, various combinations of activities centering around semi-structured interviewing of both individuals and groups, and increasing experience in interviewing techniques, data sharing, recording, and analyzing.

Shaner, W. W.

1984 Stratification: An approach to cost-effectiveness for farming systems research and development. Agricultural Systems 15: 101-123.

Farming systems research and development is a new approach aimed at meeting the needs of farmers with limited resources in less developed countries. The cost-effectiveness of the approach rests with identifying enough farmers operating under similar conditions who will adopt the proposed technological improvements. An important way of doing this is through stratification of

environmental and farmers' conditions to develop what is called a recommendation domain. This paper reports on current stratification efforts, involving 1) descriptive schemes (classification of farming systems, agricultural growth stages, and an ecological approach); 2) stratification by components (agroclimatic zones, soils and land classifications, cropping and biological environments, farmers' cultural practices, and economic and socio-cultural conditions); and 3) stratification strategies used by four major research centers. The paper closes by asserting the need for further methodological work and offers some suggestions. (Author's abstract.)

Stocking, Michael

1983 Extremely Rapid Soil Survey: An Evaluation from Tanzania. Soil Survey and Sand Evaluation 3(2): 31-36.

Rapid soil surveys may be made from sample vertical colour photographs taken on low-level reconnaissance flights. The method and techniques used in the South East Shinyanga Land Use Study in Tanzania are described. Soils were identified by colour, vegetation and catenal position, and classified into major groupings that recognized the limitation of the data base. The survey team concluded that the soils information was very cost-effective and provided a valuable extra dimension to agricultural and conservation planning. (Author's abstract.)

Stocking, Michael and Nick Abel

1981 Ecological and environmental indicators for the rapid appraisal of natural resources. Agricultural Administration 8: 473-484.

Natural resource assessment is traditionally of a long-term nature. This paper examines some of the underlying assumptions and proxy measures involved in their rapid appraisal. Three case studies on soil colour, plant indicators and soil erosion illustrate a range of possibilities in using ecological and environmental indicators to appraise aspects of the physical environment which might normally be assessed by longer methods or not at all. It is concluded that the interdependence of environmental factors is high and hence suitable proxy measures can be found. Rapid - and thus low cost - monitoring of change is discussed. The importance of a clear statement of assumptions is stressed. (Authors' abstract.)

Stone, Linda and J. Gabriel Campbell

1994 The use and misuse of surveys in international development: an experiment from Nepal. Human Organization 43(1): 27-37.

Developing countries rely heavily on Western survey research methods to gather data for national planning. Although it is

known that particular problems with "non-sampling errors" may arise when surveys are conducted cross-culturally, little attention has been given for determining the magnitude of the problem. An experiment conducted in Nepal demonstrated that non-sampling error was far greater than what is normally considered sampling error. It is argued that surveys are limited by a "contextual bias" that may render survey data inaccurate or misleading and that survey and qualitative methods are complimentary and need to be supplemented by one another.

Streefland, Pieter and Hein Streefkerk

1982

A region in three weeks. In Otto van den Muijzenberg, Pieter Streefland, and Willem Wolters (eds.), Focus on the Region in Asia, Rotterdam, 109-125.

This chapter reviews a short-term research project in India. The aim of the project was to produce a socio-economic map of an area in which a proposed drinking water project was being considered. The researchers investigated 13 villages in the region. They note several areas of consideration important for a successful rapid survey: 1) the region should be defined in relation to the nature of the survey; 2) the emphasis and inclusion of information should reflect the interests of the project; 3) the importance of familiarity and expertise of investigators in the area (noting, concurrently that more than one observer enhances the accuracy of the appraisal); 4) a realistic measurement of the research problem to determine if it can be achieved within the time frame of the study; 5) the importance of conducting interviews in the presence of more than one informant, thus enhancing reliability and accuracy; and 6) having trustworthy and knowledgeable key informants, who can provide insights into the community.

Swift, Jeremy

1981

Rapid appraisal and cost-effective participatory research in dry pastoral areas of West Africa. Agricultural Administration 8: 485-492.

Special problems exist for data collection in pastoral areas. These are discussed together with experience in West Africa and with methods which require the pastoralists to generate information about themselves. Plant indicators can be interpreted by ecologists and herdsman to give estimates of carrying capacity. It is suggested that local knowledge could be enhanced by training some pastoralists in topics such as air photo interpretation. Livestock numbers, production characteristics and output can be recorded by pastoralists living in the camps who are supervised by a visiting researcher. Promising results of an experiment in Mali are reported and it is considered that the initial effort and expense of setting up such information networks is worthwhile. (Author's abstract.)

Taylor, Alan J.

- 1981 From Nicaragua: experiences with a model for assessing small scale rural development projects. Public Administration and Development 1: 225-234.

Following the Managua earthquake, voluntary aid agencies sought a basis on which to allocate money collected for earthquake relief. They needed a method of rapid rural appraisal and this account complements two previous articles on rapid rural appraisal, those by Belshaw (1981) and Chambers (1981). It describes a practical approach to rapid rural appraisal which, in Chambers' terminology, was intended to be sufficiently quick and clean. A model was developed for assessing projects on three bases--congruence of objectives, surety of achievement and cost vs. benefits. These were analysed into component parts, so producing a matrix according to which projects could be categorized. The aim was to minimize superficiality and error without being encumbered with cumbersome and costly enquiry. (Author's abstract.)

Thomas, David and Nongluk Suphanchaimat

- 1985 Use of RRA in Cross-Sectional and Longitudinal Studies. Paper presented at the International Conference on Rapid Rural Appraisal, 2-5 September 1985, Khon Kaen, Thailand.

Rapid rural appraisal (RRA) can serve as a cost-effective way to investigate rural resource management systems by acquiring timely, relevant, and useful information on various components of such systems, and on how they respond to changes in their environment. RRA is complementary to questionnaire survey because it allows concepts and/or objectives to be revised during the research process. The potential role for RRA in the four research steps (developing a framework, preparing and conducting detailed studies, evaluating results) and the need for pragmatism in research on rural areas are described.

Woods, Geof D.

- 1981 The social and scientific context of rapid rural appraisal. IDS Bulletin 12(4): 3-5.

The paper's aim is to identify the implications of rapid appraisal techniques for legitimating planning rationalities and the organizations and classes represented in this rationale. The author discusses the ideological function of RRA and the issue of positivism. He suggests there are at least two types of RRA, attached and unattached, that differ in their relationship to existing knowledge. Attached appraisal reveals the presence or absence of indicators determined prior to and independent of appraisal activity. Unattached must determine the significance of the evidence without the benefit of preselection. Difficulties with the presence of some individuals and the absence of others

can produce an erroneous understanding of a situation. All indicators must be considered contextually. Arguing against unattached RRA, the author suggests that without organized external knowledge the critical function of an appraisal is limited.

HEALTH/HEALTH STATUS

- 1985 Facilitator Guide for Conducting a Team Planning Meeting. WASH Technical Report No. 32. Prepared for USAID, Bureau for Science and Technology, Office of Health, Activity No. 115.

The Water and Sanitation for Health (WASH) Project provides short-term technical assistance to AID missions and bureaus, private voluntary organizations and other agencies involved in water and sanitation activities. Assistance is usually provided in the form of short-term consultant teams. This guide offers a step-by-step process to conduct a two day team planning meeting (TPM). The report is comprised of two sections, the first focuses on the team planning concept and the role of the facilitator, the second on the conducting procedures for each of the sessions making up the meeting. The guide provides the core design for the TPM. It also offers two alternative designs for: 1) preparing a consultant working alone on an assignment, 2) preparing teams that are not going overseas. These guidelines can have direct relevance to any organization using short-term teams. (Authors' abstract.)

Bentley, Margaret E., Gretel H. Pelto, Walter L. Straus, Debra A. Schumann, Catherine Adegbola, Emanuela de la Pena, Gbolahan A. Oni, Kenneth H. Brown and Sandra L. Huffman

- 1988 Rapid ethnographic assessment: applications in a diarrhea management program. Social Science in Medicine 27(1): 107-116.

This paper reports on a rapid ethnographic assessment methodology (REA) that was developed as an essential component of the dietary management of diarrhea (DMD) program. The DMD program is an interdisciplinary research project that has been developed to design intervention programs to reduce or eliminate the nutritional complications of diarrhea in Peru and Nigeria. Anthropological data gathering was an important component of the intervention design, but time and budgetary constraints required a rapid methodological approach. This paper outlines the REA methodology, describes the advantages and disadvantages of the approach, and discusses future applications for international primary health care interventions. (Authors' abstract.)

- Pacey, Arnold
1982 Taking soundings for development and health. World Health Forum 3(1): 38-47.

The inefficiency of data collection in rural development is only partly due to the costs and delays involved in obtaining information. A major problem is that much of the information is biased and often does not reflect the full extent of poverty and ill-health in the area concerned. Rapid and cost-effective reconnaissance can provide a "sounding" of the local situation and enable projects to be started that will automatically generate further data as they proceed.

- Scrimshaw, Susan C.M. and Elena Hurtado
1988 Anthropological involvement in the Central American Diarrheal Disease Control Project. Social Science in Medicine 27(1): 97-105.

The process of conducting applied anthropological work leading to health program development and evaluation is seldom described in the literature. This paper discusses the combination of factors which led to the involvement of anthropologists in the Central American Child Survival Project and how anthropological approaches are being used in the project. Ethn classification was used to illustrate the discrepancy between the proposed approach for treatment of dehydration produced by diarrheal disease and the actual beliefs and practices in four Central American communities. Techniques such as rapid, focused assessment using anthropological methods of data collection and presentation are discussed, as are strategies for presenting this information to health program planners and administrators. (Authors' abstract.)

NUTRITION/NUTRITIONAL STATUS

- Brown, R.C.
1987 Nutrition surveillance by QUAC stick. Transactions of the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene 81(6): 1038-1039.

The QUAC (Quaker Arm Circumference) stick method of nutrition assessment was used as an indicator of change in a nutrition surveillance system in Zaire. The method is quick, simple and can be done by primary school teachers. Results of QUAC stick measurements are reproducible and easy to report. (Author's abstract.)

Cassidy, Claire Monod

1988 A Survey of Nutritional Status in Children Under Four and Their Mothers in Four Villages in the Regions of Brakna, Guidimaka and Gorgol, Mauritania. Report to Mauritania Agricultural Research II Project and USAID/Nouakchott.

This report summarizes the results of an eleven day nutritional status survey carried out in four villages along the Senegal River in Mauritania. The information was collected to provide baseline quantitative data on nutritional status during the winter months for children under four years of age and their mothers. Two days were spent in each village. The survey was directed towards the following: identifying individuals within their families, assessing children's ages, gathering information on children's diets from mothers, doing anthropometric measurements on both mothers and children, taking blood samples of mothers to assess iron status, performing brief clinical examinations of children to ascertain health status, and obtaining vaccination histories of children. Areas in which information was successfully and unsuccessfully obtained are discussed. Various measurements point to relatively adequate fat stores for children and mothers (except for one village) with protein stores marginally adequate for mothers and low for children. There is a slowing growth pattern past early infancy which continues through the fourth year. Pattern is that of chronic undernutrition for both children and mothers.

Dowler, Elizabeth A., Philip R. Payne, Young Ok Seo, Anne M. Thomson, and Erica F. Wheeler

1982 Nutritional status indicators: interpretation and policy making role. Food Policy 7(2): 99-112.

Measurements of nutritional status, usually based on the growth of children, have been suggested as potentially useful indicators of the health and welfare of communities, in addition to their value for screening individuals for curative treatment. The article discusses the limitations of these applications of nutritional data from a systems viewpoint. It should be recognized that numerical scales and critical levels of indicators reflect social valuations (of 'bad' states or 'good' states) and are not simply technical descriptions of physiological states. Properly understood and employed, nutritional indicators could be used for the planning and evaluation of programmes, not only in the health sector, but in all areas concerned with social development. (Authors' abstract.)

Drake, William D., Roy I. Miller, and Donald A. Schon

1983 Nutrition intervention and evaluation: a call for reflection-in-action. Food and Nutrition Bulletin 5(2): 2-9.

The Community Systems Foundation in the United States recommends "reflection-in-action," (R-I-A) an approach that calls for the regular and rapid analysis of quantitative data during a supplementary-feeding program, to allow for changes in social and environmental conditions. The paper examines some of the major policy implications of R-I-A. Rigorous experimental conditions can not be maintained and there is a tendency to attribute changes to the program when other factors may be involved.

Hitchings, Jon

n.d. The FAO Approach to Rapid Nutrition Assessment for Project Design with Examples from the Philippines. Outline of a Presentation.

This work explores the problem of expanding the emphasis of nutritional objectives into the design of broad-based agricultural projects. In analyzing the collection of data, the author suggests that there should be a concentration on economic activity, area description, wealth assessment and, anthropometry among other indicators. He mentions various issues, possible approaches, and some limitations in quantifying nutritional benefits. Different regions are looked at in relation to this methodology, with a particular emphasis on the Philippines, where the Palawan Survey was incorporated into the Integrated Development Project.

Krynauw, J..D., R. J. Fincham, and J.P. Kotze

1983 An anthropometric survey of the nutritional status of Black preschool children in the Dias Divisional Council Area, May 1981. South African Medical Journal 64: 1095-1098.

The nutritional status of 1468 Black preschool children in a rural Eastern Cape area was assessed anthropometrically in order to provide the Department of Health and Welfare with a critical evaluation of the effectiveness of its subsidized skimmed milk powder scheme. It is to be used by local authorities to combat kwashiorkor, indicate factors which influence nutritional levels, and possibly provide a sound theoretical and empirical foundation for future health strategies. Weight and height for age (using the norms of the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS)), weight for height, and triceps and subscapular skinfold thickness were used as criteria for assessing nutritional status. Stated age and certified age groups were assessed separately. Depending on the sex and stated/certified age, the percentages of children falling under the third percentile ranged from 11.1% to 37.0% for NCHS norms and from 10.9% to 15.7% for skinfold thicknesses. Together with an urban assessment undertaken in December 1982 the survey may indicate where local problems will occur. (Authors' abstract.)

Longhurst, Richard

1987 Rapid rural appraisal: an improved means of information-gathering for rural development and nutrition projects. Food and Nutrition 13(1): 44-47.

The essence of the rapid rural appraisal approach is that the methods chosen should be those which are appropriate to the circumstances governing the research effort: the amount of time available, what needs to be known and with what degree of accuracy, the level of financial resources available, and what is to be the actual end use of the information. Several of these methods are outlined: use of secondary sources, learning local technical knowledge, the use of key indicators, local researchers, direct observation, key informants, and group interviews. The paper concludes with suggestions for their application to nutritional considerations in agriculture and rural development.

Mason, John B.

1982 Minimum Data Needs for Assessing the Nutritional Effects of Agricultural and Rural Development Projects. Cornell Nutritional Surveillance Program. Paper prepared for FAO, as contribution to ACC-SCN Working Group on Nutrition in Agriculture and Rural Development.

Recommendations are made on "minimum" methods that would have wide application in assessing the nutritional effects of agriculture and rural development, especially in the planning stage. An outline of the important decisions, relative to nutrition, on project design is presented. The author specifies the questions that need to be answered to provide information for these decisions. Minimum data required, possible sources of data and appropriate analysis methods for fieldwork are evaluated. The underlying theory is that the major effect of rural development projects on nutrition comes through the income generated for malnourished households. The planning decisions include targeting towards the malnourished, design of activities and decisions on indirect effects and trade-offs. Policy decisions are based on the evaluation of nutritional effects.

Mason, J.B.

1984 Proposed guidelines for designing evaluation for nutrition and health programmes. Food and Nutrition Bulletin 6(4): 11-23.

Programme management involves making decisions about allocation of human and material resources. These decisions require different information depending on the level of the administrative structure. This paper provides various suggestions on methods for setting up procedures to provide the minimum information necessary to make these decisions. Its purpose is to give guidance to those responsible for designing a built-in evalua-

tion mechanism for country programmes under the Joint Nutrition Support Programme (JNSP) of WHO and UNICEF. It is intended primarily for the initial needs of those considering evaluation. The perspective is one of a government planning officer or consultant who must produce recommendations during the planning of a country programme in a relatively short period of time. (Author's abstract.)

Miller, David C., Milton Nichaman and Michael Lane

1977 Simplified field assessment of nutritional status in early childhood: practical suggestions for developing countries. Bulletin of the World Health Organization 55: 79-86.

This paper proposes a simple and inexpensive method for the field assessment of certain objective indicators of nutritional status in children of preschool age. It emphasizes the need for statistically valid sample selection and presents a design for randomly selecting 30 children from each of the 30 village sites in each region for which quantitative inferences are to be made, the main purpose being to estimate the prevalence of protein-energy under-nutrition and anaemia. The need to train indigenous para-professional workers as assessors and periodically to control their accuracy is stressed. The method used is limited to an estimate of the location and magnitude of common childhood mal-nutrition. It is recommended that it be supplemented by detailed ecological analysis to determine causal factors and propose remedial actions. (Authors' abstract.)

Munschenk, C.A. and P. Sapathy

1987 Nutrition Survey of the Departments of Kankossa and Boumdeid Assaba Region. Vision Mondiale Internationale Mauritanie, October 1987.

A follow-up survey on regional health/nutrition was conducted in two departments in the Assaba. The goals of the survey were to appraise general nutrition of children ages 0-5 years and to serve as a collection of baseline data for intervention planning. Data was collected in the following categories in order to institute a Child Survival Vitamin A Program: 1) lifestyle, 2) consumption pattern of Vitamin A rich vegetables (study of gardens and subsistence use of them), 3) diarrheal management, 4) infant/child mortality rates, 5) current weaning procedures, 6) nutritional status of children (0-5 years.) to determine patterns and prevalence of malnutrition, and 7) vaccination coverage. Thirty sites were randomly sampled. At each site, 10 mothers with children 5 years and younger were interviewed by questionnaire. Anthropometric measurements of height and weight were taken for the children. The most prevalent health needs are in the areas of diarrheal management and weaning habits. Areas of interest which remain non-conclusive from the survey are division of labor and

Vitamin A consumption.

Payne, Philip R.

- 1979 Assessment of Nutrition Problems: Who Do We Look At and What Do We Measure? Paper presented at Rapid Rural Appraisal Conference, 4-7 December 1979, Institute of Development Studies, Sussex, England.

This paper looks at the different levels at which nutritional needs can be viewed and understood. At the personal level, nutritional status, severity, and prevalence rates should be studied; at the situational level, indicators of poverty, household food supply and descriptions concerning events leading to malnutrition; at the social level, changes in the number of people in high nutritional risk situations, rates of displacement migration, and descriptive information on the process of impoverishment. The choice of indicators and the way they are regarded should involve a dialogue among assessors, managers, and decision-makers. To reduce the time factor in gathering information smaller sample size rather than fewer measurements is recommended. Emphasis should be on indicators of food supply for a household and the use of anthropometric measurements as indicators of change in communities, such that the number of severely malnourished can be accurately measured. In assessing food intake, the quality of the diet--staples and other foods, drink, and flavoring items--should be noted.

Pelto, Gretel and Pertti Pelto

- 1984 Anthropological methodologies for assessing household organization and structure. In D.E. Sahn, R. Lockwood, and N.S. Scrimshaw (eds.), Methods for the Evaluation of the Impact of Food and Nutrition Programmes. Food and Nutrition Bulletin, Suppl. 8. Tokyo: The United Nations University, 204-225.

This paper outlines a means for doing a household assessment based on the following variables: composition, organization, material resources and conditions; and beliefs and attitudes on food, nutrition, and health. Methods on how to measure these variables are offered. The authors provide several methods for measuring time use and activities, including a step-by-step plan for random, short-term observation in a major section on household organization.

Schwartz, Norman B., Joseph J. Molnar, and Leonard L. Lovshin

- 1988 Cooperatively managed projects and rapid assessment: Suggestions from a Panamanian case. Human Organization 47(1): 1-14.

There are occasions when development personnel must rapidly

select community sites for a project. This creates a need for valid, concrete and low cost (in terms of time, personnel and resources) rapid assessment methods which should also be unobtrusive to avoid hurting the interests and feelings of groups being considered for the project. This paper suggests that a community service assessment technique can serve the purposes of rapid assessment, at least for some projects. The suggestion is based on analysis of a cooperatively managed agroaquaculture project designed to improve nutritional and economic conditions for poor Panamanian countrymen. After 24 months of training by extension, cooperative groups were to become largely self-sufficient in the technical management of their fishpond-garden-livestock modules. Field studies showed that the groups varied in technical-managerial proficiency and that the variation was related to community differences in socioeconomic inequality, local leadership and available services. Socioeconomic inequality and leadership are critically important here, but the service dimension is much more amenable than they are to rapid assessment. Although more comparative data are needed, research to date leads to the tentative conclusion that the service approach may be useful for rapidly assessing compatibility between rural communities and this particular type of project and that this approach satisfies the criteria for rapid assessment set forth above. (Authors' abstract.)

Scrimshaw, Susan and Elena Hurtado

1987

Rapid Assessment Procedures for Nutrition and Primary Health Care: Anthropological approaches to improving programme effectiveness. Tokyo: The United Nations University.

This manual, tested in a 16-country study, contains specific instructions for the use of anthropological methods for rapid assessment of health and health-seeking behaviour at the household level and for interactions with popular and biomedical health care providers. This field guide includes several sample data collection instruments, examples of field techniques, and a review of data management and analysis. It also provides brief discussions on focus group sessions and field worker selection. The manual is designed to be used by social scientists, health workers, and students of anthropology.

Tripp, Robert

1982

Including Dietary Concerns in On-Farm Research: An Example from Imbabura, Ecuador. CIMMYT, Mexico.

This paper describes the way in which dietary and nutritional concerns are included in an on-farm research program in Ecuador. The program seeks to improve the production and welfare of small farmers. The analysis of dietary and nutritional information is important to this effort for two reasons. First, most small farmers use at least part of their production for home consump-

tion. An understanding of farm families' dietary preferences and patterns is valuable if a new agricultural technology is to have a good chance of acceptance. Second, nutritional improvement among rural populations is often not achieved in the course of economic development, suggesting that technological change should be carefully directed if nutritional problems are to be solved. In predicting nutritional consequences and assisting in gauging the acceptability of new technologies, dietary information is often necessary in the direction on-farm research takes. A few simple methods for developing that kind of information and examples of how the results are utilized in a program in Ecuador are offered.

United Nations High Commissioner For Refugees

1982 Food and nutrition. In Handbook for Emergencies Part One: Field Operations. Geneva: United Nations, 95-116.

In an emergency, refugees will need partial or complete food support. Some may need nutritional rehabilitation. A program should provide the refugees with sufficient quantities of appropriate food to maintain their health and, when necessary, improve the condition of those already malnourished. The article focuses on areas in which responses should be emphasized, i.e. appropriate measuring of food needs, relevant nutritional education, use of familiar foods, and an awareness of the needs of the most vulnerable in the population. It points out areas in which on-the-spot action should take place: assessment of health and nutritional status, availability of daily necessities, organization of a general feeding program, and monitoring of a program's effectiveness. The chapter's annex contains a rapid assessment survey for measuring the nutritional status of young children.

Uzzell, J. Douglas

1982 Training module: rapid nutrition reconnaissance. NEG/OICD/USDA, Washington, D.C.

This unit explains the use of rapid micro-surveys for assessing nutritional status and nutrition-related behavior among populations felt to be at nutritional risk. It suggests ways of sampling to permit maximum generalizability from the data obtained and gives a number of suggestions for carrying out the surveys themselves, including selection and training of field workers. Although the focus is on rural areas, most of the methods could be translated to urban areas as well. This kind of research has been shown to be effective when time and/or funding for large-scale surveys are lacking and when macro-economic studies are unable to pinpoint the exact distribution of malnutrition and the cultural-economic conditions which affect it. (Author's abstract.)

Villere, Betty

1981 Simplified Dietary Survey Methodology.

This report discusses a simplified dietary survey that can be conducted by minimally-trained personnel in a short time. It is designed to provide a profile of infant breast-feeding and weaning practices in order to identify which foods might be appropriate for fortification or subsidization. The survey instrument will obtain baseline data for subsequent program and policy evaluation. It will also provide a basis for policy decisions, the selection of food supplementation approaches, and the identification of educational needs and sociocultural practices which merit further research.

FOOD CONSUMPTION/FOOD EXPENDITURE

Adelski, Elizabeth, Sita Lumbuenamo, and Kebemba Mayombo

1988 Rapid Rural Appraisal in Central Bandundu, Zaire. NIAN Report Series: No. 6, for PROCAR/USAID, Project 102. Supported by USAID/Kinshasa and OICD/USDA, Washington, D.C.

The authors conducted a rapid rural appraisal of eleven collectivities in Central Bandundu from August to September, 1988. Forty-four villages were surveyed and 100 household interviews were conducted. The study's primary objective was to gather information on the major components of the rural economic system with particular emphasis on agricultural production. General inquiries on consumption behavior and detailed information on household diet were included in the survey. The aim of this appraisal is to obtain data that will help define constraints on development as well as identify potential means of intervention.

Bonnard, Patricia

1988 A Rapid Appraisal Methodology for Expenditure Surveys: An Evaluation of the Liberia Model. A report prepared for NEG/TAD/OICD/USDA.

The intent of the study was to evaluate the rapid appraisal technique used to collect household expenditure data for the USDA "Urban Food Consumption Patterns and National Food Policy Project" in Liberia and to determine the appropriateness of the technique as a prototype for future food policy research in developing countries. Interviewing procedures were simple and intensive. A small team of enumerators was assigned to each city. New samples were randomly drawn for each of the three phases and households were visited once. The results of the analyses were consistent between phases, among similar studies performed in

other developing countries and with economic theory in general. Differences in budget shares and average prices could largely be explained by seasonal factors or changes in the ethnic composition of the samples. Some problems with error and enumerator bias were identified. The inability to estimate significant price elasticities remains the central weakness of the technique, with the lack of sufficient price variation identified as the major cause. "Rapid appraisal" is seen as aptly describing the survey, requiring from two weeks for data collection to four months for its processing and analysis.

Casley, D.

1980

Notes on Guidelines for Small-Scale Nutrition Indicator Surveys. Paper 3.7, prepared as a record of discussions held within ESN.

This short paper discusses several areas in which investigators should carefully ensure achieving valid results from small "on-off" type surveys. These include, among others, ease of collection, sensitivity to change, and representativeness of sample. The author notes that anthropometric data on children provide good measures of nutritional status, with family assets being strong economic indicators. The paper offers an analysis of food consumption surveys: what distinguishes them from dietary studies and how they can be incorporated into a budget study. It looks at the sample design and size of the consumption survey: the limitations of the technique and the type of analyses that can produce the most informative results. The final section of the paper is devoted to short discussions on ranking procedures, anthropometry, households, output tables, and data processing concerns.

Chambers, Robert and B. P. Ghildyal

1985

Agricultural research for resource-poor farmers: The farmer-first-and-last model. Agricultural Administration 20: 1-30.

Rural poverty is much less a problem of total food availability than of who produces the food and who has the income to buy it. A high priority is therefore to enable the tens of millions of resource-poor farm families to increase their production and improve its stability. The normal "transfer-of-technology" (TOT) model for agricultural research has built-in biases which favour resource-rich farmers whose conditions resemble those of research stations. TOT approaches have been modified through on-farm trials and demonstrations but the basic model and approach remain the same. A second emerging model is farmer-first-and-last" (FFL). This starts and ends with the farm family and the farming system. It begins with a holistic and interdisciplinary appraisal of farm families' resources, needs and problems, and continues with on-farm and with-farmer R and D, with scientists, experiment stations and laboratories in a consultancy and referral role. FFL fits the needs and opportunities of resource-poor farm families

better than TOT, but there are obstacles to its development and introduction. These can be tackled step-by-step, through combinations of methodological innovation, interdisciplinarity, including social sciences, and provision of suitable resources, rewards and training. FFL approaches promise a greater contribution from agricultural research to the eradication of rural poverty. (Author's abstract.)

Croll, Elisabeth J.

1984 Research methodologies appropriate to rapid appraisal: a Chinese experience. IDS Bulletin 15(1): 51-55.

This paper analyzes different aspects of data collection from two rapid appraisals done in China, one concerned with household composition and the second more specifically dealing with food habits, diets, and expenditures and incomes of households. The focus of the former was primarily on marriage behavior in rural China, the latter looked at the ways food reached the household and the mechanisms of the state, the collective, and the market that determined what was produced and by whom (e.g. household or collective production). Questions were put to the commune and production leaders to determine availability of food supplies, and general food purchasing behavior. This information was used to provide a general picture of the region. Next shopkeepers were surveyed. This was followed by household studies in which income, expenditures, etc. were covered. In ascertaining the relationship of national food policies to procurement and processing of foods, a picture of intra-familial division of labor developed. Additionally, methods were suggested for obtaining information indirectly on sensitive subject matters.

Dowler, Elizabeth A. and Young Ok Seo

1985 Assessment of energy intake: estimates of food supply versus measurement of food consumption. Food Policy 10(3): 278-288.

National consumption indicators are frequently compiled using food supply estimates in the absence of reliable household or individual intake data. The authors examine the relationship between these three levels of information and, in particular, the potential 'losses' of energy in the food system, comparing data from different countries and over time. They demonstrate the unreliability of supply estimates as proxy indicators of consumption and question their current usage in statements about global hunger and the links between health and food intake. (Authors' abstract.)

Finau, S., A. Fotu, P. Moa, S. Tokelau, S. Kami, S. Pongi, and L. Toa
1986 Food and diet after Isaac: an assessment for disaster rehabilitation. Journal of Food and Nutrition 43: 85-89.

Disaster rehabilitation has been handicapped by lack of data immediately before and after impact. This study reports an on-the-spot assessment of food availability and consumption following Cyclone Isaac in the Ha'apai Group of the Kingdom of Tonga. Data collection was undertaken during the fifth week following the cyclone. Information was gathered on food availability, household food consumption patterns, and young children's food consumption. It is suggested that this case study may provide a basis for contingency planning for post-disaster food assessment in the Pacific.

Frankenberger, Timothy

1988 Rapid Rural Appraisal Techniques Used to Collect Food Consumption Data . Paper presented at the American Anthropological Association Meetings, 16-20 November 1988, Phoenix, Arizona.

This paper is presented in two parts. The first reviews the methodology and distinguishing features of rapid rural appraisal (RRA), its disadvantages and advantages, and its various applications and basic technology. The second section takes a look at recent RRA food consumption surveys in the Senegal River Basin as part of the USAID-sponsored Agricultural Research II Project. The author details the methodology, type of information gained, and the concessions involved in using using this approach.

Gordon, Gill

1979 Rapid rural appraisal: a conference held at the Institute of Development Studies. Finding out about child (0-5 years) feeding practices. IDS, University of Sussex, Brighton.

There have been few detailed studies of child feeding practices, particularly those giving quantitative information, probably because conventional methods are difficult and time-consuming. Family food use is a sensitive subject because it hinges on economic status and power relationships in the household. Investigations on child feeding practices tend to be one or two dimensional, but child feeding behavior is a complex activity with many ramifications. The author suggests cost-effective methods of eliciting information regarding eight questions that need to be answered before planners can attempt to predict the outcome of alternative nutrition interventions. The author's suggested methodology is based on the cooperation of workers trusted by the community.

Holtzman, John S.

1986 Rapid reconnaissance guidelines for agricultural marketing and food systems research in developing countries. Michigan State

This paper develops rapid reconnaissance guidelines for conducting research on agricultural marketing components of food systems. After examining the substance of rapid reconnaissance in agricultural marketing research, the author reviews the analytical framework used in rapid reconnaissance of commodity marketing systems, key areas of investigation during rapid appraisals, analysis of prices and marketing margins, proxy variables and key indicators, and non-economic factors. In the second part of the paper, he discusses the process of rapid reconnaissance, including preparation for fieldwork and implementation of surveys. Report preparation, presentation of findings and follow-up to rapid reconnaissance surveys are discussed in a section on wrapping-up rapid reconnaissance. In the final chapter, the limitations of rapid appraisal methods are addressed.

O'Brien-Place, Patricia

- 1988 Preliminary Results: A Dry Season Food Consumption Indicator Survey Along the Senegal River in Mauritania: Brakna, Gorgol, and Guidimaka Regions. Report prepared for Mauritania Agricultural Research II Project and USAID/Nouakchott. NEG/USDA/USAID, Bureau of Science and Technology, Office of Nutrition, Washington, D.C.

This report describes the preliminary (in-country) analysis of a food indicator survey along the Senegal River in Mauritania. The survey was performed from January 31 through February 23, 1988. It will be used as a quantitative baseline of the food consumption situation in the Mauritania Agricultural Research II Project area. The analysis finds the food consumption of the eight villages surveyed within the three regions to be generally stable (with the exception of one village). The food consumption survey showed few villages consuming any significant amounts of fruit and vegetables, with milk and legumes being the principal sources for protein. The survey looked at weaning practices and household strategies used during times of food stress. The survey method was able to achieve a significant amount of information-gathering using limited time and resources.

Prehm, Marilyn

- 1987 Data analysis manual for food consumption/nutrition aspects of rapid community assessment for planning procedure - Bicol Region Farming System Research and Development Project. Manual prepared for the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University and the Bicol Farming Systems Research and Development Project.

The purpose of this manual is to provide background information to regional and local project staff for the consideration of food consumption/nutrition and selected income-generating activities

in the Rapid Community Assessment for Planning (RCAP) procedures. Background information on procedures and data analysis are included for each of the four phases of the RCAP. Examples of different data summarization techniques are given based on the initial field testing in Nahapunan, Bacacay, Albay, Philippines. The manual is intended to be used along with the RCAP procedures modified for including food consumption and nutrition. (Author's abstract.)

Senauer, Ben

1987 Rapid appraisal: The survey instrument. Follow-up Report to NEG/OICD/USDA Workshop, Washington, D.C., 10 April 1987.

This report is based on a review of the survey instruments used in Hiemstra's recent Liberian urban food expenditure study, a rapid appraisal questionnaire focusing on food consumption proposed by Zalla, and a study based in Madagascar on the impact policy changes are having on rice consumption. Some key issues mentioned are: 1) how the term rapid is defined, 2) how to use qualitative and quantitative data such that they inform one another, 3) expenditure versus consumption approaches, the appropriateness of each being dependent on how food is being obtained and whether nutrient information is the focal interest, and 4) nutritional surveys, determining nutritional status particularly for children, making key anthropometric measures when indicated. Problems with adapting urban survey methodologies to rural studies are discussed. The author makes several suggestions for what would constitute an appropriate survey instrument.

Simmons, Emmy

1981 Budget, Expenditures and Consumption Surveys in Developing Countries: What, Why, and How. NEG/OICD/USDA. Washington, D.C.

This paper provides information on how to gather data on household income and/or total expenditures on food and/or quantities of food consumed. First, the objectives of these surveys are discussed. The author then reviews a series of decisions that need to be made with regard to eleven aspects of survey development. These decision areas are: population coverage, scope of survey, sample design, methods of enumeration/interviewing, scheduling, organization of field work, methods of analysis, arrangements for data processing, evaluation of survey results, use of other surveys, and tabulation and presentation of data. Examples of how these data can be analyzed are listed in Appendix A. Several basic texts describing the theoretical underpinnings for such analyses are listed in Appendix B. Compendiums of budget, expenditures and consumption surveys are listed in Appendix C.

Stone, Priscilla, Binta Gaye, and Timothy R. Frankenberger

1986 Food Consumption in the Senegal River Valley: A Rainy Season Farming Systems Reconnaissance Survey in the Middle Valley Between Podor and Matam, Senegal. Senegal Agricultural Research Project II, December 1986. Supported by USAID/Dakar.

This report presents the findings of a rainy season survey of food consumption conducted in Senegal in the Middle Valley of the Senegal River. Twelve villages between Podor and Matam were studied from October 6-15, 1986. Two similar surveys were conducted in Mauritania in February and September of 1986. The food consumption studies collected a wide range of information in an effort to understand what constraints farm families face in their efforts to feed themselves. Topics included food preferences, preparation, purchases and prices. The seasonality of food supplies and consumption was also investigated, as were techniques and problems of crop storage, use and importance of wild foods, and frequency of free food distributions. Some of the food consumption issues related to health were included in the questionnaire, such as specialty foods for childbearing women and their infants. (Authors' abstract.)

Stone, M. Priscilla, Timothy R. Frankenberger, and Mimouna Jaghana

1986 A Rainy Season Food Consumption Survey in Guidimaka, Gorgol and Brakna Regions. Mauritania Agricultural Research Project II. Supported by USAID/Nouakchott, USAID/Office of Women in Development and USAID/Office of Nutrition, Bureau of Science and Technology.

This report presents the findings of a rainy season consumption survey that was conducted in the Guidimaka, Gorgol, and Brakna regions of Mauritania. The primary objective of this survey was to highlight seasonal differences in food consumption which emerged from the dry season report "Farming Systems Research along the Senegal River Valley." Twenty villages were visited over a two-week period in September 1986 and the research was done in conjunction with a farming systems (FSR) reconnaissance survey. Information was collected on a variety of food consumption patterns. Included are food preferences, preparation, purchases, prices, seasonality, food storage, free food distributions, wild foods, specialty foods for childbearing women and their infants, and some of the consumption issues related to health. Information on women's farming activities and vegetable gardens is also included. (Authors' abstract.)

Zalla, Tom

1988 Sampling methodologies for cost-effective collection of food consumption and expenditure data. Report prepared for the NEG/OICD/USDA, Washington, D.C.

This report reviews different sampling methodologies used in consumption surveys with rapid appraisal objectives. It proposes an approach which can both accommodate rigorous techniques as well as be accessible to fairly rapid application. The author summarizes the work of a workshop on Rapid Appraisal Techniques for Food Policy Analysis held in April, 1987, which concludes that there are a finite limit to the number of short-cuts possible, before quality is sacrificed or quantitative analysis of food consumption interactions are required. Using several study areas to illustrate different effective sampling methodologies, the report offers procedures and estimators for using census enumeration areas and administrative units as a sampling frame for obtaining household consumption and expenditure data. The governing factor determining which estimators to use is decided by their cost-effectiveness. The recommended sampling methodology for NEG, found to be both statistically rigorous yet containing short-cuts that are "more or less determined", would be a multi-stage, stratified, largely self-weighting sample. The report details this methodology.

Zalla, Tom
1986

Toward Rapid Appraisal of Consumption and Expenditure Patterns. Report for NEG/USDA under contract No. TAD-86-176. Washington, D.C.

This report examines the potential uses of food consumption and household expenditure data, and the type and detail of data that is required for each use. It describes various qualitative rapid appraisal techniques and lists essential elements of a rapid appraisal approach, focusing on those situations requiring estimators with known distributions. The author examines several methodological issues that limit the extent to which surveys gathering these types of data can reduce interview frequency. He examines sampling approaches appropriate to the variously intended uses of the data. He then briefly examines data processing with a view toward building a turnkey system for planning, executing, and analyzing household consumption data.

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