

Participatory Methods in Coffee Extension: an Indian Experience

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SUMMARY

Participatory methods are introduced in order to facilitate the process of involving all the stake holders in development process. These methods are introduced in coffee extension with a pilot project called Farmers' Participatory Methods (FPM). Main objective of the project was to empower small coffee growers and re-orient the extension strategy for better interaction between extension staff and growers through participatory way. It started with providing training to the extensionists in participatory methods and organizing workshops for the growers. The present study made an attempt to understand the impact of this programme on growers and the extensionists. It also looked into the institutional arrangements for the implementation of the programme. The results indicate that the programme could achieve the objective of developing better interaction between extensionists and growers. However it failed to achieve in developing a sense of participation in the growers. Lack of involvement of all the stakeholders in project planning was identified as one of the important reasons for the low levels of achievement of this programme.