

Foreword

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These guidelines are for training research and extension personnel in rapid appraisal methods for development of agroforestry in peasant land use systems. The guidelines are illustrated through reference to a training and research exercise where an agropastoral farming system in Shurugwi Communal Area, Zimbabwe was appraised in 1988.

Four key principles underlie the methods used:

- * agroforestry interventions are identified and developed through working with and learning from farmers and the local community, as well as through conventional resource assessment – **“interactive research”**
- * interactive research is best learned through real application not lectures or classroom exercises and simulations – **“learning by doing”**
- * **“interdisciplinarity”** is a key to successful interactive research

* agroforestry interventions are developed from an understanding of constraints and conflicts existing within the rural community over access to production resources.

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