

Illustrated Manuals for Non-literate Farmers

Project Evaluation: summary of comments

A total of 58 participants (12 groups) from various Government departments and NGOs in Ghana and Gambia received training between 1999-2000 to enable them to develop their own manuals using the project techniques. Following the training, each group began work on their own manual and one year later completed evaluation forms on this experience. A selection of respondents comments is provided below. 7 groups were able to complete manuals within this time (see website Manuals download)

1. Have you been able to work on a manual since the training. If not, please explain why.

"Yes, I have been assisting development agencies and women's groups interested in this manual because the women got a lot of interest in this manual...."

"Yes" [10 of the 12 groups worked on manuals after the course]

"No, I could not work on the scanner because our computer is broken so we couldn't make the manual"

"No" (a group with only one illustrator at the training workshop who subsequently left the organisation)

2. What problems have you encountered with this work?

"Access to computer facilities was a big problem for me....the supply of electricity is not good...the scanner was fault for quite a long time. Only the line drawings were produced"

"Staff going on leave and transferred so that we could not work well on our manual"

"No big problem"

"Faulty and unreliable computers"

"It took a long time to finish the manual because we were going on trek and did not have time to work on it"

3. Have you managed to solve these problems, if so, give details.

"No, from our side we have no control of computer facilities"

"We have been assured new computers but they have not come yet"

"We used the artist from another group"

"We could not solve the problem and the UK project people helped us finish the manual"

"Not very well. It would be good if there was someone nearby that could help us with problems making the manual. Maybe train one organisation to be a local expert "

4. What parts of the process have you found most rewarding, interesting or useful and why?

"the part that involved the target beneficiaries"

"field work and demonstrations....designing the manuals with the women"

"the practical work in the workshop was good because it gave us experience and it was interesting"

"training to use the scanner, as this will have a lot of benefits"

"the computer skills, especially the scanning process. If we didn't have the computer problems we could be producing our own material and manuals locally"

5. Do you intend to produce manuals using this technique in the future? If so, how will this be achieved (funds? personnel?). If not, please explain the reasons for this decision.

"Yes, we want to make a manual on improved rice production"

"UNEP here are interested in helping us make another manual"

"Obviously yes, especially manuals dealing with the aspects of development (pending the availability of funding)"

"No, we do not have good resources"

6. Any further comments

"We want this project to continue over other areas too"

"We would be grateful if you could assist us raise funds to support such a programme"

"The technique is useful and easy to transfer. It will help us solve problems confronting our farmers"

"It is difficult to find funding for this kind of work"

"The target groups of women farmers like these manuals and think they are very useful. It would be good if we could produce more."

"It is difficult to make more manuals as we need better resources"