

Participatory monitoring and evaluation in extension programmes

■ Loveleen Kaur and Sukhdeep Kaur

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■ **ABSTRACT** : Monitoring and evaluation is essential to the management of all development activities. We need feedback to manage our activities adaptively, responding to changes. This is true for farmers, local project workers, and staff of research institutes and development organizations, both government and non-government. But it is often argued that the product of standard quantitative monitoring and evaluation is often divorced from the needs, the indigenous knowledge, values, expectations and interests of the stakeholders at the outset. Thus there is a need to move towards a monitoring and evaluation system having greater local value. In projects and programmes, beneficiaries should be involved throughout the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation stages. Participatory approaches allow for, the sense of project ownership on the part of beneficiaries and hence ensure their full support. Participation in monitoring and evaluation acts as part of a self-management system, it enables the various partners in development to learn from experience, from successes and from failures, and to do better in future. Keeping this in mind, the present paper was prepared with the objective to explain the concept of participatory monitoring and evaluation and its importance in extension.

■ **KEY WORDS**: Monitoring, Evaluation, Extension programme

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See end of the paper for authors' affiliations →

Loveleen Kaur

Department of Extension
Education and Communication
Management, Punjab Agricultural
University, Ludhiana (Punjab)
India

Email : loveleen_kaur77@
yahoo.in, loveleen-hsecm@
pau.edu