

Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) Poltavska oblast Case Study



**Better Data
Better Decisions
Better Outcomes**

01. What is PRA?



According to the Humanitarian Needs Overview (2023), 17.6 million people in Ukraine require humanitarian assistance. However, the delivery of aid is sometimes misaligned due to improper consultation with the affected population.

A survey conducted by the Disaster Emergency Committee (July, 2023) reveals that only 40% of individuals are asked by humanitarian organizations about their needs before providing aid. Respondents emphasized the importance of being consulted on the type of assistance they receive.

The use of **Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA)** can significantly improve the situation, as this method directly involves local residents in identifying issues and challenges, and implementing solutions.

We started PRA to:

- Facilitate swift data collection providing accurate responses to challenges
- Empower local voices
- Enable people to identify and rank their own needs
- Better understand day-to-day challenges of the local population
- Foster the quality of humanitarian aid



WHAT EXACTLY PRA IS?

PRA is a community-based and participatory approach to assessing and understanding rural (local) communities, their needs, resources, and priorities. It is a method used to empower local communities and involve them actively in the process of data collection, analysis, and decision-making.

Participatory

Means that people are involved in the process – a "bottom-up" approach – to better understand and rank their needs.

Rural

The techniques can be used in any situation, urban or rural area. It also works well for local smaller communities.

Appraisal

The finding out of information about problems, needs, and potential in a rural areas.



Traditional Needs Assessment:

Implies a more general approach

No community involvement

Standardized methodology

Works for large-scale research

Does not strengthen communities

Participatory Rural Appraisal:

Makes it more inclusive

Involves locals extensively

More accurate for area-based data collection

Could be applied in different areas

Empowers communities

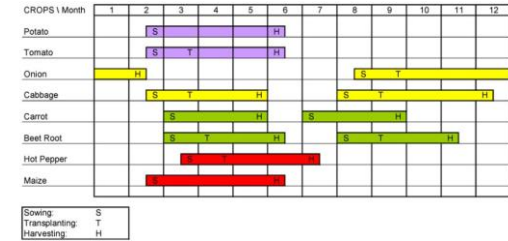
These methods have different purposes. Which one to use depends on your assessment goals

Participatory Rural Appraisal Methods

Semi-structured and structured interviews



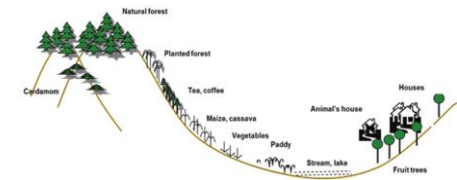
Seasonal calendar



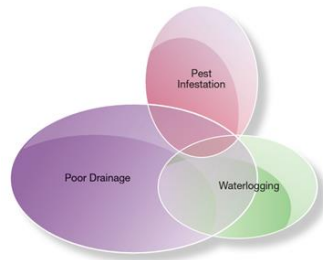
Historical profile

- 1986 Prosopis (an invasive tree) introduced by the Natural Resource and Wildlife Protection Organization of the former government
- 1991 Downfall of Ethiopian government (Derg)
- 1992 Livestock deaths due to the disease 'sole' in addition to drought
- 1993 Boya-hagay in which a large number of livestock deaths were remembered
- 1994 Widespread camel deaths due to diseases 'goston' and 'Kahu'
- 1995 Wodea-Temera in which the widespread death of goats occurred due to diseases 'gublo' and 'korboda', leaving the kraal empty
- 1996 Good rain and milk, life was good; 'waybo' disease detected for the first time in Afar and killed many cattle
- 1998 School, clinic and water reservoir construction started by SATCON; people employed as daily labor and earned a lot of money
- 1998 Lahibiak (swelling) around the neck (possibly anthrax) occurred and killed over 100 people
- 1999 Some herders selected to be trained as community-animal health workers (CAHWs)
- 2000 Human health clinic started
- 2001 Second round of CAHWs selection
- 2002 Extensive farming initiated by private investors and government

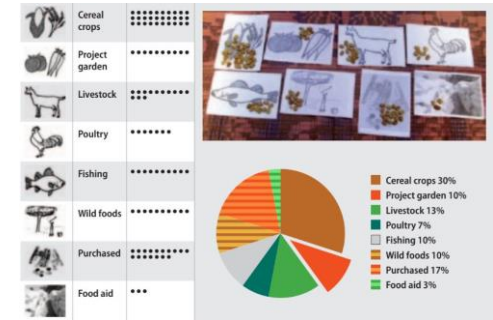
Transect walks



Mapping exercises and diagrams



Ranking and scoring



02. Poltavaska oblast mission

In December 2023, iMMAP Inc. conducted rapid agriculture needs assessment in Poltavaska oblast using Participatory Rural Appraisal methods to collect information.

Overall, a total of **16 farmers** from **9 hromadas** participated in FGDs

The semi-structured interviews were conducted through two Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) with participants involved in the agricultural sector.

A checklist was developed to guide the discussion and included the following modules: most cultivated crops, market access, access to financial instruments, and challenges faced by farmers since the start of the full-scale invasion.



UKRAINE: POLTAVSKA OBLAST PRA SESSION



16
Number of
Participants



4
Raions



9
Hromadas



★ National Capital
● Oblast Center

— International Boundary
— National Boundary
— Oblast Boundary
— Raion Boundary

— Estimated Frontline
▨ Area Under Russia's
Temporary Military Control

# of Hromada Covered		
1	2	4

Sources:
OCHA, HDX, OSM
Production Date: 14/12/2023

Disclaimer:
The boundaries, names, designations used in this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by IMMAP.



The iMMAP team used a **seasonal calendar** as one of PRA methods presenting the model and trends of work or behavior throughout the year

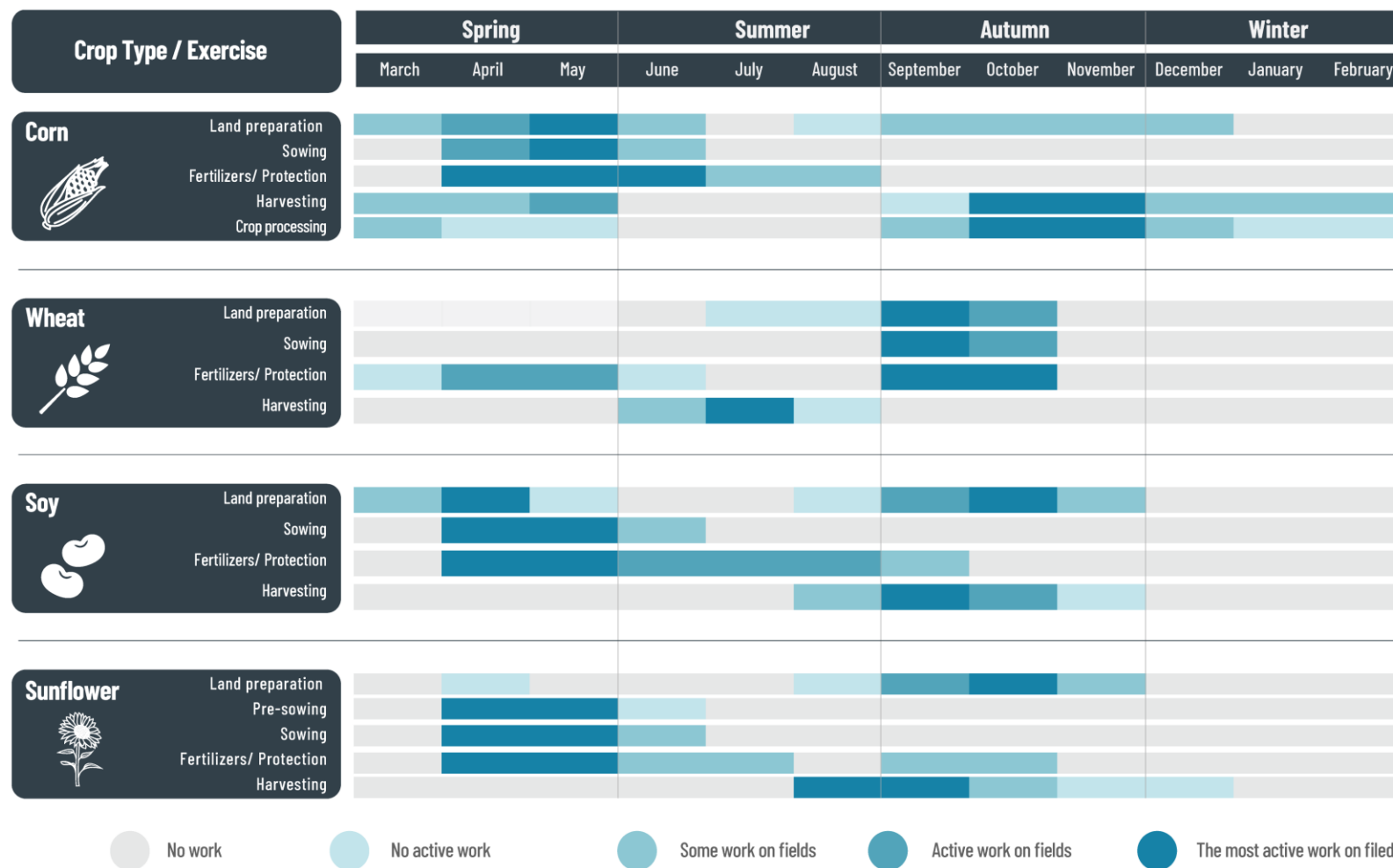
Most common crops:

- corn
- sunflower
- soy
- wheat
- barley
- rapeseed

Crop processing stages:

- land preparation
- sowing
- fertilizers/ protection
- harvesting

Seasonal Calendar All Crops



The PRA method helped to outline **the challenges** the farmers are currently facing. Among them are:

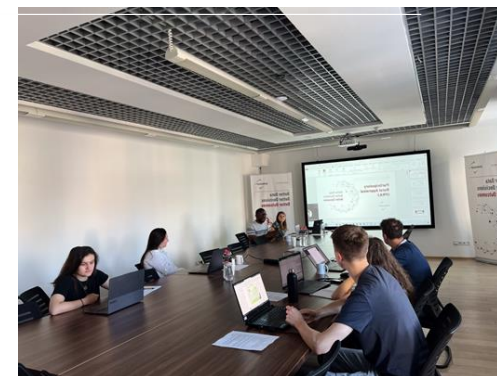
- low prices for crops and an increase in the logistics costs due to the ongoing conflict
- involvement of intermediaries adding extra costs to selling agricultural products
- labor shortage and the lack of adequate storage and drying facilities.
- insecurity and lack of guarantees in international sales
- lack of cooperation between farmers and the acute issue of trust and knowledge sharing.

While several respondents reported receiving humanitarian assistance for agricultural activities, a few shortcomings have been identified, such as dissatisfaction with the quality of the distributed seeds and fertilizers. The respondents have also expressed the need for support related to the construction of hangars or dryers.



How we can help with PRA

We can teach how to use PRA
and thus facilitate capacity
building



We can run PRA assessments



We can support organizations
with facilitators and trainers

Contact Details

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