

## Expanding horizons

Tanya Stathers attended an ICRA learning programme while working for the UK's Natural Resources Institute (NRI). 'When people ask me about ICRA, I reply that it has been the most important educational experience of my life so far, but also the toughest experience,' she explains. 'ICRA provides unique multicultural interaction and, especially during the intensive and frequently stressful field study phase, you are made to look at your own character and, perhaps unexpectedly, learn a lot about yourself. ICRA enabled me to look at a situation from a wider perspective and, if I didn't have the knowledge to understand it, to seek help from people who have different skills to mine.'

Since ICRA, Tanya has been surprised how often research projects are commissioned with no basis in the genuine needs of a community. She is starting to make changes in her home institution: farmers and other stakeholders are now involved in every step of the projects she manages, from setting the research agenda through to technology dissemination.