

Changing the focus of grassland research in India

The Indian Grassland and Fodder Research Institute (IGFRI) has changed its focus since several of its staff attended an ICRA course. 'IGFRI previously had a very narrow academic focus and tended to ignore socio-economic factors, with the result that many new technologies were left on the shelf', reports researcher Ranjitha Puskur. 'The insights we gained from ICRA helped us refocus on the technical and socio-economic needs of client farmers, put greater emphasis on the poor, and look more at rainfed farming systems. ARD has become a household name!'



An impact assessment study showed that ICRA training has influenced a change of outlook in IGFRI, which has begun to adopt an ARD approach and to work in interdisciplinary teams in a more client-oriented and participatory way. 'The change is embodied in our mandate', explains Dr Prem Pathak, IGFRI Director. 'Instead of focusing solely on grassland and fodder research, we now aim to develop a range of forage-related technologies that can alleviate poverty and promote sustainable rural livelihoods. In addition, the enhanced research capability and professional attitude of our

ICRA-trained researchers contributes to the overall development of the institute.'