

## **Good Practices in Conducting Survey Research on Livelihoods of Farmers**

**Nagaratna Biradar<sup>1\*</sup>, P. Sharma<sup>2</sup>, Sadhana Pandey<sup>2</sup>, Satyapriya<sup>2</sup> and S. Radotra<sup>3</sup>**

*<sup>1</sup>Indian Grassland and Fodder Research Institute, Southern Regional Research Station,  
Dharwad 580 005, Karnataka, India  
E-mail: nagaratna123@gmail.com*

*<sup>2</sup>Indian Grassland and Fodder Research Institute, Jhansi 284 003, Uttar Pradesh, India*

*<sup>3</sup>Indian Grassland and Fodder Research Institute, Regional Research Station,  
Palampur 176062, Himachal Pradesh, India*

**KEYWORDS** Enumerators. Informants. Local Institutions. Seasonality. Questionnaire

**ABSTRACT** Livestock holdings decide the economic status of farmers along with landholdings. Study to assess livestock's contribution to the livelihood of resource poor farmers was undertaken in Southern India. This region posed challenge to conduct survey due to socio-cultural and ecological diversity and the complexity of farming system. Multistage stratified random sampling was followed to collect data. Understanding region's crop calendar and identifying lean period linking with local institutions facilitate good response. Before noon is the best period to collect data. Resource poor farmers share the information in lengthy livelihood surveys more willingly than resource rich farmers. Dealing with latter hence demand special skills. Selection of local enumerators with good acquaintance of prevailing cultural practice and language is crucial. Bringing all enumerators to the same platform through 2 days orientation about the study would help for smooth conduct of survey from the diverse and complex group.