

TRAINING MINORITY ETHNIC
GROUPS WITH LOW LITERACY

LESSONS LEARNED FROM AN
AUSTRALIAN EXPERIENCE

1. How are Sydney Basin minorities and Hill Tribe minorities similar?

- Multiple ethnicities
- Poor levels of education
- Social and political isolation
- Distrust of formal authorities

2. How are farm chemicals misused?

- Poor storage, handling, decanting
- Poor labelling, poor cleaning of utensils
- Over-use, under-use, poor timing, poor disease/pest identification
- Little use of Personal Protective Equipment
- Withholding periods unobserved

3. Why are farm chemicals misused?

- Illiteracy
- Lack of agronomic experience
- Little attention from extension staff
- Uncommon plants

4. What are the consequences of misuse of farm chemicals?

- Poisonings
- Produce not fit for market
- High input costs
- Inequity
- Confusion, feelings of victimisation
- Further withdrawal from wider society

5. What remedies work?

- Engage bi-lingual staff
- Produce resources in minority languages
- Train and engage as extension workers existing “middle men”
- Broaden research

6. BUT – MOST IMPORTANT OF ALL.....

- CONTINUE GENERAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
- OFFER POSITIVE REASONS WHY MINORITIES NEED NOT FEEL OBLIGED TO REMAIN OUTSIDE THE WIDER COMMUNITY