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Actions



The small gods of participation.

Author(s) : [Musch, A.](#)

Book : [The small gods of participation](#) 2001 pp.235 pp.

Abstract : Donor agencies, ministries, field-workers and farmers all tend to attach their own meanings to the concepts of "development" and "participation". Using a comparative approach towards 2 large-scale irrigation systems in Madagascar (Betsiboka and the Office du Niger), research was carried out over a 4-year period to discover what factors for change were initiated by the dominant actors at and on what levels, at what times during specific events; what were their motives; and which mechanisms affected participation processes: (1) the local participatory process; (2) the way context factors for this occur (including economic liberalization and state disengagement); and (3) a developing international debate about participation and state market. The 2

compared with respect to power transfer, liberalization, and how they used and information. Explanations were given illustrating why the participatory projects were hard to implement. It was concluded that the big ideas do not donor agencies and their policy guidelines but from powerful project staff who circumvent bureaucratic prescriptions and rules; the so-called "small gods". of the participatory arrangement was often less important than the context such as literacy, project politics, and liberalization policies. KEYWORDS: TROF schemes | self management | interest groups | cooperation | social behaviour consciousness | policies | decentralization | Central Africa | Madagascar |

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