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Using social learning in Community-Based Research

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Abstract: In community based research people with different backgrounds (i.e. researchers and professionals) are brought together, searching for solutions for challenges to which no one has a standard solution. The people involved learn from and with one another. Managing such projects can be very challenging, but if done carefully it can generate a creative search for answers. To manage such process successfully the concept social learning can be very useful. Ideally, social learning is a way to arrive at a ‘learning system’ in which people learn from and with one another and collectively become more capable of withstanding setbacks and dealing with insecurity, complexity and risks. Social learning requires that we not only accept one another’s differences but are also able to put these to use. The success of such a process depends on among others the people concerned and on the manner how they became involved.

In the paper attached you can find more information on the concept Social Learning. In the workshop ArjenWals, Professor of Social learning and Sustainable Development working at the Education and Competence Studies at Wageningen UR, will share his ideas on how to use social learning in community based research. In the second part of the workshop we together will explore the opportunities and challenges of using social learning in community based research.