



PRACTICE ABSTRACT NR. 21

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Knowledge, knowing and learning to support innovation and decision-making in farming

Processes of developing and managing knowledge, knowing and learning are highly relevant to farming advisory services (FAS). This is due to increased recognition that new knowledge and innovation is required to face future challenges. What farmers, advisers and researchers need to know in complex situations is characterised by uncertainty, risk and rapidly changing circumstances. It involves a lot more than simply providing or engaging with information. Facilitation of collective knowing and learning is often also required for innovation and decision-making to take place. Assumptions about what constitutes knowledge and information and where it has come from also have to be brought to the surface as there are many vested interests associated with advice. The AgriLink project is supporting innovation in FAS through using a range of theories and practices associated with knowledge, knowing and learning to scope and structure inquiry and assessment processes. Knowledge transfer, exchange and knowledge and information flows are already referred to frequently across Europe where, for example, new legislation calls for changes in practices (e.g. in using pesticides or in managing farm waste). Ideas such as multi-level learning and experiential learning provide models that value perspectives and processes often not taken into account. As we recognise the need for more sustainable farming practices (economic, social and environmental) we need to emphasise multi-stakeholder dialogue for co-creation, co-production and assembly of knowledge. This will ensure that the necessary multiple perspectives are taken into account.

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COUNTRY/REGION:

Not applicable

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#advisory system, #knowledge,
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#participatory process,
#collaboration, #co-creation,
#learning

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

This Practice Abstract is derived from one of 27 Theory Primers that support the conceptual framework which underpins the AgriLink project. Each Theory Primer introduces a specific theoretical topic in the conceptual framework and is intended primarily for academic readers. The Practice Abstracts derived from each Theory Primer aim to make these topics more accessible and understandable to a wider non-academic audience. The full Theory Primer can be found [here](#).

The EU has allocated funding for around [180 multi-actor projects](#) of relevance to agriculture, forestry and rural development in Horizon 2020 (2014-2020), including AgriLink. Processes of developing and managing knowledge, knowing and learning are essential for successful collaboration in such projects.

Further details of the author's publications, many of them concerning knowing, knowledge and learning relating to water governance and agriculture, can be found [here](#).



ABOUT AGRILINK

AgriLink is a multi-actor project funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme. It brings together 16 partners from 13 countries, including universities, applied research institutes, advisors and consultants from public organisations, private SMEs, a farmer-based organisation and specialists in communication and distance learning.

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All the Practice Abstracts prepared by the AgriLink project in the EIP-AGRI common format can be found here: <https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/en/find-connect/projects/agrilink-agricultural-knowledge-linking-farmers>