On-Farm Experimentation Community Info No. 33

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On-Farm Experimentation Community (OFE-C)

International Society of Precision Agriculture (ISPA)

Co-editor of the month

Thanks to my co-editor of the month Dr. Myrtille Lacoste who is an Independent consultant in OFE, Montpellier, France

Follow up on the #OFE2023 conference

The #OFE2023 conference that took place Dec. 5-7th 2023 virtually gathered a total of 160 participants from 41 countries (42% from America; 25% from Africa; 20% from Europe; 8% from Asia; 5% from Oceania), with a live audience of about 70 people throughout the conference. Participants came from a diversity of backgrounds (47% from science, 21% students, 10% agronomists, 9% farmers, and others in NGO, government, and private sector). Participants assisted to presentation for two days and contributed to a workshop to launch the Global OFE Platform (GOFEN) on the third day. The Best Presentation awards went to **Emily Murphy** (Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada), **Subha Srinivasagan** (Cornell University), and **Tom Allen-Stevens** (British On-Farm Innovation Network). Outputs from the conference are currently being processed toward the publication of the Proceedings.

New GOFEN YouTube channel

The Global On-Farm Experimentation Network has just launched its YouTube channel with all the presentations from the #OFE2023 conference. This channel contains a wealth of content relevant for OFE and the diversity of forms that it can take. More presentations and videos will be added from past conferences and future events as they become available. Make sure to like and share videos so that they may reach greater audiences! Great and important work from all who contributed, that is starting to fill the dearth of OFE documentation.

Follow up on the International Conference for On-Farm Precision Experimentation

The International Conference for On-farm Precision Experimentations took place in-person and virtually in South Padre Island, TX, USA on Jan. 8-11, 2024. A total of 115 people registered for the conference from 12 countries. The audience was well balanced between academia (55%) and industry (45%), and this created unique opportunities to advance the principles of OFE. More details on the content of the conference can be found here.

Tools for OFE: GeoPard

GeoPard is an independent FMIS platform that allows for easier yield data cleaning, analytics, data sharing, and profit map generation among others. One interesting feature of this platform for the OFE community is that it allows for field trials analytics. Farmers who are equipped with precision machinery allowing for variable rate application and yield mapping can use this tool to rapidly analyze the effect of their treatments on yield and on profitability. Learn more about GeoPard here.

The science of OFE is gaining traction

According to the Web of Science, the number of publications with the keyword "on-farm experimentation" has drastically been increasing since 2020. From the records between 1996 and 2020, the average number of publications per year was about 2. Since then, this number rose to about 12 a year – and not all publications are captured. We are clearly witnessing the work of pioneers establishing the science of OFE.

Interesting OFE publications from around the world

• Giannini & Marraccini provide a much needed **perspective on OFE in Italy**. Their SWOT analysis highlights challenges as well as opportunities for OFE implementation in their country which are relevant to many others.
• In East Africa, Pircher et al. discuss the importance of considering innovation as a process rather than an outcome, and discuss **factors supporting farmer experimentation** such as a facilitating institutional environment and other services.
• In Guadeloupe, Andrieu et al. provide an example of OFE involving **sheep for agroecological weed management on banana plantations**.
• Meanwhile, US colleagues investigated farmers' perspectives about engaging with researchers on farm, in **Illinois** and in the **Midwest and South-Central regions**.

This letter was prepared by Louis Longchamps, co-chair of the ISPA OFE Community
Should you have something to share with the Community or the Community leaders, let us know here.