On-Farm Experimentation Community Info No. 1

Dec 14, 2020

On-Farm Experimentation Community (OFE-C) of the International Society of Precision Agriculture (ISPA)

Why are you getting this email?

This message has been sent to you because you are a member of, or have shown interest in OFE. If you know a colleague who would like to be kept in the loop, please transfer this link to fill the OFE-C Expression of Interest Signup. You will find the past Info editions at the same place. If you want to access to the full opportunities of the OFE-C and the ISPA please join.

One Question Survey

What aspect(s) of on-farm experimentation are of interest to you? Let us know by filling this one-question survey.

Engage farmers in research

The one-size-fits-all approach of research has had success but advances are slowing. “How well crops and livestock grow depends on the interaction of genes, management and environment. As weather patterns fluctuate, gains in production will depend ever more on innovating in context. Big knowledge flowing from institutes to farm must be complemented by local knowledge.” Small-scale agricultural innovation will boost yields and protect the planet. See this Nature Comment.

Farmer-based Research program on the Falkland Islands

On-farm experimentation (OFE) and precision agriculture technologies could be a potent mix for driving change in agricultural systems. Many of us recognize the significant opportunity in large, tech heavy and digitally enabled cropping enterprises. However, most of the world’s agricultural land is characterized by extensive, tech-poor livestock systems (LS). “OFE in LS” could help to introduce appropriate digital technologies in a way that is meaningful to farmers. Have a look at this recording from Matthew McNee, agronomy advisor in the Falkland Islands.

Precision Agriculture in Action for Africa

A lot of agricultural experimentation in Africa is conducted on farms. What can the rest of the word learn from OFE with an African flavour? A good place to start was the 1st African Conference on Precision Agriculture held just last week from 8 to 10 December. The African Plant Nutrition Institute, the Mohammed VI Polytechnic University and the International Society of Precision Agriculture were behind this successful inaugural event. even hundred participants at 14 sites representing 51 countries were put together on this occasion. On-demand content will soon be made available on the conference website for participants.

A Practical Way to Share Data With Confidence

Farmers often feel that they do not get the value back after sharing their data. The GODAN (Global Open Data for Agriculture and Nutrition) organization has recently made available an Agricultural Data Codes of Conduct Toolkit. By using the toolkit, they can understand and control what is done with the data, who can do what, and so on. They feel engaged, considered and this strengthens the farmer value structure. The toolkit allows farmers to select clauses that might be of relevance and to easily produce a printable and saveable Code of Conduct that provides the conceptual basis for general, scalable guidelines (production, ownership, sharing and use of data in agriculture).

Ecosystem for FAIR Data for Cross Domain Research

Have a look at a very packed page on the challenge around data with clarifications on the lexicon for terms such as “metadata, interoperability, governance, cleaning and big data.” We learn that “over the last two years, a CODATA-led pilot project has developed, tested and refined methods for aligning metadata specifications, taxonomies and ontologies to address these problems in a consensual fashion.”

YEN Awards

The Yield Enhancement Network (YEN) in the UK supports arable crops innovators since 2012. Learn about the impressive achievements of YEN growers in the though 2020 season. Awards were given for best yields or best % or potential yield. See the recording here.

Upcoming OFE-C Newsletter

The OFE-C will release in January a newsletter with information about on-farm experimentation. Should you have something to communicate to our readership, please submit to this email.

Should you have something to share with the Community or the Community leaders, let us know here.