

SF18 BREAKOUT SESSIONS SESSION OUTLINE

Managing tradeoffs: how do we translate research into evidence?

1. **Session day and time:** 1400-1700h, Thursday, 11th October

2. **Session coordinator(s) and affiliation(s)**

Jaron Porciello, Cornell University
Chris Surridge, Nature Plants

3. **Session Summary** (i.e., brief description of what will be addressed and discussed during the session):

We face complex issues of synthesis, evaluation, and dissemination when it comes to evidence. These include synthesizing astonishing levels of scientific research—where every seven seconds a new peer-review article is published across more than 17,000 scientific journals—to tacit agreement about ‘good’ evidence and what evidence should look like. Yet, there is a growing recognition from both research and policy makers that evidence should have a strength of authority compared to narrative reviews. Evidence should be relevant to current issues and use criteria-based selection to appraise of all relevant materials. Most importantly, it should conclude with a clear recommendation based on what we know today. We need transparent and global systems for both researchers and policy makers to build and evaluate evidence using a common framework.

Please join us for an interactive session where we will discuss evidence from a sociotechnical perspective. We will examine some core values of evidence including relevancy, replication, inclusivity, and transparency, from the perspectives of two communities: **producers** of evidence and **consumers** of evidence. What does each stakeholder value, and what does each core value “look” like, both technically and socially, to each stakeholder?

We will try to establish some specific criteria around each core value using a Buy, Sell, or Keep framework to exchange ideas and negotiate. What tradeoffs will each community make? What tradeoffs will each community NOT make? We hope to conclude the session with a grassroots framework of definitions and criteria that are critical to producing high-quality evidence.

This session will have real world impact! The ideas generated from this breakout session will inform the development of an evidence protocol and a risk of bias assessment. [Ceres2030: Sustainable solutions to end hunger](#) is an evidence and cost modeling initiative to explore effective interventions for smallholder productivity and environmental sustainability around SDG2 donor-led roadmap. This initiative is led by Cornell, IFPRI, and IISD and in partnership with *Nature Publishing Group*.

Objective:

To generate a dialogue on standards of evidence organized around four core principles: transparency, relevancy, inclusivity, and replication.

Expected outcomes:

This session will have real world impact. The ideas generated from this breakout session will inform the development of an evidence protocol and a risk of bias assessment. [Ceres2030: Sustainable solutions to end hunger](#) is an evidence and cost modeling initiative to explore effective interventions for smallholder productivity and environmental sustainability in support of a donor-led roadmap on SDG2. This initiative is led by Cornell, IFPRI, and IISD and in partnership with *Nature Publishing Group*.

4. Speakers/contributors and affiliations:

Jaron Porciello, Cornell University
Chris Surridge, Nature Plants

5. Rapporteur (for brief report back to plenary on Friday, 12 October; ~10 min) and affiliation:

Jaron Porciello, Cornell University
Lindsey McMahon, Cornell University

6. Session structure

We will hear from a 1-2 experts about their experiences contributing to evidence syntheses before we move into the group activity. We will preface the activity with a very brief presentation about Ceres2030: Sustainable Solutions to End Hunger, in order to ground the activity in a real-world output. Participants will be organized into two groups, consumers and producers, and each group asked to assign technical and social criteria to each core value using the Buy, Sell, or Keep model. The groups will review one another's suggestions and decide which ideas to "keep" versus "sell;" they will also generate a few "buy" ideas of their own. Each group will have a chance to review the suggestions before deciding on their final composition looks like. In this, we will be able to witness the tradeoff and negotiation process.

The breakout session will conclude with a review of an evidence framework as well as time for general sharing, feedback, and reflection. The framework will be shared during the plenary session.