



Climate Smart Agriculture Conference

Supporting the Adoption of Climate Smart Agriculture
by Enhancing Research Uptake through Knowledge
Translation

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Objectives

- Outline
 - Define Knowledge Translation?
 - Explain why KT is needed
 - Understand different models used in KT
 - Understand the key elements of the framework of KT strategy
 - Identify challenges and opportunities in KT



What is knowledge translation?

- KT – relatively new term describing an old problem
 - What is that problem?
 - Underutilization of evidence based research
 - Gap between “what is known” and “what is currently done” in practice settings
 - Various disciplinary terminology
 - Research communications
 - Knowledge transfer/exchange
 - Research utilization/uptake
 - Research into Use
 - Knowledge-to –action - Ecohealth

different terms covering related and overlapping constructs (more than 100 terms – McKibbon et al., 2013)



What is knowledge translation?

- KT
 - the notion of **moving research findings into** policy, programs, people, products
 - the **process** of linking between stakeholders who use research to make decisions and researchers
 - refer to **all of the activities through which end users of research** (policy-makers, practitioners & people) **are involved in the research process, from design through to dissemination**



What is knowledge Translation?

- a **dynamic and iterative process** that includes synthesis, dissemination, exchange and ethically-sound application of knowledge to improve practice behavior through adoption
- the process of making research/products relevant, accessible and available to end users and partners



What is knowledge translation?

“Knowledge is like fine wine. The researchers brews it, the scientific paper bottles it, the peer review tastes it, the journal sticks a label on it, and archives systems store it carefully in a cellar. Great job, but just one small problem: **Wine is only useful when somebody drinks it.** Wine in a bottle does not quench thirst. KT open the bottle, pours the wine, and serves it.” p. 1

Bennett, G., & Jessani, N. (2011). The knowledge translation toolkit: Bridging the know-do gap – a resource for researchers. Sage Publications: Thousand Oaks. CA



Why knowledge translation?

- recognition that traditional approaches of moving research into practice, which were predominantly based on education not effective
- To drive the research findings to wherever they are needed
- To provide real and maximum benefit to policy, practice and to people



Why Knowledge Translation?

- Effective researcher
 - must ensure that knowledge goes beyond publication
 - Bridge the gap between knowing and doing
- For research to be meaningful, it must be
 - Heard
 - Understood
- Effective KT makes it to be heard, understood, and acted upon



Knowledge Translation Models

into use – involves a complex network of knowledge producers, intermediaries and knowledge users

efforts by producers

Research users

Research producers

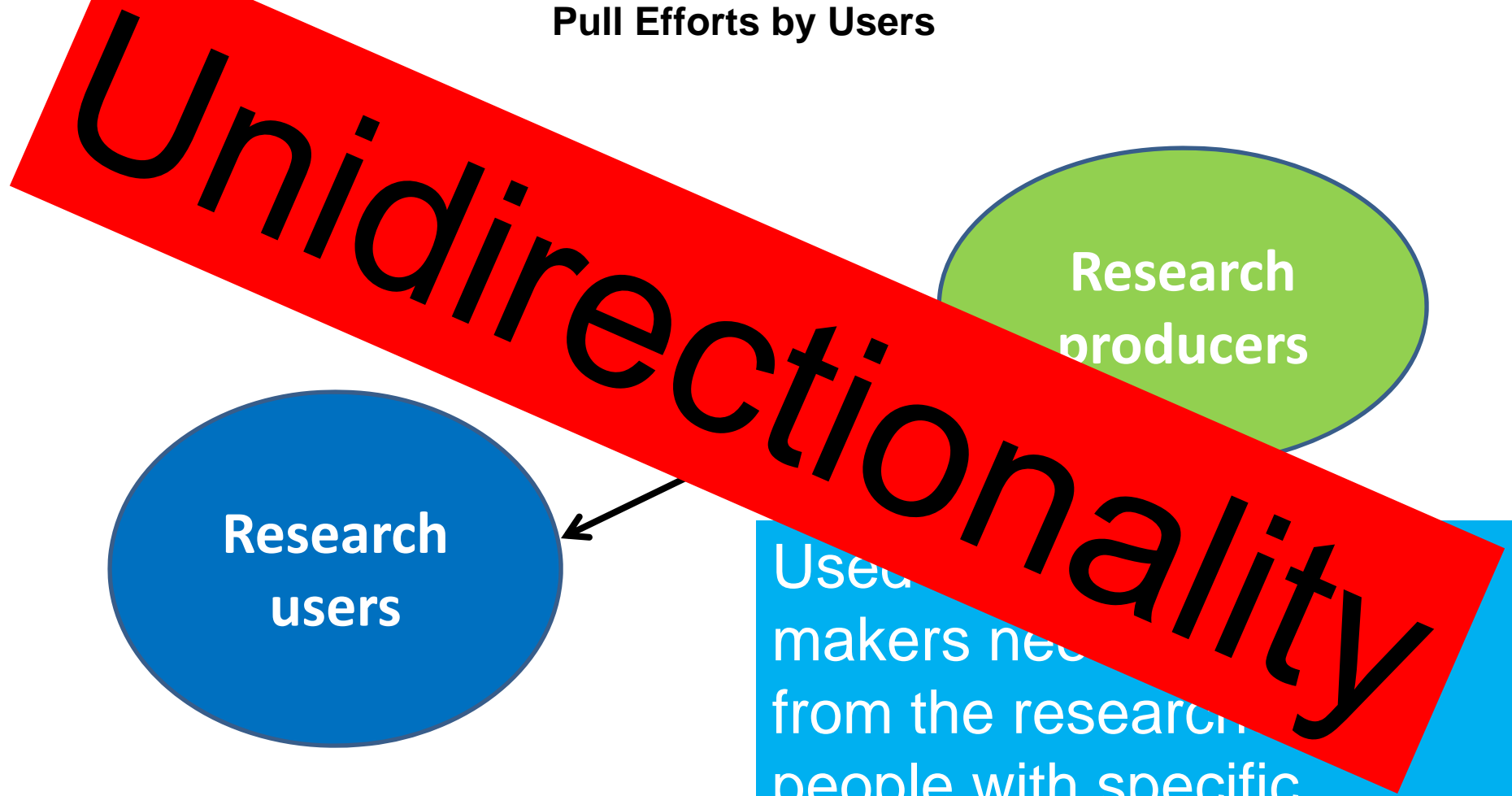
Intended audience
researchers to
or influence and engagement
policy, practice and people

Unidirectionality



Knowledge Translation Models

Pull Efforts by Users



Research producers

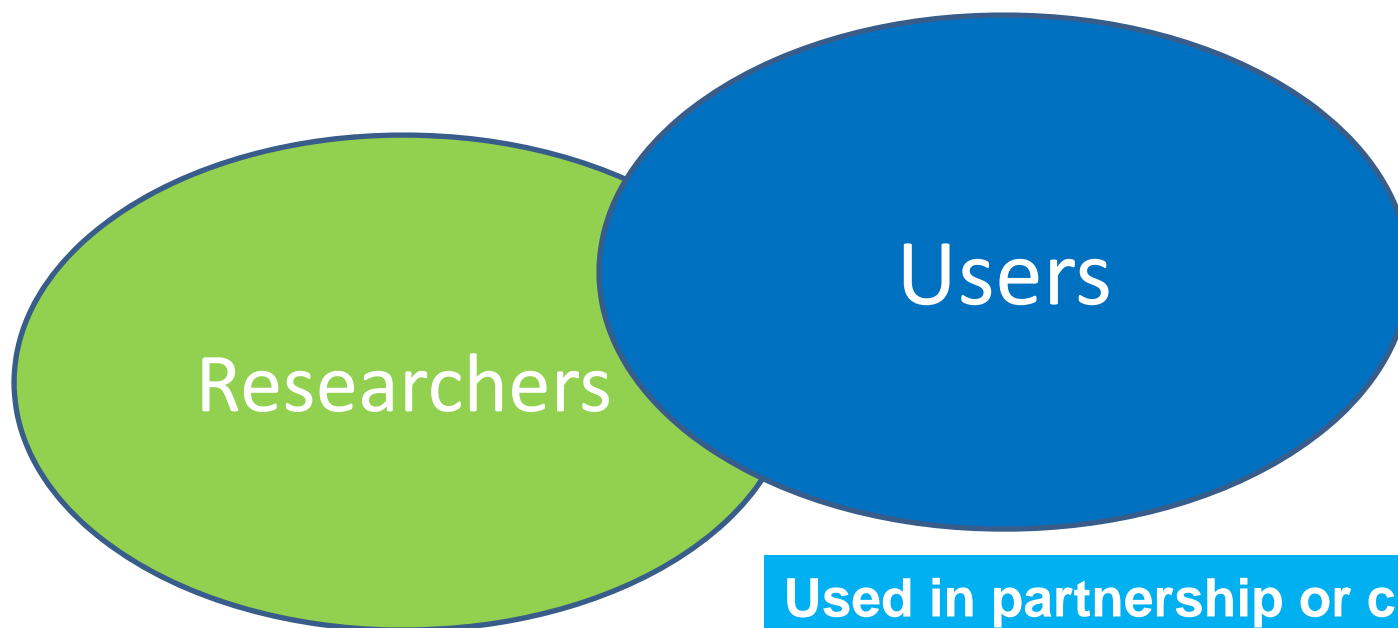
Research users

Users
makers need
from the research
people with specific
information

Knowledge Translation Models

Research into use – involves a complex network of knowledge producers, intermediaries and knowledge users

Exchange efforts



Knowledge broker

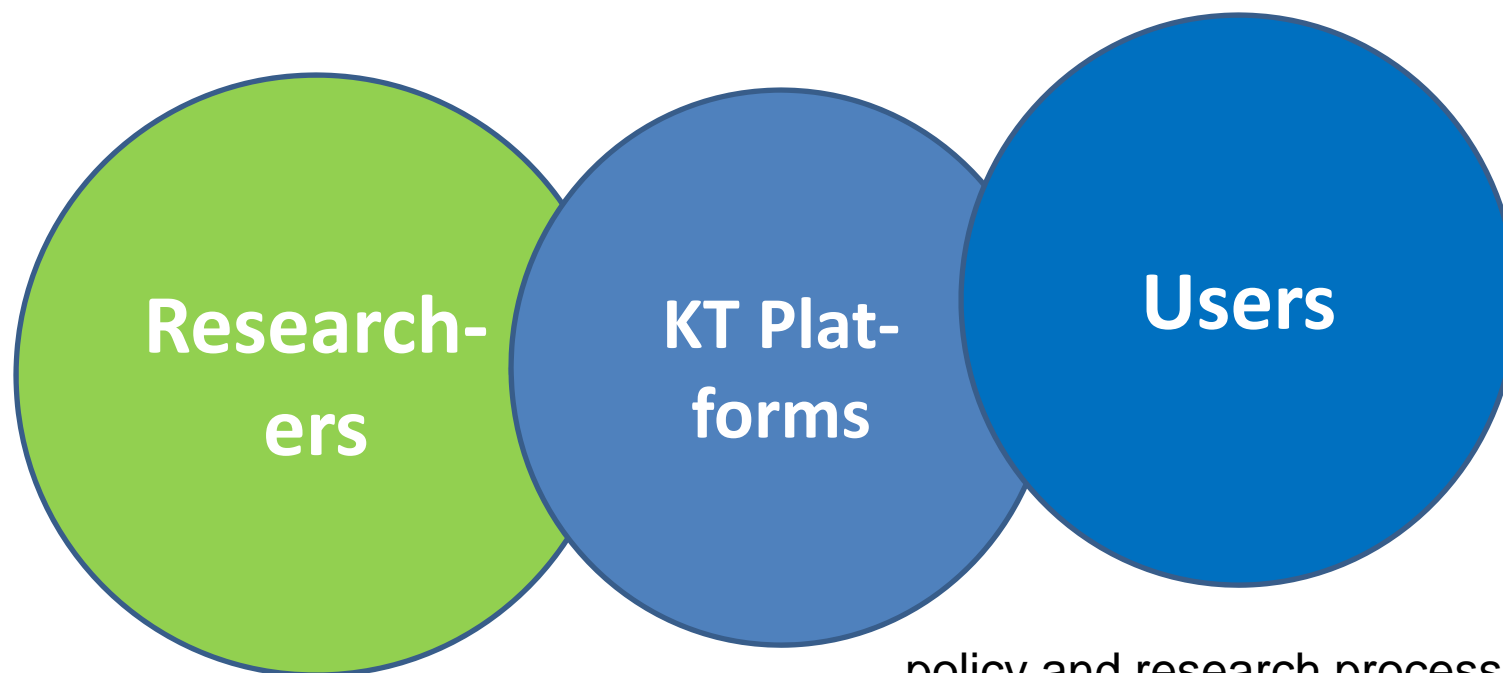
Used in partnership or collaboration initiatives, where researchers and research users work together for mutual benefit



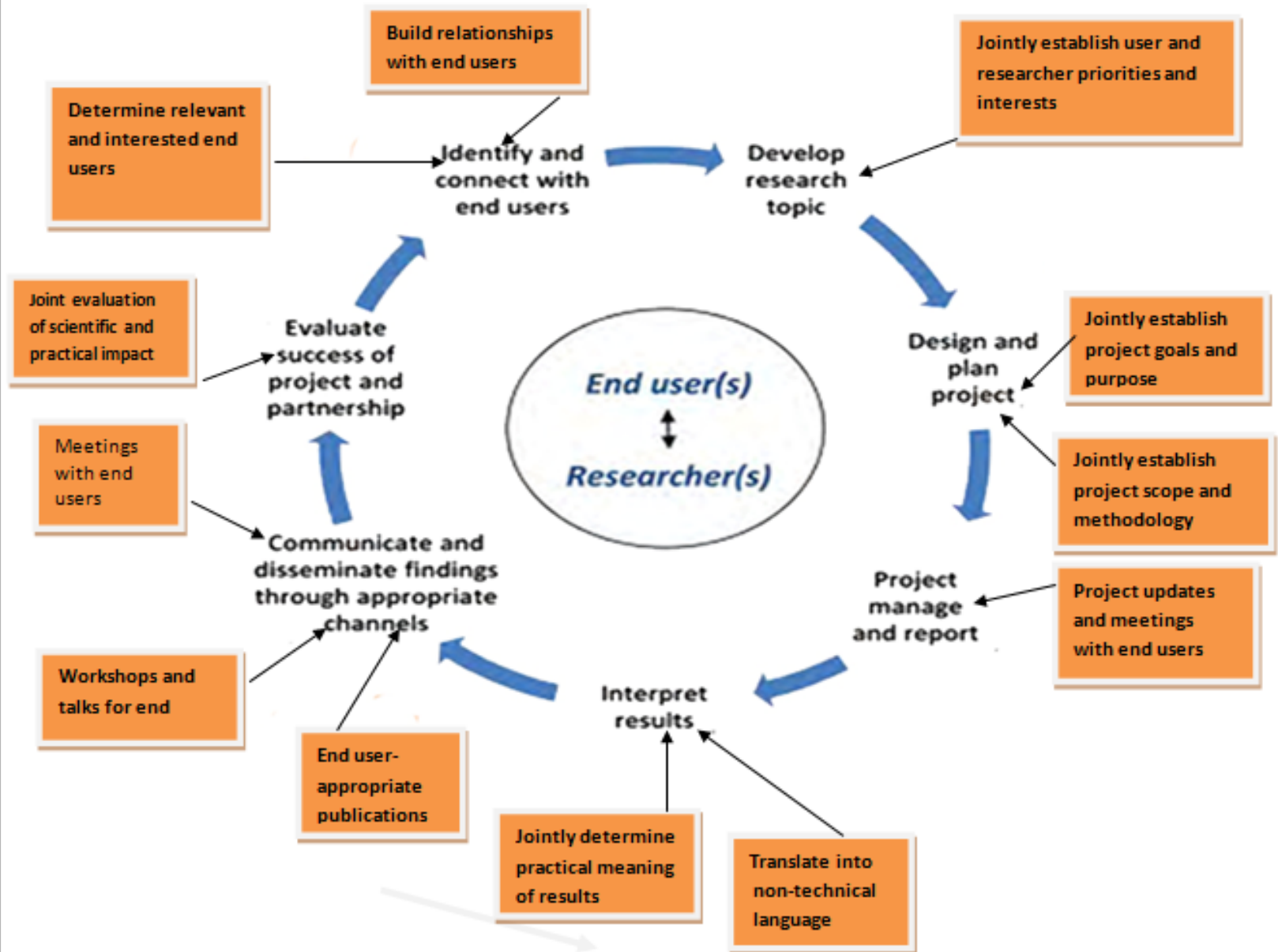
Knowledge Translation Models

Research into use – involves a complex network of knowledge producers, intermediaries and knowledge users

Integrated efforts



policy and research processes and hence can facilitate public dialogue and capacity building





Knowledge Translation Models

- Choice of models:
 - Situation
 - Context
 - context mapping – tool used in KT to identify, express & address relevant context issues
 - Context mapping tools
 - Stakeholder analysis (importance, interests and influence)
 - Policy network mapping
 - Influence mapping
 - Agenda setting



KT Framework

1. What should be transferred? The MESSAGE
2. To whom should research knowledge be transferred? AUDIENCE
3. By whom should research knowledge be transferred? MESSENGER
4. How should the research knowledge be transferred? CHANNELS AND TOOLS
5. With what effect should research knowledge be transferred?



KT Framework: Message

- What should be transferred - message
 - key or actionable message tailor made for specific target audience
 - language
 - KT products
 - contextual relevancy
 - Key messages
 - present ‘ideas’ as opposed to ‘data’ – solutions, not statistical jargon

• Guidelines - professionals and practitioners
• actionable messages and policy briefs - for decision-makers.



KT Framework: Audience

- **To whom should the research knowledge be transferred?**
 - Development of KT strategy to consider
 - Type of decision-making environments
 - Decision makers not only contend with research knowledge, but values & opinions of ruling party, supporters, interested & affected stakeholders – cost benefit analysis
 - Type of decisions to be made by the audience
 - communication behavior
 - Information needs



KT Framework: Messenger

- **By whom should research knowledge be transferred?**
 - individual, group, organization, or a system
 - Choice depend on:
 - target group
 - Resources
 - knowledge to be transferred



KT Framework: Messenger

- **By whom should research knowledge be transferred?**
- Characteristics/Qualities
 - Credibility and trustworthiness
 - Skills and experience
 - Heterophily vs homophily
 - Resources
 - opinion leaders and gatekeepers, have been used as messengers (change agents and champions)



KT Framework: Channels & Strategies

- **How should research knowledge be transferred?**
 - Interactive platforms
 - interpersonal channels
 - research knowledge infrastructure
 - technological (online e-databases, policy briefs, overviews)
 - organizational components (documentation specialists, data analysts, knowledge brokers)



KT Framework: Evaluation

- **With what effect should research knowledge be transferred?**
 - **Interventions to be evaluated based on**
 - Objectives
 - Target audience



Challenges & Possible Solutions

- Inadequate KT skills and ability – training or knowledge brokers
- Time and resource constraints – factor in grant proposal KT costs
- Incentives or rewards for knowledge translation – Make it mandatory for every research
- Building mutual understanding – time and honesty
- Researcher understanding of policy and practice



References/Resources

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