

From Science to Practice

Best practice models as source of
information and ideas
– a case study among researchers
and stakeholders

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The content of this presentation

- Short introduction
- Best practices in knowledge transfer from science to practice
- Further recommendations
- Conclusions



LOVEt II

- Elaboration of the best practice models of the knowledge transfer from science to practice in organic farming sector (LOVEt II)
- Leonardo da Vinci Partnership
- 1.8.2012–31.7.2014
- 15 partners from 12 EU countries
 - Advanced Countries Group: Germany, Spain, Finland, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal
 - Developing Countries Group: Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Poland, Slovenia



Science Communication

- Short definition: presenting research results and innovations based on scientific findings (knowledge)
- Four levels of science communication
 - Intraspecialistic
 - Interspecialistic
 - Pedagogical
 - Popular

(Bucchi 1998)

Method

- Questionnaire 1
 - targeted to 150 scientists in 12 countries
 - identifying best practices in knowledge transfer in organic farming sector > 193 best practices
- Questionnaire 2
 - targeted to 150 stakeholders in 12 countries
 - identifying further recommendations in developing science communication activities in organic farming sector > 92 free answers
- Content analysis
 - reading and identifying common factors
 - thematic grouping

Best practices

- 193 best practices from 12 countries
- 5 thematic groups
 - Problem-solving
 - Networking
 - Holistic approach
 - Multidisciplinary approach
 - Knowledge sharing

Problem-solving

- Most of the best practices arise from the existing problems in the practice
 - Also scientific problems or needs for research from earlier experiences
 - Developing new methods for solving problems
 - Country-related problems
 - Common problems in EU
- Strategies for the control of *Vicia hirsuta* in Organic Farming (Germany)
 - Best seeding rate for cereal mixture partner when grown with winter pea (Germany)
 - Selenium in cow feeding (Finland)

Networking

- Several best practices emphasized the networking of the different actors
 - Working groups (advisors, advisors-farmers, researchers-farmers)
 - Farmers' networks
 - International projects on common problems
- Organic Knowledge Network (Finland)
 - Bioconnect – participatory development in the organic production sector (Netherlands)
 - BERAS Implementation (Baltic countries)
 - TP Organic (EU)

Holistic approach

- Presence of the whole chain
 - Not always participation
 - Environmental aspects
 - The protection of nature
 - Sustainability
 - Involving the whole society
 - Children, social farming
 - Life-long learning
- Sustainability reports (Germany)
 - Organic Farming Districts (Italy)
 - The National Forum of Social Farming (Italy)
 - Testing composts as plant substrates on nurseries (Portugal)

Multidisciplinary approach

- Different scientific disciplines solving the problems in organic farming
 - As in holistic approach
 - Applying knowledge from other disciplines than agro-ecology
 - economy, consumers, environment, society
 - Co-operation between the disciplines
- Economic analysis of certification systems for organic food and farming(Germany)
 - Short marketing channels (Spain)
 - Study of the food value chain of organic products in Madrid (Spain)

Knowledge sharing

- Willingness to share knowledge between different actors
 - From knowledge transfer to knowledge sharing
 - Towards participatory research and knowledge co-creation
 - Trust among different actors is essential for success
- Seminars
 - Open field days
 - Awards for finding transferable concepts
 - Demonstration farms
 - Websites
 - On-farm research

Further recommendations

- Supporting and developing communication activities, examples
 - Rewarding scientists for popularizing activities
 - Help needed for “translating” the knowledge from science to practice
 - Different kinds of language barriers
 - Science >< Practice / Knowledge in your own language
 - Open field days, seminars, intensive courses, demo-farms, seeing things in practice, “hands-on”
 - Method depending on target groups
 - Both researchers and farmers

Further recommendations

- Developing research activities, examples
 - Practical research, more applied research, on-farm research
 - Co-operation with practitioners starting with planning the research
- Research funding should include less self-financing of farmers

Further recommendations

- Publishing information from other EU-countries
 - Best practices in organic farming sector
 - Best practices other fields than organic farming
 - > bench-marking
 - Research results
 - Data about organic farming in EU

Conclusions

- Best practice models as source of new ideas and information
- Models for solving practice-related problems
- Models for co-operation and networking
- Creating possibilities to communicate and co-operate
- Trust and facilitator are important
- Answers in new EU-countries emphasized networking and new contacts

Developing pattern

Solving specific problems "isolated"

➔ networking

➔ sharing knowledge and ideas

➔ knowledge co-creation

➔ participatory research starting from planning

References

- Bucchi, M. 1998. Science and the media. Alternative routes in scientific communication. Routledge Studies in Science, Technology and Society. London and New York.
- www.lovet2.eu
 - List of best practices
 - Quantitative results
 - Recommendations for local action groups
 - Contact information



Thank you
for your attention!