

SF18 BREAKOUT SESSIONS SESSION OUTLINE

Nexus, Systems, Landscapes: Does Your Sector Still Matter?

Rethinking the Agricultural Research Agenda to Help us Tackle Tradeoffs

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

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

Adam Hunt, CGIAR Research Program on Water, Land and Ecosystems (WLE) a-hunt@cgiar.org

3. Session Summary

Environmental degradation, natural resource scarcity, climate change, and inequality present serious risks to food and nutritional security. While there are multiple contributing factors, agriculture is a key driver of these challenges. When solutions are conceived to combat these challenges, they may deliver certain benefits, but all too often they also create or intensify problems in other areas. For instance, certain soil management practices might affect water retention capabilities, and if applied across wider areas, can have landscape scale and longer-term impacts on water resources availability.

Managing this interconnectedness across scales and sectors remains a vital and complex challenge, but it is fraught with complexity and uncertainty and so rarely gets traction. To date, the research community has delivered insights around field level innovations, but only partial assessments of systems or landscape level behavior and few solutions that work at both levels. Understanding of how to manage synergies and trade-offs between multiple, often conflicting, objectives, and across scales, remains weak. Yet, helping decision makers navigate these contradictions and identify synergies, is a critical priority if we are deliver on the SDGs.

How can agriculture move from driver to solution across scales? How are we doing, what have we learnt, and how can we improve? What should be the next priorities for sustainable agricultural research?

Objectives of the session are to:

1. Profile research achievements related to building synergies between SDGs and managing tradeoffs from field to landscape level, and lessons learnt.
2. Analyse progress to date and develop recommendations on potential tools, potential research gaps, and how we can improve.
3. Contribute to momentum on investing in science that can deliver more sustainable food systems within CGIAR.

Expected outcomes:

- Recommendations feed CGIAR planning process, as well as WLE and partner workplans, resulting in science that better considers tradeoffs and interconnectedness.

4. Speakers/contributors and affiliations:

- Izabella Koziell, CGIAR Research Program on Water, Land and Ecosystems (WLE)
- Mark Smith, International Water Management Institute (IWMI)
- Adam Hunt, CGIAR Research Program on Water, Land and Ecosystems (WLE)
- Panel: Barbara Schreiner, Pegasys Institute, Claudia Ringler, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Daniel Walker, Chief Scientist, ACIAR, and Tafadzwanashe Mabhaudhi, University of KwaZulu-Natal.
- Success snapshots:
 - Claudia Ringler, IFPRI: Energy Checklist
 - Matthew Kurian, UNU FLORES: Nexus Observatory
 - Mark Smith, IWMI: Solar Irrigation

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

- Izabella Koziell, CGIAR Research Program on Water, Land and Ecosystems (WLE)

6. Session structure

Live Polling:	Throughout the discussions
2PM	Introduction, goals and context
2:20PM	Panel discussion: Drivers of interconnected approaches. Sector progress and lessons learned. Next steps.
3PM	Success Snapshots – short pitches of tools/success stories
3:25PM	Coffee Break
3:35PM	Breakout groups: Identify tools, research gaps, collaboration ideas, advice
4:15PM	Plenary discussion: discuss and select key recommendations
5PM	End