

Inclusive inquiries of production and consumption conundrums, for emerging policies, to improve food systems in Ontario

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Slow KTT

- Key objective - identify new solutions to pressing food system problems.
- Circle process (person w talking piece talks and others listen) allows time for thinking and improves listening, understanding and the potential to move toward agreement (Ball et al. 2010).
- In Sept and Nov 2017, “What are the policy options for the agri-food sector to meet public social license expectations and to produce adequate, healthy food to address food security needs, while adapting to climate change?”



Photo by Cora Loucks

- March, 2018 - “if we achieved **soil health** in 40 years, what would it look like?”.



Photo by A.
Hammermeister

What do we (the audience) need to know now about what you found out about KTT?

- How effective was the Circle process to communicate your perspectives and feel heard?
Sept = 4.3, Nov = 4.6, Mar = 4.6
- How effective was the Circle process in enabling the group to work collaboratively; different than a typical facilitated meeting? Sept = 3.5, Nov = 3.8, Mar = 4.2
- Based on your experience during these workshops, how useful would the Circle process be for addressing contentious issues in the ag-food sector?
Sept = 4.0, Nov = 4.4, Mar = 4.3

- Answers from very effective (5) to strongly not effective (1).



What insights did your project results provide about KTT?

- "If agri-food sector meetings with contentious issues were conducted using the circle process rather than other processes, my willing participation would be;" – 4.3 to 4.6 to 4.8 from Sept to Nov to March.
- Circle process is useful when confronting **urgent** and/or **important** issues within organizations or across the agri-food sector.





Who was your target user of the project?

- We reached most of our intended audience across the ag value chain, in Sept., but missed retailers, large processors and input suppliers in Nov. and Mar.
- Reps from farms, farm orgs, research, government, conservation authorities and public health were at all meetings.

<https://bit.ly/2els24B>

What do you know about users now in terms of sharing research that you did not know before?

- “It is challenging to get to the heart of contentious issues. The circle process allows the deep conversations to occur.”
- “The process allows for dominant voices to be subdued and quieter ones a chance to flourish.”
- In response to ‘use the circle process in your organization in the future?’ 71% said ‘yes.’



Photo by A.
Peregrine

How could others use this information in their KTT /KMb work?

- Circle process can integrate broad understandings with specific issues in a way that will clarify specific agreements and what remains to be resolved
- It's not fast, but over time, may save time and prevent misunderstandings, false starts and stress



Photo of Southbrook Vineyards

Tweet worthy insights

- Circle slowly to understanding. Make decisions to include all stakeholders.
- Spiral to the potential of Circle for Agriculture at <http://foodpolicyforcanada.info.yorku.ca/research-projects/>



Photo by K. Lightburn