Bridging the Science to Policy Gap in Agri-Food Public Health

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What is KTT?

• CIHR Definition
  – “Dynamic and iterative process that includes synthesis, dissemination, exchange and ethically-sound application of knowledge to improve the health of Canadians, provide more effective health services and products and strengthen the health care system”

• Purpose
  – Increase the likelihood that the best available research knowledge will be used to inform policy and practice decisions
Rationale for KTT

• Complexity of issues in agri-food public health
• Research knowledge is underutilized by practitioners and policy-makers
• Many barriers towards integrating evidence into practice and policy
Project Objectives

Mixed-method review
- In progress
  (Target completion Apr. 2012)

Focus groups
- Initiated
  (Target completion Jul. 2012)

KTT Support Tools Handbook
- In progress
  (Target completion Apr. 2013)

KTT Workshop
- To be conducted
  (Targeted for early 2013)
Mixed-Method Review of KTT Methods

Research Question
• What is meant by KTT in various sectors and what are the key methods to support this process?

Analysis and Summary
• Thematic analysis
• Tabular summary of KTT methods

Search Strategy
• Five databases
• Scopus web search

Data Characterization
• Inductive approach
• Extraction of key characteristics

Relevance Screening
• Pre-tested form
• Two key Qs
Review Flow Chart

Search
- Citations: 1105
- Excluded Duplicates: 278

Relevance screening
- Citations: 827
- Excluded Not relevant: 659

Characterization
- Articles: 168
- Excluded Not relevant: 8

Characterization
- Case studies
  - Articles: 57
  - Prioritized for coding: 6
- General overviews
  - Articles: 75
  - Prioritized for coding: 27
- Detailed methods
  - Articles: 28

Analysis
- Thematic analysis
  - Articles: 33
- Overall interpretation
- Tabular summary
  - Methods: 22
What are the Key Features and Characteristics of KTT?

- Knowledge synthesis
  - Relevant and credible research

- Knowledge dissemination and exchange
  - Communication and collaboration

- Knowledge application
  - Monitoring and evaluation

KTT methods and tools
Organizational support and culture

Researchers
Intermediaries
End-users
Evidence-Informed Policy-Making

**Research knowledge**

- Favourable political climate and context
  - **Internal influences**
    - E.g. values/beliefs

- **Policy window**

- Researcher and policy-maker interactions

- **Policy-making process**

- **External influences**
  - E.g. lobbyists
## List of KTT Methods

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Synthesis</th>
<th>Dissemination</th>
<th>Exchange</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Knowledge mapping</td>
<td>• Scientific journals</td>
<td>• Stakeholder engagement</td>
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<td>• Scoping reviews</td>
<td>• Popular print media</td>
<td>• Communities of practice</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Systematic reviews-meta-analysis</td>
<td>• Cartoons/images</td>
<td>• Knowledge brokering</td>
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<td>• Rapid reviews</td>
<td>• Multimedia</td>
<td>• Agricultural extension</td>
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<td>• Mixed-method and qualitative reviews</td>
<td>• Websites and email</td>
<td>• Workshops</td>
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<td>• Social media</td>
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<td>• Conferences</td>
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<td>• Policy briefs</td>
<td>• Policy dialogues</td>
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<td>• Evidence summaries</td>
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Conclusion

• Key KTT characteristics and concepts should be adopted in agri-food public health to bridge the science-policy gap
  – Credible and relevant research
  – Research end-user linkages
  – Organizational support and culture
  – Understanding of policy-making context

• Several promising KTT methods identified

• More evaluation needed
Acknowledgements

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Questions?