Strengthening Collaborations between Researchers & OMAFRA Staff

OMAFRA-UofG Research Partnership

Presentation at Knowledge Exchange Day
February 04, 2011
Meet and Greet as a KTT Tool

• Last May, Economic Development Policy Branch hosted a “Meet and Greet” event which was well received and very effective as a Knowledge, Translation and Transfer practice.

• Representation from seven University of Guelph departments and programs participated as well as OMAFRA staff for a total of approximately 40 participants.

• The purpose of the event was to:
  – Share OMAFRA’s rural policy research priorities under the Agriculture and Rural Policy research theme;
  – Provide the opportunity for key OMAFRA staff to meet researchers at the University of Guelph & become familiar with their areas of research interest; and
  – Provide the opportunity to explore future collaborations.
Evaluation / Impact of this KTT event

An evaluation, asked:

1. Did participants feel that the event provided them with a greater understanding of the rural policy research theme?

2. Were they interested in doing future research in support of the theme?

Results:

1) 25 out of the 26 evaluations completed stated that the event provided clarity on the rural policy research theme.

2) Of the 22 researchers present, 19 were interested in doing future research in support of the theme. Agriculture and Rural Policy

Interesting comments / Unexpected Outcomes:

• “This event demonstrated how little we (researchers) know about each others’ areas of research. Thanks for organizing!”;
• “This was an excellent networking opportunity for making connections within the University and at OMÁFA”;
• “My experience working with OMAFRA has been excellent – they have provided me with contacts/networking opportunities within government and at other universities”
Interactive Exercise: What Do you Think?

• The current climate in policy research is one of collaboration between government staff and academia.

1. Is this a new paradigm? If so, Why? Has this been your experience?

2. Do you believe that “research is done for research sake?”

3. Should the end user of research have input into the research and / or shape its directions?

4. Do you want input on what KTT vehicles would work best for OMAFRA staff? For KTT products, do you ask: “What OMAFRA do you need from us?”
Conclusions??

- OMAFRA’s current system of encouraging research proposal specific advisors –
  
  –Good? Bad? Indifferent?
Thank you

• Thank you for participating in this brief presentation. We in Economic Development Policy look forward to the opportunity of collaborating with your programs and departments on future research proposals.

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