

# #OFE2021

## Farmer-centric On-Farm Experimentation

Digital Tools for a Scalable Transformative Pathway

13-15 October 2021, Montpellier

### + 4 PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS

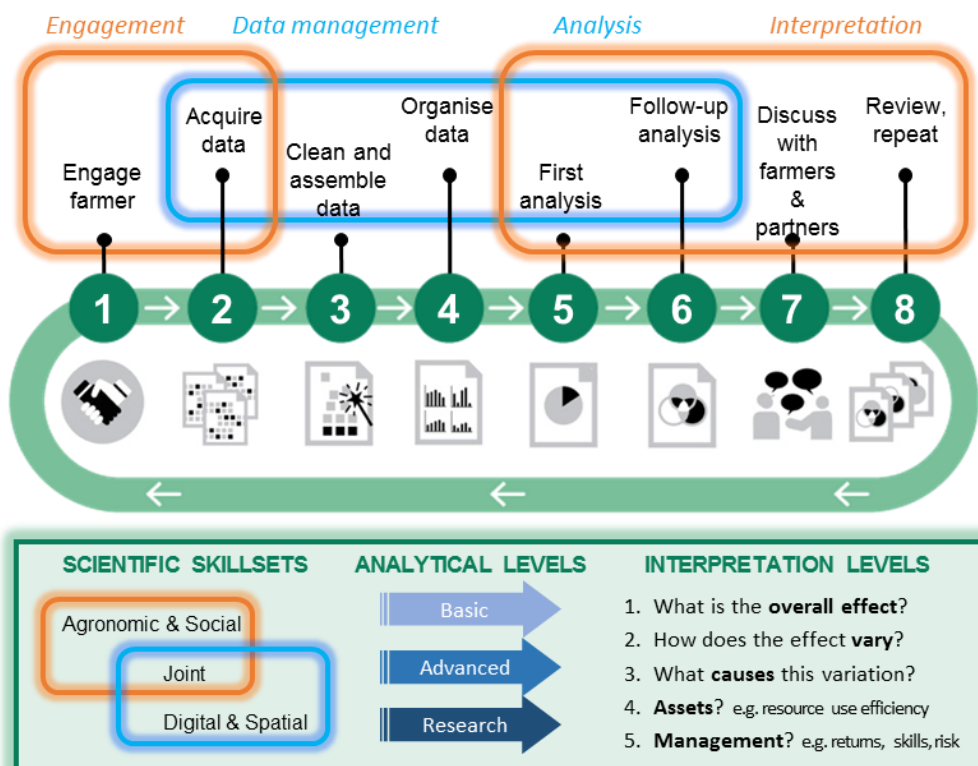
- Theme 1: Value Creation
- Theme 2: People & Processes
- Theme 3: Data & Analytics
- Theme 4: Policy Linkages

May 2021, online

## What is OFE?

Farmer-centric On-Farm Experimentation (OFE) is a **pathway** toward improving agri-food systems.

OFE combines the **knowledge of farmers and experts** to create **valuable insights** that are **directly relevant to farm managers**. It is a practical and adaptable mechanism to bridge the interests of farmers, researchers and other stakeholders that has the potential to transform research and innovation in agriculture.



*"OFE is a deliberate process of exploration with farmers to support their individual learning and decision-making"*

OFE is emerging largely independently across the world, reflecting a change in agricultural research that is only starting to be recognised: the need for decentralised, inclusive, grass-root science to **engage farmers** and foster end-user innovation.

6 principles of OFE:



**1. FARMER-CENTRIC** Farmers fuel the research process



**2. REAL SYSTEMS** Farm own management and scales



**3. EVIDENCE-DRIVEN** Insights are anchored in data



**4. EXPERT-ENABLED** Specialists add value



**5. CO-LEARNING** Emphasis on engaging by sharing

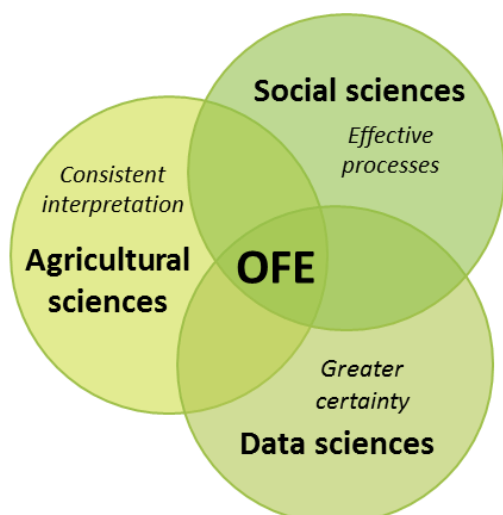


**6. SCALABLE** Socialising mechanisms

A key to OFE success is **flexibility**: the realisation of OFE principles varies with local circumstances, objectives and resources. The **diversity** of OFE initiatives provides opportunities to learn from solutions found in varied contexts.

### Conference priorities:

- To share global experiences of farmer-centric OFE
- To explain OFE innovation process as an alternative RD&E pathway for change
- To identify mechanisms for digital applications, scaling and OFE institutional uptake



**The 4 online pre-conference webinars will prepare the ground for each theme, providing opportunities to discuss key directions and propose preliminary recommendations.**

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