Growing Knowledge Translation and Transfer in Ontario

The Ontario Agri-Food Innovation Alliance supports knowledge translation and transfer (KTT) in agri-food and rural research and works to advance the science of KTT.

KTT is an information exchange and relationship building process described as the transformation of knowledge into use through synthesis, exchange, engagement, dissemination, dialogue, collaboration and brokering among researchers and end users.

For more information:
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Best Practices for KTT in Agri-Food and Rural Research

This resource summarizes leading practices to guide researchers through the development of a KTT plan to move research knowledge into use.

Cultivate KTT Team Capacity

Make sure to have the right expertise – skills, capacity, connections – on your team to create and implement your KTT plan. Build your networks to stay informed about changes in your sector (e.g., policy updates and new funding streams).

Recruit a project team with specific assets and expertise

Create capacity for KTT by recruiting a qualified team.

Build a network of people who can help spread information

Include knowledge brokers, influencers, champions and networks.

Look for potential private sector/industry partners

The private sector can help identify problems and facilitate knowledge-sharing.

Develop a Robust KTT Plan

PLAN

Successful KTT projects begin and are sustained by a plan that is responsive to researchers, collaborators and end users of research. KTT planning finds ways to create capacity, opportunity and motivation for end users to adopt and apply research findings.

Plan and budget for the entire project process (and beyond)

Integrate KTT throughout your project, rather than saving it until the end.
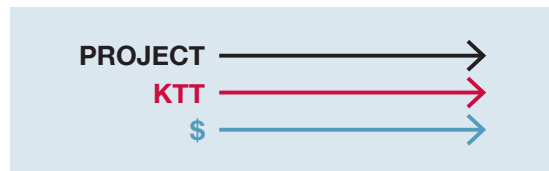
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KTT takes more time than you think

Avoid underestimating how much time you will need to complete KTT projects.

PROJECT →
PROJECT + KTT →

Effective KTT plans are flexible and responsive

Leave room in your plan for researchers, collaborators and end users to adapt to changes in timing, context, issues and more.

Identify and Work Together With Key Collaborators

Those who are interested in and affected by the issues can provide a better understanding of the needs and preferences of research end users. These groups can identify issues and alternative ways of solving problems, and start to build momentum for KTT within their own networks.

Engage collaborators and end users early in the project process

This leads to a better understanding of end user needs and informs decisions about KTT channels, processes and products.
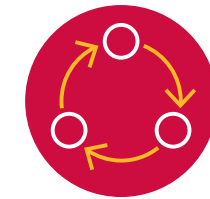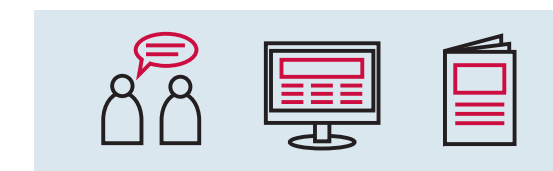
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Know and target end users and influencers

Engagement at various stages of the project helps frame research to be more relevant to end users.

PROJECT →

People learn and access information in different ways, so offer multiple formats and approaches

Offer multiple channels for KTT (e.g., in person, online, on paper).

Manage and Evaluate KTT Process and Product

Successful KTT requires managing and evaluating both the process of collaboratively designing and conducting research projects as well as the knowledge-sharing outputs from the project. Remember, research that is co-created and responsive to end user needs increases the likelihood of uptake and adoption.

Be flexible, responsive and practical during KTT product development

Repeatedly ask key questions. Are the products appropriate for the end user? Is the planned budget still sufficient for the product?
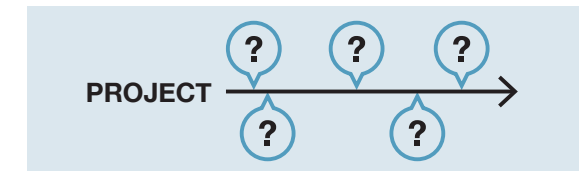
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Evaluate before, during and after KTT projects

Formative, process and outcome evaluation helps determine which approaches are working and what may need to change.

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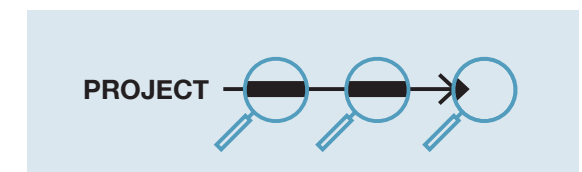
For more information, refer to **A Manual of Best Practices From Agriculture, Agri-Food and Rural KTT Researchers and Practitioners (2010-2018)**