Rationale for and Benefits of a Community for On-Farm Data Sharing

InfoAg Conference
Union Station, St. Louis, MO
3 August 2016

Tom Morris, University of Connecticut
thomas.morris@uconn.edu

Nicolas Tremblay, Agriculture Agri-Food Canada
Nicolas.Tremblay@AGR.GC.CA
Discussion about Data Sharing

How make incremental progress towards sharing data from on-farm research trials or any field-level data?
Current situation

Farmers have agreed to share data, usually verbally, from research trials on their fields with an individual organization (Commodity organization, State Dept of Ag, Nonprofit organization, Extension)

Data includes yield results from field-scale trials, field history, and often an aerial image of the field = location

Farmers have not agreed to share data beyond the organization they work with
How develop sufficient trust for farmers to share data outside their organization?

Develop guidelines for sharing data

a. confidentiality of data
b. ownership of data
c. who can access data
d. fear of misuse of data
What should be in guidelines?
Suggestions from audience

Industry

1. What agreements does industry create with farmers to share data with them?
2. Do the agreements specify who else the data can be shared with?
3. Are agreements written, verbal, digital?
What should be in guidelines?

Suggestions from audience

Farmers/Industry

Use Farm Bureau template?

12 items in template

Anyone have experience using this template in agreements with farmers?
Where should on-farm data reside?

1. A university?
2. National Ag Library?
3. Existing nonprofit?
4. Newly created nonprofit?
5. Commodity organization?
6. Private company?
Interested in joining On-Farm Data Sharing Community?

Email:
Tom Morris: thomas.morris@uconn.edu
Nicolas Tremblay: Nicolas.Tremblay@AGR.GC.CA