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<https://www.nextfood-project.eu/>



Nextfood - Educating the next generation of professionals in the agrifood system

Practice Abstract #19: NextFood Sustainability Impact Framework.

Existing frameworks for evaluating impact resulting from agri-food and forestry research provide little incentive for interactive innovation. So there is a need for devising alternative ways of reviewing and measuring performance in this context. In response to this need, the NextFood Project has developed the NextFood Sustainability Impact Framework. The framework is designed to assess: 1) the various effects of practice-oriented research in the agri-food and forestry sectors; 2) the processes of interactive innovation in this context; and 3) their positioning in relation to use and impact. The NextFood Framework renders evaluation as a dynamic (and continuous or periodical) exercise, where stakeholders themselves and jointly specify the impact aspects relevant to their particular contexts. The temporal features of the framework enable a cumulative articulation of impacts in the course of the research work. This provides for learning, as well as for using indicators that correlate with the timing of the work. Using the framework results in an impact index, including a quantitative and qualitative components. While the framework is primarily oriented to evaluating impacts of applied research, the integrated approach of the NextFood project also encourages the making and strengthening of links between research and education. A potential way of using the framework is as a tool for evaluating impact of education programs in the agri-food sector.