



Crafting Usable Knowledge for Sustainable Development

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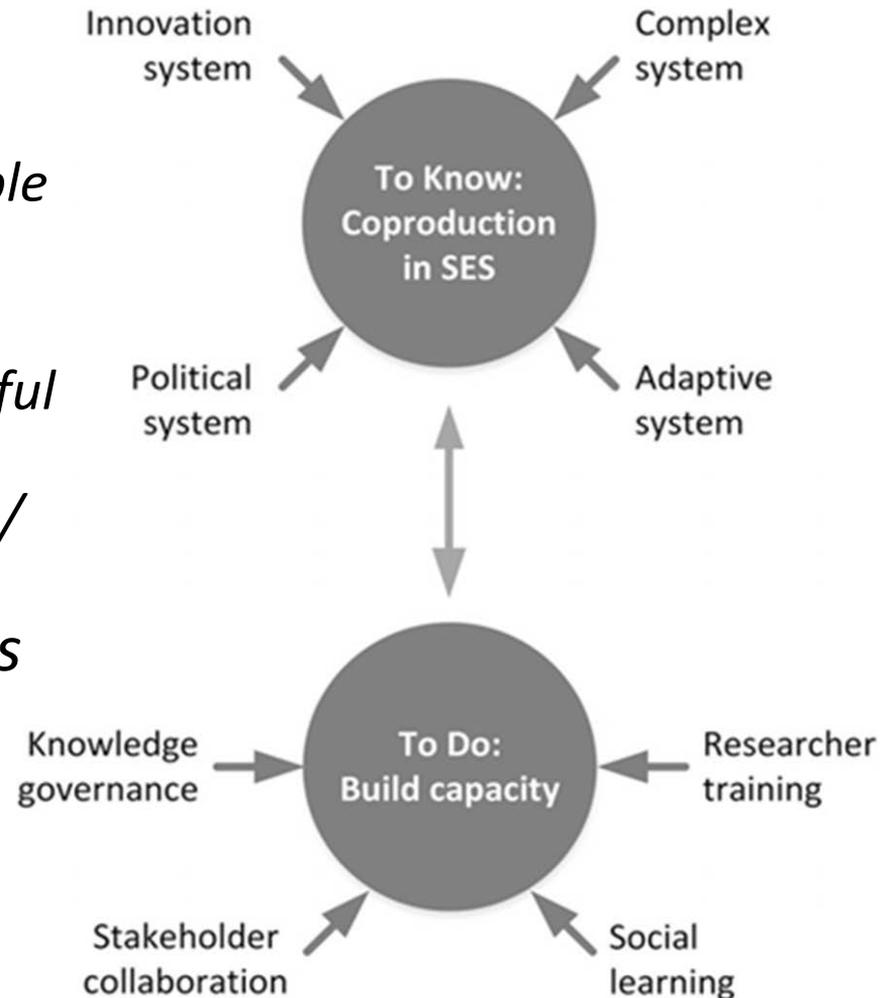
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The Problem...

- Think of the most important thing you've learned in this course that might help you to improve something you care about in the world outside...
- Why would anyone in that outside world believe you... enough to risk their livelihoods, lives on what you say you know?
- Why might they not?
- What can you do about making your knowledge more usable, and more used?

Overview

- *The Goal*
 - *“Informed agitation” for sustainable development*
- *The Challenge*
 - *Too many “agitator” needs for useful knowledge remain unmet*
 - *Too many “researcher” discoveries/inventions fail to inform agitation*
- *One way forward for researchers trying to do better...*
 - *Four key things to know*
 - *Four key things to do*



To Know: Actionable knowledge and knowledgeable action are “coproduced” ...

New knowledge needed for sustainability transitions comes partly from theory, mostly from practice

Innovation system

Complex system

Because SES is complex, new knowledge will be incomplete, often leading to error, unexpected result

In a world full of snake-oil salesmen, coproduction requires building trust.....

Political system

Adaptive system

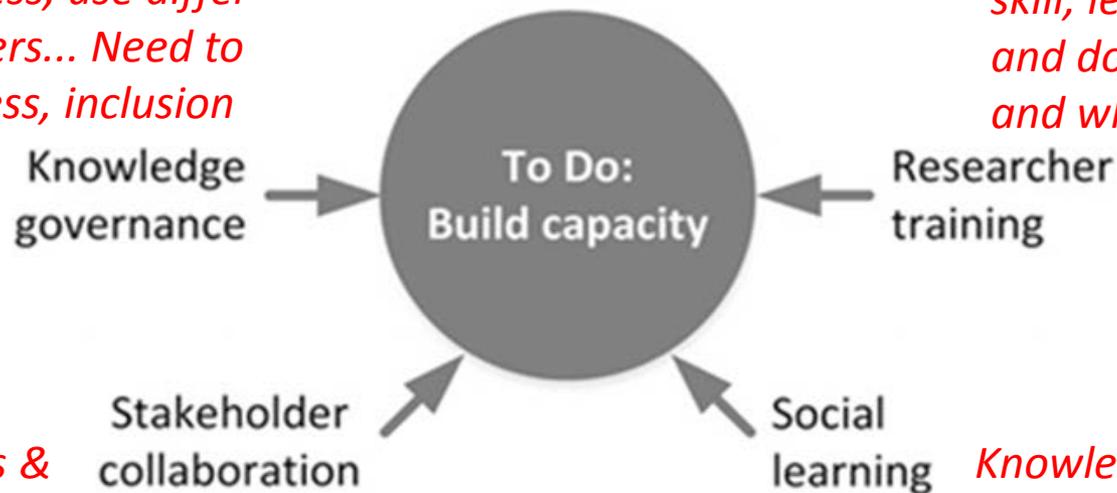
Researchers and DMs therefore need to be willing to acknowledge inevitability of surprise, adapt to it



To Do: Build capacity to support co-production of usable knowledge

Rules for knowledge production, certification, access, use differ across stakeholders... Need to fight for awareness, inclusion

Linking K with A is craft skill, learned by training and doing... But how, and when, in career?



Across disciplines & interests is facilitated by “boundary workers” who remain vulnerable

Knowledge-in-action is an experiment: Goal is learning fast, embracing failure, so build feedback, “county fairs,” safe spaces.

Discussion...

How could “next-gen” universities (& summer schools) better help to promote “informed agitation” for sustainable development?

