



Innovative Partnerships for Improved farmer Health in North west Tasmania

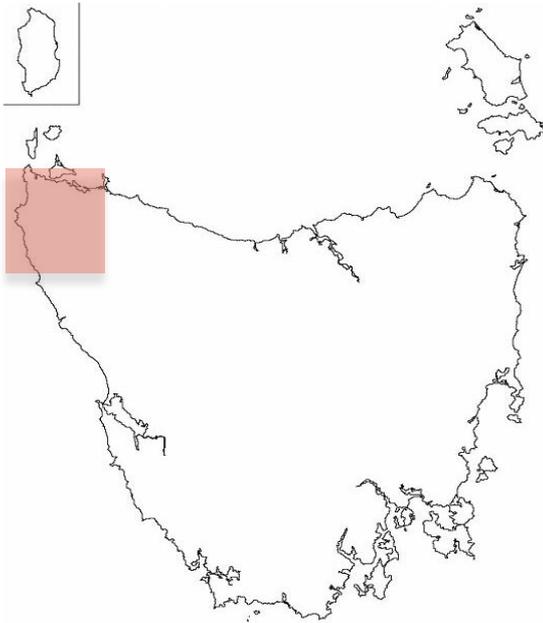
Mr Stuart Auckland, University Department of Rural Health, Tasmania

Ms Maree Gleeson, Tasmanian Institute For Regional Development

**The Institute for
Regional Development
CRADLE COAST CAMPUS**
IMAGINE WHAT CAN HAPPEN



Context – Dairy Farmer Families Circular Head Region



- Pilot Site 2009/10 Sustainable Farm Family Program
- Population 8,263, population density 1.7 persons/square km
- Accounts for 12% of Tas agricultural production
- 145 dairy farms employing 452 people
- Produces 40% of total milk production for the State

Context - Increased health risk to farmers



For farmers:

- Mortality rates for cancer (all types) for both males and females is higher than Tasmania and Australia rates.
- Higher rates of risk factors including obesity, smoking, physical inactivity and high risk alcohol consumption than other parts of Tasmania and Australia
- Higher incidence of suicide and trauma related injuries

Sustainable Farm Families - Circular Head Pilot

Workshops in July 2009/2010

- Circular Head District
- 16 Dairy Farmers (mostly couples)

Partnerships

- National Centre for Farmer Health
- University Department of Rural Health
- Department of Health and Human Services
- Rural Clinical School
- Circular Head Rural Health

Funding and Support

- local and State government
- Farmer Industry groups

Participant Outcomes of the Program

- Most participants found the experience important and life changing
- Many made significant changes to their behaviour to improve their health
- All want to continue gaining support contact through the program



Learnings from Local Community Based SFF Partnerships

- Flexibility in SFF Agreement between NCFH and local program delivery organisation
- Building health and wellbeing into farmer organisations strategic plans
- Value of “boundary crossers” in program design and delivery
- Capacity of stakeholder to support rather than stakeholder profile
- Engagement with representative farmer organisation and local health service providers
- Provide a role for partner organisations in program delivery
- Cultivate a “local health/farmer champion” who will sustain longer term interest in the programs and farmer family interest
- Communication of SFF findings and how they relate to interests of SFF Partners

Health Centred Partnerships with farming communities

Partnerships: relationships and agreements that are actively entered into, on the expectation of benefit, by two or more parties.

Numerous examples of health centred partnerships between external parties and the farming community

- Sustainable Farm Families
- Primary Care Partnerships
- Rural Alive and Well (Tas)
- Rural Adversity Mental Health Program (NSW)
- Healthy Farmers Program (Qld)
- Rural and Farmers Health Service (UK)

Key Features of Successful Farmer Health Partnerships

- Understanding of the interrelationship between the health of farmers and the farm/ rural context.
- Operate within community development principles
- Strong linkages and use of local health/ agricultural networks
- Balance between supply and demand driven processes
- Involvement of Farmer organisations
- Involvement of “local champions” to advocate for work of partnership
- Partnership objectives driven by strong evidence of need
- Use of farmer communication “norms” to promote work of partnership
- Established trust and credibility
- Respond and adapt to changing farmer health environment

Knowledge Partnering (KP)

Definition:

- Knowledge Partnering (KP) is a methodology (approach) for regional and community development.
- KP is based on a recognition of the importance of different kinds of knowledge (local, practical, experiential, cultural, academic...) in development processes.
- KP proposes that innovative solutions can be achieved by actively bringing different kinds of knowledge together.

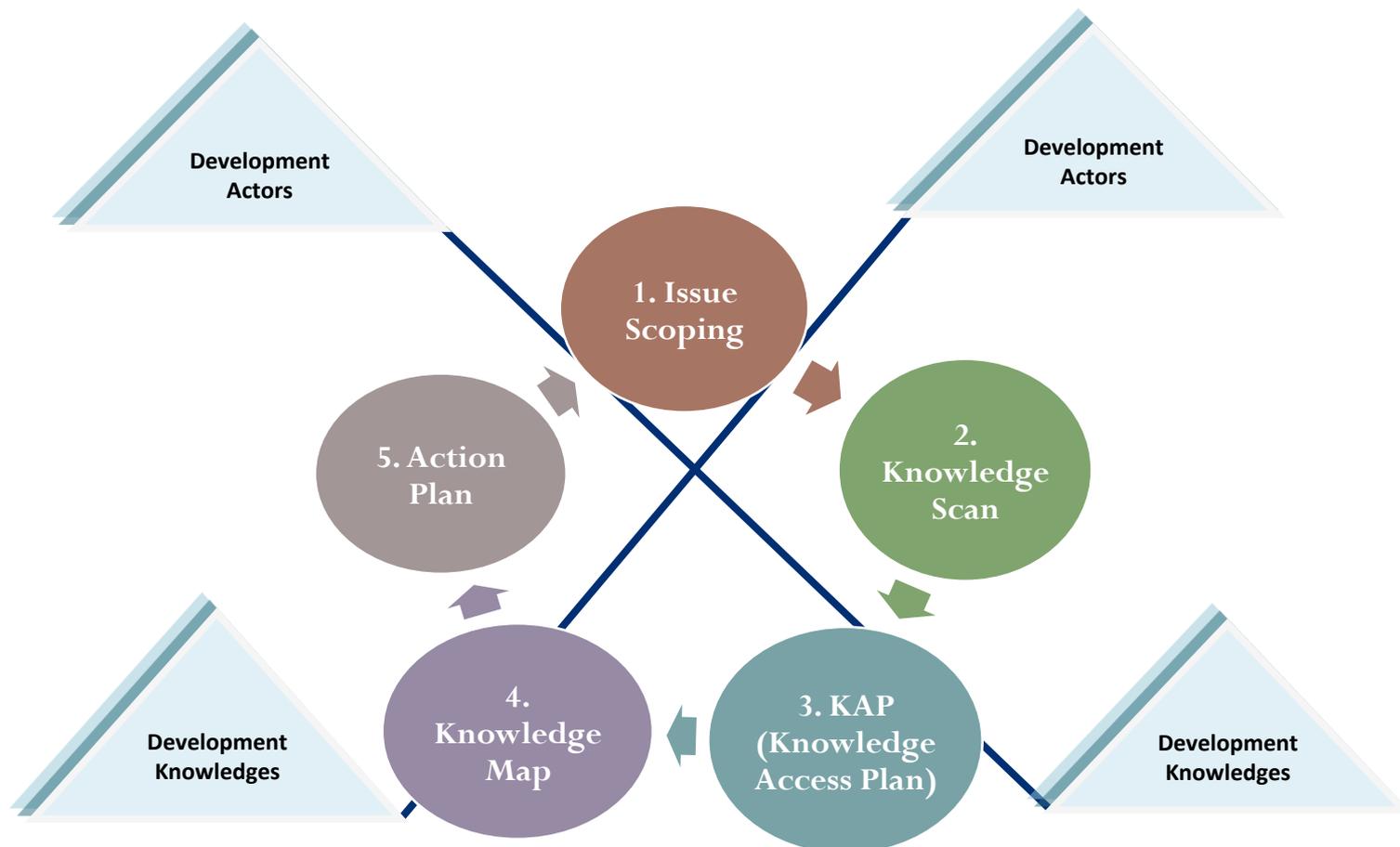


Principles:

- Development is a social process
- Everyone's knowledge matters.
- Local and external development actors need to work together.
- Bringing different kinds of knowledge together stimulates innovation

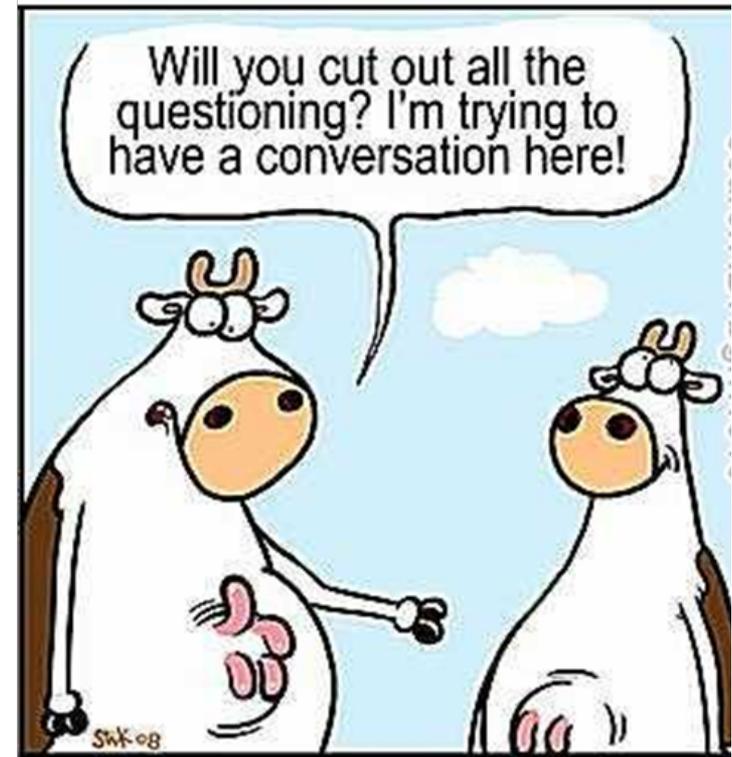
Knowledge Partnering - How it works

5 stage process combining and dialoguing different forms of knowledge

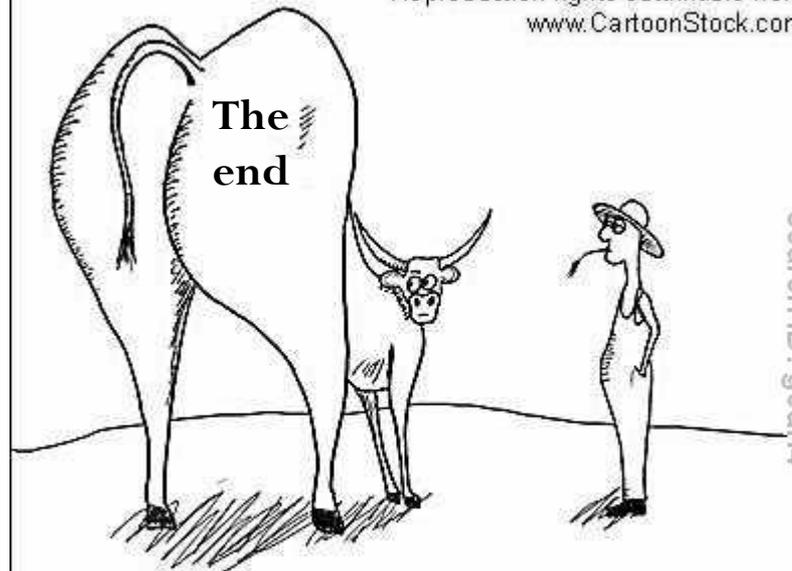


Knowledge Partnering – Application in Farming Communities in Tassie

- SFF – Circular Head Dairy Farmers – NW Tasmania
- Dairy farmers and climate change (TIA-IRD)
- Forestry certification (IRD – REGS Grant)
- Sense T – dairy, beef and aquaculture in Circular Head NW Tasmania



© Original Artist
Reproduction rights obtainable from
www.CartoonStock.com



search ID: gcu4

Jethro suspects someone gave him a bum steer.

GJCaulkins