

ISTRO-CTF workshop summary

How far are we?

- We are convinced that CTF has benefits in all situations and can solve many problems
 - To what extent can CTF provide solutions in different situations? (root crops, climates, plough/no-till, weeds)
- We see no serious drawbacks requiring research before trying implementation on a farm scale: further research parallel to implementation
- Further R&D should:
 - Help farmers to get CTF working
 - Maximise benefits for specific situations
 - Monitor situation-specific benefits and drawbacks

ISTRO-CTF workshop summary

Actual priority

- Convince others so that selected farmers start adopting CTF principles (supported by research)
 - Fellow scientists
 - Stakeholders, problem-owners
 - Farmers, contractors
 - Implement manufacturers (supply)
 - Food industry (demand)
 - Organisations / interest groups
 - Government and funding bodies
 - Reconsider our attitude: between salesperson and a modest, critical objective scientist
- Next phase: snowball-expansion to have more farmers and implement manufacturers consider and apply CTF principles
- Final goal: achieve maximum value of CTF principles to farmers, environment and society

ISTRO-CTF workshop summary

How to proceed?

- Focus on universal system benefits (workable days, machine use efficiency, flexibility, soil structure, energy use, uniformity, doing things right makes farming easier and more rewarding)
- Focus on solving fundable problems (erosion, weed control / organic, biodiversity, compaction, N₂O emissions) rather than promoting the CTF system
- **WHO** needs to be convinced of **WHAT** by **WHOM**?
 - Farmers hold the key, so we start there...
 - Show that farmers can make it work and like it
 - Develop a research / adoption / communication strategy

ISTRO-CTF workshop summary

Develop adoption strategy

- Key target groups and their driving forces?
- Perceptions or problems to be overcome?
- What exactly should the message be? (what not?)
 - How to conceive CTF, avoiding wrong associations?
Alternative terms: Precise Bed Farming, ...
- Whom to involve at what stage to do what?
- Where to start (e.g. high-value crops, clear problems)
- Steps in the adoption process? (e.g. start with current machinery and most important problem)
- Several options mentioned:
 - Advice on implement widths at replacement: gradual
 - Help selected farmers
 - Widths offered by machine manufacturers, modularisation
 - Have governments setting requirements, subsidies
 - Rigorous farm & mechanisation redesign + demo