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, N$_2$O 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