



Linking Knowledge To Action

María Del Mar Delgado-Serrano, María José Ambrosio-Albalá & Alice Newton, Department Of Agricultural Economics, University Of Córdoba, Spain

ABSTRACT

Connecting scientific knowledge and tools to society interests and actions remains an urgent research challenge that must be met to enable the fundamental societal transformations needed to move towards sustainable, low-carbon global societies. Natural and physical aspects have had a leading role in the building of knowledge about Climate Change. However Climate Change societal aspects have attracted less scientific attention (ISSC, 2012). There is a growing body of evidences highlighting that new ways of approaching Climate Change issues need to be considered. To link Knowledge to Action interdisciplinary, transdisciplinary and excellent research is needed on:

1) The factors determining individual and collective perception and behaviour facing climate change. To propose solutions to environmental pressures, an appropriate characterization of the socio-cultural factors shaping Climate Change perception should be undertaken. Knowledge of the sociological factors influencing individuals to internalize, react or deny the reality of Climate Change emerges as a new area of research (Nagel et al., 2010) necessary to fully engage people with the issue and with the relevance of their own actions.

2) The barriers that hinder effective science-society communication and co-responsibility in adaptive and mitigation strategies. New ways of science-society interactions are necessary to display consequences of Climate Change in recognizable and manageable terms for society (Spence et al., 2012), delivering information accessible, understandable and comprehensive (Dilling and Lemos, 2011) and creating usable knowledge in iterative communication processes between scientists and information users.

New efforts and approaches are needed on co-designing and developing research to: 1) society increase knowledge and awareness of the influence of individual and collective behaviour on climate change; 2) scientists increase the effort in delivering society-friendly knowledge and 3) policy-makers delivering sound and acceptable policies and engaging society to adaptation and mitigation strategies.

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