

# Toward an integrative framework for the governance of sustainable agricultural innovation

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Auvikki de Boon, Prof. Camilla  
Sandström, & Dr. David Rose

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## Background

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Change in requirements & circumstances

Innovation as a mean to address these challenges

But:

- > multiple possible pathways & futures
- > potential consequences likely distributed unevenly across society

Thus:

innovation is highly political & normatively laden



## Current literature & theoretical approaches

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Focus on technological innovation

Main emphasis on:

- > creating systems that support specific innovations
- > how to increase the societal uptake of innovations

Limited understanding of:

- > alternative forms of innovation
- > political dimension
- > normative dimension

## Methods

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### Structured literature review

- > First draft of components & their connections

### Insights from:

- > empirical studies
- > Theory of Planned Behaviour
- > Agricultural Innovation Systems
- > Multi-Level Perspective
- > Innovation Management
- > Responsible (Research &) Innovation
- > Natural Resource Governance/Governance of Socio-Ecological Systems

### To structure the framework:

- > Emerson & Nabatchi's Collaborative Governance Regimes

## Governing agricultural innovation

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### Governance System:

Structures & processes of decision making and implementation, how power is exercised & responsibilities carried out

### Normative aim:

sustainable processes & outcomes

### Conditions of uncertainty:

need for flexible & adaptable processes

Need for deliberate reflexivity



**This way**



**That way**

## Governing agricultural innovation

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### Guiding questions targeting:

- > involvement of stakeholders
- > power relations
- > underlying values
- > potential consequences
- > potential alternatives

### Goal:

- > create awareness & understanding
- > enable learning
- > support informed decision-making
- > form a base for re-articulation & reconfiguration  
of aims, values, & practices



## Concluding remarks

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Numerous future research opportunities

Hope to generate more critical and reflexive debates

Support policy makers & innovators in the design of innovation processes

Support assessment of the (social) sustainability of innovation processes





# Thank you!

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Questions?