



GLOBAL WATER FUTURES

SOLUTIONS TO WATER THREATS
IN AN ERA OF GLOBAL CHANGE

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Ensuring Research Impact: **Precipitation Extremes Project** **Knowledge mobilization**

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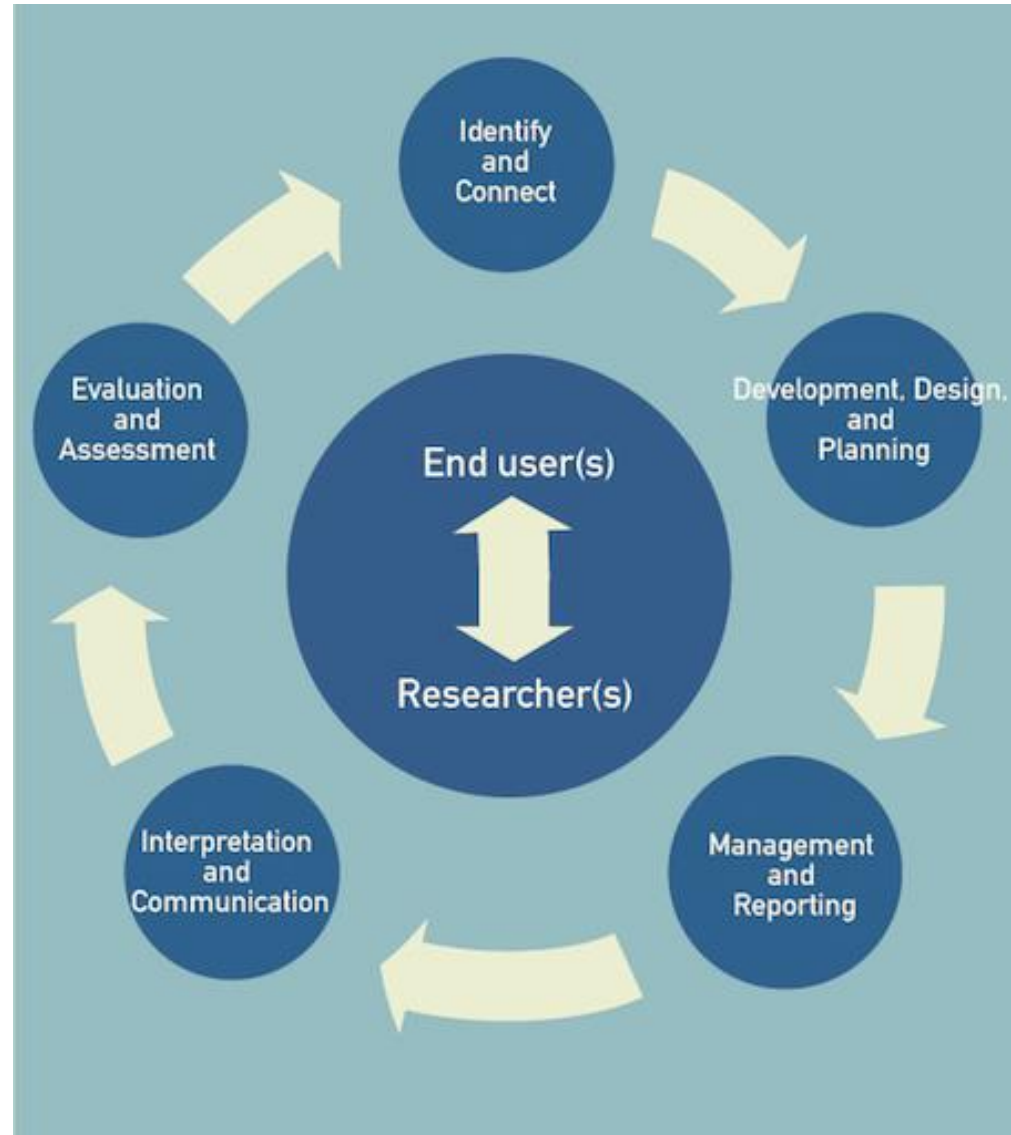
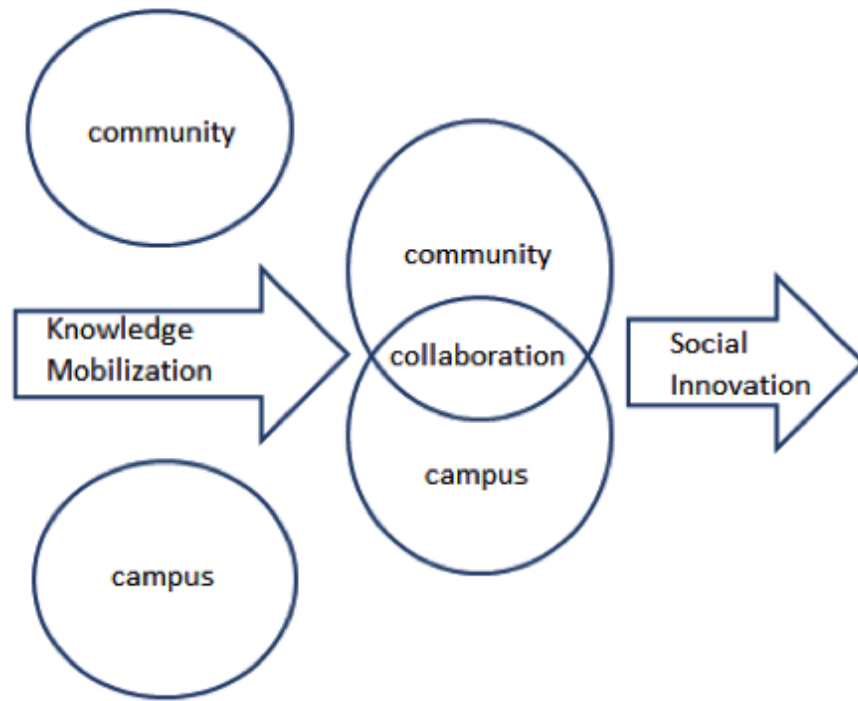
KNOWLEDGE MOBILIZATION IS A CORE MANDATE OF
GLOBAL WATER FUTURES

“The ability to mobilize knowledge for the benefit of society and the economy is a defining characteristic of the entire Global Water Futures CFREF program.”





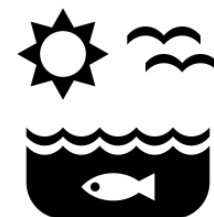
KM is...





KM is a process that can increase your chances of impact

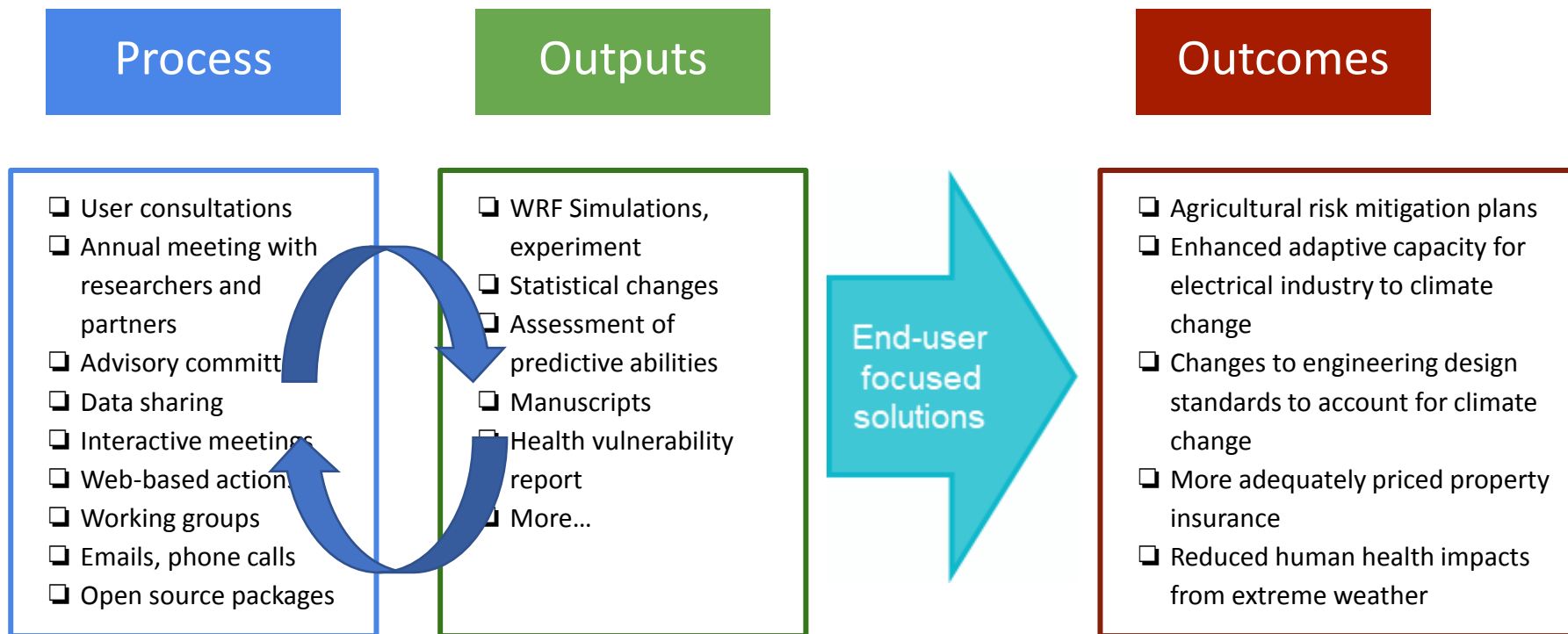
- There is no recipe for 'how' you do it – it depends on your project goals and players
- A pathway to success needs to be planned
- But it's also about being flexible and opportunistic
- It's a continual process of engagement, feedback, iteration





Planning for Impact

“Help users cope with environmental, health and economic impacts of climate-related precipitation extremes”





Documenting Impact

- Articulate and communicate the progress/success with partners and collaborators; attract new ones
- Provides accountability for the use of public funds to solve problems of public interest
- Advances your career:
 - Support applications for tenure or promotion
 - Builds reputation as a trustworthy applied researcher
 - Leveraging further funding
 - Make a tangible difference to issues that are important to you
- Tri-council agency funding requirement





Annual reporting is an opportunity not a burden ;)

1. A chance to **look backward** to evaluate and document the successes and impacts this past year
 - ★ **Process** – Are your engagement activities effective?
 - ★ **Outputs** - Are the products developed being seen and used?
 - ★ **Impact** – What influence or difference is your research making?
2. A chance to **look forward** to plan, prioritize and focus KM process/activities for effective outputs to increase chance of impact heading into final year of phase I

What Documenting Process Looks Like

- Examine the success of the engagement between researchers and partners/collaborators/end users
- Takes place through activities that foster two-way knowledge exchange

Process indicators:

- # / type of knowledge exchange activities
- # / type of products/services developed or disseminated with partner collaboration
- Satisfaction levels of partners/users

Measure through:

- Surveys
- Workshop evaluation forms
- Oral stories and sharing circles
- Interviews & focus groups
- Testimonials
- Partners re-engaging with next phases or (re)committing cash / in kind resources

What Documenting Outputs Looks Like

- Examining the success of the delivery mechanism(s) to transfer your research knowledge
- Ideally co-created/informed with/by partners

Output indicators

- # adapting the information, # using to inform training
- # observed change, # reported change
- #change in parameters below threshold
- Policy, program or service change, Knowledge change,
- Attitude change

Measure through:

- Web analytics
- Workshop evaluation
- Partner surveys
- Knowledge reproduced
- Partner AGMs
- Informal one-one conversations
- Networking events

Use your evaluations to write a compelling **impact** story



In a written narrative for a report, website, article, or case study pull your evaluations together and talk about:

- The progression of the project chronologically
- The end-user rather than the researcher perspective
- The equal-footing given to partners; how incorporated partner ideas
- How new connections/collaborations were fostered and different needs overcome
- How the next generation of scientists and practitioners have been trained (HQPs)
- How community or institutional capacity has been created
- How the solutions are being taken up by users for their work, decision-making
- The water-related environmental, social or economic challenges that have been made better through this knowledge mobilization

- ❑ Agricultural risk mitigation plans
- ❑ Enhanced adaptive capacity for electrical industry to climate change
- ❑ Changes to engineering design standards to account for climate change
- ❑ More adequately priced property insurance
- ❑ Reduced human health impacts from extreme weather

Example Impact Story: York Region Food Network

The research support from York University's Faculty of Environmental Studies, **along with a United Way York Region Strength Investment, operational leadership and a committed Food Charter Working Group** developed and **delivered a Food Charter** for York Region.

The charter is a **guiding document** for the development of coordinated **food-related policies and services** in York Region. Since its inception in 2012, it has **formally been adopted by eight Committees and Councils** throughout York Region. Other highlights around the impact of this work are as follows:

- Leveraged over **\$375,000** in programs, research and policy development funds
- Helped support **12** community food projects
- Enabled over **50** community partnerships for the purposes of advancing food policy

YRFN was successful in securing an **Ontario Centres of Excellence grant** supporting development research and around a vibrant **Aquaponics lab** in Newmarket.

This social venture enabled YRFN to explore new **community engagement opportunities through a pilot** urban agriculture demonstration hub.

For YRFN, development of the Food Charter has enabled the organization to **assert itself into broader conversations of stronger, healthier and more prosperous communities** across York Region.

While **four regional municipalities have formally adopted** the Food Charter, this ongoing connection with leading research can help YRFN as it advances its work throughout the Region and beyond.

<http://researchimpact.ca/york-region-food-network/>



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The GWF KM Team can assist

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