

P: Friday, July 7, 12.45-14.00

P02: Poster Session 2

Social Learning for Transformations Towards Resilient Small-scale Agriculture: A Review

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The need for transformations towards resilient agriculture is imminent in the face of the climate crisis. Unfortunately, such transformations are occurring too slowly and the food system remains a huge contributor to climate change and is simultaneously extremely vulnerable to its effects. Furthermore, achieving resilience remains a complex task in itself as a system must be able to anticipate, prevent, cope with, and adapt to shocks and stressors. In response, the concept of social learning is increasingly being promoted as an effective mechanism for inspiring these much needed transformations, as learning and knowledge are deemed essential to building pathways towards resilience. We conducted a systematic literature review (SLR) to examine this connection between social learning and transformations towards resilience. The review aims to answer several research questions including what is the role of social learning in promoting transitions in small-scale resilient agriculture? And, to what extent is social learning a solution towards building resilience? The study aims to answer these questions by looking at the factors influencing social learning processes as well as their outcomes. In total, 39 articles were selected from Web of Science and coded and analyzed using atlas.ti. The study finds that there are many underlying positive assumptions about the role of social learning in transformations towards resilience, but there remains little insight as to how or why these learning processes lead to transformative actions. The study also finds that while almost all case studies lead to participant's changes in understanding about either climate-related issues or resilient agricultural practices, less than half of the studies noted the sustained adoption of transformative actions. Some of the key factors that influenced the adoption of factors included participatory on-farm demonstrations and addressing perceived risks from making on-farm changes. Based on this review, we propose a conceptual framework that outlines certain factors that are more likely to lead to adoption of transformative actions, taking into account differences in socio-economic contexts of smallholder farmers globally. Finally, with the results of the review, we aim to inform the direction of future studies that seek to investigate social learning as a solution to achieving resilience.