



A Roadmap for FSD (2015-2020)

October 7, 2015

This document has been drafted by Jacques Wery (chair of the FSD5 Scientific Committee) on the basis of a meeting held on Thursday September 9, 2015 and informal discussions during the FSD5 conference. As indicated in this document, initiatives are welcome to “pave” this road.

There is a wide agreement to continue the FSD initiative as a worldwide, **interdisciplinary** and cross-sectoral group of scientists working on methodologies for the analysis and design of agricultural systems. The core of this initiative is on

- The farm system and its interactions with food systems, ecosystems and global change
- The innovation and design process in agricultural systems
- Capacity building in methodologies for systems analysis and design in agriculture
- Stimulation of research and application of this research beyond the core group of this community, currently largely concentrated in some countries such as France, Australia and in some universities networks like Wageningen University and research centers, as shown by the attendance to FSD5. To strengthen this interdisciplinary basis of FSD linkages to scientific societies will have to be developed, especially in the livestock, economy and grasslands domains.

Whether or not it could become a community of practice will depend on the involvement of the members of this community and on the involvement of an institution to provide the basic support to the FSD activities (web site and part-time of a webmaster). The European society of agronomy (ESA) has played this role for the FSD5 conference with the support from French institutions and will ensure the **short term continuity** through its secretariat to maintain the FSD website and Email list, but a more sustainable option need to be found. Proposals for 2016 and beyond are welcome (*contact Brigitte Cabantous at secretary@european-agronomy.org*).

Each participant to the FSD5 conference will be included in the member list of the FSD community as well as scientists who declared their interest but were not able to attend.

The FSD5 website will remain active to disseminate the contents of the conference and to support the international visibility of our research outside the FSD community.

Each specific activity of this FSD community will have to be managed by a group of **committed individual members with the support of their institution**.

What should be the activities of this community?

Organizing a **specific FSD conference** to “nourish” the community is needed but every two years is too frequent, considering the number of conferences which partially overlap (e.g. IFSA, bi-annual conferences of scientific societies....). These FSD conference will be organized every four years the next one being proposed in 2019 (or eventually 2018) and hosted by Argentina and Uruguay (contact Santiago Dogliotti ssandog@gmail.com and pablo.tittonell@wur.nl)

In between these conferences members of the FSD community will propose specific **FSD sessions or symposium in thematic conferences** (such as Global Food Security, Climate Smart Agriculture, Grasslands, Horticulture...) or **disciplinary conferences** organized by scientific societies (e.g. in Agronomy, Economy, Livestock, Grasslands ...) at international or national levels. Each member of the FSD community can **candidate to play the role of “bridge”** with these other initiatives and congress. *Send proposals to Jacques Wery at secretary@european-agronomy.org*

As a follow up of FSD5 a special focus will be made on **Africa in 2016-2017** in order to contribute to capacity building and projects development on the analysis and design of agricultural systems. We are **looking for opportunities** to contribute to initiatives supported by African national and international institutions (conferences, workshops, projects....). Each member of the FSD community can **candidate to play the role of “bridge”** with these other initiatives and congress. *Send proposals to Brigitte Cabantous at secretary@european-agronomy.org*

The **FSD Course** for PhD and young scientists launched during the FSD5 conference as a collaborative project between SupAgro, IAMM, WUR and QAAFI) will be further developed with the aim to become in 2017 a worldwide Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) which could support capacity buildings in international research projects and institutions. The second test version of the FSD course will take place in 2016 in Africa and we are **looking for an institution to host** it. *Send proposals to Jacques Wery at secretary@european-agronomy.org*

Any **other initiative** is welcome provided there is a **committed group** of members of the FSD community to support it. *Send proposals to Jacques Wery at secretary@european-agronomy.org*