



MS 6.3: "Deliberative forms for outcomes evaluation"

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Background

1

In the CoreOrganic project MIX-ENABLE, we assumed that the linear model of communicating scientific knowledge to practitioners (e.g. farmers) is too simplistic to deal with complex information and specific processes between science and practice (Cash et al., 2003).

In MIX-ENABLE, we involve actors (e.g., farmers, extension workers, researchers, etc.) interested in mixed-livestock farming via, for example, participatory workshops, peer-to-peer learning, or stable schools and also via targeted dissemination action (field days, training, and courses).

We systematically assess the quality of the project and the project outcomes by having participants complete deliberative evaluation forms during participatory and dissemination activities. **The evaluation is mandatory for all MIX-ENABLE dissemination and learning activities.**

On the following pages, you find different methods for your deliberative evaluation process.

Further Information:

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What is a deliberative evaluation

A deliberative approach is characterised by a process of reasoning, through which participants are allowed to **reflect, discuss, question, and think**.

This process can be performed **individually or in small groups**. Most people prefer the participatory assessment performed in small groups, but this approach needs more time.

There are mainly **two topics** covered in the evaluation:

- Quality of the content:
 - Relevant content
 - understandable inputs and presentation
- Quality of the process:
 - moderation
 - involvement and participation of attendees

Which events need to be evaluated?

Different events will be evaluated during MIX-ENABLE, e.g., learning events like **courses, training and education, workshops, stable schools or peer-to-peer learning and field days**. They all need to be evaluated.

Below are some questions that will be asked at the end of your learning or dissemination session. Some questions are mandatory and must be asked. Others are optional. It is up to you to select the questions you are interested in and, if necessary, to add new questions.

2

Expectations from MIX-ENABLE

We expect the organisers of the respective events to distribute and collect the feedback forms/questionnaires at the end of the workshop.

The forms/questionnaires are then electronically recorded/digitised/photographed by the organisers. The digitised feedback is then forwarded to **bernadette.oehen@fibl.org** for documentation and final analysis.

Methods for a deliberative evaluation

We developed **two options** on how to evaluate the event:

- **Option 1:** Questionnaire for the deliberative evaluations of learning and dissemination events by individual participants. Here each person considers the event individually. The time needed to fill in the form about 10 minutes.
- **Option 2:** Participatory evaluation of workshops and training by groups. Here a small group of people evaluate the event with a participatory method. The time needed for the process is about 30 minutes.

Option 1: Questionnaire for the deliberative evaluation of learning and dissemination events by individual participants

At the beginning of an event, the evaluation form is distributed (see Annex). Each participant gives personal feedback at the end of the event.

Compulsory questions for all events (mandatory)

- *Motivation:* Why did you attend the event? Were your expectations met?
- *Impact:* What ideas and inspirations did you get at the event? What would you like to implement at your farm?
- *Outlook:* Where do you see further need for extension/dissemination linked to mixed farming systems?
- Description of the farmers and his farm

Male	<input type="checkbox"/>	Female	<input type="checkbox"/>
Certified Organic Farm	<input type="checkbox"/>	Farm in conversion to organic	<input type="checkbox"/>
Farm based in which municipality			
Your age		Do I see myself as a family farmer?	<input type="checkbox"/>
Farm size		Number of farm enterprises	
Share of permanent pasture		Share of arable land	
Livestock species			
Main crop plants			
How did you hear about this course?			

Additional questions (*optional*)

- Which topics or sequences were particularly useful/good on today's course?
- Would you recommend this event to a friend?
- Are there topics you missed today?
- Where do you see further need for research activities?
- Would you like to be contacted in up to two weeks to discuss the implementation of a strategy presented today?
- Would you like to be updated about the outcome of the project?

Option 2: Participatory, deliberative evaluation of learning and dissemination events by a group of participants

Divide your attendees into small groups of 3-4. Ask to brainstorm together about the following mandatory questions:

- Why did you attend the event?
- What ideas and inspirations did you get at the event?
- What would you like that to implement on your farm?
- Where do you see further need for extension/dissemination linked to mixed farming systems?

The groups discuss first, and they write topics to be relevant, either on the cards or on a piece of paper.

The feedback is collected on a flip chart – all contribute, but only the new topics are added to the compilation

In case you work with cards: collect the cards and group or cluster similar topics. Try to find significant headings for each group or cluster.

At the end of the evaluation, each participant fills in the form below (see attachment)

Male	<input type="checkbox"/>	Female	<input type="checkbox"/>
Certified Organic Farm	<input type="checkbox"/>	Farm in conversion to organic	<input type="checkbox"/>
Farm based in which municipality			
Your age		Do you see yourself as a family farm?	<input type="checkbox"/>
Farm size		Number of farm enterprises	
Share of permanent pasture		Share of arable land	
Livestock species			
Main crop plants			
How did you hear about this course?			

Attachment

Please note

- Do you opt for group evaluation or individual evaluation?
- Select the appropriate form
- Would you mind keeping the mandatory questions
- Change the optional questions as needed

Deliberative evaluation form for teaching and dissemination events



Event:

Date:

Location:

Dear Participant, Your feedback is essential to improve our dissemination activities during the EU-funded project MIX-ENABLE continually. Please complete the following evaluation form and hand it to the group leader/workshop leader at the end of the course.

By filling in this form, you agree that the information given is analysed.

Male	<input type="checkbox"/>	Female	<input type="checkbox"/>
Certified Organic Farm	<input type="checkbox"/>	Farm in conversion to organic	<input type="checkbox"/>
Farm based in which municipality			
Your age		Do you see yourself as a family farm?	<input type="checkbox"/>
Farm size		Number of farm enterprises	
Share of permanent pasture		Share of arable land	
Livestock species			
Crop plants produce			
How did you hear about this course?			

Why did you attend the event?				
Were your expectations met?	<i>very well</i>	<i>alright</i>	<i>sufficient</i>	<i>insufficient</i>
What ideas and inspirations did you get at the event? What would you like to implement at your farm?				
Where do you see further need for extension/dissemination linked to mixed farming systems?				

<i>Optional questions:</i>	
Which topics or sequences were particularly useful/good on today's course?	
Would you recommend this event to a friend?	
Are there topics you missed today?	
Where do you see further need for research activities?	
Would you like to be contacted in up to two weeks to discuss the implementation of a strategy presented today?	
Would you like to be updated about the outcomes of the project? If yes, please share your email-address with us.	

How did you like this event? (Optional)

Topic	very well	alright	sufficient	insufficient
General impression				
Presentation on (<i>add a topic</i> , name of the speaker)				
Presentation on (<i>add a topic</i> , name of the speaker)				
Presentation on (<i>add a topic</i> , name of the speaker)				
Presentation on (<i>add a topic</i> , name of the speaker)				
Availability of relevant and understandable information				
Location, catering				
Course leader/Moderation				

Deliberative evaluation form for teaching and dissemination events (Participatory deliberative evaluation)



Event:

Date:

Location:

Dear participant, your feedback is essential to improve our dissemination activities continually during the EU-funded project MIX-ENABLE.

Please discuss in your group the following questions:

- Why did you attend the event?
- What ideas and inspirations did you get at the event?
- What would you like that to implement on your farm?
- Where do you see further need for extension/dissemination linked to mixed farming systems?

Please complete the following evaluation form and hand it to the group leader/workshop leader at the end of the course.

By filling in this form, you agree that the information given is analysed.

Male	<input type="checkbox"/>	Female	<input type="checkbox"/>
Certified Organic Farm	<input type="checkbox"/>	Farm in conversion to organic	<input type="checkbox"/>
Farm based in which municipality			
Your age		Do you see yourself as a family farm?	<input type="checkbox"/>
Farm size		Number of farm enterprises	
Share of permanent pasture		Share of arable land	
Livestock species			
Crop plants produce			
How did you hear about this course?			