

Sharing ethical perspectives in agricultural sustainability research

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"What is, and ought to be, the human use of the Earth? In other words, sustainability is primarily — and perhaps most importantly — about our moral relationships with the world — i.e., about ethics."

-William Clark (2006)¹

Activities in this project

- Completed a literature review: “Ethics and agroecology” & “Ethics in industrial ecology”
- Created a 1-credit graduate seminar from the review (see in link)
- Created a 90-min workshop for a conference, the International Symposium on Sustainable Systems and Technologies (see link).



1. <https://www.nature.com/scitable/knowledge/library/sustainability-science-ethical-foundations-and-emerging-challenges-24319566/>

Topics in the Seminar & Workshop

- Introductions and clarifying intentions
 - Positionality discussed by each member
- Introduction to environmental ethics and its relationship to AE/IE
- Ethical perspectives noted in Agroecology
- Ethical perspectives noted in Industrial Ecology
- Integration of Agroecology and Industrial Ecology frameworks
- Mapping our research methods and approaches to domains
- Mapping literature to ethical perspectives
- Alternative imaginaries in agriculture

Please comment on whether you've spent time considering your ethical perspectives in relation to your research. If yes, please elaborate.

5 responses

No

I have not considered the ethical perspective in relation to my research, but I feel that this class will educate me in looking at my own research through a different lens.

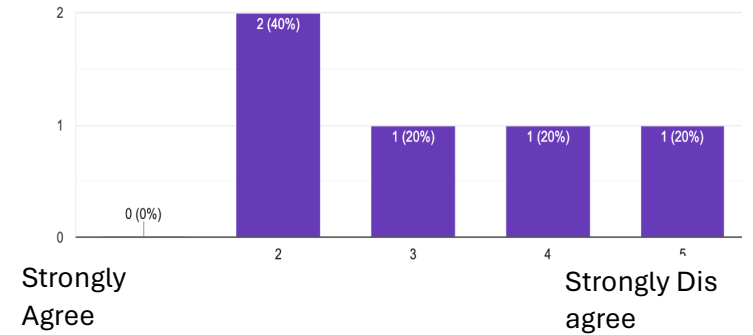
I have to learn more about it.

No that I remember. Maybe when I saw the way that agriculture is developed in USA how it sometimes does not consider the animal welfare and how it turns to waste materials that could be recycled or used.

Western science is critical to sustainable development.

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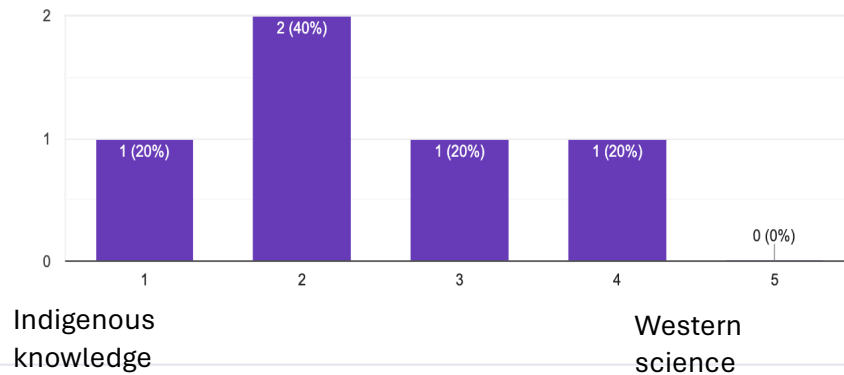
5 responses



Which perspective do you think is more critical to realizing "sustainability"?

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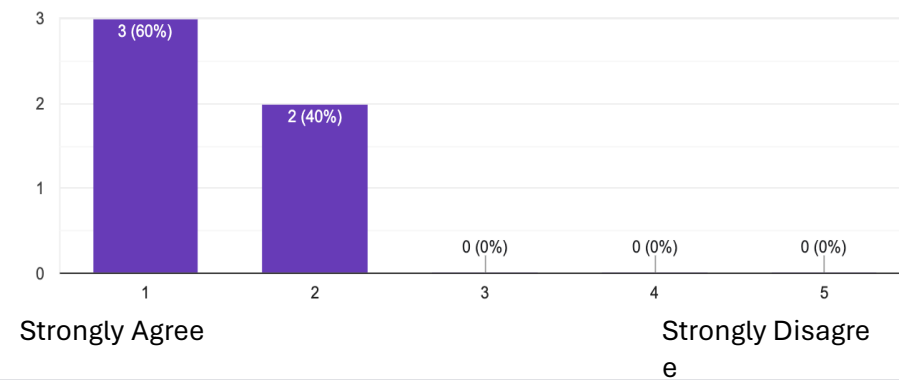
5 responses



Indigenous knowledge is critical to sustainable development.

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5 responses



Conference Workshop Feedback

What do you think about discussing our opinions on environmental ethics in teams working on sustainability projects?

“I think it is important to discuss and keep in mind since sustainability does include the social aspect.”

“It's critical and not done often enough.”

“I think it is very useful for teams.”

What did you like or dislike about exploring how your work in sustainability of systems relates (or doesn't) to perspectives in environmental ethics?

“This workshop definitely broadened my horizons and made me think about the importance of environmental ethics in my work more.”

“I would have liked to have gone deeper into concepts of sustainability -- really challenging our technical foundations and where they come from.”

“Helps to generate takeaways about how we can include the information and knowledge shared into our own future research.”

This work was supported by a Rock Ethics Institute seed grant and a USDA NIFA A1414 conference grant: 2023-68016-40134

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