Innovative Methods and Metrics for Agriculture and Nutrition Actions

Overview

This web interface is linked to the data in the IMMANA Evidence and Gap Map (EGM), which summarizes research innovation in tools, metrics and methods to understand food systems and agriculture-nutrition linkages in the last ten years. A detailed methodological protocol that explains the process of creating the EGM is available at: https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1002/cl2.1035. The map is published on the ANH Academy website: https://www.anh-academy.org/.

Data structure

This portal allows users to explore the data independently from the map by choosing various codes. Users can search titles, abstracts and authors in the first tab. Under the tab 'Reports', users can list out the bibliographic and coding assignments for any sub-set of articles by selecting categories from the expanded list provided. Users can then create cross-tabulations of coding categories, additionally filtered by the categories. Lastly, users can 'Explore' the data by expanding the 'Data extraction tool'. The list will show the number of items with each code as a link, which can be selected to show in a list the relevant items with all their coding attributes. The interface will save previous searches and actions, which can then be combined with 'AND' or 'OR'.

Technical problems

Both the EGM and the web interface linking to the data are a work in progress. If something doesn't work or you get an error message, try reloading the page or a hard refresh of the browser. It may mean you have to log in again. If problems persist, you have a question, or would like to provide feedback about the map, please do not hesitate to contact us at immana@lshtm.ac.uk.

Guidance on interpretation

The EGM summarizes the number of reports that describe new or new applications of tools, metrics and methods in the agri-health space. However, many reports employ the same or similar methods, tools and metrics. In the EGM, we provide 'filters', which can be used to select some of the individual innovations (which by selecting will show all the corresponding reports of such), and also families, additional categories and sub-themes of tools, metrics and methods. Well-populated categories do not necessarily mean that there are no 'missing pieces', as one category could be dominated by certain types of innovations.

Similarly, gaps in this EGM could indicate that there are sufficient, older methods, metrics and tools to measure intended relationships, or it could mean that there is a need for innovation in these areas. When interpreting the EGM and its results, it is important not to prioritize topics and themes only based on the number of reports in any given category, but to delve in to the diversity of tools, metrics and methods within each category. Furthermore, promising or even well-established tools, metrics or methods that exist within a certain thematic domain still might provide a unique opportunity to validate, adapt or link to other data types or domains in innovative ways.