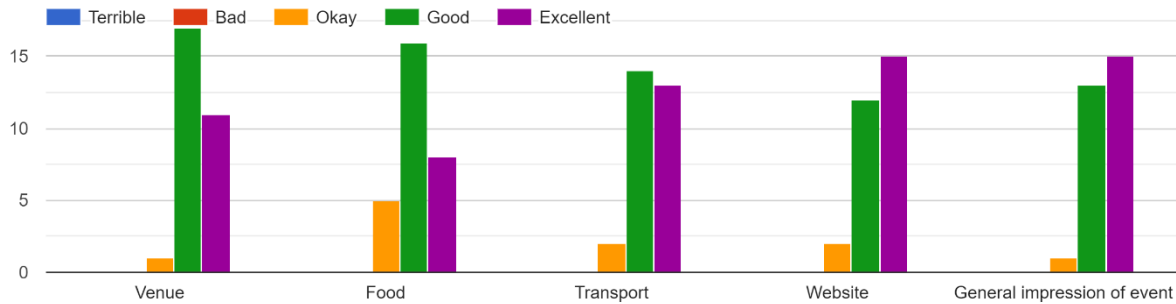# Science for Development Workshop
Summary of Feedback (20-02-2020)

Total Responses: 29

1. Overall Impressions

Overall impressions
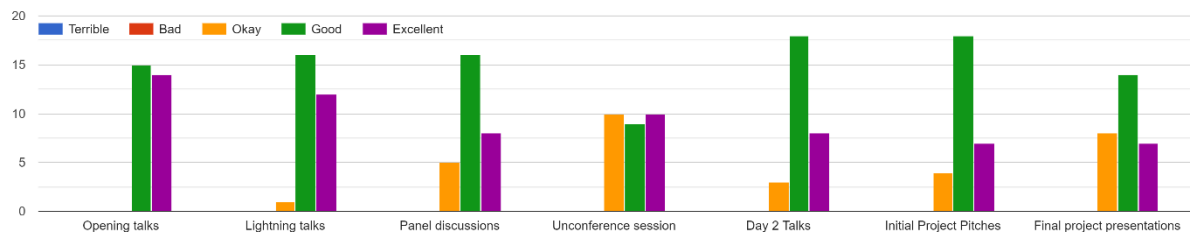

2. Open comments on Overall Impressions

The overall organization, venue and logistics including food was excellent!
The overall Impression is very good for this first meeting. The transport can be a improved for people coming from very far. I do understand that is good to get low cost tickets but manage routes. The two days discussion was very important, because we got the visions from the different sides (politics, institution, researcher).
At times I thought that the meeting derailed, however it was soon recovered. At times I felt the meeting was not fully thought in all its aspects. At the end it was OK.
I applaud the organizers and hope this will not be the last of its kind.
Transport should be Not Applicable as I did not make use of any transport organised by through the event. Venue wifi was really problematic. Thanks for making a lot of water available throughout (not only during breaks) In general the event was very well organised. I enjoyed having the program available online as well as a list of participants.
WRT transport it was nice to see how the Uber drivers were assisted at the front security.
Overall it was quite an informative and useful workshop!
I did not require transport, so marked it as good but I can't really provide feedback on that. My general impression was excellent - one point though, the mic didn't work properly (but did work mostly, and totally sufficed) and some people really struggled to figure out how to move slides forward; but that was all that I found slightly 'not great' about the conference, these are minor details, on the whole I think it

was a really good experience, the organisers rocked and managed to keep things as on time as possible. Special thanks also to the tour guide for showing us around on thursday, that was amazing.
Didn't actually use the transport as I live nearby.
Incredible diversity of participants. Congratulations to the organising team for running a great, packed, interesting and fun workshop!
Great meeting overall. Some proposals were not well cooked. Perhaps the great diversity of the science topics and backgrounds made it difficult to avoid some slight cacophony.
I like the live video coverage of the event but We need good electronic system such as good microphones and a good video camera, to improve on the video coverage of the event. Overall, the conference was good and I learned a lot.
The event very good
There was alot of diversity in the attendees and I enjoyed finding out more about the different fields from the talks as well as some of the common issues faced by all disciplines.
It was an excellent event; the small note it was at with transport which had caused our delay for the first day, the driver did not know where the workshop was to take place.
I did not take the transport organised, so I cannot really comment on that.
Best collaboration meeting ever attended
The facilitators were excellent in time management. The participants' representation was truly multiplinary which brought a lot of depth to the workshop.
The environment was nice, good weather and the organisation was good.

3. Specific Impressions

Specific impressions on programme

4. Open comments on Specific Impressions

Though the presentations were very short, it gave very interesting insights on a number of topics related science for development.
There was a bit too little time for the panel discussions to really interact with the audience and each other. And the final project presentations were a bit chaotic; I am not sure how but it would be nice if the format could be such that after the unconference sessions you get everyone back into a more structured setting. Now some talks lasted longer than necessary where others didn't get a lot of time to

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| expand. The idea that participants should have made some slides was maybe a good idea to account for this, something to emphasize next time! |
| I felt lots of inequalities in the presentations |
| Unconference session: i think it is best to pre-identify person that will report out - give instruction before hand that this should be done.
Panel: for the one i was on the moderator was the only one that asked questions, the floor was never opened up for others to ask questions - perhaps specific instructions to the moderator would help.
Show-and-tell: this was a great part of the agenda - perhaps highlighting this before hand in one of the pre event emails would have been good. |
| The program is lovely. However, there need to be consistent engagement of members. I suggest we create a discussion group for members. |
| I did not participate in the final project presentations.
The panel moderators did a really good job.
The unconference session was a bit all over the show as we had so many sessions thrown together. It may have been more productive with a moderator who could assist with time keeping, note taking, and keeping people to the point. The discussion was nonetheless very interesting and I did enjoy the session.
I felt participants did not understand the purpose of the pitches - i.e. to make use of skills available in the room to develop collaborative projects. It is probably due to the incredible diversity of the audience and people's experience with unconferences/transdisciplinary collaboration. It may have been necessary for people to spend a bit more time together before they would find true potential collaborations. If the unconference session was held at the end of day 2 with day 3 for pitches and working on ideas, that may have yielded better projects. But time is always tight so I think the organisers did the best they could with the time they had. |
| The lightning talks was a great idea to get a bit of everything rather than turn away speakers due to influx of applications. Unconference session was innovative and highlight for me. |
| |
| Keep up the good work! |
| although the day two questions require an answer, I could not attend and as such marked these as 'good' - but really I can't provide input on that |
| It seemed to me that a lot of the areas in which people were interested would have benefited quite a bit from a higher social science presence at the meeting - I think that there were one or two from outside the science faculty but some of these subjects could have benefited from interaction with more outside of science and in the social sciences. Here I'm thinking of perspectives like that of the Cultural Cognition Project @ Yale (http://www.culturalcognition.net/) or in, e.g., Philip Tetlock's book Expert Political Judgement. Without these kind of perspectives I'm not quite sure how valuable any insights you might expect to receive from an unconference session on science and politics are likely to be.

I was also kind of confused about the having of an unconference session on science and development at a workshop whose entire focus was supposed to be science and development ... it sort of seemed like deciding not to decide.

As someone who would consider himself a fan of Thomas Kuhn and the ideas in The Structure of Scientific Revolutions, I actually don't mind groups of scientists who wind up investigating outside the bounds of what he would classify as "normal science". Still, I'm not quite sure - as one of the participants raised in as a question in response to the presentation on biodynamic farming - how it could be classified as "science". Rather it seems to depend more on magic than on agricultural science as far as it varies from other approaches like organic farming and I have difficulty seeing how the gap there could be closed.

I came in expecting to hear a bunch of "random" talks, which I think the scheduled talks including the lightning talks were relatively successful at achieving. I felt the unconference portion of the event was a little less successful. |
| Lightning talks are the perfect length to get the message across and keep everyone sharp. |
| |
| If it is possible, we can have the conference extended to 3 days so that the talks could be 10 min long. It is not easy to present a good progress in 4 or 5 min as was the case. However, good ideas came out from the discussion and hope there would be realised for the benefit of the communities. |

In general, the program was good but it was too busy for just two day.
Excellent meeting
I love the idea that the organisers and participants respected the diversity of views expressed in the course of the Science for Development workshop. The event also brought me closer to experts from whom I learnt best practice which I could adopt into my project.
All was good. There was not much time for the presentations;four minutes was not enough.

5. Do you think the event should be held again?

Do you think this event should be organised again?
29 responses

- Yes
- No
- Maybe

10.3%
89.7%
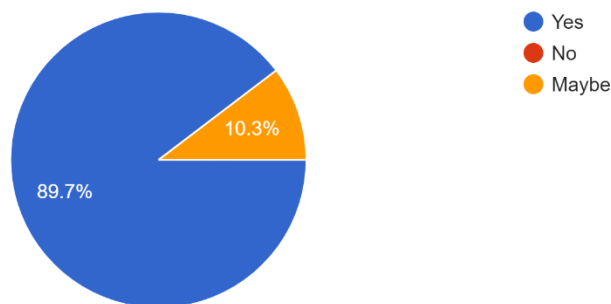
6. Any comments or suggestions that would help us learn from this experience and possibly do better next time.

Most of the participants and the topics were on Astronomy, though there were some topics from other fields. In the next opportunities, it would be good to balance among the different fields (Social sciences, other natural sciences, even engineering etc) in such events where the topic is Science for Development.
Personally I think the event was well organized. And the collaborations among the researchers and expert was great...
For my part, there was a bad understanding of pitches (the second part). It would be good to guide the pitches and encourage the consepte notes on which people will join their ideas.
The conference is good already
Perhaps more focus in the development part
Earlier contact from the panel chair with direction would have been good. Some other suggestions are provided above, I'll email you if i think of anything else

Use stationary or proper movable camera instead of laptops camera. Engage interested participants to be part of the organizing officials in future events. Ensure valuable returns by having several project initiations and project monitoring activities. Work closely with both Industry and Academia to design best approach for value creation and impact.
It may be worth your while to follow up again in 3-6 months to see if new things have come from participants who attended the workshop because they attended. For example, I don't have anything concrete right now, but I'm sure if you ask again in a few months I'll be able to tell you about new collaborators/projects/ideas that originated at the workshop. Also, you may want to ask people in the feedback survey about what they took away from the workshop to get an idea of where people perceived value. Thanks for putting together an ambitious event!
A cordless mic would be a nice to have.
Provide some more information to participants about what is expected from them, e.g. the criteria that would be used to evaluate project ideas; the possible way forward for the unconference ideas, etc.
In future consider giving some attention to technology in the venue
only the technicalities mentioned earlier - on the whole i think it was fantastic. if i could change one thing, however, it would be that the panel conversations got a bit more time for questions afterwards. i do hope this turns into a recurring event, it feels like the right direction in terms of making a multi-disciplinary effort towards development
Mostly, see my comments in the prior field above. All told while I didn't walk away from the workshop with specific new ideas to implement, I don't think that that marks the conference as a failure from my standpoint. I came into it expecting to hear a wider range of ideas than I usually do in in my work, and from that standpoint I think that it could be considered a success.
The general discussions shifted too easily towards complaining about how difficult it is to be a scientists because of politicians. This was not foreseeable, of course but for future editions, maybe slightly stronger mediators could help?
Overall, the conference was a good initiative from the organisers. The size of the venue could be increased but I like the conference room with the live video. Must of the suggestions can be seen above. Thank you for the opportunity and keep the good work.
Once you have permit scientits with complementery bacground to network it will be helpful for you to facilitate physical meetings for big project application
For same number of participant and talks/panels, extend the workshop for three days, with only talk and panel for the morning and unconference for the afternoon. Maybe the program will be easier to follow.
I would have liked broader conversations around science (as a broad discipline) and it's potential for development. Perhaps a foundational interpretation of the academe's impact on the SDGs.
Pitches were great. In future it would be goid to give the participants evening sessions to work on pitches. The time spent on the projectsvwas short but well spent.
We could include energizing activities in-between the sessions to keep participants awake/alert.
I suggest the days for the Workshop should be increased, maybe 4 days. And more time should be given to people doing presentation, at least 10 minutes. 8 minutes for presentation and 2 minutes for questions. Also a youth session can be introduced. There should be someone in charge of media. The last day, there should be a gala dinner.
I loved the unorthodox methods used for the workshop. I think it will foster collaborations and help build projects that will be beneficial. I would suggest stretching it to 3 days so as to make more time for presentations