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**Article:**

Nusslein, K, Parkash Dhankher, O, Xing, B et al. (12 more authors) (2016) Project management: Food security needs social-science input. *Nature*, 535 (7610). p. 37. ISSN 0028-0836

<https://doi.org/10.1038/535037d>

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## Food security needs social-science input

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As members of the Climate Resilient Open Partnership for Food Security (<http://www.wun.ac.uk/wun/research/view/crop-fs>), we contend that basic social science theory and methods could transform interventions aimed at improving food production.

Food security calls for agricultural advances, adaptation to climate change and more efficient use of natural resources. Just as important are the social and political considerations of reforming food production and distribution systems.

All too often, poor communication between the scientific community and the public, including potential users, impedes utilization of new technologies. Social networks, power inequalities, and institutional resistance to change must be considered to facilitate the system level changes needed (W. W. Powell et al. *The Science of Science Policy* 31-55 Stanford University Press; 2011).

We therefore suggest that research consortia in food security and their funding agencies should include social scientists from the outset (see A. Viseu *Nature* **525**, 291; 2015). This would dramatically enhance project management and conceptual development by dealing with the complex interactions between natural and social factors.