

## Citation cultures in different sub-disciplines of agricultural sciences

**Language:** German or English

**Contact:** Thomas Heckelei, [thomas.heckelei@ilr.uni-bonn.de](mailto:thomas.heckelei@ilr.uni-bonn.de)

**Background:** Evaluations of academic performance of researchers or research institutions often look at so called “citation measures” to objectify the assessment. Basically, the citation measures count citations to articles by other articles and variations of them allow evaluating the “visibility” or “impact” of journals or researchers. A reoccurring criticism is that such measures do not allow comparing the performance between different disciplines. Especially specific variants of the citation measures might be more suitable for some disciplines and less so for others potentially depending on the time delay in the use of research innovations, on the average number of authors on single papers, on the size of the discipline and other potentially relevant differences in citation cultures . The use of single measures or databases for assessment of research performance might be especially troublesome if different disciplines are jointly evaluated or if researchers with different “mother disciplines” are working in joint programmes (such as agricultural sciences).

**Objective:** Analysing the citation culture in sub-disciplines of agricultural sciences (animal science, crop science, agricultural economics) and identifying potential similarities and differences.

### **Approach:**

- Literature review of other comparable analyses
- Discussion of different variants of citation measures used for analysis
- Statistically descriptive analysis of citation database from the “Web of Science” for the sub-disciplines of agricultural sciences to identify differences and similarities.

### **References to start:**

Heckelei, T. (2010): Publishing as an Agricultural Economist: Thoughts on Why, Where and How. *German Journal of Agricultural Economics* , vol. 59 (3) , p. 133-143

Zapata, H.O. (2009): The Intellectual Impact of Agricultural Economists. In: *Journal of Agricultural and Applied Economics* 41 (2): 293-314.

Moed, H.F. (2005): *Citation Analysis in Research Evaluation*. (Information Science and Knowledge Management) Vol. 9. Springer, Dordrecht, Netherlands.

Barret, C.B., A. Olia and D.V. Bailey (2000): Subdiscipline-specific Journal Rankings: whither Applied Economics? In: *Applied Economics* 32 (2): 239-252.