**Issues and Dilemmas: Stakeholder-Researcher Partnerships**

Some dilemmas are commonplace in stakeholder-researcher partnerships. These issues come up regardless of the type of partnership or the topic the partnership is addressing. Some are listed below.

1. *A researcher may come to the partnership with a set program of research. This research plan may not parallel the concerns or needs of the stakeholders. Finding common ground may be challenging.*
2. *Researchers can have different goals (testing a hypothesis) than do the stakeholders (solving pressing problems). Finding ways to reconcile these differences can be a challenge.*
3. *Researchers and stakeholders may not be “on the same page” about when data are regarded as complete enough to inform policy.*
4. *Time urgency may differ for stakeholders and researchers. The stakeholders may experience urgency around policy deadlines, legislative deadlines, etc. Researchers may be more concerned with the consequences of acting on incomplete data.*
5. *There is some concern among some researchers that partnership approaches to research lead to inferior or watered-down research. What leads to this view and how might its validity be assessed?*
6. Researchers may use new tools and modeling techniques that are unfamiliar to stakeholders and can lead to challenges in collaboration.
7. Researchers and stakeholders may not always use the same comparison practices (length of time, what they see as a relevant comparison, use of information about variability).
8. Stakeholders are often acutely aware of differences among them (as a result of position, experience, etc.) but may be less aware of the differences among researchers. The opposite can be true for researchers (they are very aware of how they differ from each other but they may not be so attuned to the differences among stakeholders).
9. Is there something about the training of researchers that makes it difficult for them to enter into partnership research effectively? What factors (individual research, little focus on solutions, less time urgency, heavy emphasis on publications that speak to academics in the same discipline) and what can we do about this?
10. Some topics may benefit more from a partnership approach to research than do others. Which topics? What factors would lead certain topics to benefit more from a partnership approach?