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**ASSEMBLING KNOWLEDGE FOR IMPROVED AGRICULTURAL SOIL
MANAGEMENT: THE ROLE OF FARMER-LED ADVISORY ORGANISATIONS**

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The integration of 'scientific' and 'local' farming knowledge is widely viewed as critical in achieving more sustainable agricultural land management practices. Research to date has focused on the importance of recognising farmer knowledge, how such knowledge could be integrated with scientific knowledge, and case studies of where researchers have worked with farmers to integrate scientific and local knowledge to generate more useful, useable, and flexible management options. However, the work of farm advisors in knowledge integration has received less attention, and especially newer actors in the advisory system such as farmer-organised businesses. In this presentation, I apply Sutherland and colleagues' (2023) modified AKIS (Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems Approach) approach using assemblage theory to address this gap in knowledge. Drawing upon qualitative findings from a project conducted with farmer-led advisory organisations in four Australian mixed-farming regions, the presentation explores how soil science is assembled in the

context of local soil priorities and challenges, and what these assembling processes engender for the role of advisors in knowledge integration. Our analysis of the findings shows that the three attributes of assemblage theory used by Sutherland et al. to extend AKIS thinking – territorialisation, historicity, and materialities – are useful for exploring how farmer-led organisations integrate knowledge. Nevertheless, we argue also that desire needs to be added as a fourth attribute of assemblage thinking to capture the important ways in which these knowledge practices are held together and shape the agency of farmer-led advisory organisations.

Palavras-chave: assemblage thinking; farm advisors; knowledge integration; soil management; australia.