



Episode 4: Writing the Research Impact Section

Summary: Episode four of the STARTcast features a conversation between START's Dr. Mary Thompson-Hall and Jesse DeMaria-Kinney, Deputy Director and Senior Expert on Climate Change Adaptation, Nature-based Solutions, & Research-for-Impact at PlanAdapt. Here, Jesse talks about his work on Research-for-Impact, or Research-into-Use, and how he works with scientists to help them strengthen the impact of their work and to better communicate those impacts.



Jesse DeMaria-Kinney

Highlights:

- Seeking to better understand complexity necessarily leads to bringing in multiple perspectives to try and bring about positive change.
- All of us can contribute to making change happen.
- A carefully crafted theory of change can help you think through your vision about the potential impact of your research that is beyond the current scope of the work, but also helps you to flexibly plan actions you can undertake now to reach that impact.
- Flexibility is key, in planning and funding so that opportunities to achieve greater impact are not missed.
- Engage with those who need the change. Do research with and for people.
- Check your assumptions. Lean on academic advisors and those stakeholders involved with your research to help you identify and examine your assumptions for your work.
- Communicating about the impact of your work to different audiences is very important. Ask for help from those with experience in communications.
- Maintain humility, start small, and be realistic. Keep in mind how your work fits with the bigger picture, collectively we can make the world a better place!

Links:

- [Plan Adapt](#)
- [Adaptation at Scale in Semi-Arid Regions](#)
- [Donella Meadows Dancing with Systems](#)
- [ASSAR's work in East Africa](#)
- [Research for Impact Online Course](#)
- [Reos Partners](#)
- [Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre](#)
- [Fast Track Impact Podcast](#)