

# Agile Data | Lab 4

# Making Systems Talk

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# Q: How do agile and adaptive data approaches change the way our systems interact?

## Where agile data gets messy

Interoperability is not a technology problem — it breaks at the level of **measurement**

Data can move across actors, but meaning doesn't always travel with it

When meaning and usability don't travel, trust erodes

Data should flow, not sit — the goal is decision-making, not data collection

Different incentives distort data along the chain

## Trade-Offs

Adaptability vs. Comparability: can data be flexible and comparable at scale?

Whose definitions become standard?

Flexibility vs. scale: what works locally doesn't always scale cleanly

If trust, context and practical use don't move with the data, it may not reach or help the people who need it most.

## What works

Standardized indicators reduce friction and noise

Design for the full value chain, not a single user (from the farmer to the boardroom)

Design for decisions, not data—build systems around decisions to be made, not the data that is easiest to collect

Enable alignment without forcing uniformity—shared structure, not identical systems