

eip-agri  
AGRICULTURE & INNOVATION



16-17-18 September 2020  
EIP-AGRI Seminar 'CAP Strategic Plans: the key role of AKIS in Member States'



## Mark Gibson

Coordinating Expert – EIP-AGRI Service Point



16-17-18 September 2020

EIP-AGRI Seminar 'CAP Strategic Plans: the key role of AKIS in Member States'

# Day 3: Friday 18 September 2020

## Part V: AKIS strategic plans and AKIS interventions

**14:00 - 14:10**

### Resuming our journey

- Welcome back – Sarah Watson, EIP-AGRI Service Point
- **Introduction** to the topic – Inge Van Oost, DG AGRI

**14:10 - 14:45**

### Preparing the AKIS strategic plan and choosing the right interventions

- **Inspirational speakers:**
  - Preparing the **Spanish** AKIS strategy – Rocio Wojski and Andres Montero, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, ES
  - The **Slovenian** example – Joži Cvelbar, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food, SI
  - AKIS interventions in the **Estonian** CAP plan: Helena Pärenson, Ministry of Rural Affairs, EE
  - The **Dutch** AKIS interventions in the CAP plan post 2020 – Jan van Esch, Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality, NL

**14:45 - 15:35**

### Designing AKIS interventions

- Inputs to the topic from participants: highlights from the **Google Document D** – Mark Gibson, EIP-AGRI Service Point
- Interactive session in **breakouts** – groups will be challenged to design a concrete AKIS and related interventions for their own country based on the examples presented and adapted to the country's own context



Funded by

## **Document D**

# **Drafting post 2020 CAP plans with effective AKIS interventions**



## Q1 Involving stakeholders to prepare your AKIS strategy and collecting good ideas

- It is fundamental to engage participatory methodologies which empower all the potential AKIS actors to develop a common understanding/vision on the AKIS concept and on respective roles and functions to play for a well-functioning of the systems.
- Collecting of good ideas have taken place through workshops, online meetings, questionnaires and telephone interviews
- The Swedish Rural Network has just made a report "Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems (AKIS) in Sweden"
- Web exchange with other MS of progress in other countries could be useful

## Q1 Involving stakeholders to prepare your AKIS strategy and collecting good ideas

- Working parties that are organised to collect good ideas together with farm associations, advisors, researches and national authorities. These activities need to be funded (costs for travels, accommodation, meeting room - if needed)
- Drafts of the AKIS chapters in the strategic plans are spread informal to AKIS actors who have not been officially involved
- Old traditional, big actors are not always the most innovative.

## Q2 What key AKIS related priorities and needs do you see for your country?

- Enhance advisors' capacities to address farmers' needs using innovative methods and tools.
- To change evaluation of researchers work: to include in the evaluation system of scientists the work with sector practice/farms/advisers.
- Need to close the gap between R&D, innovation, advisory services and farmers.
- Simplified and timely administrative procedures and reduction of administrative burdens for cooperation projects and for the use of advisory services.

## Q2 What key AKIS related priorities and needs do you see for your country?

- Promoting peer-to-peer exchanges among the different AKIS actors, to enhance relations and to facilitate mutual learning and knowledge loops.
- Create a strong knowledge transfer system where advisors are properly remunerated in order to attract the best experts,
- Identify educational needs of the farmers.
- Need to ensure that farmer experience while searching for knowledge, innovation and training is smooth and transparent.
- Communication strategy is necessary to ensure that the AKIS as a whole is also easily known to the various actors in the sector.



## Q2 What key AKIS related priorities and needs do you see for your country?

- It has to approach different issues: improvement of the farm's profitability, promote the farmers' business view, promote the holistic view of the agrosystem, organic farming, sustainable fight against infestation and illnesses, efficient water use, efficient inputs use in order to avoid water contamination, digitalisation, commercialisation.
- There is a lot here. Also climate action, AMR also.
- Where does the consumer fit in?

## Q2 What key AKIS related priorities and needs do you see for your country?

### Spanish Ministry

- Improve coordination, complementarities of funds, take advantage of synergies and initiatives.
- Adapt AKIS governance structure based on three principles: simplicity, interoperability and respectful to the competencies of each level/area
- Build a platform for knowledge exchange and interactions between advisers at the horizontal and sector level
- Boost young farmers and women, and small farmers participation to assure AKIS future. Include consumers, distribution and society in AKIS as well.

## Q3 Incentivising and rewarding researchers to tackle farmers' needs and exchange knowledge

- We lack EU level decisions. It would help us even to speak the same language with researchers. At the moment they are orientated to scientific results only, even if you have a good salary/project for them.
- We should be utilizing approaches, methods and tools to assess farmers' needs and to co-develop the project ideas.
- Giving some extra scoring in the evaluation to the projects to those where producer sector participates, and to those that promote the knowledge exchange.
- Creating incentives for carrying out field demonstrative tests.

## Q3 Incentivising and rewarding researchers to tackle farmers' needs and exchange knowledge

- The Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation is working on the National Strategy of Science, Technology and Innovation 2021-2027. In its sectorial agenda for agriculture a working group on AKIS' Governance has been agreed.
- The universities have to modify the merit system and make collaboration with farmers and advisors as well as research information more rewarding.
- The announcements for funding can demand that farmers and advisors are involved in the projects already **at the planning stage** in research and innovation projects.
- Proper funding for dissemination/communications activities.

## Q4 Do you already have a view on who should form part of the “AKIS coordination body”

- We think that AKIS coordination will be dedicated to one public institution by the Ministry of Agriculture
- The Swedish Rural Network acts as a coordinator for knowledge and innovation systems. The Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences developed collaboration lecturers (samverkanslektorer) who act as a bridge between research and practice.
- Idea to establish an AKIS Council for thematic cooperation between the parties involved.

## Q 4 Do you already have a view on who should form part of the “AKIS coordination body”

- Organization of an AKIS Steering Committee consisting of universities, NGOs, research institutes, EIP and NRN, being organized working groups with Ministry representatives for a more efficient exchange of information.
- It has emerged from a survey that the AKIS coordination body must be public authority.
- All types of farming should be represented in the coordination body.

## Q 5 Tips that worked well to strengthen the organization of knowledge flows between AKIS actors?

- Finance the posts of facilitators and mediators.
- Regular collaboration between different types of institutions
- Participation of all the supply chain links
- Reduce bureaucracy and simplify processes where possible.
- Activities where both advisors, farmers and researchers participate, for example in field exhibitions, study tours, conferences, workshops, etc. Also, network groups meeting regularly have been useful.
- Suitable digital tools and processes for knowledge transfer.

## Q 5 Tips that worked well to strengthen the organization of knowledge flows between AKIS actors?

- Have meetings, preferably on farms where different actors of the AKIS system will meet and discuss good examples, discuss barriers and most of all inspire each other.
- Support the establishment and networking of demonstration farms and use these demo farms to connect researchers and advisors.
- **Ensure sufficient funding for dissemination of project results.**
- Networks should organise regular meetings between research and advisors at national and international levels, e.g. TNs gathering research, advisors, networks and other stakeholders (farmers, education, administration, etc.), discovering needs from practice and sharing best practices and research results.
- AKIS plans need specific incentives for researchers (budget wise, number of publications in dissemination channels for end users, showing how they respond to practice needs).



# **EIP-AGRI seminar** **'CAP Strategic Plans:** **the key role of AKIS in Member States'** **16-17-18 September 2020**

All information of the seminar available on  
[www.eip-agri.eu](http://www.eip-agri.eu)

on the event webpage  
<https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/en/event/eip-agri-seminar-cap-strategic-plans-key-role-akis>

