



SWG SCAR-AKIS

Strategic Working Group on Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems

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Bulgaria

**ASSOC. PROF. DR. VIOLETA DIRIMANOVA,
AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY - PLOVDIV**

AKIS diagram, BULGARIA PRO AKIS project 2012-2015, 7FP)

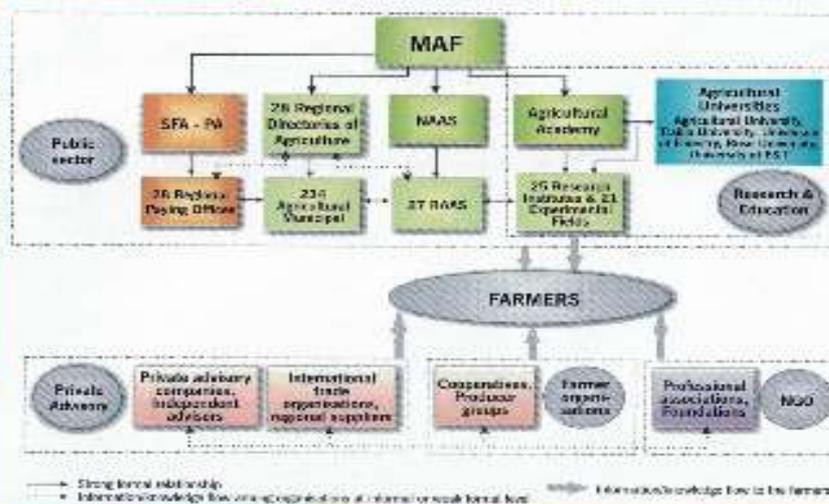


Prospects for Farmers' Support: Advisory Services in European AKIS (PRO AKIS)



BULGARIA

AKIS DIAGRAM



Main actors of AKIS:

- (a) the public – Ministry of Agriculture and Food (MAF) and its secondary structure, among other National Agricultural Advisory Service (NAAS);
- (b) private sector (private advisory services, independent advisors, international trade organisations, regional suppliers);
- (c) FBOs (co-operatives and few producer groups);
- (d) research and education organisations, and;
- (e) non-government organisations (professional organisations and foundations)

Cooperation

between AKIS actors:

the linkages between actors are rather weak and informal, only inside NAAS the linkages are strong, because of internal dependency.

Main sources of funding the advisory services:

- (a) public funding for services provided by NAAS;
- (b) mix funding for services provided by research and education institutions;
- (c) private funding for services provided by private and other advisors

Main supplier(s) of advisory services:

National Agricultural Advisory Service (public organisation)

Main clients:

services are service provider, but for NAAS are EU direct commercial farms, (2) with a few more farms, (3) young farmers. For research institutions are large, well-stated local commercial farms, for private providers mainly medium and large commercial farms, (4) FBOs – in general their members, but mainly core 4, (5) local farms and producer groups

Main topics of advice:

technical advice and production, but NAAS usually provides credit and general production advice (design, business plans, loans, machinery, etc. development, cross compliance, advisory clients, quality and renewable energy and techniques to increase business and a further 30%

Main methods:

dedicated clients and service provider, but for NAAS – individual and mass, for other – mainly individual and group methods



7th FP (2007-2013) (447)
Agriculture, Knowledge & Innovation Systems
SMEs and Midsize Enterprises
Sustainable Growth, Innovation & Regional Policy
Societal Agreement no. 211064



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Bulgarian AKIS – actors, linkages

- ▶ Main actors
 - ▶ Public sector – Ministry of agriculture, food and forestry (MAFF) and its secondary structures, among them – National Agricultural Advisory Services (NAAS) and Agricultural Academy (AA) and National rural network.
 - ▶ The role of professional organizations (associations) and NGO for better transfer of knowledge and information to the farmers
 - ▶ Private sector – private advisory services, international trade organizations, regional suppliers mainly work with large farms
 - ▶ Research and educations – Agricultural University and Research Institutes.
- ▶ Cooperation among AKIS actors in the public sector because of internal dependency, weak linkage with other AKIS actors;
- ▶ The transfer of information and knowledge in public sector is a very complicated and clumsy to farmers, but better with associations, research institutes and universities.

Main supplier(s) of advisory services in Bulgaria

- ▶ NAAS is main supplier of information, knowledge and innovations to small scale and semi- subsistence farmers;
- ▶ Professional associations – strong linkage among them and their members;
- ▶ Private advisory sector and international trade organizations – main clients are large commercial farmers. Transfer of new technologies in practice;
- ▶ Research and education – main suppliers of new knowledge and new information to the farmers;
- ▶ AKIS is very well formally organized, linkages among actors are weak and mostly informal.

Characteristics of Bulgarian AKIS (1)

- Often MAFF retains control over local decisions and this may decrease the quality of services delivered by public advisory providers to farmers;
- Often experienced consultants from the public advisory sector migrate to the private system;
- The collaboration between NAAS and educational and research organisations is weak;
- Generally, farmers, especially small ones, lack the capacities (knowledge, training, contacts...) innovate.

Characteristics of Bulgarian AKIS (2)

What **should be** the main changes to implement if you compare with the current situation?

➤ **Regarding the agricultural research institutes:**

- ✓ Linking the agricultural research projects to end-users needs, increasing the collaboration between the AA's research institutes;
- ✓ increase integration of AA's institutes into networks for dissemination of knowledge and consultancy services.

Characteristics of Bulgarian AKIS (3)

➤ **Regarding interaction and knowledge transfer among the AKIS actors:**

- ✓ Increasing farmers' access to knowledge and innovations through demonstration activities;
- ✓ Development of various platforms for knowledge transfer among the AKIS actors, including event matching and networking sessions;
- ✓ Developing public and private consultancy expertise on interactive innovation partnerships

Characteristics of Bulgarian AKIS (4)

➤ **Regarding agricultural policy:**

- ✓ Prioritizing the funding of research in agriculture in national research and innovation policies (within the National Roadmap for Research and others) and strategic documents;
- ✓ Preventing misappropriation of public funds;
- ✓ Development of interactive innovation culture through the implementation of measures stimulating interactive innovation partnerships;
- ✓ Ensuring administration that has sufficient expertise and technical capacity to develop, consult and implement interactive innovation support measures.

How is the **process** of discussion on AKIS going in Bulgaria?

Discussion on AKIS, whenever it takes place, is ...

- ✓ related to current funded projects and is not a broad and inclusive one;
- ✓ interviews with officials from MAFF, the Agricultural academy and the NGO sector from the middle of 2018 demonstrate that none of these actors is involved in discussions on the future of AKIS in the country.



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
ATTENTION!**