

Meeting of the SWG SCAR AKIS  
Strategic Working Group on Agricultural  
Knowledge and Innovation Systems

AKIS Strategic plans for the  
CAP post 2020

Webinar 24-26/3/21 - Member State:

**Germany**

**SCAR**  
Standing Committee  
on Agricultural Research



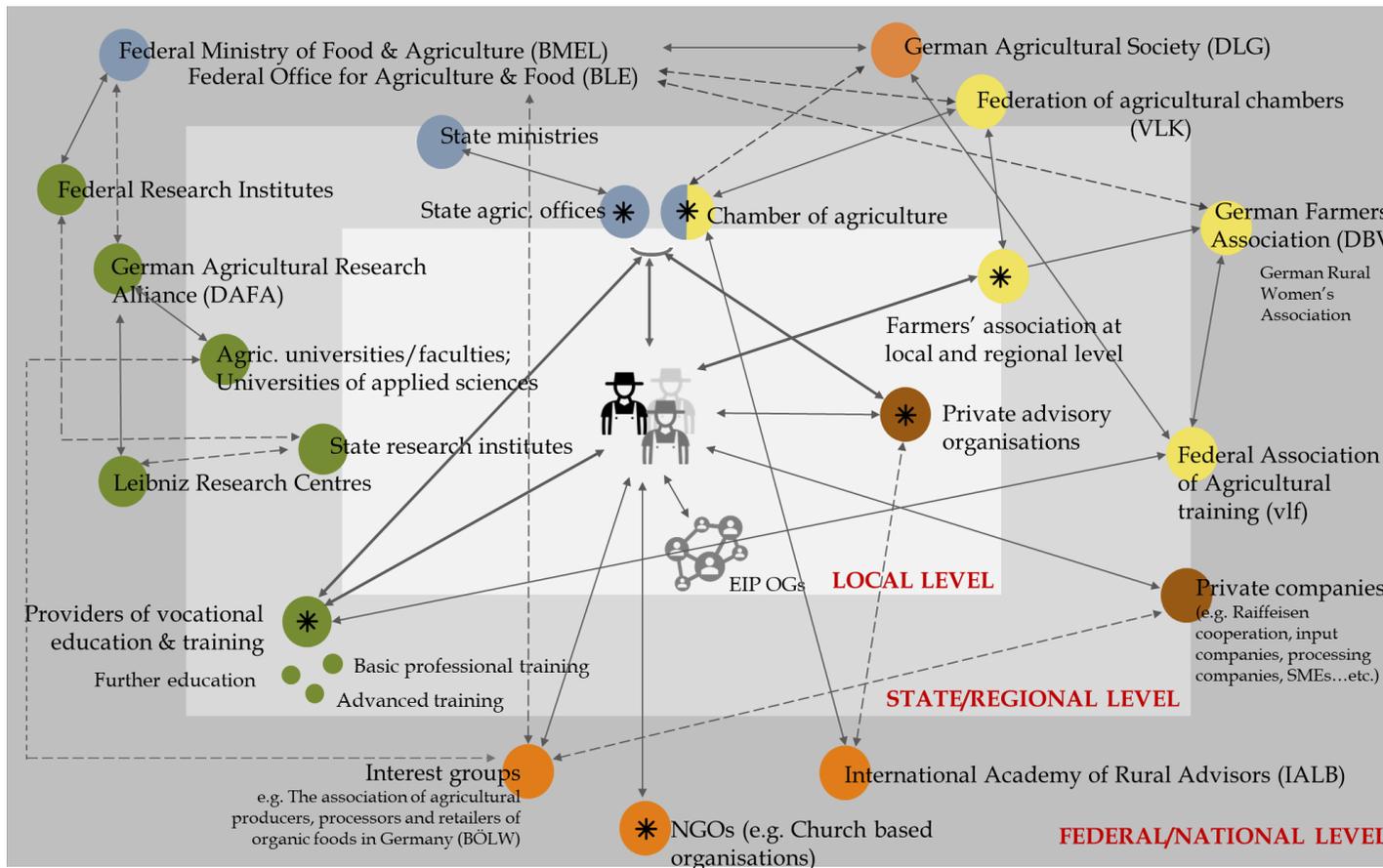
## A) Characteristics of your AKIS: SWOT

- Main actors and knowledge flows
- SWOT – examples
- Barriers and bottlenecks – examples
- Preparation status



<https://www.iamexpat.de/lifestyle/german-federal-states>

# A) Main actors and knowledge flows



## Legend

- Public authorities
  - Research and education organisations
  - Private sector (for profit)
  - Third sector (farmer/farmer-based organisations)
  - Third sector NGO (non-profit)
  - \* Advisory service provider or actor with an advisory component
- } Advisor services: pluristic
- Weak linkage
  - Strong linkage
  - Very strong linkage

- heterogeneous & decentralised governance structure with Federal Government and the 16 states (Länder) provide unique perspective to AKIS in country.
- German AKIS perceived as a strong one, but decentralised system & actors' heterogeneity make it partly fragmented and difficult.

Source: Birke et al. 2021, i2connect country report Germany, Horizon 2020, Grant Agreement number 863039.

# A) SWOT on German AKIS – examples

## Strengths

- High education level
- Knowledge & monitoring of natural resources (soil, water, etc.)
- Broad advisory services for agr., hortic., vinicul. enterprises (region-based)

## Weaknesses

- Inefficient transfer & exchange of research results into practice
- Regionally limited exchange & network between research, education, advisory services

## Opportunities

- Farm managers interested in further education
- Consumers and farmers have more focus on animal welfare, regional products, sustainability

## Threats

- Lack of innovation capacity
- Communication between society and agriculture, mutual respect

## A) Barrieres and bottlenecks - examples

For example, stakeholders perceive that knowledge and innovation flows in AKIS are affected by

- Missing structures for horizontal interplay among the states,
- Parallel work and fragmented cooperation is done rather than one of integration,
- Weak linkage of universities, research, and ministries at the national and state levels with other AKIS actors.

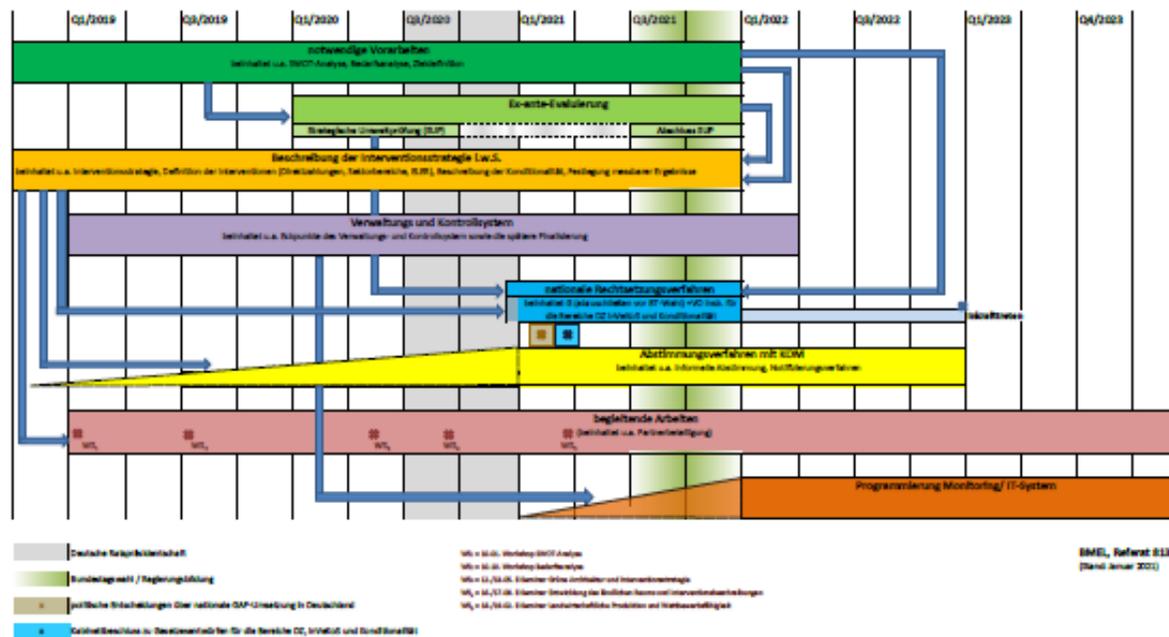
Call for more efficiency and fostering  
relationship between research & practice

## A) Main changes to implement

- Strengthening horizontal integration and exchange at national level
- Launched a group of AKIS-representatives per state to foster exchange
- Improve communication between research activities at national and European level
- Improve dissemination to and exploitation of research findings by practice, e.g.
  - innovation program of BMEL where „accompanying research“ ensures that knowledge generated by research is better implemented into practice
  - Network of Living Labs – creating and testing innovations in a multi-actor-approach (link to envisaged European Partnership on Agroecology LLs and other research infrastructure)

# A) Preparation status

- Preparation process of future AKIS is ongoing
- Tight schedule as there will be elections in September 21



## B) CAP AKIS plans: strategy and planned **priorities**

At national level the targets needs to be designed in a way, that it is in the scope of the states.

### **Examples of higher priorities:**

- Stronger integration of practice and advisors in research and better dissemination of results
- Fostering use of digital formats for knowledge exchange
- Secure specialists employed in agriculture, forestry rural sector
- Enhance trainings on entrepreneurship, ecological skills, processing and marketing
- Expand regional, transdisciplinary cooperation and network activities between agricultural and forestry enterprises, industry, society, NGOs, advisory services, research and administration

## Discussion:

All comments, questions and suggestions very welcome!



**Thank you for your  
attention!  
and for your active participation  
and commitment!**

Report available at:

[https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/knowledge-and-innovation-unlocking-potential-food-and-farming-2019-sep-26\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/knowledge-and-innovation-unlocking-potential-food-and-farming-2019-sep-26_en) (more paper copies can be asked to [Inge.Van-Oost@ec.europa.eu](mailto:Inge.Van-Oost@ec.europa.eu))

