

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:

FRANCE

SCAR
Standing Committee
on Agricultural Research



A) Characteristics of your AKIS: SWOT

- What are the main **characteristics** of your national AKIS (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats; main actors, knowledge flows that characterize your current AKIS)?

A) Characteristics of your AKIS: SWOT

STRENGTHS

- Good educational background on average among farmers in FR
- A good agricultural education network = good initial and continuing training capacity
- A well-structured AKIS, with strong public research and tools for disseminating knowledge
- Many national and regional networks favoring innovative projects and dissemination, also connected to all EU through EIP

A) Characteristics of your AKIS: SWOT

STRENGTHS

- Farmers' renewed interest for bottom-up and collective approaches (beyond historical organisation as cooperatives)
- French agricultural research attention to societal demand
- Agro-ecology dissemination in line with societal demand and farmers' needs for transitions
- Digitisation is trending & farmers are rather interested and well connected
- Steps already taken to ensure the conditions for sharing and protecting agricultural data

A) Characteristics of your AKIS: SWOT

WEAKNESSES

- Scaling-up collective and bottom-up approaches still a challenge, especially to foster systemic transitions on farms.
- Continuing training less used by farmers than by other professionals, especially by the lesser trained
- Advisory services only benefit to a minority, who already tend to have a higher level of education = increase farmers' reach to advice
- Some members of the AKIS reluctant to open knowledge flow
- Some farmers feel « weakened » by the increasing taking over by civil society of agricultural topics

A) Characteristics of your AKIS: SWOT

WEAKNESSES

- Farmers' digital know-how is below than that of other professionals
- Digital tools still hard to access (price, broadband, complexity) and still need improvements
- In some sectors, high structural costs and investments not always part of a clear business strategy
- High average age of farmers, and insufficient generational renewal = potential bottleneck for innovation capacity
- Wealth distribution along the value chain for fair famers' income

A) Characteristics of your AKIS: SWOT

OPPORTUNITIES

- Farm advisory services lead by public institutions ensure access to advice to all farmers at affordable cost.
- The different financing mechanisms of the AKIS are potentially open to all
- Starting 2021, separation of sales and advice on plant protection products offers an additional guarantee of neutrality
- Sectoral plans are important levers to foster transitions towards sustainability all along the value chain

A) Characteristics of your AKIS: SWOT

OPPORTUNITIES

- Good participation of FR AKIS members to H2020 projects, and good use of EAFRD funding to answer R&D needs, in addition to national funding
- European AKIS dynamic expected to increase for 2023-2027
- Growing acceptance among farmers' for civil society's concerns = pull for transitions towards sustainability
- Increasing outsourcing of agricultural activities is source of greater technicality
- Public policy contributes to digital technology dissemination

A) Characteristics of your AKIS: SWOT

THREATS

- Public tools of the AKIS are too scattered, and lack coherence and visibility for stakeholders.
- The AKIS lacks clarity, monitoring and evaluation.
- The advisory system is both highly depending on public funding and partly linked to private economic interests = difficult public policy driving
- Need to prevent coherence issues with the multiplication of groups
- Slow adaptation of both educational programs and value chains to societal demand and sustainability challenges

A) Characteristics of your AKIS: SWOT

THREATS

- Public subsidies and markets pay little for sometimes risky changes in farmers' practices.
- Territories are not equal in terms of broadband access
- Complex administrative procedures may discourage potential beneficiaries from using these tools
- Growing farmers' dependency to suppliers (data capture...) at an international scale.

A) Characteristics of your AKIS: SWOT

- Which **barriers and bottlenecks** are hindering knowledge flows in your AKIS? How to overcome them?

Mainly:

- Wealth distribution along the value chain for fair farmers' income
- Advisory services only benefit to a minority, who already tend to have a higher level of education = increase farmers' reach to advice
- Some members of the AKIS reluctant to open knowledge flow

A) Characteristics of your AKIS: SWOT

- What should be the main **changes to implement** if you compare with the current situation?
- For fairer farmers' income, increase policy coherence between CAP, and other regulations at European and national level
- To increase farmers' reach for advice:
 - Improve communication on financing mechanisms and clarity of the AKIS thanks to the CSP
 - Starting 2021, separation of sales and advice on plant protection products offers an additional guarantee of neutrality

A) Characteristics of your AKIS: SWOT

- What should be the main **changes to implement** if you compare with the current situation?
- Increase trans-national cooperation on farmers' level knowledge to create win-win situations in order to overcome reluctance to open knowledge flow

A) Characteristics of your AKIS: SWOT

- How is the **preparation process** for the future AKIS going in your country? How is the **interaction with non-agricultural Ministries**?
- Approach decided by Regional managing authorities : set a unique national intervention frame for the EIP

(In FR, are managing authorities for the CAP 2nd pillar since 2014 and regions will be managing authorities for non-IACS's interventions for 2nd pillar for the next programming period)

- The National Commission for Public Debate (CNDP) held “**ImPACtions!**”: broad national public debate on the future CAP, between feb and nov 2020, with huge interest:

120,000 webpage visits and 12000+ contributions of stakeholders!

<https://impactons.debatpublic.fr>

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

Starting from Art 102 in the Commission proposal, and in order to tackle the cross-cutting objective on K&I&D, please explain:

- (i) how will the **organization and structuring of the AKIS** be improved?
- (ii) in particular, how will **advisors, researchers and CAP networks improve their cooperation** and the sharing of knowledge in an integrated manner; and
- how they will **provide advice, knowledge flows and innovation support services?**

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

- The very existence of CAP AKIS plans will improve the AKIS **organisation and structuring**, as a common standard to which all managing authorities and advisory services can refer to !

Example: Pro AKIS provides a unique AKIS mapping = clarity

- The EIP opened the possibility to support OGs (bottom-up approach). And themes covered by the EIP reflect the current issues also taken into account by the PNDAR (national AKIS fund) and the agro-ecological project for France = potential for **cooperation** on cross-cutting technical topics and **between researchers and advisers** through demand for bottom up advice

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

- The NRN today and the **CAP Network** tomorrow is committed to expand and improve networking among all EIP stakeholders from farmers to researchers, thus also attracting stakeholder more used to the national AKIS fund ecosystem (example: Agri Innovation Summit 2019 in Normandy)

= increased **knowledge flows between all innovation support services**

All those trends will continue growing while tackling the cross-cutting objective on K&I&D!

C) interventions planned for your future AKIS

- What are the main CAP interventions you plan for your national AKIS with regard to:
 - a. Enhancing knowledge flows and strengthening links between research and practice
 - b. Strengthening farm advisory services within the AKIS
 - c. Strengthening interactive innovation and EIP OGS
 - d. Supporting digital transition in agriculture
- Any issues with the budget needed to come to a good result?

Work in progress!

Discussion:

All comments, questions and suggestions very welcome!



SCAR

AKIS

Agricultural Knowledge
and Innovation Systems

**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 (more paper copies can be asked to Inge.Van-Oost@ec.europa.eu)

