Innovation Support Services in Agriculture and Rural Areas - Lessons learnt from the AgriSpin project

Contribution to the SCAR AKIS IV report
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Presentation to the SCAR AKIS meeting on the 31st of Oct, in Brussels
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Structure of both, presentation and report

- Aim and core activities of AgriSPIN
- Identification and analysis of innovation cases
- Insights on innovation support services (ISS) in the course of the innovation process
- Insights on the enabling environment
- Lessons learnt, conclusions
AgriSpin: creating SPace for AGRIcultural INnovation

• The project aimed at creating space for innovations through amplifying good examples of innovation support systems and through multi-actor learning about ways to stimulate innovation and remove obstacles.

• The main target group were intermediates who connect initiators to other actors for involving them in creating innovations, such as farmers, knowledge workers, actors in the value chain, administrators, civil society groups, etc..

• Learning about innovation processes at farm level and beyond
• Collecting best practices of innovation support
• Provide Recommendations
Identification and analysis of innovation cases

We did a targeted identification of innovation cases ....

Identification criteria
- Ag or rural innovation
- Multi-actor setting
- Certain maturity / degree of implementation
- ......

Analytical categories
- Innovation, innovation process
- Actors and networks, innovation support
- Environment, critical incidents
- Dissemination, future perspectives

And analysed cases
- Along the process (spiral of innovation)
- With analytical frames
- And pearls and puzzles
Insights on Innovation support services in the course of the innovation process

Innovation support service functions

• Knowledge and technology transfer
• Advisory, consultancy, backstopping
• Capacity building
• Demand articulation
• Networking facilitation and brokerage
• Access to resources
• Institutional support for niche innovation and scaling stimulation

Mathé et al. 2016
Insights on the enabling environment (I)

Faure et al. 2018
Insights on the enabling environment (II)

- Public authorities should set relevant ecosystems for innovation (regional/local scale)

- Public authorities and funding bodies should recognize/endorse that innovation implies taking risk (all scales)
Lessons learnt, conclusions

- Understand innovation as a process (not as an outcome), evolving over time
- Understand innovation as a result of multiple interactions
- Differentiate phases of the innovation process for targeted intervention
- Understand specific needs and corresponding innovation support services as typical for certain phases while others are unspecific in this regard

Thank you for your attention