

# 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: **ITALY**

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**SCAR**  
Standing Committee  
on Agricultural Research



# AKIS Strategic plans for the CAP post 2020 : PREPARATION PROCESS

*Active participation of regional MAs with the coordination of the  
NRN and the Ministry of agriculture*

## 10 POLICY BRIEFS

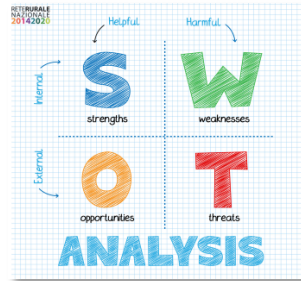
## SWOT ANALYSIS

## ANALYSIS OF MAIN NEEDS

## NATIONAL CAP STRATEGIC PLAN



Policy Brief  
AKIS



Discussion with the offices of  
the **European Commission**

It will be discussed by  
regions, Ministry of  
agriculture and NRN.

**Regional vs  
National NSP**

# A) Characteristics of your AKIS: SWOT – STRENGTHS

## A good background of structures and basic knowledge for AKIS

- ✓ **Appropriate number and territorial presence of actors** already involved and to be potential involved within the AKIS
- ✓ Good examples of consolidated collaboration between institutions (e.g. **Network of regional referents on agricultural research and services**)
- ✓ **Good level of knowledge and experiences of many farmers**, considering the highly diversified national context
- ✓ Adequate territorial presence of **research/experimental and demo structures** that prove to be useful to spread innovation
- ✓ Availability of professionals to cover **non-traditional advisory areas** (engineers, moderators/animators, landscape architects, etc.)
- ✓ Appropriate **organisation of training services** and discrete number of farmers supported
- ✓ **Increased awareness** about the importance of the AKIS in the current programming period
- ✓ Improvement of the national performance in terms of **participation and access to H2020**

# A) Characteristics of your AKIS: SWOT – WEAKNESSES (1)

## (Infra)/Structural weaknesses

- ✓ **Low level of education** of farmers
- ✓ **Complex admin procedures** of AKIS related measures
- ✓ **Poor infrastructures**, including digital ones, in marginal and remote areas

## Offer&demand: AKIS services not always suitable to address the needs

- ✓ Offer of **support services often not appropriate** to the demand of knowledge and innovation
- ✓ **Poor propensity** of agricultural holdings **to cooperate** as a mean to benefit from support services
- ✓ Modest use of **technological (and digital) tools** due to high costs, lack of knowledge and providers' consideration of farmers' needs.
- ✓ **Fragmentation of research activities** and risk of inefficient use of financial resources.
- ✓ **Low availability of advisory services** supported by public policies, particularly for small and medium size farms.



# A) Characteristics of your AKIS: SWOT – WEAKNESSES (2)

## Coordination and networking: lack of adequate policies and often insufficient governance

- ✓ **Lack of coordination** and poor relations between AKIS actors, both at institutional and operative level.
- ✓ Lack of a strong **national/regional strategy** and low **financial resources** available.
- ✓ **Lack of data** and implementation of *ad hoc surveys* to assess the level of innovation and innovation needs of agricultural holdings.

## Need for improving methodological aspects

- ✓ Training methods and tools **not always targeted** to the training objectives and final users
- ✓ Poor capacity of many AKIS actors on the use of **new methodological bottom up and participatory approaches**

# A) Characteristics of your AKIS: OPPORTUNITIES&THREATS

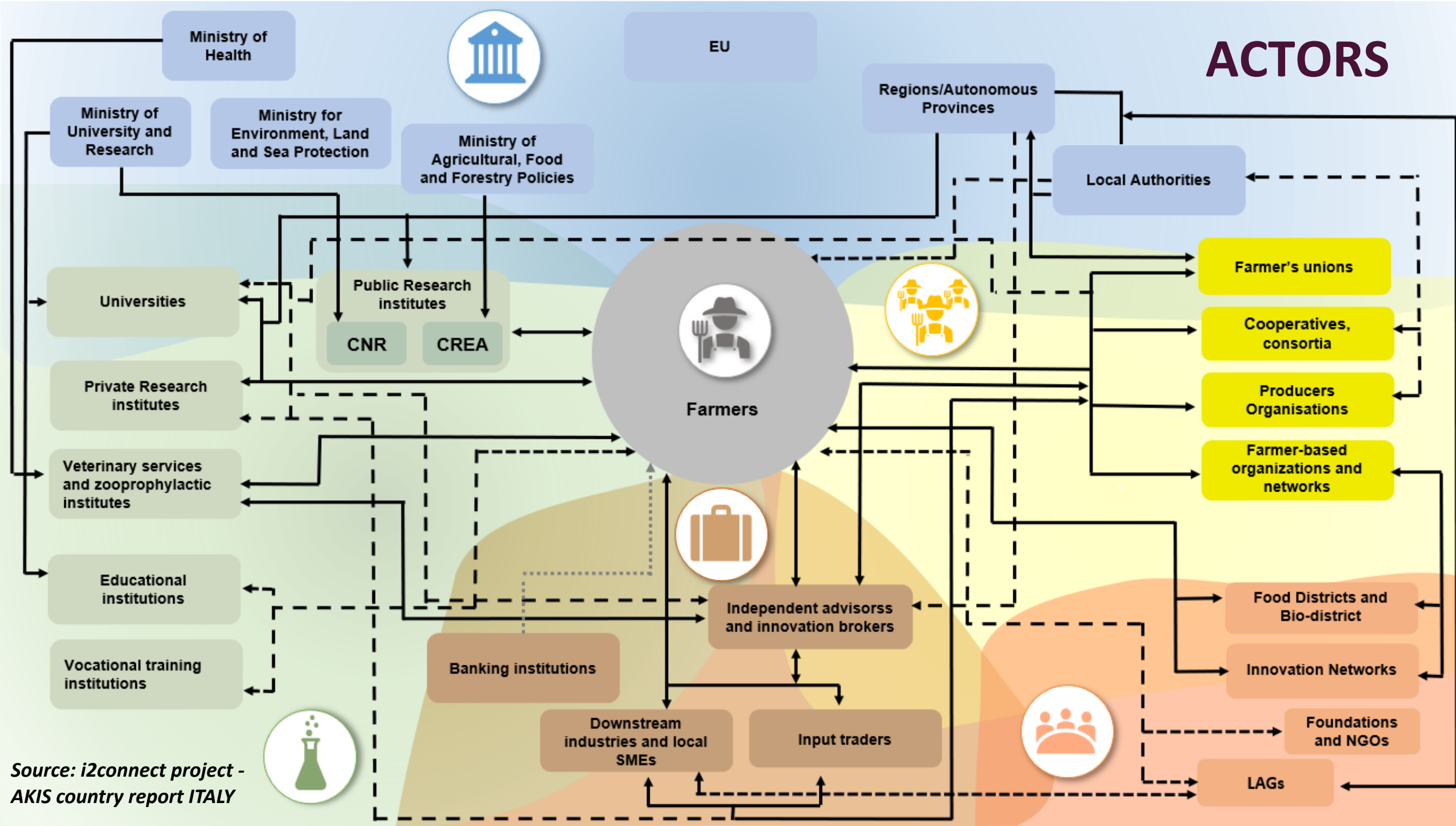
## Opportunities

- ✓ Strategic approach of the CAP post-2020 and specific focus on the AKIS.
- ✓ Availability of European **thematic and methodological networks** on AKIS-related topics.
- ✓ Extensive **availability of technologies to support the dissemination of innovation**, especially on digital services and ecological processes.
- ✓ Availability of specific tools such as collective and network contracts
- ✓ Development of operational and innovative services based on the needs arisen from the interaction between communities.

## Threats

- ✓ Gradual reduction of public national funds for research and development.
- ✓ **Competition for the use of resources** between the different actors of the system.
- ✓ Poor links between available innovations and needs of agricultural holdings and territories.
- ✓ High risk of increased digital divide among areas and types of farms

# ACTORS



# A) Characteristics of your AKIS: KNOWLEDGE FLOWS (1)

**The Italian context is highly diverse and complex.** Relationships between different actors of the AKIS and how strong, formal and organized these relations are it depends on regional contexts. This represents an important strength of the national system, even though it requires a strong effort in terms of coordination and dissemination of experiences/knowledge/information.

- ✓ The traditional distinction between **“producers”** (universities, research centers, large technological companies, etc.) and **“users” of knowledge and innovation** remains in the Italian context, despite some significant experiences of cross-fertilization and sharing of knowledge creation processes
- ✓ **Availability of new approaches and tools vs capacities to use them.** Substantial differences still remain between those who have the skills to access and use this knowledge and those who do not.
- ✓ The importance of the **territorial dimension**: the experiences created by labs, scientific and technological hubs promoted, in recent years, by regional administrations, universities, research centers and even large agri-food companies show that the presence of researchers active at local level stimulates co-creation of knowledge and innovation.



## A) Characteristics of your AKIS: KNOWLEDGE FLOWS (2)

- ✓ The traditional linear model of knowledge transfer is still rather common in Italy, although recent development towards more interactive approaches exist, usually more common in highly dynamic sectors (e.g. viticulture).
- ✓ Presence of formal agreements/participation in platforms and clusters = Strong relationships exist. Links between universities and research centres.
- ✓ Participation in the definition and implementation of R&I policies can generate strong relationships: administrations/institutions, research and farmers' unions.
- ✓ Weaker and more informal relationships stem from occasional participation in specific projects.
- ✓ Concerning advisory, the public services show relatively stronger knowledge flows with the public administration and the universities, while private services show more intense flows with the agri-food industry and the farmers' unions.

# A) Characteristics of your AKIS: CHANGES TO IMPLEMENT/NEEDS

- ✓ Support **coordination** and **collaboration** between the different **parts of the AKI system** both at institutional and operational level, with particular focus to advisory services.
- ✓ Thorough dissemination of information, knowledge and innovations targeted on the real needs of rural holdings, specifically on SMEs.
- ✓ Improve the offer of available information and training through the **adoption of new and diverse methods and tools** that can better respond to farmers', foresters' and rural entrepreneurs' needs, with particular attention to young farmers and new entrants.
- ✓ Encourage rural entrepreneurs and other AKIS actors to **use digital tools**, also through an appropriate identification of needs.
- ✓ Motivate single farmers and cooperatives to participate to multi-actor projects and to contribute to spread innovation.

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