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:

Ireland

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)?**

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

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

A) Characteristics of your AKIS: SWOT

Strengths

S1: The constituent parts of the Irish AKIS (Research, Knowledge Transfer, Farm Advisory Service, and Cooperation & CAP Network) are well established

S2: National investment in agricultural research is significant, delivering new knowledge consistently

S3: Successful peer-to-peer learning through knowledge transfer groups

S4: Teagasc provide a significant range of Education and CPD activities on a national basis

S5: Significant engagement by agri-food actors in developing AKIS related programmes

S6: Well-established public and private farm advisory services within the AKIS system which act as one of the main information sources for farmers

S7: Successful implementation of EIP-AGRI projects

S8: Significant investment at EU & national level on research and innovation in agri-digitalisation

S9: Significant public-private investment in agri-digitalisation

S10: There are already significant innovation support structures in place such as accelerator programmes to support agri-digitalisation development

S11: Significant development of public agri-digital products (decision support tools) and services (LPIS, AIMS), which can support the design and implementation of agriculture policies

S12: Irish farmers are highly educated and have high levels of agricultural training

S13: Ireland ranks highly in the Digital Economy and Society Index 2020

Weaknesses

W1: The organisational set-up of AKIS is not structured and lacks coordination and strategic direction

W2: Weak relationships between certain parts of the AKIS system

W3: The level of agricultural research being applied in practice is insufficient

W4: Researchers are not incentivised sufficiently for their impact beyond academia

W5: Advisory system involvement in co-creation innovation activity is insufficient

W6: EIP Operational Groups do not currently engage in a broad scope of activities, related to all nine CAP specific objectives.

W7: Awareness and confidence levels in using technology are low

A) Characteristics of your AKIS: SWOT

Opportunities	Threats
O 1: Structure the AKIS so that it is more collaborative and responsive to the needs of primary producers	**T1:** A non-structured AKIS will lead to inefficiencies in the agri-food sector
O2: Enhance the speed and process of knowledge transfer	**T2:** Issues relating to data use, data security, data sharing and data ownership
O3: Knowledge Transfer peer-to-peer discussion group model could be utilised to address societal challenges	**T3:** The costs of technology are often viewed as a barrier to uptake of new technologies
04: Engagement in cross-border Operational Groups	**T4:** Broadband provision and quality
O5: Enable equal access to training for public & private advisors	
O6: Further integrate private veterinary practitioners and the DAFM Regional Veterinary Laboratory network	
O7: Promote private and public investment in AKIS	
O8: A strategic approach to steer the digital transformation of the farming sector and rural areas	

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?**

- The SWOT & Needs Assessment has been drafted

- An AKIS questionnaire was provided to the National CAP Consultative Committee to provide structured feedback on the background AKIS and Agri-Digitalisation papers

- Background papers describing the Irish AKIS and Agri-Digitalisation state of play have been prepared and discussed with the National CAP Consultative Committee which includes interaction with non-agricultural Ministries

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?

This part of the process is now being developed in Ireland so it is not possible to comment at this moment.

C) interventions planned for your future AKIS

- What are the **main CAP interventions you plan** for your national AKIS with regard to:

  This part of the process is now being developed in Ireland so it is not possible to comment at this moment.

a. **Enhancing knowledge flows and strengthening links between research and practice**

  Outside of CAP, the national agri-food research programme has been updated to account for a food systems approach and to offer the opportunity to fund 'innovation intermediaries'.

b. **Strengthening farm advisory services within the AKIS**

  CPD Training for Advisors is being further developed under the CAP Transitional Programme

c. **Strengthening interactive innovation and EIP OGs**

d. **Supporting digital transition in agriculture**

  Outside of CAP, a Growing Digital Adoption within the Agri-Sector SkillNet Training Programme is under development