

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:

Belgium – Flanders

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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

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- Good mix of applied scientific research and practical research
- Strong existing networks, all AKIS-actors involved (e.g. Platform Agricultural Research, Agrilink,...)
- Open knowledge system: research results are widely disseminated in an open and neutral way
- Practical research centers: farmers and advisors take part in planning research + low-threshold for farmers

Strengths

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- Certain group of farmers cannot be reached and is not integrated in AKIS.
- Not all advisors are very well integrated in AKIS.
- Missing links between research, advice, vocational training, EIP and VLIF Innovative investment project support.
- Risk-taking innovation: lack of support for innovations with little chance of success but a lot of potential for the sector.

Weaknesses

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- Coordination with other authorities supporting research and innovation in agriculture is needed to identify gaps, synergies and strengthen each other.
- We already have all the building blocks to build a stronger AKIS: there are a lot of actors in research, advice, training but we need to elaborate/enforce the links between those actors.

Opportunities

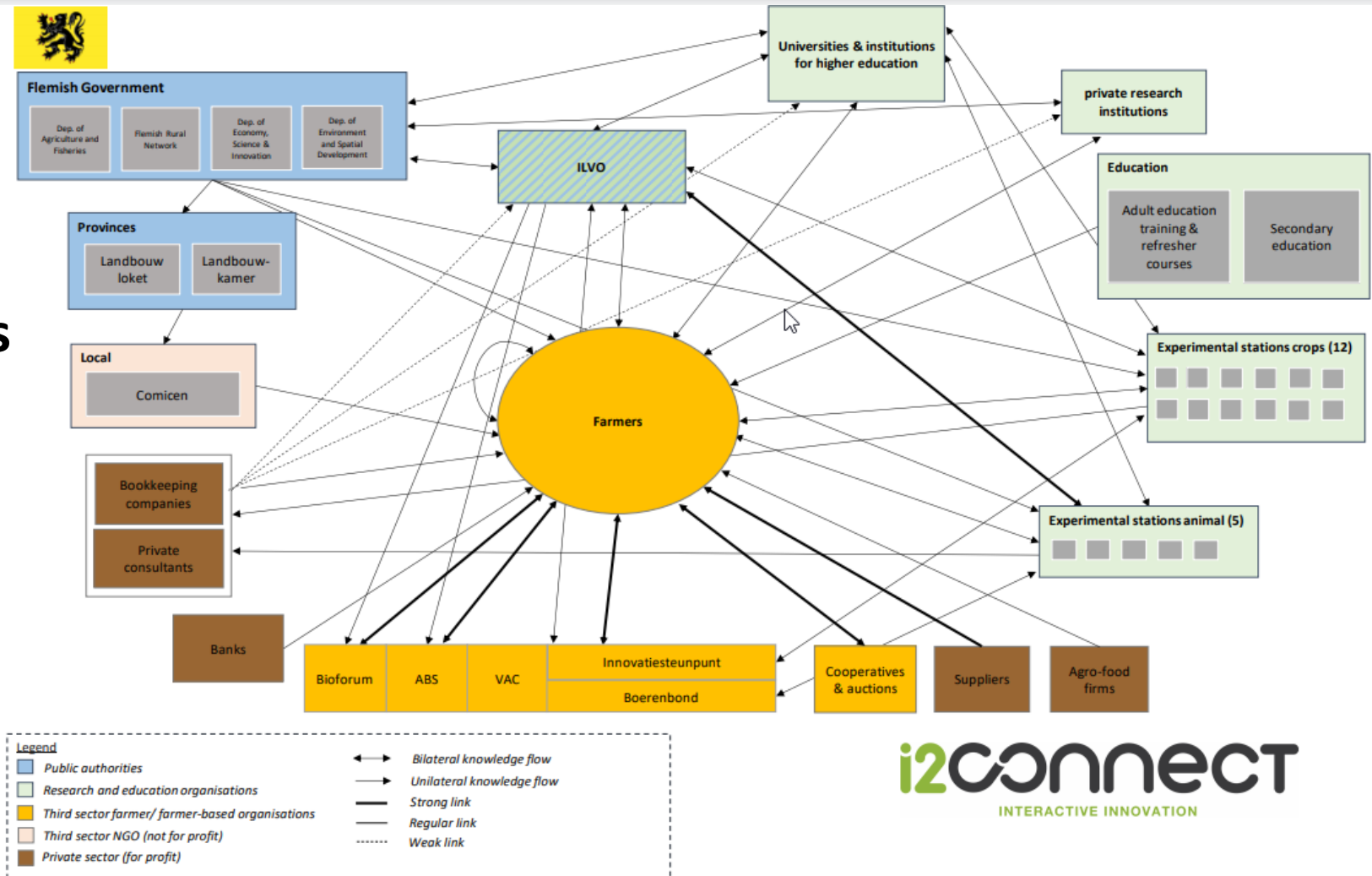
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- Due to economies of scale larger farms start to develop their own knowledge independently of research.
- Advisors/researchers not willing to share knowledge as they are competitors in some areas
- Advisors with commercial activities not integrated in AKIS and private advisors difficult to identify
- Administrative burden for farmers and other actors

Threats

A) Characteristics of your AKIS: SWOT

Main actors and knowledge flows
Flemish AKIS diagram



A) Characteristics of your AKIS: SWOT

- Which **barriers and bottlenecks** are hindering knowledge flows in your AKIS? How to overcome them?
 - Unreachable farmers
 - => Modernizing training system: new forms of learning (e-learning, learning networks,...) + demand-driven training, tailored to the farmer + modular training for newcomers based on their prior knowledge/experience
 - => Improve the provision of information on funding opportunities, make them more easily accessible
 - Relative low uptake of advice
 - => No longer use of public procurement procedure + importance of user-oriented communication

A) Characteristics of your AKIS: SWOT

- Lack of a register of advisors
 - => Registration/certification of advisors + free training of advisors
- Fear of sharing knowledge by pioneers
 - => top-up for innovative investment support if the farmer disseminates the results

A) Characteristics of your AKIS: SWOT

- **What should be the main **changes to implement** if you compare with the current situation?**
 - Advice and vocational training more tailored
 - 1) More flexibility on the themes that are covered in advice and training
 - 2) More advisory services and training centers to choose from
 - 3) New types of training and advice, e.g. not only 1-to-1- advice but also advice for a group of farmers (e.g. area-specific approaches)
 - Voucher-system and financial contribution of the farmer for advice/training on certain topics: more critical look at the quality.
 - Continuous calls for EIP and support for innovative investments instead of yearly call

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**?
 - Main lines of the interventions have been set out, now further development, balance between flexibility, simplicity and controllability
 - Knowledge exchange with Flemish Department of Economy, Science & Innovation about SME portfolio for technological advice by a recognised knowledge centre and ideas for cooperation on recognition of trainers/advisors
 - Knowledge exchange with the Flemish Department of Work and Social Economy on their voucher-system to spend ESF-funds
 - Alignment with the Flemish Department of Economy, Science & Innovation: identify overlap and gaps and reinforce each other

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?
 - Cooperation to set up AKIS-interventions from the beginning of designing the CAP strategic plan: interventions much better integrated/linked up
 - Clear, efficient and user-centric communication on the AKIS-possibilities for the farmer and other actors

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:

- (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?
 - Increasing capacity of Flemish Rural Network: more focus on AKIS
 - Platform where AKIS-actors can find each other and ask questions
 - Networking activities among AKIS-actors

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**
 - Training: free access of advisors/trainers to certain types
 - Top-up for farmers willing to communicate about their innovative investment for which they received support
 - Synergies between the different AKIS-interventions
 - b. **Strengthening farm advisory services within the AKIS**
 - Demonstration activities targeting advisors and trainers;
 - Advisors involved in organizing/hosting demonstration activities
 - Networking of trainers and educators

C) interventions planned for your future AKIS

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

- Support for advice to farmers by an advisory service/knowledge center/innovation broker for composing an OG and setting up an EIP-project
- Easier access for farmers to EIP and support for innovative investments by replacing the yearly call by a continuous call opened during the whole year

d. **Supporting digital transition in agriculture**

- Broad range of topics for advice and training e.g. data, digital decision tools, precision agriculture,...
- Calls for EIP-projects and demonstration projects on digitization
- New digital types of learning
- Geotagged foto-app for controls

C) interventions planned for your future AKIS

- Any issues with the **budget** needed to come to a good result?
 - Determination of the rate of support, the amount of subsidy,...
 - The use of SCO's

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

