



## SWG AKIS

# Strategic Working Group on Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems

Budapest Meeting  
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## Belgium

BRIEUC QUEVY AND SPW - WALLONIA

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# 1.A) Characteristics of the Belgian AKIS

- AKIS is characterized by:
  - BE - 2 distinct sub-AKIS (French and Dutch spoken, regional responsibilities)
  - WAL+FL - An AKIS system structured by sectors
  - WAL+FL - A long history of formal and informal collaboration
  - WAL+FL - An agricultural education /training system
  - WAL - A delegation and contractualisation of services
  - FL - Open knowledge system, with emphasis on knowledge transfer
  - FL - Strong involvement of the public and private sector
  - FL - Broad range of expertise (topic, type of research)

# 1.A) Characteristics of the Belgian AKIS

## ➤ Changes

- WAL+FL - Increased collaboration between the regional AKIS
- WAL - Implementation of the Strategic Agricultural Committee, the Producers' Committee
- WAL - Introduction of competitive calls
- WAL - Development of a three-year plan of research and proposed creation of joint research units
- FL - Support for EIP operational groups addresses a gap in the Flemish AKIS
- FL - Start of Agrolink Vlaanderen

## ➤ Barriers & bottlenecks

- WAL+FL - Research, education still disconnected from the need of the farming sector. Little focus on innovation implementation
- WAL - Lack of funds for R&D projects or an administrative complexity related to the allocation of funds
- WAL - Lack of time, commitment and involvement of the farming sector
- FL - Layered structure (regional and provincial involvement)
- FL - Scattered expertise

# 1.B) What are the themes of interest nowadays and for the next 10 years in your country?

## Different kind of themes: Example Belgium

- **Sectors: multiple sectors, priority differs between the regions**
  - **FL** - horticulture (vegetables, fruits, ornamentals), livestock (dairy, pig and poultry), arable production
  - **WAL** - milk, livestock, cereals, beet, potatoes, horticulture, forage
- **Cross-cutting/systemic themes:**
  - **WAL+FL** - organic production, agro-ecology, biomass/bio-economy, greenhouse gasses
  - **FL** - climate mitigation and adaptation, water, energy, fertilization
  - **WAL** - production rentability, biocontrol, Genetic, differentiated quality, durability
- **Technological themes:** precision farming, genomics, sensing technologies, bio-control
  - **WAL+FL** - precision agriculture, bio-control
  - **FL** - genomics, sensing technologies
  - **WAL** - information and communication technologies (ICT), robotic
- **AKIS themes:**
  - **FL** - open innovation and participation models, introduction of new technologies at farm-level (including socio-economic feasibility)
  - **WAL** - innovative practices, diversification

## 2) Belgian Infrastructures generating knowledge flows

Kind of Infrastructure	Names	Places	Sector	Holder	Users	Funders
<b>WAL+FL : Research</b> - universities and university colleges  - Research institutes	- UCL, Ulg - Gembloux Agro-Bio Tech, ULB, Unamur, UGent, KU Leuven, UA - ILVO, CRA-W, AWE	All over Belgium	All	- University  - Institute, gov.	All	- Public - Private
<b>WAL+FL : Experimental stations</b>	- FL: 12  - WAL: Centres pilotes, CARAH, CRE, other units and structures	- All over Flanders - All over Wallonia	- plant production - All	- Provinces  - Associations, farmers, local gov.	- Farmers - Research - Advisors	- Public - Private
<b>WAL+FL : Observatory/ monitoring Networks</b>	Experimental station network with pilot center and farmers	All over Belgium	Plant disease	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Associations</li> <li>• Farmers</li> <li>• Local authorities</li> </ul>	Farmers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public</li> <li>• Private</li> </ul>
<b>WAL+FL : Social media</b>	Facebook Twitter Linkedin		Fragmented use	All actors	Policymakers Research Farmers	
<b>FL: Digital infrastructures</b>	Agro-expertsdatabase Research portal Private initiatives (e.g. farm café)		All (generic initiatives)	- Agrolink Flanders - Flem. Gov. - KBC	- Research - Farmers	- Gov. actors

## 2) Belgian Infrastructures generating knowledge flows

Kind of Infrastructure	Names	Places	Sector	Holder	Users	Funders
<b>WAL: Agricultural offices</b>	7 regional offices at regional level and in the provinces	All over Wallonia	All	Province/region	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public</li> </ul>
<b>WAL: Non profit organizations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advisory structure</li> <li>Farmers' Union</li> <li>Comice</li> <li>Training structure</li> </ul>	All over Wallonia	All	Organizations	Farmers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public</li> <li>Private</li> </ul>
<b>FL: Networks</b> - general  - topic related	Agrolink Flanders, Collaboration Platform for agricultural research Organic, fertilization, etc.	No location	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Government</li> <li>Actors themselves</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Research</li> <li>Farmers' organizations</li> <li>government</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Government</li> <li>Actors themselves</li> </ul>
<b>FL: Support centre</b>	Innovation support centre	Leuven	All	Boerenbond	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Farmers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Boerenbond</li> <li>Cera</li> <li>Gov.</li> </ul>

## 3.A) Belgian Interactive Innovation schemes

### ➤ Wallonia and Flanders

- Integration in different European networks (C-IPM, Core organic plus, SuSan), international networks (ex : Global Research Alliance)

### ➤ Flanders

- Agricultural trajectories
- EIP operational groups
- Instruments in the general science and innovation policy: TETRA, VIS, SME portfolio, R&D projects

### ➤ Wallonia

- Le Réseau wallon du Développement Rural (RWDR)
- The Producers' Committee where crop by crop representative farmers advise on the needs and are informed about results of research

## 3.B) Belgian interactive Innovation networks

### ➤ Wallonia

- Several calls for projects are launched and dozens of projects are underway
- Wagralim (<http://www.wagralim.be/>)

### ➤ Flanders

- IOF networks
- Innovative companies network on Smart Digital farming
- Agrofood cluster (to be)





**THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
ATTENTION!**