

SCAR
Standing Committee
on Agricultural Research



SCAR
AKIS
Agricultural Knowledge
and Innovation Systems

SWG SCAR-AKIS

Strategic Working Group on Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems

**Dublin Meeting
15 to 17th April 2019**

Poland

AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY CENTRE (CDR) - POLAND

1. Introduction on Art 102 on AKIS

Article 102 Modernisation

The description of the elements that ensure modernisation of the CAP referred to in point (g) of Article 95(1) shall highlight the elements of the CAP Strategic Plan that support the modernisation of the agricultural sector and the CAP and shall contain in particular:

(a): *an overview of how the CAP Strategic Plan will contribute to the cross-cutting general objective related to fostering and sharing of knowledge, innovation and digitalisation and encouraging their uptake set out in the second subparagraph of Article 5, notably through describing....(i) and (ii)*

There are 2 parts in Art 102 to describe in the CAP AKIS plans:

- (i) the **organisational** set-up of a well-functioning AKIS in your country
- (ii) how this organisation helps to **deliver services**: better advice, more innovation and improved knowledge flows

A) Characteristics of your AKIS (SWOT)

- What are the **main characteristics of your national AKIS** (strength, weakness, main actors, knowledge flows that characterize your AKIS)?
- What will be the **main changes** to implement if you compare with the current situation?
- Main **barriers and bottlenecks** hindering knowledge flows in your AKIS.
- How to **overcome** them?
- How is the **process** of discussion on AKIS going in your country?

B) Future CAP AKIS Strategic plans

- Starting from Art 102 in the Commission proposal, and in order to tackle the cross-cutting objective on K&I, please explain:
 - ▶ (i) how the **organisational set-up of the AKIS**, and in particular **advisory services as referred to in Article 13, research and CAP networks**, will improve cooperation and the sharing of knowledge in an integrated manner; and
 - ▶ (ii) how they will **provide advice, knowledge flows and innovation support services**

C) interventions planned in your future AKIS

What are the **main CAP interventions** you may plan for your national **AKIS**? With regard to:

- a. Enhancing knowledge flows and **strengthening links between research and practice**
- b. **Strengthening farm advisory services within the AKIS**
- c. **Strengthening interactive innovation**
- d. Supporting **digital transition** in agriculture

Characteristics of a given AKIS

- ▶ 1. **What are the main features of your national AKIS?**
- ▶ a) **system features:**
 - ▶ • based on multi-entity cooperation (public and private agricultural advisory service, farmers, scientific/research units, public administration, educational bodies, etc.);
 - ▶ • the individual units that make up the system have specific technical capability background;
 - ▶ • Interactions between the units e.g. Polish National Rural Network - Network for Innovation in Agriculture based in CDR;
 - ▶ • the cross-sectoral nature of relationship and connections between different sector entities: agriculture, food production (specifically small scale and on-farm), rural development;
 - ▶ • the system includes both the public and private sector partners.

Characteristics of a given AKIS

▶ **b) strengths of the system**

- ▶ • all involved bodies/entities benefit from participation
- ▶ • the units specialize what makes the system versatile with the whole range of expertise;
- ▶ • they already have extensive experience in intersectoral and multi-entity cooperation and development potential;
- ▶ • the system includes national and regional entities, therefore it "has" knowledge of national, regional and local conditions as well as and local practical experience

Characteristics of a given AKIS

- ▶ • the system includes:
 - ▶ - a network of reliable and impartial agricultural advisory services units – 16 and covers the entire country. The basic operations are financed by the national budget including the competence building central unit CDR;
 - ▶ - an efficient network of innovation brokers that covers the entire country;
 - ▶ - a network of secondary agricultural schools;
 - ▶ - universities with high level knowledge and technology transfer centers.

Characteristics of a given AKIS

- ▶ **c) weaknesses / barriers / bottlenecks**
- ▶ • administrative overload of public agricultural advisory units and additional ad hoc unplanned tasks ordered by the government;
- ▶ • system fragmentation resulting from different goals and interests of partners;
- ▶ • weak links between the units;
- ▶ • insufficient cooperative habits;
- ▶ • strategic documents and a coherent financing system from public sources are not sufficiently developed;

Characteristics of a given AKIS

- ▶ • insufficient incentives for innovative and investment activities;
- ▶ • shortage of field demonstration activities;
- ▶ • insufficient incentives to conduct implementation activities by scientific and research units;
- ▶ • insufficient development of professional qualifications of agricultural advisors;
- ▶ • shortage of tools supporting advisers' work incl. dissemination and implementation activities

Characteristics of a given AKIS

- ▶ **2. What are the main changes for implementation if you compare them to the current situation? How to overcome barriers and bottleneck.**
- ▶ • introduction of financial system supporting multi-entity approach;
- ▶ • development of incentives for multi-actor cooperation, pro-innovative activities and implementation of research results as well as demonstration and dissemination activities;
- ▶ • increasing the role of farmers and farmer representation in the system;

Characteristics of a given AKIS


- ▶ • defining the role / mechanisms of networks functioning as tools for knowledge and innovation transfer ;
- ▶ • strengthening the catalyst role of agricultural advisory in the system .

Characteristics of a given AKIS

- ▶ 3. **What is the process of discussing on AKIS in your country?**
- ▶ • organisation and arrangement of regular meetings of thematic groups and working groups on specific themes AKIS connected;
- ▶ • regular meetings of stakeholders e.g. representatives of agricultural advisory and research institutes in order to exchange the updated information on recent developments and opportunities;
- ▶ • promotion of AKIS at various events, e.g. forums, conferences, training courses;

Characteristics of a given AKIS

- ▶ • promoting a multi-stakeholder approach and exchange of knowledge, experience and good practices between different persons / institutions AKIS related (fairs, promotional events, exhibitions etc.);

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- ▶ **(i) How the organization of the AKIS system, and in particular the advisory services, science and networks of the CAP, will improve cooperation and knowledge sharing in an integrated way:**
 - ▶ - Particular development of the Network for Innovation in Agriculture (SIR) embracing numerous partners which have potential to contribute to improving the flow of knowledge between science and agricultural practice;
 - ▶ Financing projects from the Rural Development Program (Strategic Plan after 2020) with aim to facilitating the exchange of information on innovative solutions (e.g. meetings or internships for advisers in research institutes, organization of meetings and thematic conferences with the participation of scientists, advisers and farmers; organization of thematic meetings for advisors, organization of study visits for advisors and farmers, production of movies and/ or brochures promoting innovative solutions).



▶ **(ii) how will advisory services, knowledge transfer and innovation support services be provided?**

- ▶ Development of Innovation Networks in Agriculture and in rural areas, support for training of advisors and equipping them with appropriate tools, building personal and professional capacities of advisory services and provision of competence training for farmers and agricultural producers.
- ▶ - Development of professional qualifications of advisers by means of:
 - ▶ o Postgraduate studies,
 - ▶ o internship program in research institutes and experimental facilities
 - ▶ o Training programs for young advisors
 - ▶ o Specialist training courses for advisers
 - ▶ o Training of soft skills



- Applying digital solutions:


- o Preparation and implementation of digital platforms to provide up to date relevant information and distant training services,


- o Development and dissemination of digital tools supporting the work of advisers,

- o Building and maintaining knowledge exchange platforms.

- Soft skills training for researchers;

- Vouchers for researchers enabling development of new research based solutions or other ways of incentives to facilitate cooperation and sharing information about innovative solutions;

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- ▶ - Training for agricultural school teachers on new methods and systems of agricultural production;
 - ▶ - Supporting thematic group meetings with researchers, consultants/advisers and farmers;
 - ▶ - Development and dissemination of implementation instructions/manuals on new / innovative practical solutions;
 - ▶ - Provision of advisory and training services for farmers, taking into account the wider use of distant training and consulting;

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- ▶ - Broader implementation of training based on demonstrations;
 - ▶ - Supporting of cooperation between agricultural producers

Transfer of knowledge and innovation in agriculture

Interventions planned in the future AKIS in Poland? AKIS activities after 2020?

- ▶ 1. To build a system of permanent, structural links between science/research – agricultural advisory and farmer community in order to improve the flow of information and innovative solutions to agricultural practice;
- ▶ 2. The system should be based on systematic meetings between science and agricultural advisory and farmer community in order to identify the beneficiary needs. The information flow should go both ways. Farmers express their problems and needs to agricultural advisers advisers who together with scientists try to sort out the problem. Advisers provide farmers with knowledge about new solutions and innovations the way enabling farmers to make use of them in practice;

Transfer of knowledge and innovation in agriculture

- ▶ 3. Building thematic groups of farmers in order to solve identified problems with the participation of advisers and researchers needed. In thematic groups, the advisor acts as a group coordinator and facilitator who transmits knowledge. Also farmers have the opportunity to exchange information between them about gained experiences;
- ▶ 4. Practical use of research results through demonstrations (e.g. on demonstration farms);
- ▶ 5. Systematic trainings for advisory staff. Building a career path and raising competences in an organized manner, continuous updating of knowledge. Acquiring qualifications by advisers not only regarding substantive knowledge but also soft skills;

Transfer of knowledge and innovation in agriculture

- ▶ 6. Providing tools to agricultural advisors, scientists and farmers that will facilitate the transfer of knowledge (digital applications), the use of digitization and technical innovations to improve work performance in agriculture (computer software and hardware, digital applications, internet access, knowledge transfer platforms, databases etc.);
- ▶ 7. asset and equipment investment to get support for implementing innovations (not only soft activities);
- ▶ 8. Making financing of technical assistance projects more flexible and in line with current needs. The present system of implementing technical assistance is too complicated, long and low efficient;

Transfer of knowledge and innovation in agriculture

- ▶ 9. Strengthening, extending Network for Innovation in Agriculture activities and changing its functioning towards simplifications. Currently, too much time is spent on completing documents and accounting, and too little on the implementation of projects;
- ▶ 10. Create a system for co-financing innovative activities through, for example, small grants or vouchers for innovators;
- ▶ 11. Use of digital tools in the process of professional capacity building such as webinars, distance training - e-learning, streaming, etc.;

Transfer of knowledge and innovation in agriculture

- ▶ 12. Inclusion of agricultural schools into the knowledge transfer system. Currently, there are no systemic links between agriculture advisory and agricultural schools;
- ▶ 13. Raising the soft competences of advisers and scientists. There is shortage of communication skills, cooperating with farmers, facilitating contacts and maintaining them, facilitating knowledge transfer ;
- ▶ 14. Building knowledge transfer platform with search engine for sharing information for partners (advisers, scientists, farmers, teachers of agricultural schools, other interested bodies);
- ▶ 15. Creating an incentive system for implementing innovations into agricultural practice by all partners.



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
ATTENTION!**