



SWG SCAR-AKIS

Strategic Working Group on Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems

Dublin Meeting
15 to 17th April 2019

Finland

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A) Characteristics of your AKIS (SWOT)

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



Prospects for Farmers' Support: Advisory Services in European AKIS (PRO AKIS)



FINLAND

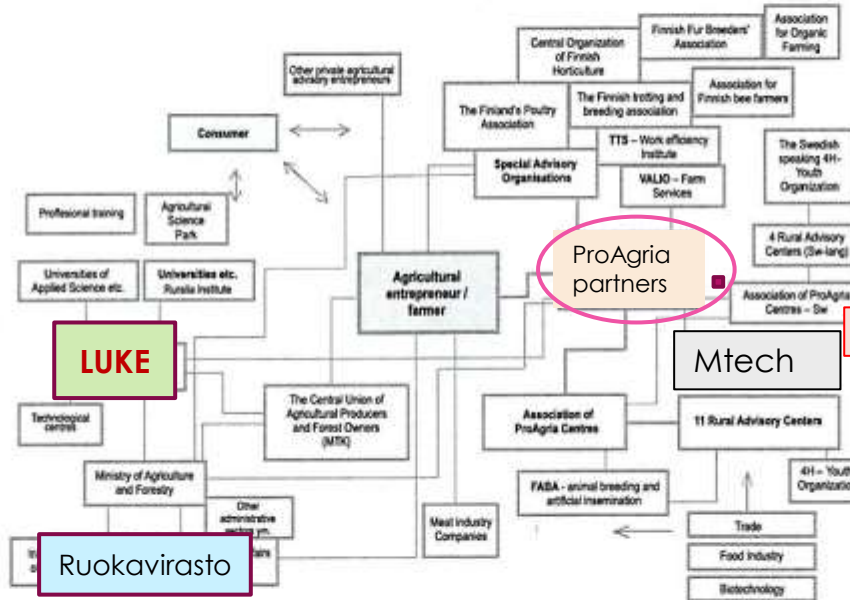
AKIS DIAGRAM

Main actors of AKIS:

(a) **administration:** Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MMM); Agency for Rural Affairs (MAVI); Regional Centres for Economic Development, Transport and Environment (15); Finnish Food Safety Authority Evira;
 (b) **education and research:** Universities; Agrifood Research Finland (MTT); Finnish Food Safety Authority Evira;
 (c) **extension:** ProAgria Group (covers 80% of farmer needs); 7 independent extension organisations (working according to the agreement with ProAgria Group);
 (d) **other independent extension organisations:** Association of Private Rural Advisors (serving very special services)

Cooperation between AKIS actors:

the linkages and cooperation between ProAgria and Universities and Research are active and going well



Main supplier(s) of advisory services:

private organisation ProAgria Group (consists of 17 organisations)

Main clients:

- (1) large commercial farms;
- (2) small commercial farms;
- (3) part-time farmers

Main topics of advice:

plant and animal production, environment, business diversification

Main methods:

various methods are being used, but mainly individual and mass

Main sources of funding the advisory services:

mixed funding, but state budget covers 14% of services cost



THEME (KBBE 2012 - 4-01)
 Agricultural Knowledge & Innovation Systems
 for an Inclusive Europe
 Grant agreement for: Coordination & support action
 Grant agreement no: 311994



UNIVERSITY OF HOHENHEIM



UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE
 IN KRAKOW



Knowledge Centre
 for Agriculture

SWOT

- A) Interactive, differentiated, public, independent system. Skilled farmers. Almost free basic advisory. (Too effortless?) Challenges: Transformation from producers to entrepreneurs. Expertized info and services of the most advanced farmers in a small language area?
- B) Assessment and feedback is positive. No major changes proposed. More effort on knowledge flow, farm management and accounting. E.g. feedback system on M02 under construction.
- C) Diminished resources of the University & research -compared to the needs of new knowledge and skills in bigger farms. Private financing not much involved in open research.
- D) More determined, goal-oriented co-operation between all actors. More public-private and innovation oriented interaction.
- E) Series of 28 open workshops for CAP-plan and several around AKIS-activities. The big discussion is on the poor profitability of the farming. Knowledge is seen as a tool for better performance.

B) Future CAP AKIS Strategic plans

- ▶ (i) how the *organisational set-up of the AKIS...improve cooperation and the sharing of knowledge in an integrated manner*;
- ▶ **No attempt for drastic changes. All the actors are important, national and regional. TARGET: better flow of info, data, needs and knowledge between the partners. Common idea of priorities, goals + program + commitment. Facilitators for connecting actors.**
- ▶ (ii) how they will *provide advice, knowledge flows and innovation support services*
- ▶ **Advisory, cooperation, EIP, training, business development... Much is depending on the resources of the diminishing EAFRD next period. Also the technical aid is scarce resource. (Admin + CAP –network services may be weak). Structural funds more oriented to the cities and centers.**

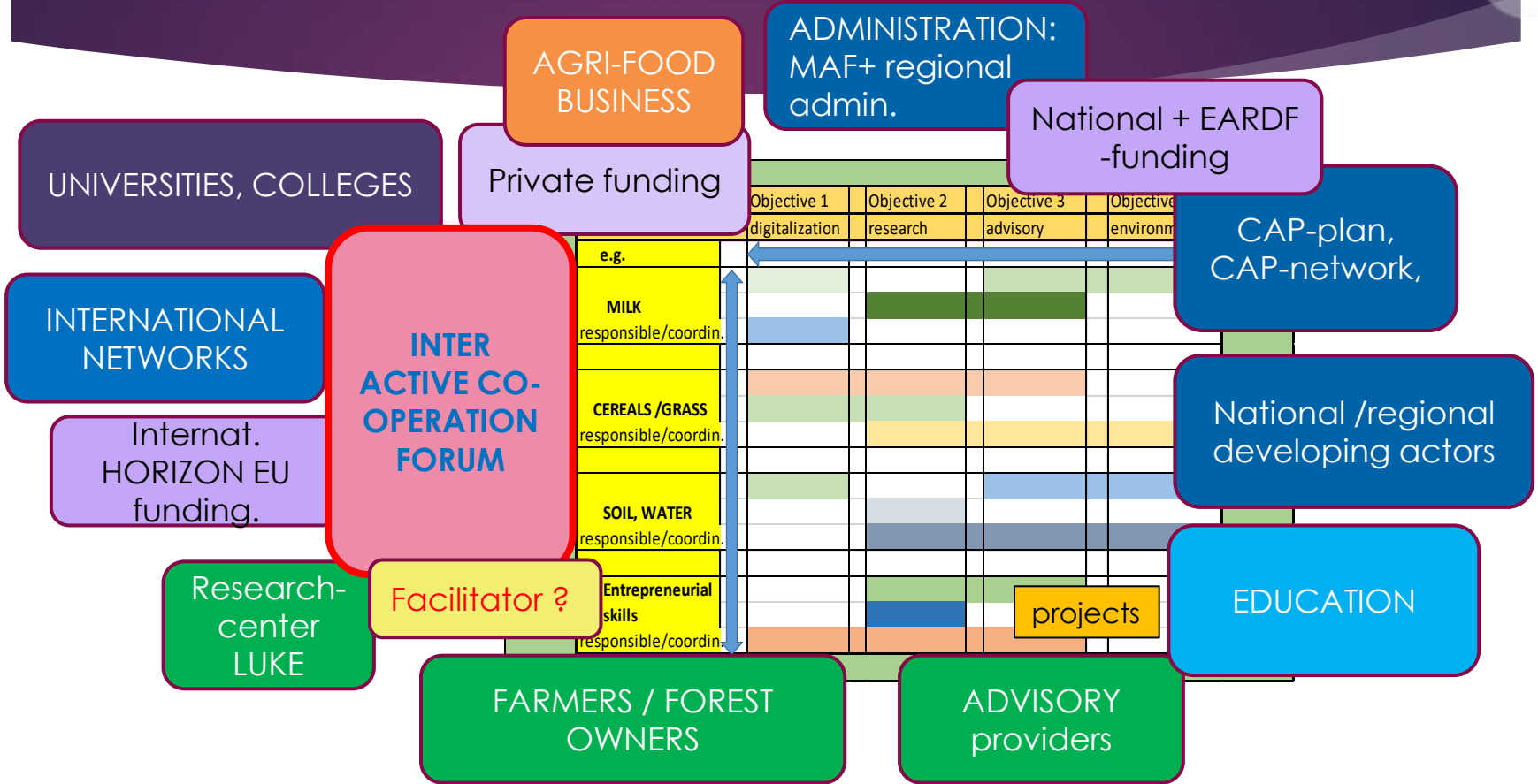
C) interventions planned in your future AKIS

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

- a. Enhancing knowledge flows and **strengthening links between research and practice** by national innovation forum/platform to build a new interactive cooperation between partners and pp to design the R&D&I programs and actions more integrated. Trying to avoid too fragmented, overlapping actions and projects under CAP-plan. (all development interventions+ technical aid)
- b. Strengthening **farm advisory services** within the AKIS: Widening adv. scope, more training of the advisors needed. Enhancing also peer-to-peer farmer group knowledge dissemination. New web-based training methods (Art 72).
- c. Strengthening **interactive innovation**: More cross-fertilization between sectors and knowledge to enhance e.g. bio economy. More attention on brokerage (Art 71 (~700 projects now). Benchmarking best practices in EIP.
- d. Supporting **digital transition** in agriculture. More targeted projects. All know the potential and the need of the leap, but the development is very scattered. E.g. new cow houses often include robotics but the connection between the data of the field processes and the feeding table is working by pen, paper and calculator. Lagging broadband connections in rural areas. (Training, co-operation, investments)



Idea for enhancing the information flow...





**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
ATTENTION!**