

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
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IRELAND

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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)?- **Main strengths – 1. Well integrated research, advisory and vocational education (Teagasc, Agency of the Agriculture and Food ministry). 2. Good collaboration between main actors in the AKIS through formal and informal structures. 3. Good farming press and media presence through a variety of methods and sources. 4. Government led support**
- **Main weaknesses 1. Lack of meaningful one to one contact with some farmers and actors, 2. Scheme focused solutions around activities rather than results focused. 3. Limited innovation brokering activity.**
- What will be the **main changes** to implement if you compare with the current situation? **1. More work needed to future proof innovation support activity re- climate action, adapting to changing societal norms etc. 2. Encourage results-driven support activities.**
- Main **barriers and bottlenecks** hindering knowledge flows in your AKIS. **Still a lot of contradictory information, even from similar sources. It is hard to find the science and to ensure that its not driven by vested interests**
- How to **overcome** them? **More open dialogue and challenging of people from all sides of the issues. More awareness of environmental and animal welfare issues and actions.**
- How is the **process** of discussion on AKIS going in your country? **Good attention to the AKIS in the FoodWise 2025 strategy and action plan. Limited to date in the next plan related to CAP post 2020, has not been discussed much yet, needs more focused initiatives to improve the current situation.**

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; more than 50% of the farm advisory service provision comes from within one public organisation, Teagasc. The remainder comes from private consultancies and commercial companies. Teagasc concentrates on the technical and business support with comprehensive applied research and training programmes, servicing one third of farmers under annual contracts. It impacts on all other advisory actors through the supply of technical information to media and specific outreach programmes e.g. ConnectEd. These private actors provide a variety of services outside of the scope of Teagasc.
 - ▶ (ii) how they will **provide advice, knowledge flows and innovation support services** : All advisors will deliver group based innovation support, targeted at specific challenges, sectors, locally led groups of farmers and the wider rural communities, using digital tools and 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: Don't know, would like to see more focus on discussion groups around real problems.**
- b. **Strengthening farm advisory services within the AKIS: Already strong but more effort needed to avoid the “fake news” and resist over simplified solutions. Build on the AKIS actions specified in FoodWise 2025.**
- c. **Strengthening interactive innovation: More Operational Groups, smaller scale for solving local problems. Develop strong evaluation framework to ensure sharing of learning across groups and to the broader AKIS.**
- d. Supporting **digital transition** in agriculture: **Better advisory tools, that reduce the effort of farmers and advisors to assemble accurate data for decision making, benchmarking and reporting on their farm.**



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
ATTENTION!**