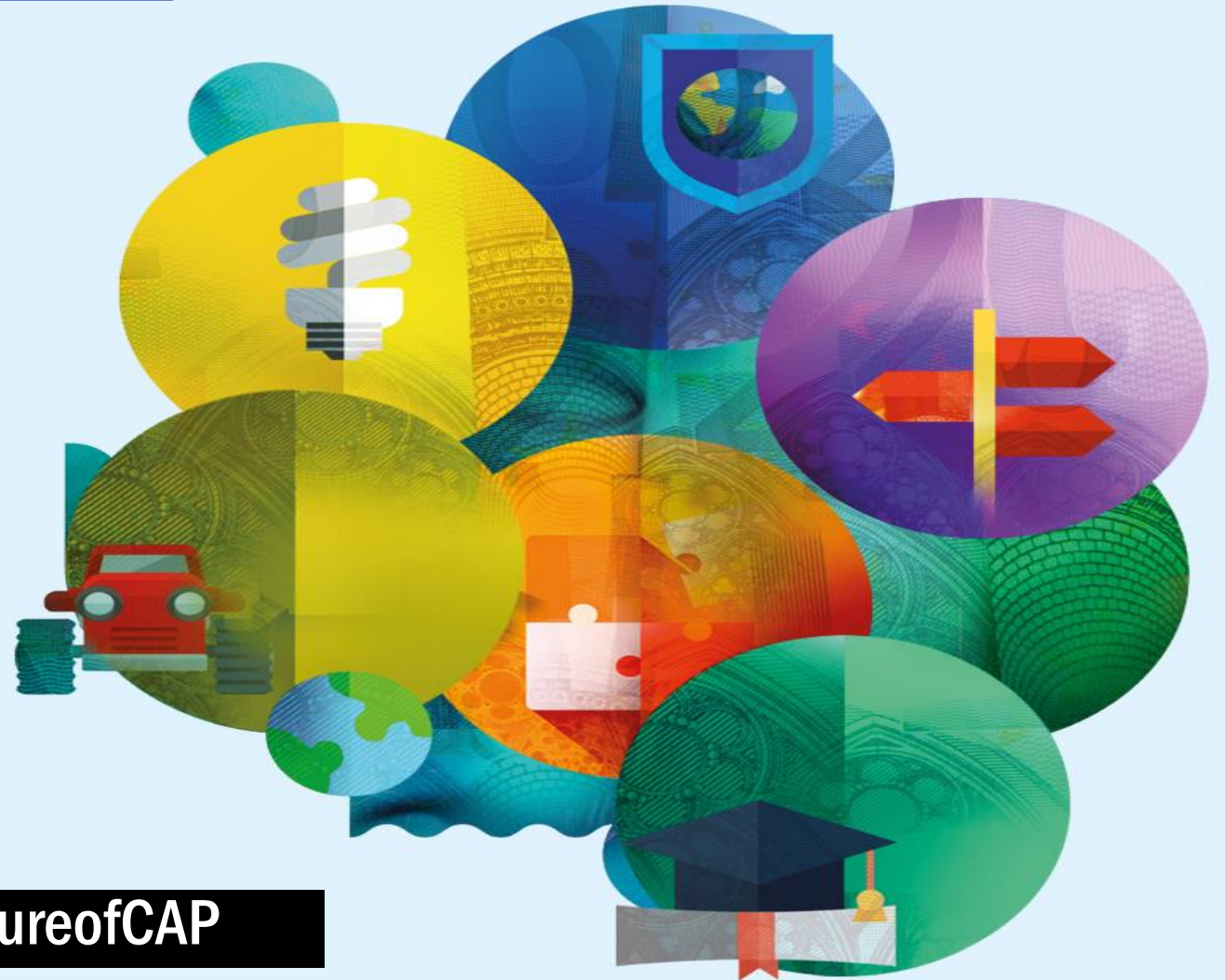




# COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY

Post-2020

***CAP Strategic Plans 2023-2027:  
New roles & tools for farm  
advisors in interactive projects***



**I2Connect & Fairshare**  
**Inge Van Oost - DG AGRI**  
**European Commission – DG AGRI D.1**  
**24 February 2022**

**#FutureofCAP**

**From EIP-AGRI 2014-2020  
to AKIS Strategic Plans post 2023-2027  
& Green Deal relevance:  
We need continuation + change....**



# Provisions on modernisation in the CAP Strategic Plan Regulation post 2020

## What is changing?

**Funding innovative projects.....**

**.....will now be supported by a whole  
innovation ecosystem systematically  
interlinking people and projects (AKIS)**

**AKIS at the heart of the agricultural innovation ecosystem =>**

**Cross-cutting CAP support to Systematically share**

**Knowledge and Innovation in Agriculture and rural areas**

including **in whatever farming and rural activities**

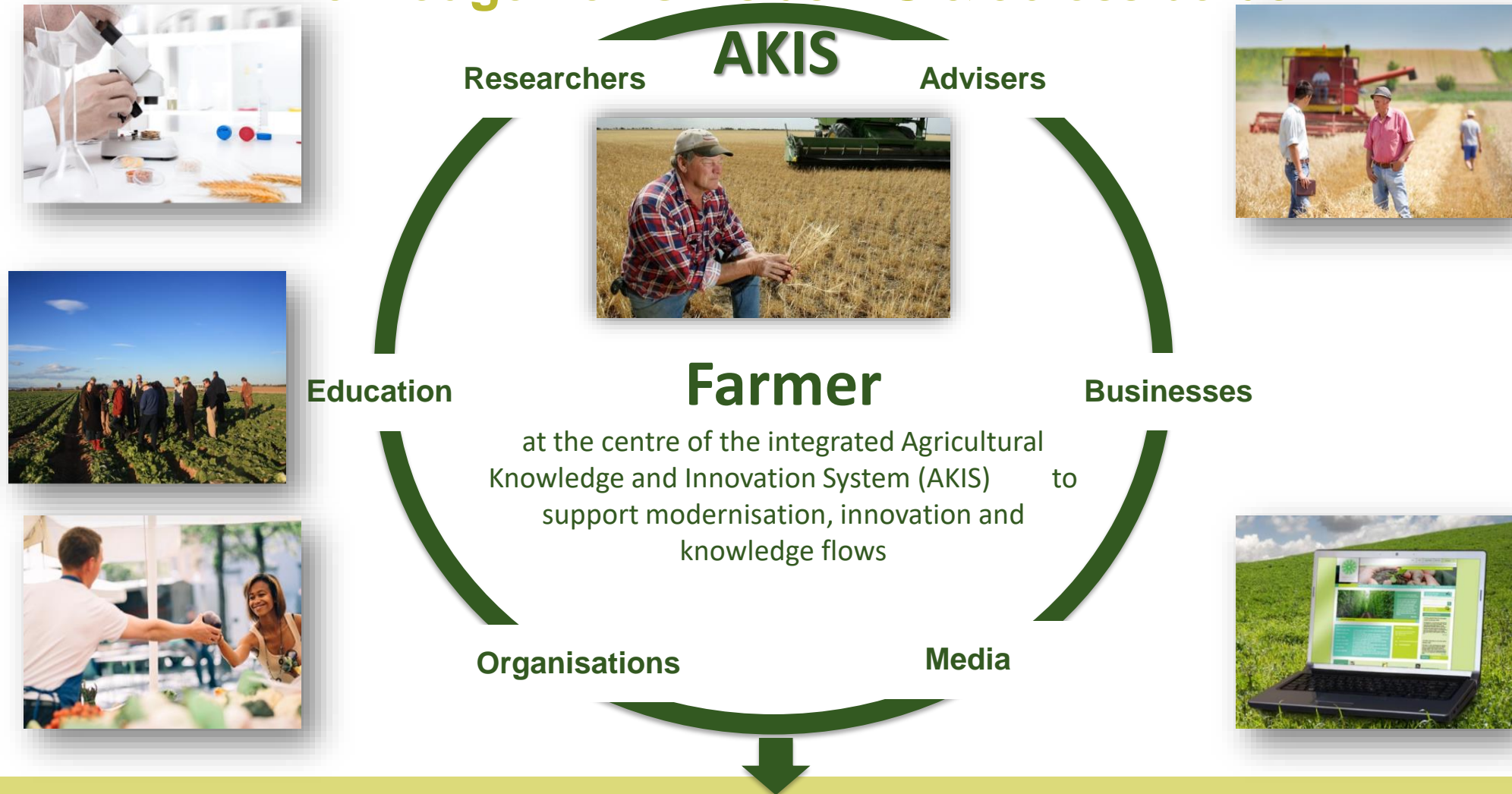
**automatically relate to** (= environment, climate, biodiversity, consumers and citizens, food and non-food systems including processing and distribution chains, etc)



## **Where does the AKIS policy come from?**

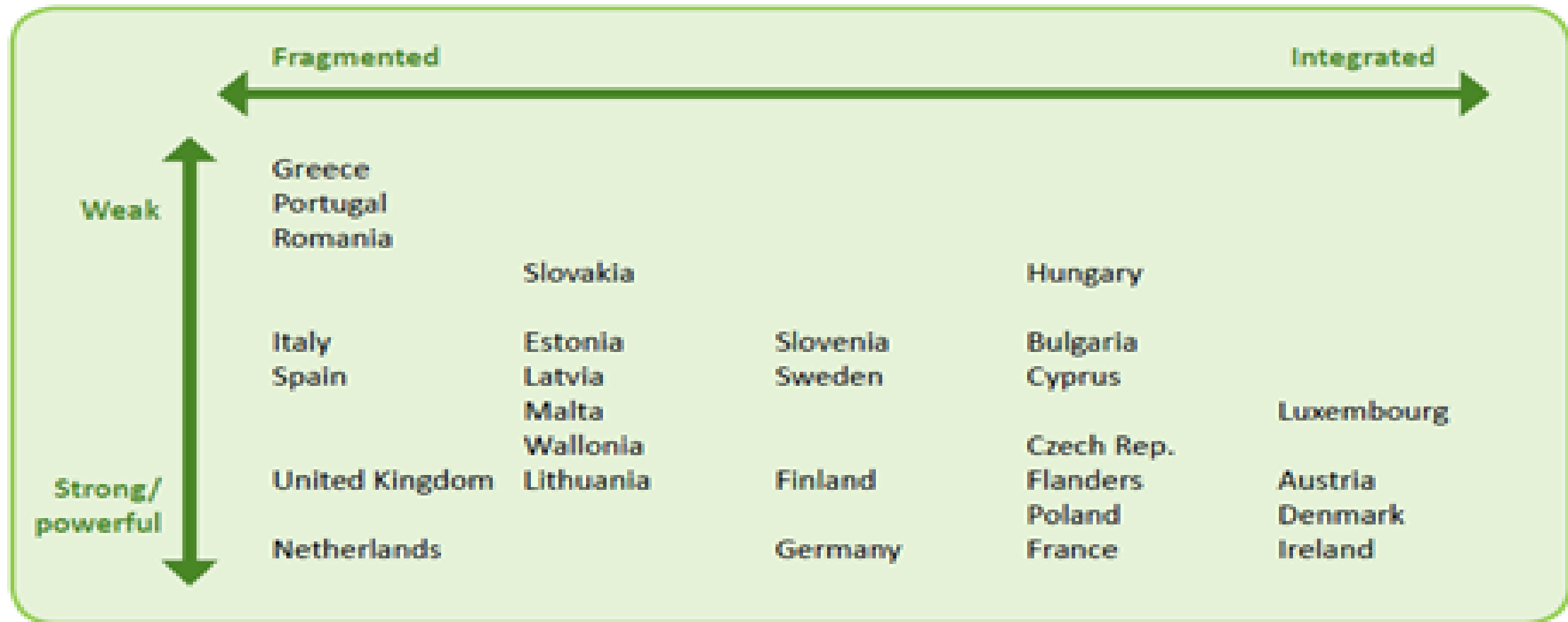
*In their 2008 declaration, the researchers of the Standing Committee of Agricultural Research (SCAR) stated that the **classical linear research model does not function anymore** to have real impact in the field. The current CAP AKIS policy and potential interventions can make use of the current formats and experiences from MS. Experts from about 24 MS from the SCAR Strategic Working Group collected this in the AKIS4 report, and based it on their discussions and own practical experiences. In the report much about AKIS in all its aspects is explained and a long series of possible types of interventions and concrete examples given. The report is available on the Europa "Future CAP" website and is called "Report: preparing for future AKIS in Europe". You can download it here: <https://ec.europa.eu/info/food-farming-fisheries/key-policies/common-agricultural-policy/future-cap#innovation> or ask to you a paper copy*

# WHY AKIS? A reinforced AKIS integrates all AKIS actors and ensures knowledge flows inside MS & across border



**AKIS coordination will bring actors together on a structured and regular basis, creating continuous interaction to speed up knowledge exchange, knowledge flows, innovation and most of all: implementation in practice (=> Cross-Cutting Objective on « Modernisation »)**

# PROAKIS study: Characterising MS' AKIS



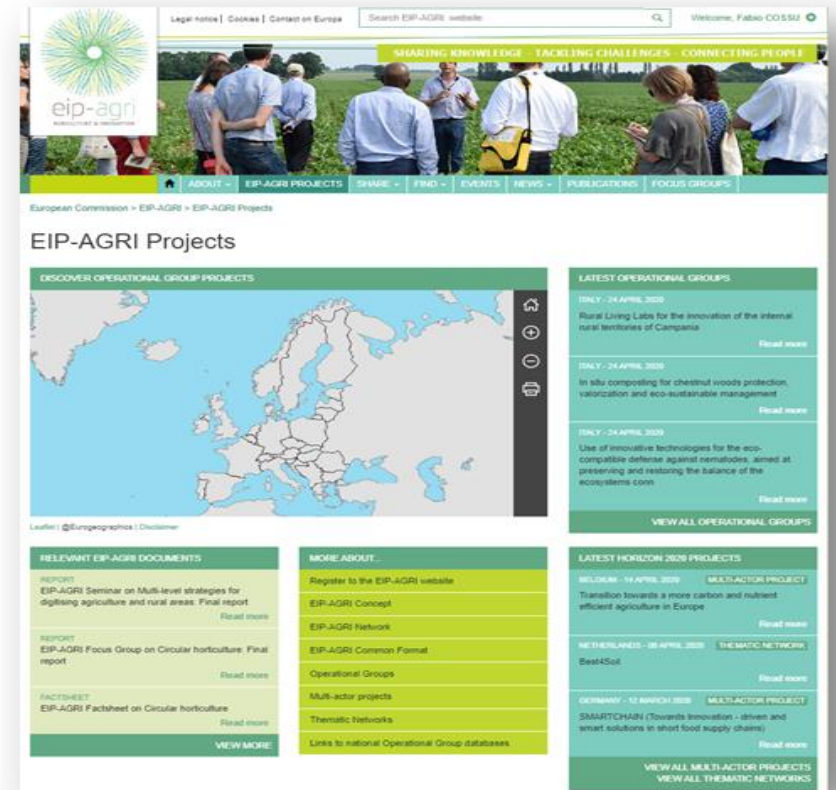
# Agriculture will be more and more knowledge-intensive



## EIP-AGRI – What did we achieve?

- ✓ 26(27) Member States, 98 rural development programmes implementing EIP Operational Group “innovative projects”
- ✓ More than 3 200 OGs planned in 2014-2022; more than 2500-3000 OGs running or finished (still 4 years to go)
- ✓ **Next CAP: > 6000 OGs for only 5 years**
- ✓ 190 multi-actor projects under Horizon 2020 (two thirds of total projects) for 1 bio Euro – again many more to come.... => A growing and thriving network:

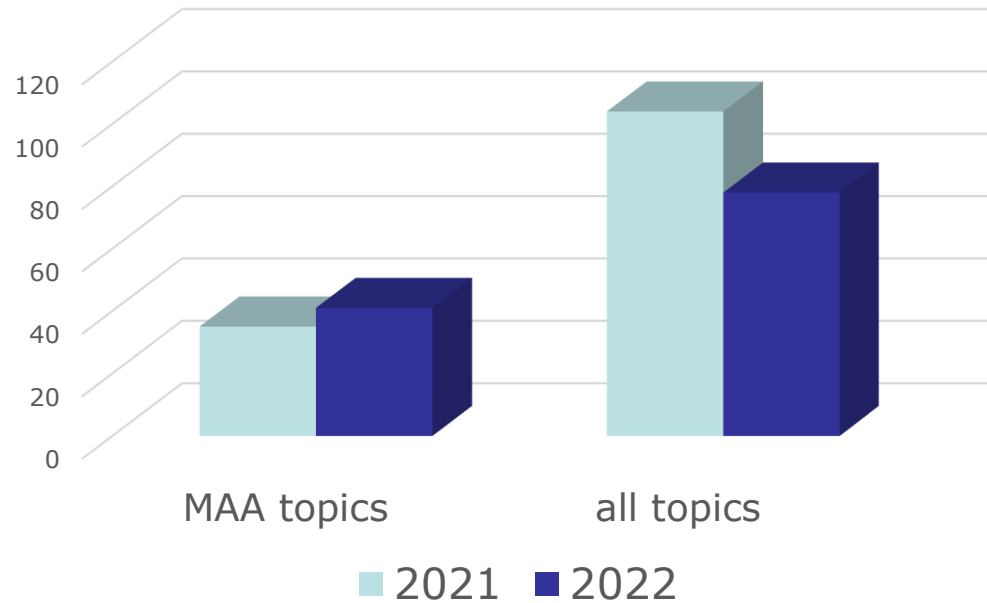
**An increasing volume of practice-oriented knowledge to be managed!**



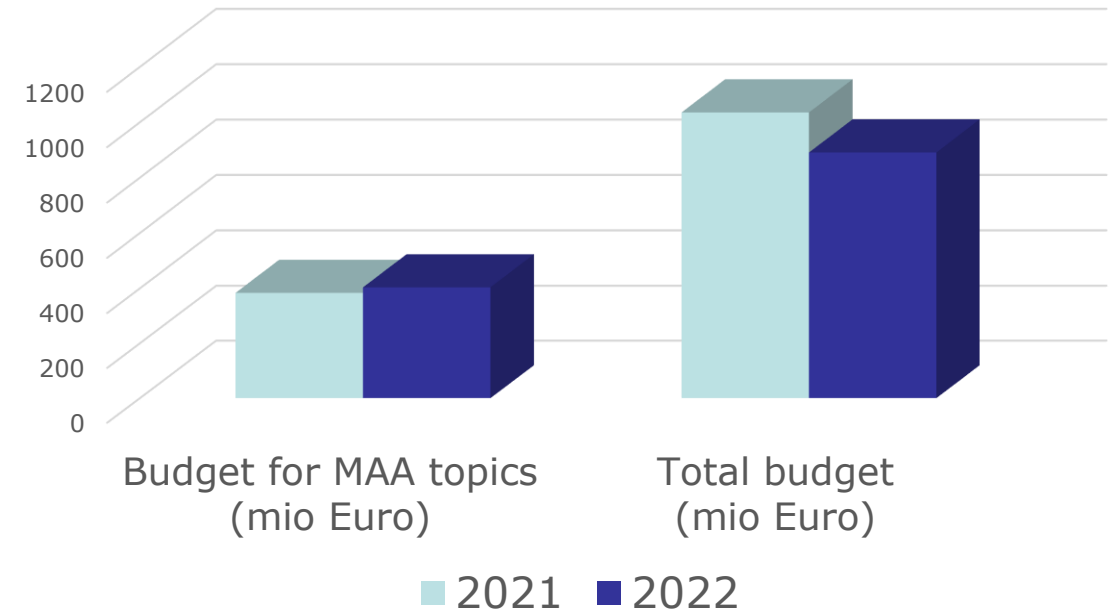
[www.eip-agri.eu](http://www.eip-agri.eu)

# 2021-2022 budget Horizon Europe: half are Multi-Actor topics => to find competent non- scientific actors is essential (adv. dbase => visibility↑)

## Number of topics



## Budget for MAA projects



	Number of MAA topics	MAA Topic share	Total number of topics	Budget MAA topics (mio Euro)	MAA Budget share	Total budget (mio Euro)
<b>2021</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>383,5</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>1035,3</b>
<b>2022</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>403,5</b>	<b>45%</b>	<b>890,64</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>787</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>1925,94</b>



# AKIS in CAP Strategic Plans (Art.114 - modernisation)

The CAP Strategic Plans shall contain:

1.Their contribution to the cross-cutting general objective related to fostering and sharing of knowledge, innovation and digitalisation, notably by describing:

- **The organisational set-up of the AKIS** (*which adaptations after SWOT?*)
- How advisors, researchers and CAP networks will work together within the framework of the (*future*) AKIS, and
- How advice and innovation support services are provided

2.A description of the strategy for the development of **digital technologies** in agriculture and rural areas

## 4 strands of actions related to the AKIS Strategic Approach

1. **Enhancing knowledge flows and strengthening links between research and practice:** incentivise researchers for their impact beyond academia, e.g. in their careers, by making practice ready outputs, meet practitioners frequently/thematic events, organise on-farm demonstrations where farmers and researchers meet and talk, education for researchers on interactive innovation approaches etc
2. **Strengthening farm advisory services within MS' AKISs:** capturing and sharing farmers' needs, acting as innovation brokers/facilitators, participating in and sharing knowledge from OG innovative projects, advisors' training and thematic events to update knowledge, cross-visits (learning peer-to-peer), spend time with researchers,...
3. **Incentivising interactive innovation projects (OGs, H2020 MA):** help connecting actors, facilitating cross-border and transnational calls/knowledge exchange, establish innovation support services to develop projects and capture farmers' foresters needs and innovative ideas, support intergenerational renewal by experts' collaboration...
4. **Support digital transition in agriculture:** EIP OGs on digital innovation, build, interlink and make use of knowledge reservoirs for practice, digital skills development,...



# THE 9 COMMON OBJECTIVES (SO)

INCREASE COMPETITIVENESS



REBALANCE  
POWER IN FOOD CHAIN

ENSURE  
VIABLE INCOME



CLIMATE CHANGE  
ACTION

**Cross-cutting objective KNOWLEDGE  
& INNOVATION**

THE 9  
**CAP**  
OBJECTIVES



ENVIRONMENTAL  
CARE

RESPOND TO CITIZENS'  
CONCERNS in terms of  
FOOD & HEALTH  
QUALITY



PRESERVE  
LANDSCAPES  
& BIODIVERSITY



VIBRANT  
RURAL AREAS



SUPPORT  
GENERATIONAL RENEWAL



European  
Commission

# 1. Enhancing knowledge flows within the AKIS and strengthen links between research and practice (1)

- Further development and better funding of the EIP CAP networks: Member States' CAP networks should **filter, summarize and translate (!!!) all info relevant for their country** about OGs, H2020 MA projects, other relevant EU or national (research) projects (source: material on EIP website: practice abstracts, videos, photos, links to useful websites and projects etc.).
- Create knowledge centres, platforms and digital knowledge reservoirs
- **Specific incentives for researchers** very much needed: share results easy understandable in **dissemination channels for farmers**
- **Funding:** Technical Assistance fund & Art 72 for actions and national funding, re-organisation of tasks within research bodies.

# 1. Enhancing knowledge flows within the AKIS and strengthen links between research and practice (2)

- **National thematic networks** can deliver for training and education (see 1.3), while also interlinking a mix of actors. Organise bottom-up calls and do efforts to disclose the needs of farmers, be it in group or one-to-one (role of advisors): regular **face-to-face** exchange **thematic events**,...
- **CAP networks** should organize on a regular basis meetings between research, farmers and advisors: Researchers to share their work with practice, learn researchers to work interactive and listen to farmers' and advisors' concerns
- **Soft ways** can improve knowledge flows e.g. co-location of research, advice and networks (+education, farmers' organization, food cluster, etc.): co-location is cheap, efficient and informal

# The role of advisors in CAP has changed a lot:

## Art 13 and 72: Farm advice is now organised within the AKIS structures in CAP Strategic plans

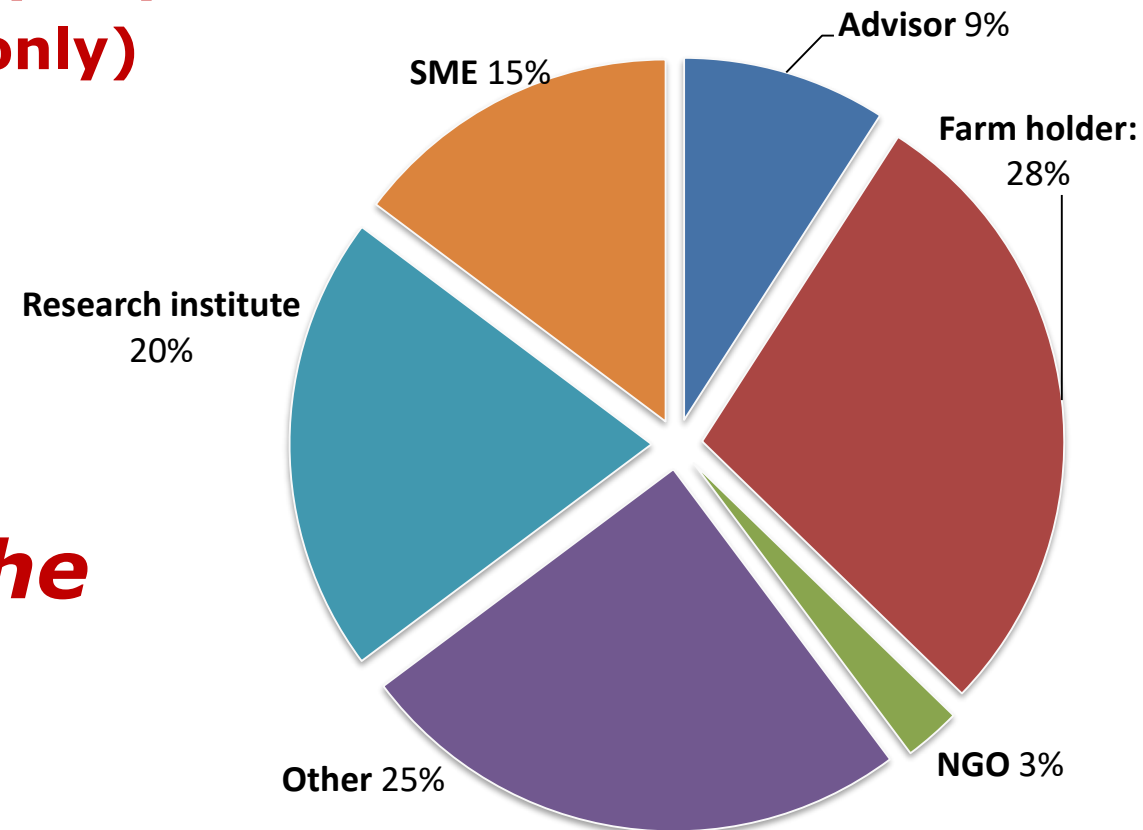
- ✓ *Advising farmers and other beneficiaries of CAP support **to be included in the CAP plans***
- ✓ ***All advisors shall be integrated within the AKIS in an inclusive way, to be able to cover economic, environmental and social dimensions and to deliver up-to-date technological and scientific information developed by R&I***
- ✓ *Advisors must be **impartial** and be able to provide **Innovation support, in particular for preparing and implementing Operational Group projects of the EIP AGRI***

# Outcome of study on innovation support for OGs

**Advisors and innovation support services (ISS) should be more involved:**  
now often missing in EIP OGs (**9% advisors only**)

Number of partners per category (%  
on total number of OGs):

***Be aware that advisors are the  
best multipliers***



Advisors and ISS (= inn. facilitators) can have an important role in interactive innovation processes:

- **Capture** practice needs
- **Broker** to set up OG's interactive innovation projects (obligation post 2020)
- **Facilitate** interactive innovation projects (obligation post 2020)
- **Disseminate** newly generated knowledge already during the project
- **Make bridges** between CAP and Horizon programmes as innovation support service

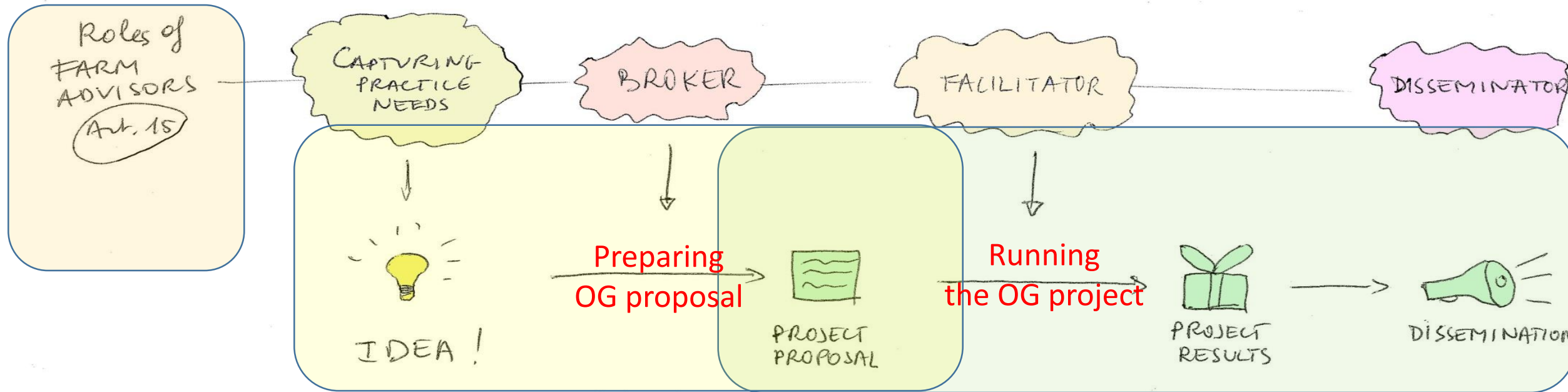
# Innovation Support Service functions

<http://www.innovatiesteunpunt.be/en/projects/agrispin-innovation-brokership>

1. **Brokering** function
2. Coordination and **facilitation** of projects as an intermediate between partners
3. Innovation **promotion** and **awareness** raising
4. Coaching farmers towards innovation (individual advice)
5. **Brainstorming** events and thematic animation
6. Biannual **innovation prize**: 150 candidates, 10 final prizes, one winner - and a lot of communication in the farm journals promotes innovation
7. **Dissemination** of innovative results
8. Connect with SMEs and other innovation services and funding bodies  
(see example of innovation project "Distrikempen" **video** from **Agrispin H2020 project**)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fbiAGzlf3IA> logistic innovation short supply chain



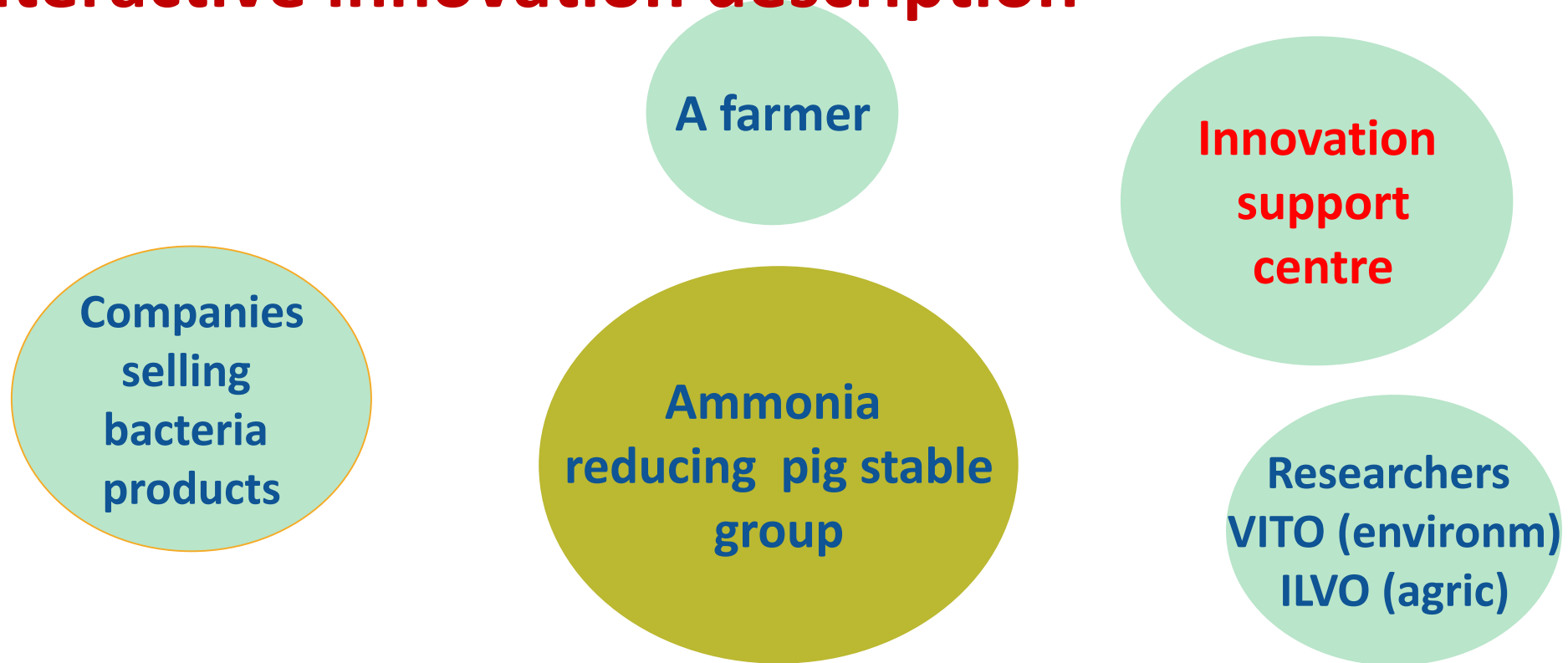
# New roles for farm advisors in interactive innovation projects



## Farm advisors/ **innovation support services**' role in interactive innovation processes:

- Capture practice needs
- Broker to set up interactive innovation projects
- Facilitate interactive innovation projects
- Disseminate newly generated knowledge
- + .....

**Art 15(4) = OBLIGATORY : one to one innovation brokering: illustration of the “relevant actors” in interactive innovation description**



*Project objective: develop a pig stable reducing ammonia emissions by 50 % in a more cost-efficient way than existing stable systems (idea from a farmer, brokered by the Innovation Support Centre)*

# Innovation brokering function - How to capture ideas?

- **Capturing bottom-up ideas from the grass-roots level**
- **Helping to formulate Practice abstracts and web tools/pages**
- **Getting an innovation project ready to start** by acting as a go-between: helping single actors which might have difficulties in finding the adequate partners.
- **A close connection with and understanding of agriculture is important.**
- **A cross-cutting approach** beyond existing sectors, regions, initiative and institutes brings added value
- Different approaches may be useful e.g. vouchers etc ("**simplified cost**") for easier use and reduction of administrative burden – **Art 77**

## 2. Strengthening farm advice within the AKIS

- **Innovation support must** be available: advisors acting as innovation brokers/facilitators, capturing needs and sharing outcomes
- **Regular interaction with researchers**, e.g. in workshops, (bi-) annual meetings, exchanges during on-farm demo, being located in the same building helps informal contacts
- A **back-office with specialist advisors** who have thematic focus (not only sectorial focus!) is the best investment to support field advisors
- Ensure regular participating in and sharing knowledge from **OG innovative projects**
- **Region/country wide advisory networks for all advisors** to share newly generated knowledge e.g. from innovation projects or after visits abroad, as well as sharing (digital) tools and instruments (photo on next slide)

## 1.5.2 Strengthening farm advisory services within the AKIS

- Advising should be **listening and interactive**
- Deliver **holistic advice targeted to the farm's and farmer's context**
- **Advisors' training: sufficient amount of days obligatory per year**, as for other professions, especially on innovative techniques and outcomes of OGs/MAA and soft skills; make it attractive and qualitative, e.g. **use of common advisory tools**, back-office support for all advisors
- **Enable farmers to find the advisor which can help him best**: public registers with info on education, experience, continuous professional development, cross-border exchanges, various thematic focus, membership of advisory platforms, etc – **very little EU obligations, only obligatory training and integration of advisors within the AKIS**
- Invest in **tools for advising** (e.g. measurements, digital)

## 2. Strengthening farm advisors' services within the AKIS



Setting up of farm advisory services (Art 72): e.g. mobile advisory units and measurement tools can help advising



## 2 main instruments for future AKIS:

- 1. Innovation support service –**  
"Innovation hub" (which model? One-stop "out of the box" –hub taking care of cross-cutting issues + interacting with sector specialist hubs?)
- 2. Back-office for advisors –**  
"knowledge hub"

section 4.2 of the SCAR AKIS 4 report

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### More info:

- An animated infographic on innovation support services:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pTV6kLH0ykg>
- A practical example of an innovation support service on page of the SWG SCAR AKIS report **page 105-106**:  
[https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/food-farming-fisheries/key\\_policies/documents/report-preparing-for-future-akis-in-europe\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/food-farming-fisheries/key_policies/documents/report-preparing-for-future-akis-in-europe_en.pdf)
- Brochure on innovation support services:  
<https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/en/publications/eip-agri-brochure-innovation-support-services>



# How can CAP networks help strengthening innovation and knowledge exchange on all 9 CAP objectives?

1. Collecting and sharing outcomes of 3200+ EIP OGs from current CAP
2. Collecting and sharing outcomes of 190+ H2020 Multi-actor projects + Horizon Europe
3. EIP website + knowledge reservoirs being prepared under H2020
4. **Connecting OGs with Horizon** projects = great added value
5. All this **material provides great input for local AKIS actors** (farmers, **advisors**, education, trainers, media, businesses, researchers,..): training for farmers and for **advisors**, peer-to-peer events, demonstrations, website, e-learning, ISS etc
6. Organising **events to link and network AKIS actors** for future cooperation
7. **Start now**, already testing future interventions under current period and **brainstorm in AKIS coordination platforms**



# Interaction of CAP networks within the Horizon 2020/Horizon Europe (HE) dimension of the EIP-AGRI

1. The synergies organized between Horizon projects and EIP Operational Groups induces the need for intensifying **CAP innovation networking with Horizon Europe National Contact Points**: a monthly encounter could be useful
2. **Promote and make MA & OGs visible**: database with all OGs & MA projects in the MS + contacts + thematic categorization. Useful for HE Thematic networks and MA projects as well as for cross-border OGs
3. **Follow the yearly Horizon Europe calls and be pro-active**: present the MA topics to OGs, make a brokering event MA-OGs, advisors and researchers, think about cross-border events around specific topics in a topic where OGs could join. Horizon consortia should better enabled to find the OGs they would like to have in their project thanks to better functioning AKISs, in which good linkages are constructed.
4. Also when **Horizon projects are running, OGs or their partners should still be invited** to events of their interest, and vice versa: give them support (NCPs)

## 1.5.4 Support digital transition in agriculture

- **Interlink all public data** to enable additional services, e.g. Lithuania RECAP app, Estonia GIS/LPIS based layers combining soil fertility, erosion zones, spreading harmful organisms etc, irrigation needs
- Set up **platforms to discuss how to manage** the digital **transition**, find the most urgent needs (Austria)
- Finance OGs on useful free of charge **digital applications and make them publicly available**, e.g. for pest management, recognising weeds, etc
- Organise **training on digital skills for farmers, advisors** etc
- Build **knowledge reservoirs** that are interactive and quality checked (eg LT, EURAKNOS), and **use common standards** as much as possible
- Share **digital advisory tools**, reducing the maintenance cost

# Building and linking AKISs across the EU

*Speed up creativity and  
practice application*

*Better connectivity and  
quicker circulation of  
information*

# Info: EIP Seminar on AKIS strategies in CAP Strategic Plans

16-18 September 2020 (the full seminar was recorded and can be seen again)

<https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/en/event/eip-agri-seminar-cap-strategic-plans-key-role-akis>

- Inspiration from an experienced **innovation support service**, followed by a **panel discussion on AKIS policy**.
- Opening speeches from **Commissioner Polish Ministers of Agr.**, one very inspiring and **Rural Inspiration Award OG** + an **overview on the basic elements of AKIS + Q&A**.
- Section on advice: intro + 3 diverse examples of **advisory services**
- Section on role of the **national CAP network for innovation**, again with good examples
- **Online discussions** which happened in the weeks before the seminar (on advisory services, on CAP networks and on the CAP plans), summarised by **Mark Gibson**
- **10 good examples of nice AKIS interventions**
- **4 Member States presenting their CAP plans**, already full of content
- after the breakout sessions, **our Director General Burtscher** closed with a very nice **summary on the interactive discussions** and expresses how he sees the future & AKIS.



SWG SCAR AKIS 4 report [https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/knowledge-and-innovation-unlocking-potential-food-and-farming-2019-sep-26\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/knowledge-and-innovation-unlocking-potential-food-and-farming-2019-sep-26_en)

See in particular sections 1.2 What is AKIS?, 1.3 Multi-actor projects, 1.4 thematic networks, 1.5 possible actions for CAP AKIS Strategic Plans) and chapter 4 (Advisors and advisory instruments and functions)

EIP-AGRI website <https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/en>

# Speeding up knowledge exchange and innovation



**Thank you for your attention**

Inge Van Oost – DG AGRI Unit B.2 – Research and Innovation

[Inge.Van-Oost@ec.europa.eu](mailto:Inge.Van-Oost@ec.europa.eu)



European  
Commission

# Questions?



European  
Commission

# Main AKIS action points in post 2020 CAP plans by MS :

**CAP networks, impartial advisors and researchers at MS level to improve collaboration within the AKIS for increased innovation and knowledge flows:**

## **1. MS' CAP networks** tasks and objectives:

- Provide for more **learning (=filtering, translating, summarizing)** from all 3000 EU OGs and MA projects on EU EIP website => knowledge exchange **among MS**
- Organize a variety of knowledge events between in your country between AKIS actors **including all** in the knowledge-exchange and knowledge-building process
- Be more active on **linkages between OGs and the Horizon Europe projects:** capture the results and added value of the policy at European level (HE NCPs)
- **Foster innovation: support to OGs within the MS and across borders**

**2. Researchers** to be **more closely involved in the AKIS:** (inter)acting on farmers' needs/opportunities, and to be rewarded to do so. Researchers to join specific "multi-actor" activities and publish for practice and advisors' back-offices too. "Partnership agreement" of Agri Ministries in particular with research and innovation ministries.



# Main AKIS action points post 2020 CAP by MS :

- 3. More, more frequent and more diverse EIP Operational Group calls** because **EIP now covers all 9 CAP specific objectives**: mixing bottom-up calls with thematic calls to have a “**family of EIP calls**” (e.g. OGs on bottom-up grassroots ideas + on specific environmental challenges, on piloting digital tools & measures, on social innovation). Also initiate **cross-sectorial** and **cross-border OGs** and the possibility for **collaboration between OGs** (national CAP network task in coordination with the Man. Authority).
- 4. Advisors** to become **more competent** on economic, environmental and social issues & up-to-date knowledge and innovation. **Simplification** of the administrative system for advisors: no more rules on certification or public procurement, **transparency** via public website on the advisors available, vouchers. MS must have **impartial** advisors and **innovation support services + provide training to advisors**. **The AKIS system must integrate all** advisors, public and private: no more silos or separated Farm Advisory System. Holistic and interactive advice, **mobility** budget for advisors.

# Main AKIS action points post 2020 CAP by MS :

5. **A substantial financial envelope** is needed in a globally more commercialized, world full of public good related challenges, **to protect public knowledge & knowledge flows, and incentivize publicly shared innovation => AKIS.**
- **emerging knowledge reservoirs at national level, national thematic networks**
  - **public back-offices (“knowledge hubs”)** with **specialist advisors** closely interacting with field advisors, research and CAP networks, and with **innovation support services**
  - National and **EU advisory networks**
  - **Public digital advisory tools** reducing maintenance costs: e.g. H2020 project Fairshare
  - Face-to-face multi-actor thematic events, on-farm demonstrations etc.
  - **Soft ways** also improve knowledge flows e.g. **co-location of research, advice and networks** (+education, farmers' organization, food cluster, etc.): co-location is cheap, efficient and informal
  - An **AKIS coordination body**, (inter)acting as the **spider in the AKIS web of the country, interconnecting all key AKIS influencers**