

Regional AKIS Stakeholders workshop: Southern Europe I Portugal I AKIS – Brief context

Agricultural context

More than 70% of agricultural holdings are specialized (2/3 of their total standard output), highlighting specialization in herbivores and permanent crops. Although in Portugal forestry is the main business complement of agricultural holdings, since 2013 there has been an increase of 18% of unused forest land.

The average age of the Portuguese farmer is the oldest in EU28, 65 years. According to 2016's Farm structure survey, 34% of individual farmers are women and the academic background of 71.4% was only elementary school. In 2016 the family farming population was about 628 thousand individuals, which represents 6.1% of the resident population in Portugal.

Main characteristics of the AKIS

The Portuguese AKIS is composed by a series of actors, that can be divided into four main groups (Farming & Forestry Based Associations, Knowledge & Innovation Providers, National & Regional Directorates, Research & Education) that contribute for the central group Farms & Forestry.

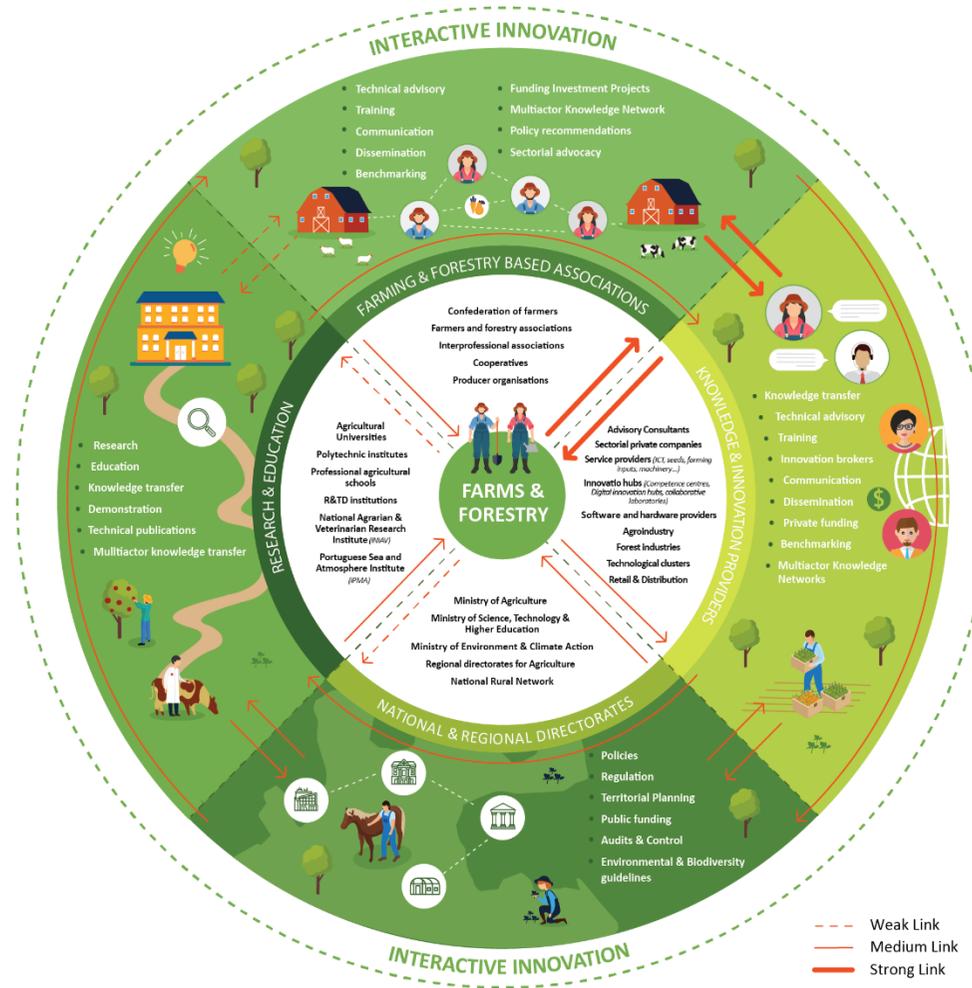
These actors are both public and private and may or may not have profit making objectives. The public actors are mostly linked to such areas as policymaking, regulation, planning and monitoring public funds as well as research, education, knowledge transfer and demonstration. The non-profit actors are farmers' organizations, cooperatives and interprofessional associations that, besides lobbying and policy related and administrative roles, are involved in providing technical advisory, training, information transfer and extension, communication, and benchmarking. The private actors can be linked to knowledge and innovation providers providing farm equipment and service providers, or advisory consultancy firms, agroindustry, and forestry industries and more.

Advisory service provision

In Portugal technical support to agricultural development is a function of many institutions and services, especially cooperatives and farmers' associations, in a fragmented and dispersed fashion, the exception being the existence of networks or some form of articulation and coordination between them.



- AKIS diagram:



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