



i2connect
INTERACTIVE INNOVATION

**Regional AKIS Stakeholders workshop
Southern Europe**

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The AKIS and advisory services in Cyprus



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Cyprus

Land: 9213 km²

Population: 0.9 M

GDP (2018): 21.1 B EUR

Agriculture

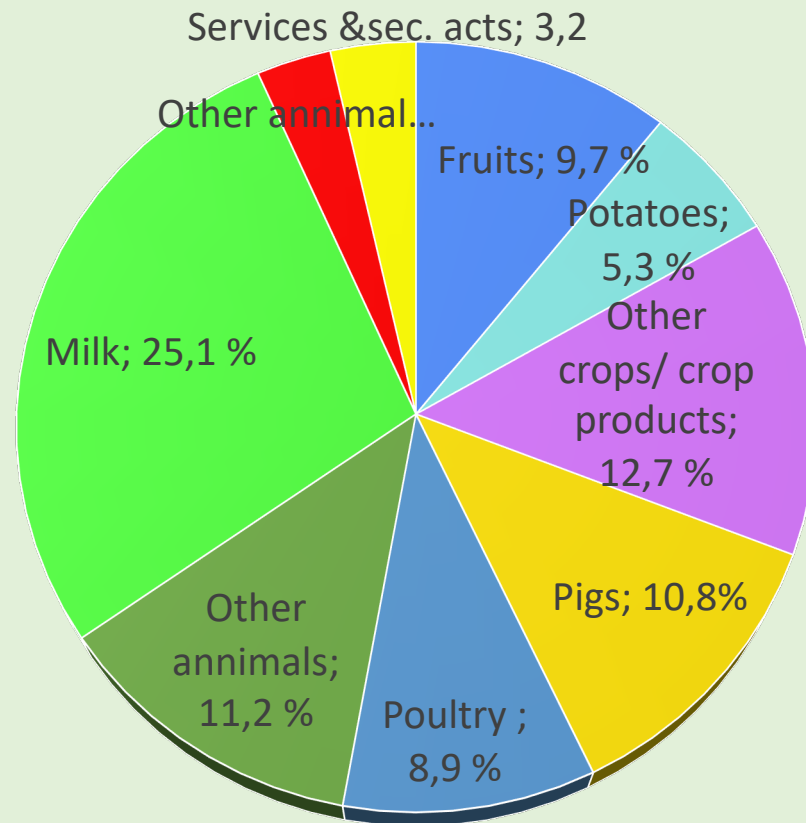
Farming land: 12.1 %

Employment : 3.3 % (4.1 % in EU)

Contribution to GDP: 1.6 %

- Farms: 34940(2016)
- Size: **6.6 ha** (EU: 15.2 ha)
- Family farms: **97.6%**
(>50% of regular labour from family members)
- Very small farms: 94.2%
(<8000 € of standard output)
- Farmers' aged <40 y old: **3.3%**
(EU: 10.6 %)
- Farmers - full agr. training: **0.6 %**
(EU: 9.1%)

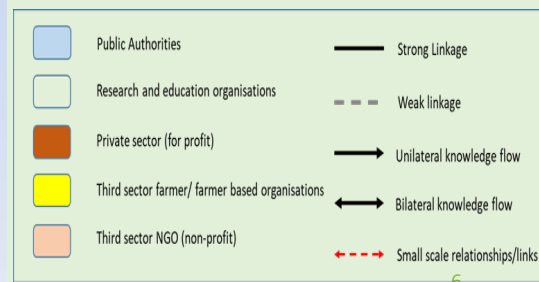
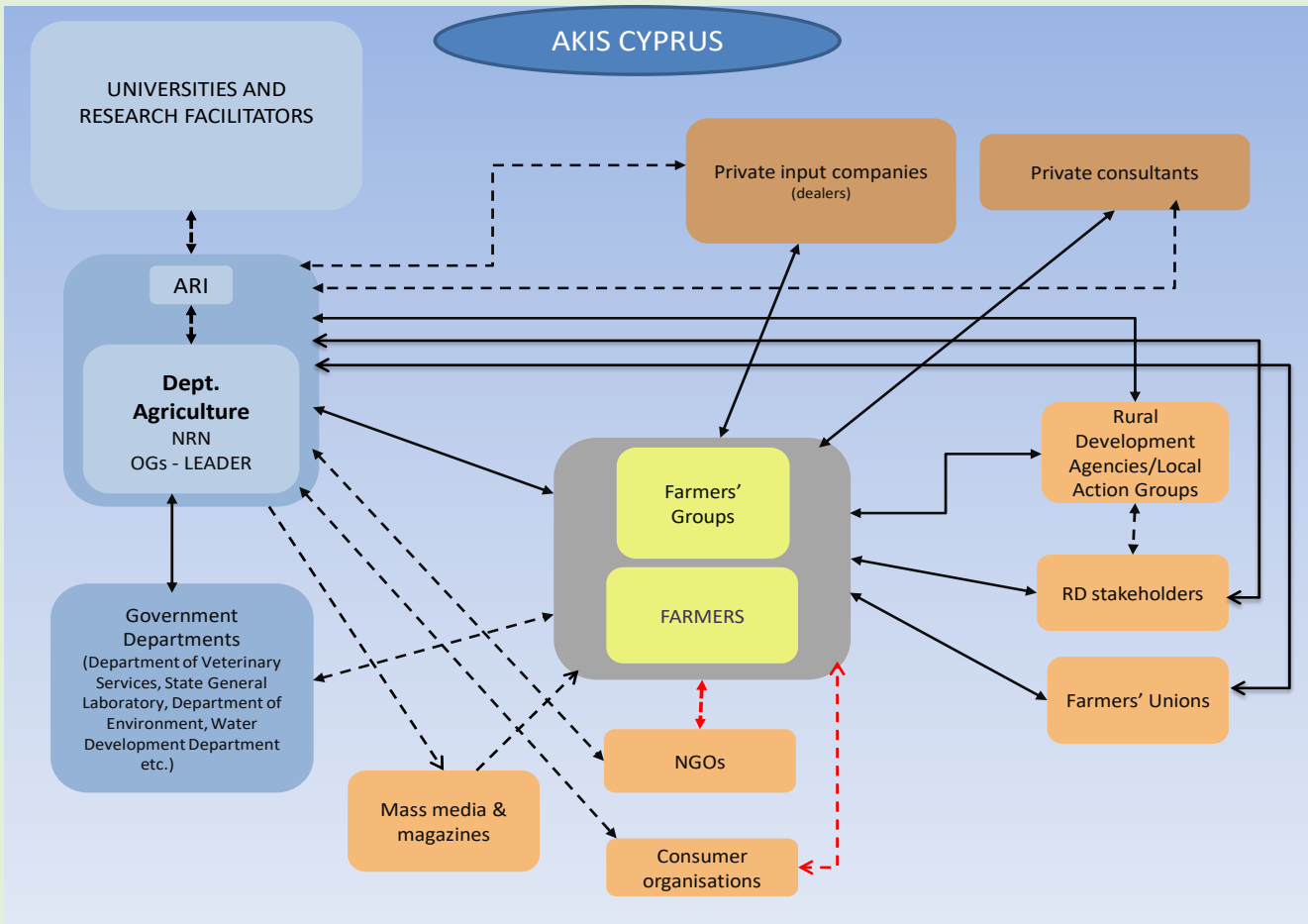
Agr. Industry in Cyprus, 2018



AKIS- Main actors

- Dept of Agriculture and mainly its Extension Section
- Agricultural Research Institute (ARI)
- Cyprus University of Technology
- Private consultants & input shops/companies
- Farmers Unions- producers groups
- Development Agencies (LEADER LAGs)





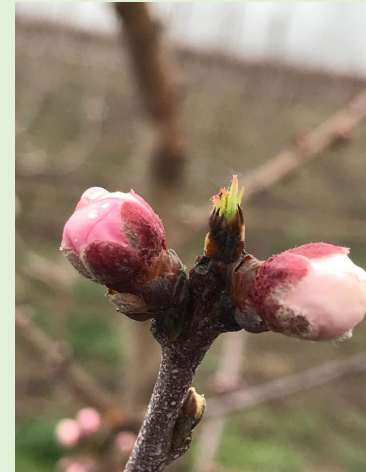
Main characteristics of AKIS

- Coordination mechanism: The Extension Service
 - No specific policy framework / formal agreements exists
 - Collaboration with Producers' Groups and ARI
 - Missing links: input companies & private consultants, **but**
 - Informal links at district & local level

Main characteristics of AKIS- Problems

- ❖ The Extension Service ➤ bureaucratic tasks ➤ lack of staffing
- ❖ ARI ➤ decreasing interaction with farmers
- ❖ ARI & Cyprus University of Technology
 - not always responsive to farmers' needs
 - oriented towards publications
 - dependent on EU-funded projects

- Need for intensive cooperation



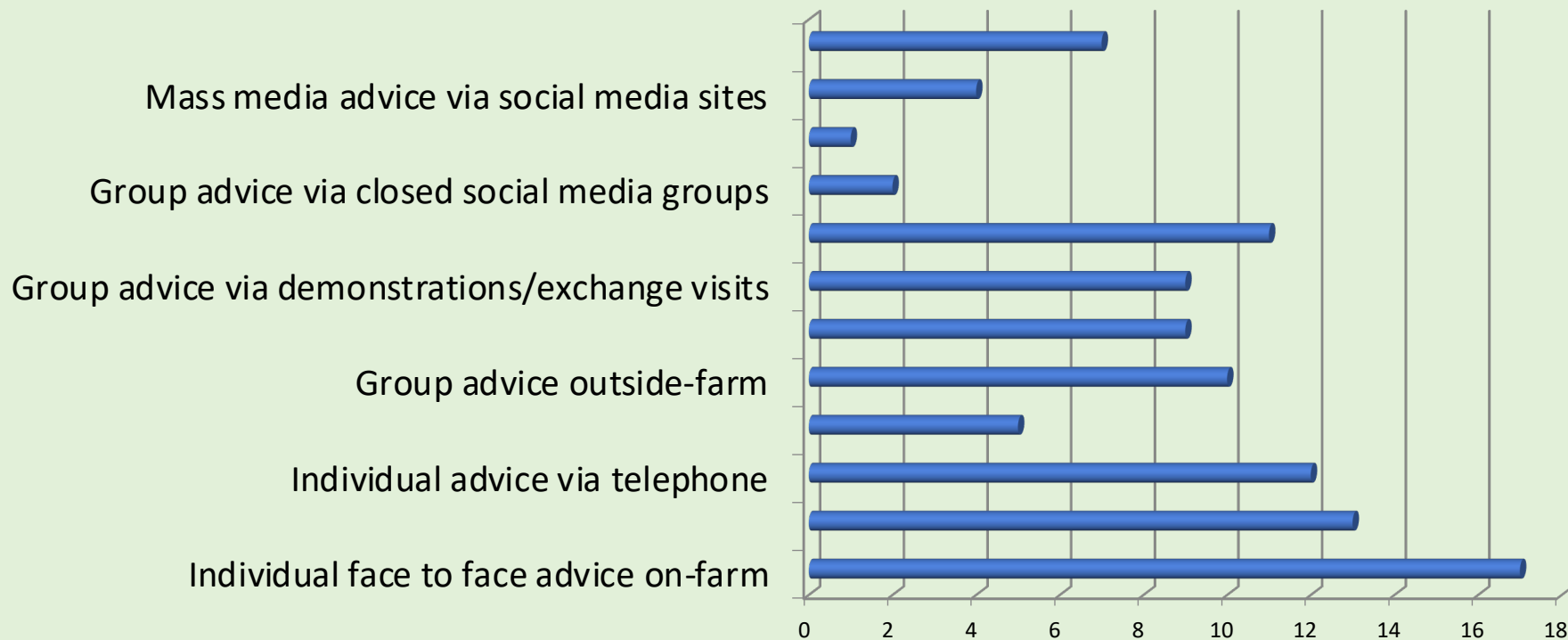
Advisory providers

- Strong, publicly funded advisory service, free of charge for farmers.
- The Agricultural Extension Section ➤ headquarters & 6 District Agricultural Offices divided into smaller areas
- The Agricultural Extension Service: task to
 - inform MANRE and ARI on farmers' problems
 - plan, promote and evaluate extension programs
 - carry out a variety of projects
- Private (input) shops
- private consultants
- Farmers' unions and producers groups.
- LAGs: support rural development projects

Advisory topics



Advisory methods



Summary

- Despite the positive role of the Extension Service in Cyprus
- Need for:
 - focus on farmers' needs
 - collaborative experiments
 - enhancement of farmers' occupational (experiential) training
 - encouraging farmers to get involved in knowledge sharing and interactive initiatives
- Farmers' reluctance to pay for advice hinder private consultants from becoming important and reliable advice provider.



Thank you!

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