



Federal Ministry
of Food
and Agriculture

Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems in the Agricultural Policy Dialogue Germany - Western Balkans

Agricultural Policy Forum in Vrnacka Banja, 20th of October 2021

bmel.de

Cooperation between the German Federal Ministry for Food and Agriculture (BMEL) and the Western Balkans

- Bilateral Cooperation Program of BMEL:
 - around 20 projects in strategically important countries
 - different project formats (Technical or Political Dialogue, Demonstration and Training Projects, Cooperation between agricultural associations)
 - GFA coordinates the projects as General Agent of the BMEL

- Cooperation with the Western Balkans:
 - Since 2018: SWG and BMEL are organizing a technical dialogue on wine law
 - 2020: Adoption of the EU Farm to Fork Strategy and the EU Green Agenda for the Western Balkans / Sofia Declaration
 - 2021: Positive Evaluation of wine project and planning of enlarged cooperation

Agricultural Policy Dialogue (from July 2021)

- SWG organizes Regional Expert Advisory Working Groups (REAWGs) on 3 topics:
 - Wine regulation
 - Green Agenda (Working Groups on Organic and Soil Protection)
 - AKIS (Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems)
 - "Women and youth in agriculture" as cross-cutting issue
- Experts from BMEL and other German/EU public institutions actively contribute to REAWGs. Additional expertise from private sector, academia is provided by a consortium of IAK/Geisenheim University/IAMO
- Support regional cooperation, EU accession and implementation of F2F-Strategy

EU Farm to Fork strategy

- The Farm to Fork (F2F) strategy proposes a comprehensive sustainability transformation of agriculture and food systems in general, e.g. through:
 - Setting concrete ecological goals (e.g. 50 % less pesticides and mineral fertilizer, 20 % organic, 10 % agricultural area under high-diversity landscape features)
 - A systematic review of all legislation and policies related to food systems
 - New infrastructures and instruments (e.g. carbon farming, data platform, ...)
 - Expanded support for research, education and innovation transfer

New EU Common Agricultural Policy

- The new CAP integrates the F2F objectives, e.g. through the following measures:
 - Mandatory Eco-schemes (at least 25 % of 1st pillar direct producer support); full *conditionality* of area payments; enhanced ecological standards
 - Expanded support for agro-environmental measures and organic in the 2nd pillar
 - Implementation of a satellite-based Area Monitoring System
 - A results-based approach (“new delivery model”) → Member States have to submit CAP strategic plans in line with F2F objectives
 - Cross-cutting objective: fostering knowledge, innovation and digitalization → in particular, MS have to describe AKIS structures and indicate improvements

Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems

- AKIS refers to a system of **authorities**, institutions from **consultancy, research, education** and **agricultural organizations**.
- AKIS has the purpose to **collect, create, organize** and **disseminate knowledge** for the agricultural sector to meet economic, social or ecological challenges
- AKIS strategies include four main groups of actions:
 - Strengthening the link between **research and practice**.
 - Strengthening all agricultural **extension services**
 - Promoting cross-thematic and cross-border interactive **innovation**
 - Supporting the **digital transformation** in agriculture

AKIS: Conceptual development on EU level

- AKIS originated in 2008 as academic concept. Different EU-wide projects have provided in depth research and policy advice (SmartAKIS, ProAKIS, i2connect,...)
- Since 2012 the European Innovation Partnership (EIP-AGRI) links CAP-projects and research (Horizon) through *Operational Groups*
 - Multi-Actor Approach: collaboration between actors with complementary types of knowledge (e.g. farmers, advisors, entrepreneurs, researchers, ..)
 - Interactive Innovation Model: co-creation leading to co-ownership
- The Standing Committee on Agricultural Research (SCAR) acts as “think tank”; the Strategic Working Group on AKIS publishes case studies, policy briefs, etc.

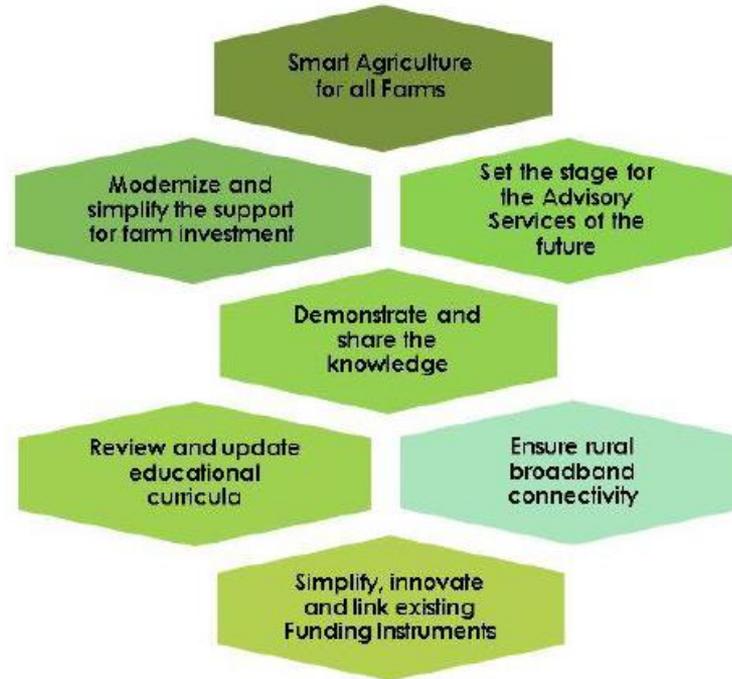
SCAR: Examples for available material

- Modernize and simplify the support for farm investment
- Set the stage for the Advisory Services of the future
- Review and update educational curricula
- Simplify, innovate and link existing Funding Instruments
- Mainstreaming Smart Farming, e.g.
 - Demonstrate smart farming's benefits
 - Improve smart farming funding
 - Develop user-friendly solutions
 - Promote interoperability standards
 - Promote a transparent framework for agricultural data



Smart-AKIS

Policy Briefs for mainstreaming Smart Farming in the new CAP



AKIS and advisory services in *Germany*

Report for the AKIS inventory (Task 1.2) of the i2connect project

Date: January, 2021

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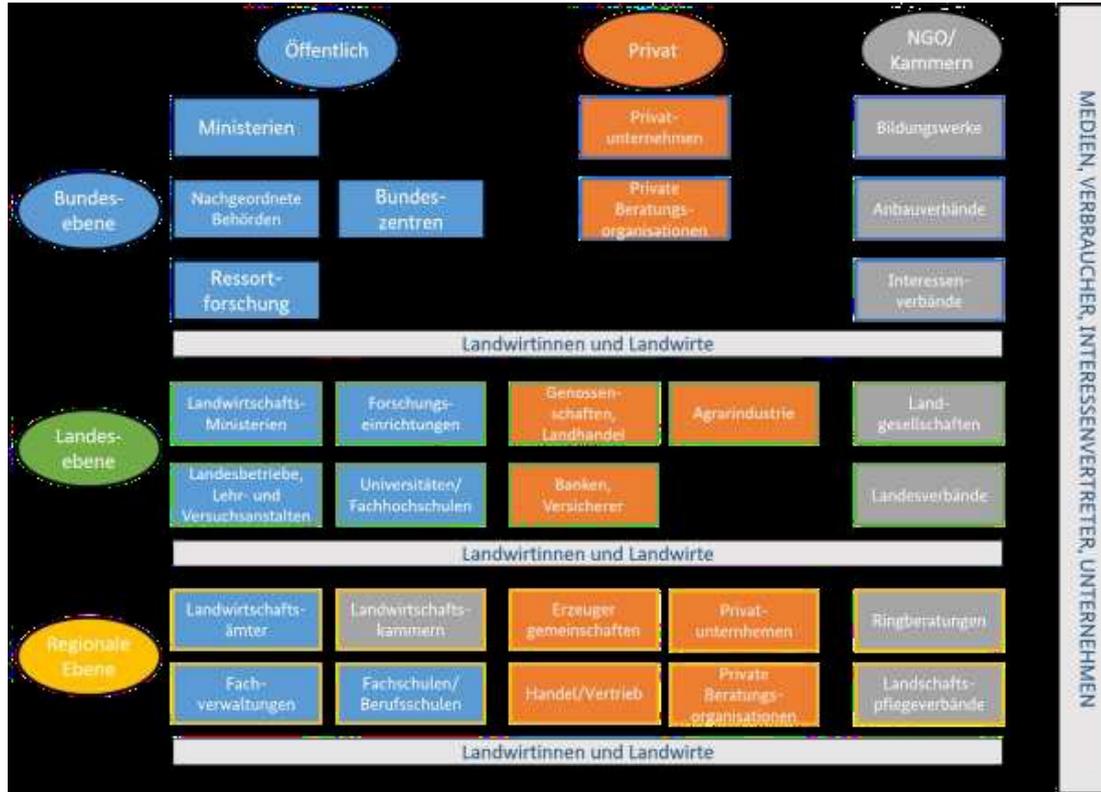
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Structures of German AKIS

- Pluralistic, decentralized system in 13 federal states with great role of non-state actors
- Federal Government sets standards, coordinates, informs and funds research (federal research institutions and various research programs, e.g. on digitalization)
- Education is organized in a multi-tier system (vocational training, secondary training, universities of applied science, universities, continued training)
- State advisory services follow different models (state, semi-private, chambers), e.g.:
 - Bavaria: large farms but also many small and family farms; state advisory system with partial integration of private actors;
 - Eastern Germany: large company farms; fully privatized advisory services

German AKIS (German Draft CAP Strategic Plan, May 2021)



Strengths and Weaknesses (Paul et al. 2014, Birke et al. 2021, GAP Draft

Strategic Plan, COM SWD(2020) 373 final)

- Overall strong system with a multiplicity of actors;
 - Non-state, esp. Farmer based organizations are playing a crucial role (Role of commercial companies, up-/downstream actors not even explored)
 - Education in general is very practice-oriented
 - Advisory services are organized in different ways, but always well educated

- Certain deficits:
 - Weak horizontal cooperation (only partially compensated by private actors)
 - EU and federal-level instruments are not well-known
 - Challenges to disseminate university research
 - Digitalization topics are often not adequately covered

AKIS in the Agricultural Policy Dialogue

- APD builds on results from the SWG project “**Research, innovation and technology transfer in the agro-food sector in the WB countries**” with EU-JRC
 - AKIS mapping for the entire region
 - Description of strengths/weaknesses and ideas for improvement
 - Functional working group on AKIS
- Objective in the framework of the APD: “***Development and implementation of regional and national strategic plans for AKIS development***”
- German institutions/experts are ready to support the work of the REAWG through experience sharing in physical and digital events as well as study visits

Potentials for exchange in APD

- Integration of education and practice
- Role of Farmer based organizations for knowledge and innovation transfer
- Training and certification of advisors, public/private models for extension services
- Inter-institutional and regional cooperation (e.g. Agricultural Research Alliance)

AKIS continued

- Further goals in the framework of the APD project:
 - ***"Establishment of a regional innovation network, including ministries, academia, advisory services, private sector"***
 - ***"Upgrading of selected formal and non-formal educational programs to address innovation in agriculture"***.
- Multilateral, open network to exchange ideas, network and generate spill-overs
- Suitable Formats? Partners? Concrete topics?

Cross-cutting issue: Role of women, youth and migration in agriculture

- Activating young farmers and women is a key factor for pushing the sustainability transformation of agriculture and fostering innovation
- A regional study shall serve as evidence based guideline for further actions in the three pillars of the APD
- The study will be designed in cooperation between WB and German institutions
- BMEL and the Thünen Institute (Federal Research Institute for Rural Areas, Forestry and Fisheries) are ready to support and share German experience

Bilateral Cooperation Programme of the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL)

Dr. Tilman Reinhardt

GFA, General Agent for the Bilateral Cooperation Programme of BMEL