

Agricultural Policy Forum 2022

Agriculture and Rural Development in the context of the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans: Overcoming the Impact of the Global Challenges

Working Group 3: Agricultural knowledge and innovation systems in the Western Balkans

Conclusions

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18 - 20 October 2022
Tirana, Albania

Main Purpose of the meeting of the WG within APF 2022

- Present proposed **national AKIS Action plans**
- Present proposed **regional AKIS priorities**
- Provide **policy recommendations** for integrated and functional AKIS systems in the WBs
- Plan **next steps** for the REAWG



Key Barriers

- AKIS structure:

- High fragmentation and weak partnership
- Weak connection between education and research, extension, and market operators.
- Education, advisory, and research face different challenges are governed by different authorities, and are financed by different sources:
- Other parts are either missing or have a weak presence and functionality for the system.





REPUBLIKA E SHQIPËRIË
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Key Assets/Opportunities

Agricultural
Policy Forum

Tirana, Albania

18th - 20th
OCTOBER
2022

- Enhancement of knowledge flows and strengthening links between research and practice
- Enhancement of interactive innovation
- Supporting digital transition in agriculture to minimize digital divide
- Alignment with EU policies and instruments
- Academic engagement in agriculture and rural development
- Dissemination of innovative technologies in the agri-food sector
- Knowledge and innovation transfer system that supports policy-making through multi-stakeholder input and quality interaction



Implemented by:



Ways Forward

- Public authorities of the Western Balkans should enable functional and integrated **Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems (AKIS)** in the region
- This would be a long-term process that could be achieved gradually through steps that focus on the transfer of knowledge pertinent to addressing the impact of the global challenges of food security and climate change.
- National AKIS action plans should be adopted, leading to enhancing existing and creating new structures and forms of networking, capacity building and knowledge exchange of all actors in the agri-food system.
- The level of awareness of farmers should be raised on the benefits from the use of knowledge, technology and innovation.
- Use of all financing mechanisms, including IPARD support for the knowledge - based measures, should be availed of as part of this process.

