

SCAR
Standing Committee
on Agricultural Research



SCAR
AKIS

Agricultural Knowledge
and Innovation Systems

SWG AKIS

Strategic Working Group on Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems Flanders-Belgium

Athens Meeting

28th of February to 1st of March 2017

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Sylvia Bursens, Agrolink

CAP post 2020 Communication

"The future of food and farming"

Objective of the presentations:

- ▶ Considering the EC communication on the CAP*
- ▶ And considering the Concept note coming from the reflections from SCAR AKIS Tallinn meeting
- ▶ Which specific obligations would you request in the CAP AKIS plan to ensure results?
- ▶ How will you create your CAP AKIS toolbox, to:

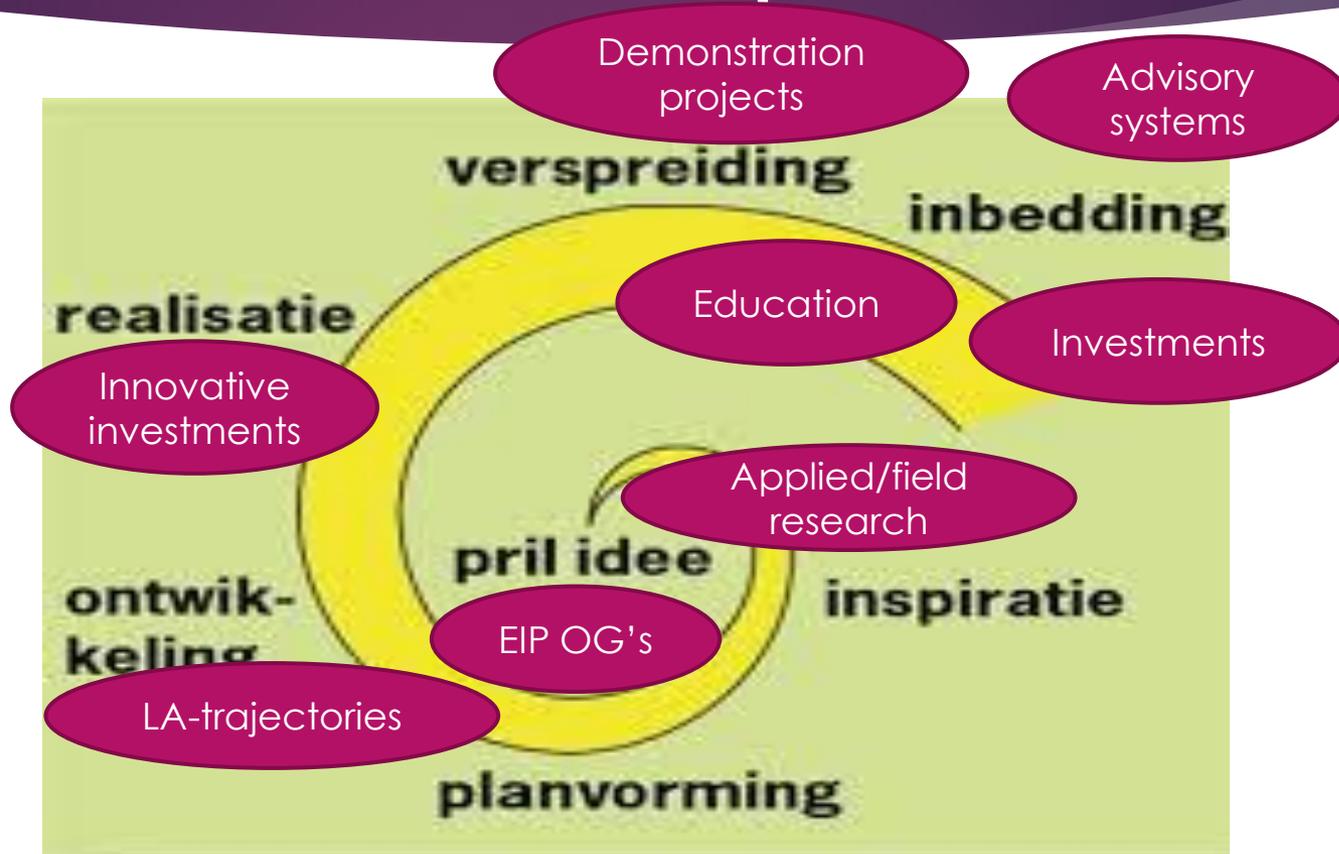
PS: This exercise is a brainstorming aiming to trigger creativity, new ideas, inspiration and cross-fertilisation. The aim is not to have a presentation of what is already in place (AKIS description) in your country but to imagine some future characteristics enabling efficient AKISs. Your presentation does not engage your country and your organisation at the Political level. The SWG AKIS is a think tank.

*https://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/sites/agriculture/files/future-of-cap/future_of_food_and_farming_communication_en.pdf

Strengthen farm advisory services within MS' AKISs

- ▶ **Farmer-advisor relationship: trust => innovation will be faster taken up and is adapted to the characteristics/needs of the farm**
- ▶ **Support for traditional product oriented advice:**
 - ▶ occasion to reach private advisors, not linked with research, and get them involved in AKIS
 - ▶ combination of wanted advice and less attractive advice such as environmental issues
- ▶ **Quality management systems for advisory work: not easy to measure!**
 - ▶ education – train the trainer
 - ▶ awareness creation existing knowledge
 - ▶ better link with research output
- ▶ **Easily manageable bureaucratic efforts for farmers to get supported advice: farmers need a quick answer to ad hoc questions – administrative steps = bottleneck**
- ▶ **Low entry barriers for using advisory services: more flexible advice system will attract farmers => real farm-tailored advice: now farmers have to choose between fixed advice topics**
- ▶ **Link between research/other innovation measures and advisory systems**
- ▶ **Data sharing, sharing of experiences/tools between advisors: knowledge cross-fertilisation**

Enhance knowledge flows within the AKIS and strengthen links between research and practice



- ▶ Innovation measures: more focus, better strategies, more efficient, better planned, demand-driven, co-creation

Enhance knowledge flows within the AKIS and strengthen links between research and practice

- ▶ **Better coherence between measures, funding mechanisms and actors involved**
 - ▶ Include farm advisory services = multipliers in OGs and beyond
 - ▶ Demonstration projects can help in a better implementation of e.g. agri-environmental-climate measures
 - ▶ Some RDP-measures will stop without continued funding: create possibilities for follow-up funding: the right funding in the right phase
- ▶ **Innovation = trial & error => tolerance for risk: take this into account in legislation**
- ▶ **Structures needed to stimulate knowledge flow between universities, practical research, advisors and farmers on research priorities and research results e.g. Agrolink Flanders**
- ▶ **AKIS should reach further than primary agriculture, whole food value chain and bio-economy approach**
- ▶ **The obligation of making data publically available on the short term sometimes hampers innovation – e.g. results of OGs – making co-financing dependent on the public nature of results – need for ownership**

Incentivize interactive innovation projects

- ▶ The current EIP OG approach works and should be further elaborated
- ▶ Advance funding in order to stimulate bottom-up OGs
- ▶ Several smart specialisation initiatives need to be linked to agricultural innovation funding programs: innovation networks (e.g. Smart digital farming) and clusters (e.g. Flanders' Food). Different ministries/departments administer different funding programs.
Dialogue needed
- ▶ The involvement of stakeholders' networks (ENRD, EIP Service Point and other national and international associations like EUFRAS, Flemish Rural Network) and their financing increases the effects of knowledge transfer and innovations. Intense cooperation of relevant organizations and active exchange of experiences and best-practice examples.

Support digital transition in agriculture

- ▶ **'2018, year of the data' in agriculture in Flanders: several initiatives are already ongoing: smart digital farming, OGs precision farming, demonstration projects smart farming and sensor technologies, LA-trajectories, workshops, EFRO (data management)**
- ▶ **Creation of digital tools for advisors: e.g. apps, decision tools**
- ▶ **Digital access to market**
- ▶ **Data management should be further elaborated: e.g. data sharing between advisors, central data repository**
- ▶ **Digitisation of the sector should be looked at as an opportunity to attract young farmers**
- ▶ **Support for multidisciplinary education at several levels (farmers, advisors,...): ICT, social sciences,...**