



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Federal Department of Economic Affairs,
Education and Research EAER
Federal Office for Agriculture FOAG

Country Presentation Switzerland: Linking Research, Extension and Practice

SCAR SWG AKIS-3

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Preliminary Remarks

- As a non-EU-member, Switzerland does not follow the same procedures to foster innovation in the AKIS like the MS.
- Apart from the first pillar (Excellent Science), Swiss partners may participate in Horizon 2020 activities under a third country status, provided they have their own funding.
- Innovation is a high priority on the Swiss political agenda.
- Farmers, however, do not like to hear that they are not innovative.



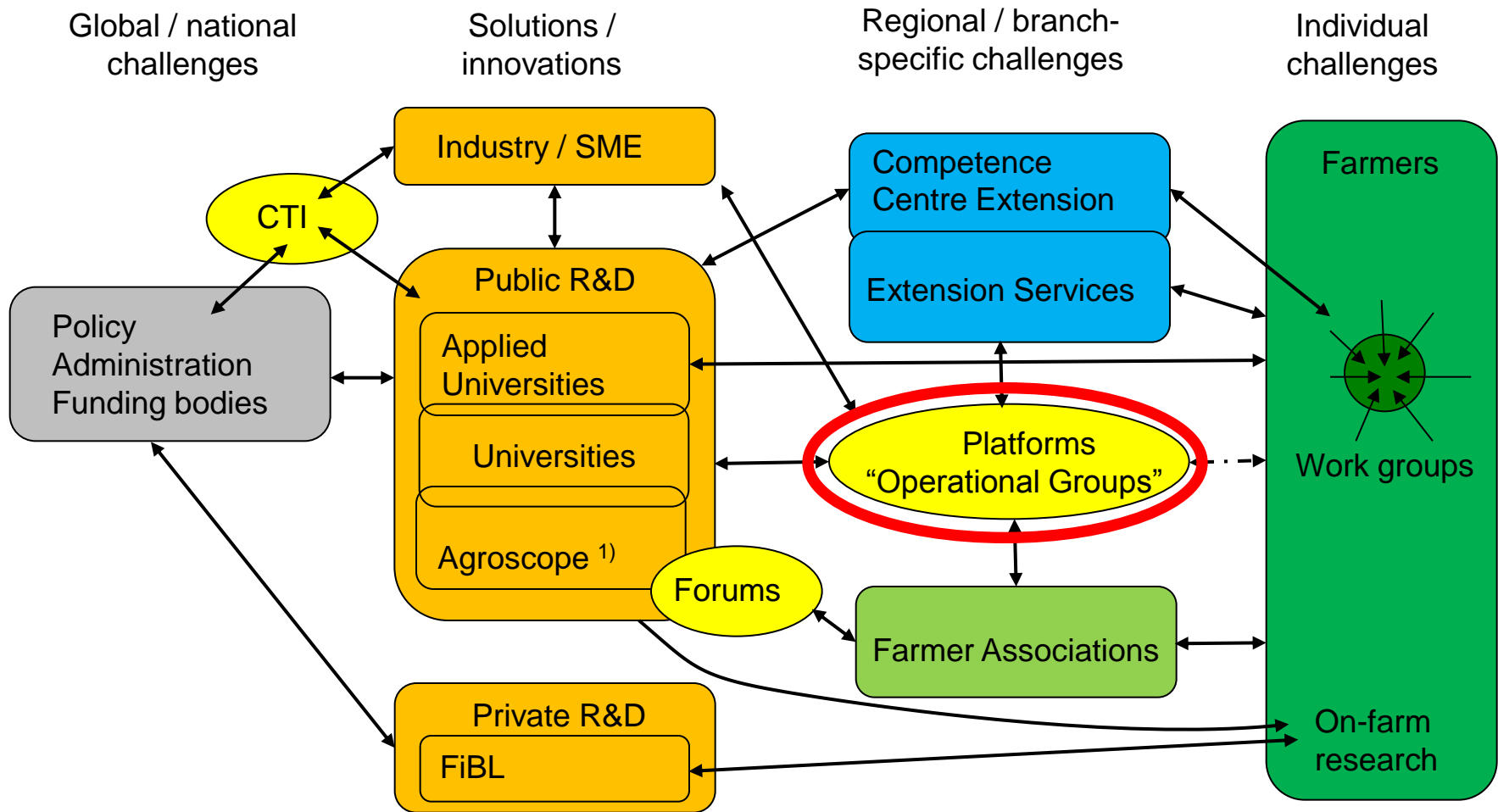
General Information on AKIS-CH

The Swiss AKIS is characterized

- by shared functions, in terms of
 - research, education, extension/knowledge transfer/information
- by shared responsibilities, in terms of “ownership” and legal status of the actors:
 - public – private – PPP
 - federal – intercantonal – cantonal
- by different funding schemes:
 - public (federal, cantonal)
 - private
 - PPP
- and therefore by many and complex linkages between the actors



Linkages between actors in CH



¹⁾ Every 4 years public survey on research needs -> 500 needs



Swiss Grassland Society (AGFF)

- Main objective: sustainable fodder production
=> high animal performance based mainly on own fodder
- Umbrella organization of the grassland professionals
- Association under private law, based on membership of farmers, advisory services, colleges, research institutes, seed production companies
- Financed by fees, public and private grants and a lot of in-kind-support: research, laboratorial analyses...
- Linkages:
 - (international) scientific community
 - advisory services, colleges
 - farmers
 - seed producers





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Profi-Lait

- Main objectives:
 - share information from research and extension with milk producers
 - discuss technical topics, identify research needs
- Network and platform (no legal status)
- Funding (and financing) bodies: SMP (Swiss Milk Producers Federation), FOAG, private companies
- Partners: research institutes, universities, colleges, advisory services, AGFF, Swiss Farmers Union...
- Linkages:
 - scientific communities
 - advisory services, colleges
 - farmers, farmers' federations
 - industry





Profi-Lait: Activities and Products

- Practical publications through media
- Meetings for milk producers
- Workshops for research and extension
- Campaigns, general information via internet
- Overview on running research projects
- ...





Bottlenecks and Challenges

- Networks heavily depend on their partners' commitments: funding, in-kind-support (staff, infrastructure, analyses...); they are vulnerable
=> strength = risk
- Perpetual need to be of practical relevance and to master the state of the art
- Networks merely overview related but not necessarily interlinked research projects, instead of being able to define, orient and coordinate research programmes
- There is a fine line between a network's partners' need of appropriate visibility and their leaning to put themselves first:
=> trust, don't thrust



Outlook

- Although in Switzerland we do not intend to set up a national EIP network, the need for more interlinking between research, extension and practice is clearly recognized by all partners.
- New funding schemes of the FOAG allow to support a project financially over a longer period, not only for research aspects but for the implementation of its findings as well - although we are still at the beginning of this process.



Thank you for your attention

