



Prospects for Farmers' Support: Advisory Services in European AKIS (PRO AKIS)



ESTONIA

AKIS DIAGRAM

Main actors of AKIS:

- (a) **administration:** Ministry of Agriculture; Estonian Agricultural Registers and Information Board (ARIB); Agricultural Board of Estonia; Estonian National Rural Network; Estonian Rural Development Foundation (RDF);
- (b) **education and research:** Universities (3); Vocational schools (10); Research Institutes and Centres (4);
- (c) **extension:** Local Advisory Centres (15) coordinated by RDF;
- (d) **associations, unions and co-operatives:** Estonian Chamber of Agriculture and Commerce; Estonian Farmers Federation; NGO- Estonian Rural Advisory Service; cooperatives (100); associations (4); Estonian Organic Farming; Estonian Private Forest Union; Foundation of Private Forest Centre;
- (e) **other:** Estonian Village Movement Kodukant; Estonian Environment Information Centre; Estonian Council of Environmental NGOs; Estonian Association of SMEs; supporting laboratories, inspections of MoA, etc.

Cooperation

between AKIS actors:

the linkages are rather weak; it is necessary to develop co-operation in the nearest future

RESEARCH

Agricultural research is mostly carried out by:

- Jõgeva Plant Breeding Institute (plant breeding)
- Estonian Research Institute of Agriculture (plant production and protection, soil, feed and food quality and safety)
- Estonian University of Life Sciences (EMÜ) - (animal husbandry, veterinary, economy, sociology, environment, plant sciences, food sciences)
- University of Tartu (environmental sciences, biology)
- Tallinn University of Technology (biotechnology, food sciences)
- Agricultural Research Centre (state agency)

The instruments of the **Estonian R&D funding system** are:

- funding of research and development infrastructures
- targeted financing in fundamental research
- baseline funding
- research grant funding for short term study projects and innovative projects
- national research and development programs
- Rural Development Plan 2007-2013 - cooperation in the development of new products, processes and technologies in the sectors of agriculture, food and forestry

Ministry of Agriculture finances agricultural applied research through national programmes:

- Applied Research and Development in Agriculture 2009-2014
- National programme for plant breeding 2009-2019
- Conservation and Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture 2007-2013

SUPPORT SYSTEM

- Estonian Museum of Agriculture
- Estonian Dairy Museum
- The Farm Museum of C. R. Jakobson
 - organize activities for families and children to promote the rural life and agriculture
 - organize conferences in cooperation with research institutes
- Laboratories, inspectorates, boards, centers and offices within the jurisdiction of Ministry of Agriculture
- Farmers Unions and associations
- Agencies and organizations in the field of agriculture
- Societies and cooperatives
- Commercial agencies and firms (trainings, consultations, etc.)

EXTENSION SERVICE

Decentralised **Farm Advisory System**

- 15 local advisory centers
- coordinate centre - Rural Development Foundation
- ca. 200 qualified advisors (incl. animal husbandry, crop production, financial advice, forestry, etc.)

The system is **financed** by:

- the state budget and Rural Development Plan
- the agricultural sector

The **history** of the **extension services**:

- goes back to 1989
- is in changing process ever since

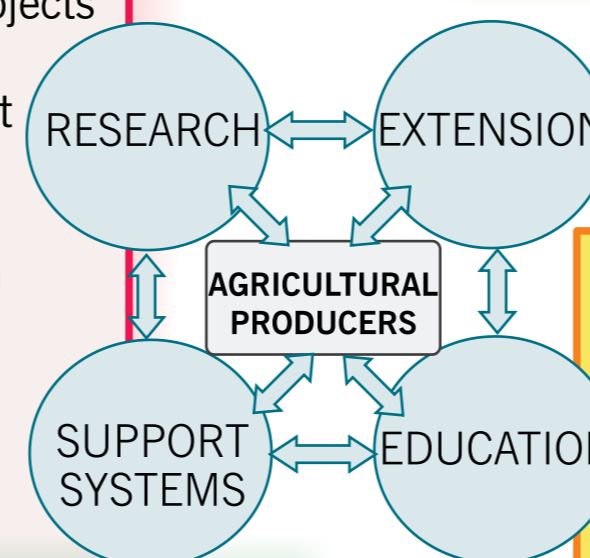
EDUCATION

Higher Education (agriculture, forestry, food industry, etc.)

- Estonian University of Life Sciences (EMÜ) - animal husbandry, veterinary, economy, sociology, environment, plant sciences, food sciences
- University of Tartu - environmental sciences, biology
- Tallin University of Technology - biotechnology, food sciences

Vocational Education:

- 10 vocational schools providing education in the fields of agriculture, horticulture, forestry, food industry (30 in total)
 - vocational education without the requirement for basic education
 - vocational education based on a basic education
 - secondary vocational education studies - based on basic education, a secondary education is acquired in addition to the vocation
 - vocational education based on secondary education
 - vocational study in basic schools and upper secondary schools



Main sources of funding the advisory services:

mixed funding: but mainly state budget and farmers

Main supplier(s) of advisory services:
public organisations –
15 Local Advisory Centres

Main clients:

- (1) medium commercial farms;
- (2) small commercial farms;
- (3) subsistence farms

Main topics of advice:

cross-compliance, plant and animal production, environment

Main methods:

various methods are being used, but mainly individual (especially one-to-one on the farms and outside the farm) and group (outside the farm) and also telephone helpdesks, internet and website-tools



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