

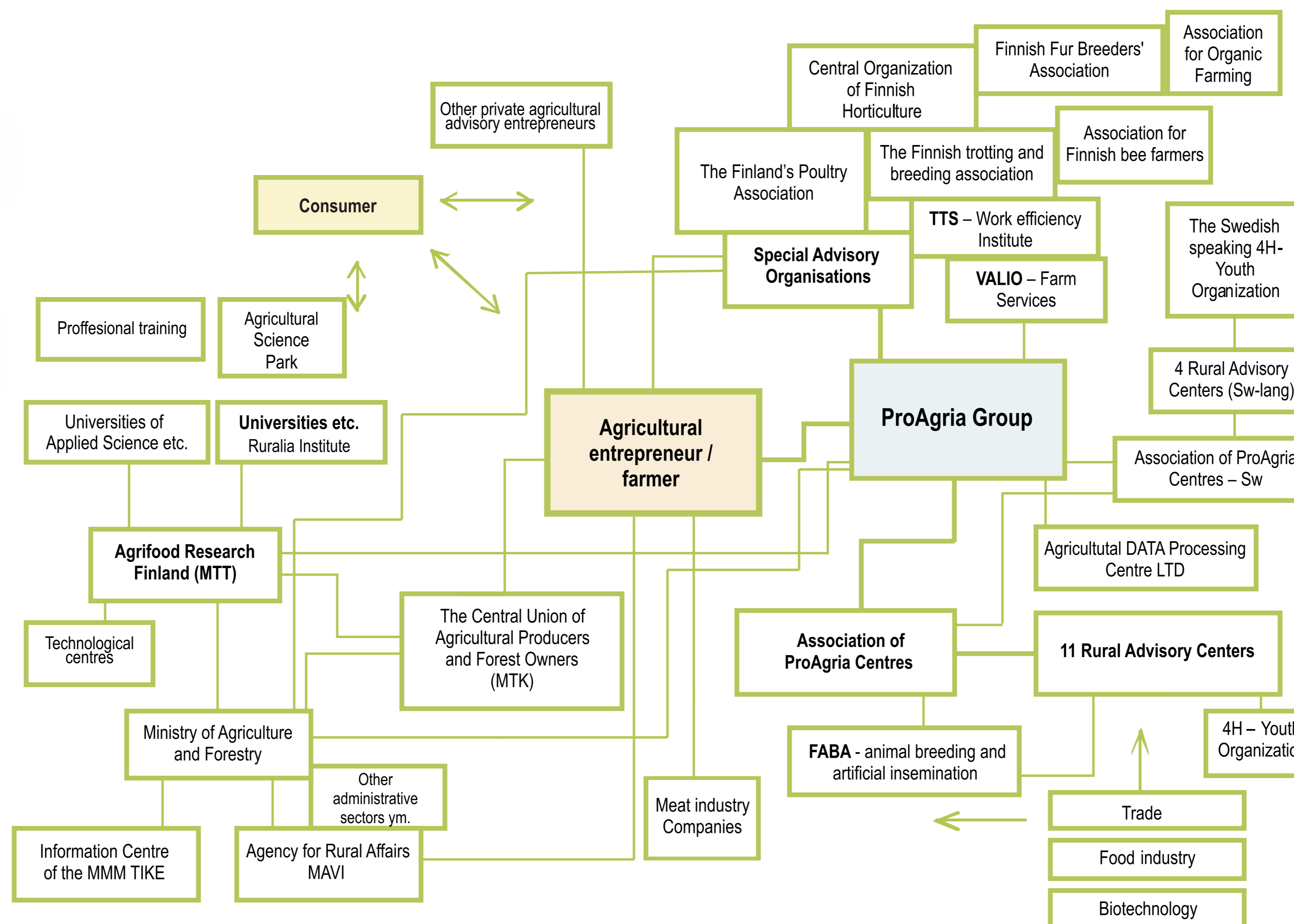


Prospects for Farmers' Support: Advisory Services in European AKIS (PRO AKIS)



FINLAND

AKIS DIAGRAM



Main actors of AKIS:

(a) administration: Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MMM); Agency for Rural Affairs (MAVI); Regional Centres for Economic Development, Transport and Environment (15); Finnish Food Safety Authority Evira;
(b) education and research: Universities; Agrifood Research Finland (MTT); Finnish Food Safety Authority Evira;
(c) extension: ProAgria Group (covers 80% of farmer needs); 7 independent extension organisations (working according the agreement with ProAgria Group);
(d) other independent extension organisations: Association of Private Rural Advisors (serving very special services)

Cooperation

between AKIS actors:

the linkages and cooperation between ProAgria and Universities and Research are active and going well

Main supplier(s) of advisory services:

private organisation ProAgria Group (consists of 17 organisations)

Main clients:

- (1) large commercial farms;
- (2) small commercial farms;
- (3) part-time farmers

Main topics of advice:

plant and animal production, environment, business diversification

Main methods:

various methods are being used, but mainly individual and mass

Main sources of funding the advisory services:

mixed funding, but state budget covers 14% of services cost



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