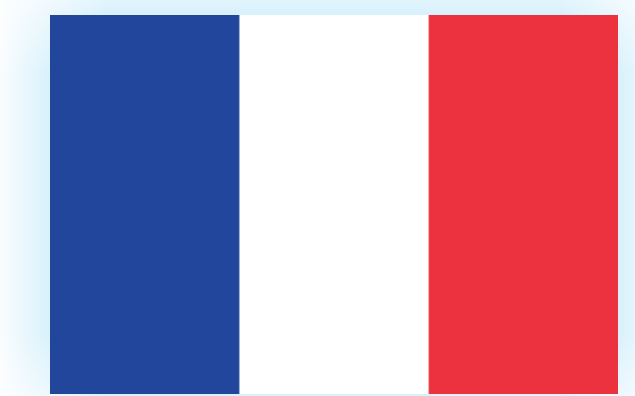


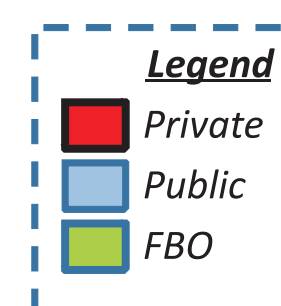
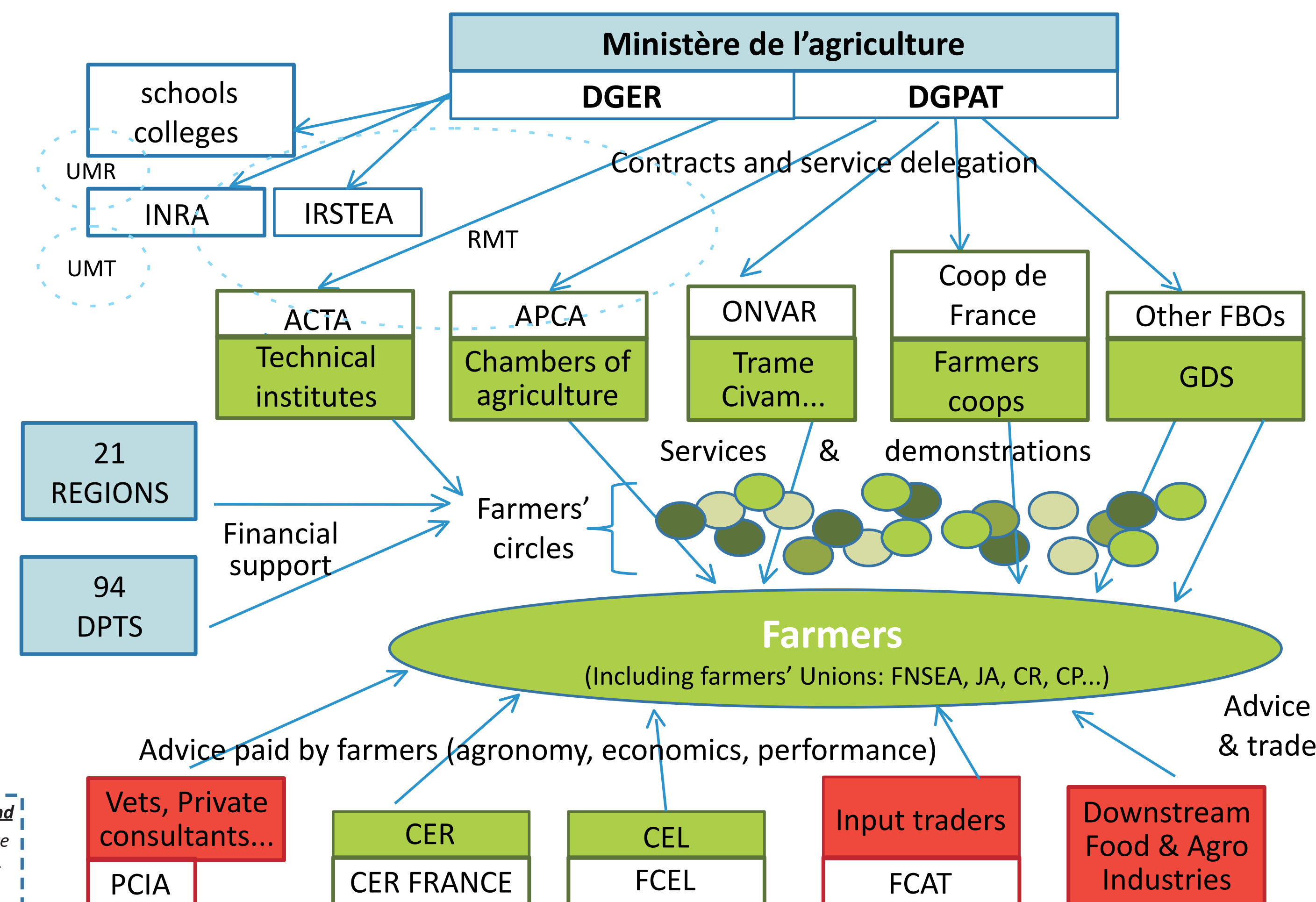


Prospects for Farmers' Support: Advisory Services in European AKIS (PRO AKIS)



FRANCE

AKIS DIAGRAM



Main actors of AKIS:

- (a) **Public administration** – Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Research, Local authorities (regions, departments);
- (b) **Public research organisations** – INRA, IRSTEA;
- (c) **Education** – Universities and agricultural colleges (public and private), agricultural vocational schools;
- (d) **Farmer based applied research institutes** – Instituts Techniques Agricoles (15 ITA and 6 associated organisations);
- (e) **Professional advisory services** – Chambers, associations, private organisations;
- (f) **FBOs** – Farmers cooperatives, associations, unions, circles;
- (g) **Support** – Input companies (serving also advisory services), downstream industries

Cooperation between AKIS actors:

- besides informal exchanges, the relations within the AKIS are partly embedded in formal partnerships;
- these partnerships play different roles regarding knowledge flows, e.g. in the programming of the applied research activities, or in their implementation

Main supplier(s) of advisory services:

growing competition between farmers' cooperatives, trade and industry, FBOs, chambers of agriculture

Main clients:

- a lack of debates about the types of farms targeted as clientele of advisory services;
- few empirical evidence about who benefit from advice (a lack of access for small farms?);
- some discussions about the renewal of farmers' circles

Main topics of advice:

- a segmentation of topics according to supply chains and regulations (standards...);
- alternative views about how to integrate environmental issues;
- a major national programme for the reduction of pesticides

Main sources of funding the advisory services:

- Important public investments at national scale: support to various research and education organisations, and pluri-annual contracts with a variety of advisory and applied research organisations (farmers' organisations, associations, chambers).
- A transition from co-management towards a delegation of services with complex monitoring, and a growing role of local authorities.
- The funding combines institutional support (based on mid-term contracts) and funding schemes (with a great variety of competitive calls).
- Farmers' contribution (mainly through associations and unions) play a key role in R&D (both for applied research and advice).
- A more and more important role of industries (upstream and downstream) in the French AKIS.



THEME [KBBE.2012.1.4-07]
[Agricultural Knowledge & Innovation Systems for an Inclusive Europe]
Grant agreement for: Coordination & support action.
Grant agreement no: 311994.



UNIVERSITY OF HOHENHEIM



UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE IN KRAKOW



INRA
SCIENCE & IMPACT
THE FRENCH NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH