

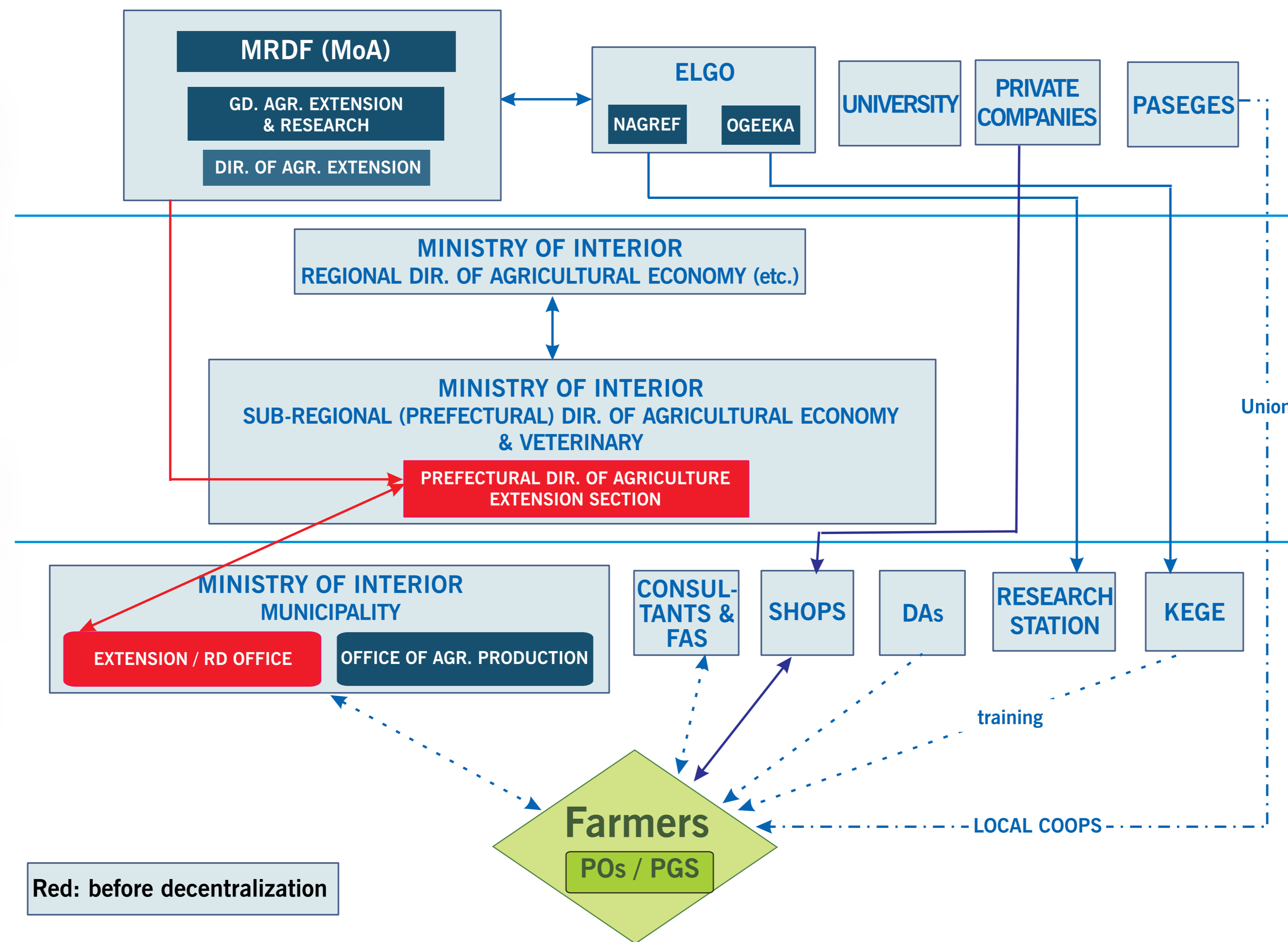


Prospects for Farmers' Support: Advisory Services in European AKIS (PRO AKIS)



GREECE

AKIS DIAGRAM



Red: before decentralization

Main sources of funding the advisory services:

depends on organisation, but in general, for services provided by public organisation it is public funding, by private - client fees; by FBOs – mixed funding; the approach adopted under FAS specific service, in which farmers are supported up to 80% of advisory cost (maximum to 1500€)

Main supplier(s) of advisory services:

- (a) public organisation;
- (b) FBOs;
- (c) private organisations

Main clients:

- (a) for public organisation on the first place are young farmers, and also medium and small commercial farms;
- (b) for FBOs – medium and small commercial farms;
- (c) for private organisation – medium and small commercial farms and semi-subsistence farms; even, when there are the same clients, usually their rank for particular provider can be different

Main topics of advice:

depends on advisory provider – e.g. private provider services focus on plant and animal production, cross-compliance, environment, diversification and rural development; FBOs – the same topics and additionally book-keeping; public provider the same advice like private provider plus animal production

Main methods:

all providers use generally individual methods; group and mass methods are rather marginal

Main actors of AKIS:

- (a) at national level:** the Ministry of Rural Development and Food (MRDF), ELGO DIMITRA (incorporating the ex-semi-autonomous organisations NAGREF, OGEEKA, AGROCERT and ELOGAK), Higher Education Institutes (HEIs), private companies (branches of transnational companies) and PASEGES (Pan-Hellenic Confederation of Unions of Agricultural Co-operatives);
- (b) at the regional level:** Directorate of Agricultural Economy and at the sub-regional level, the Directorate of Agricultural Economy & Veterinary and local Development Agencies; NAGREF and OGEEKA DIMITRA also operate as institutes and research stations, and local farmers' training centres (KEGE), respectively, at this level. Unions of Cooperatives (PASEGES branches) are also found at regional or sub-regional level. Finally, private consultants-agronomists and private input shops (run by agronomists) are usually at sub-regional level;
- (c) at local level:** the Municipal Agricultural Production Offices, local cooperatives and individual farmers

Cooperation between AKIS actors:

The current picture of AKIS and, in particular, of advisory/extension services in Greece is that of a highly fragmented and ineffective system. The cooperation between AKIS actors is **very weak**. The only channel for the transfer of new technology and practices in Greek agriculture are private companies (branches of transnational companies) through private agronomists. Some of these agronomists also try to organise farmers in order to introduce new, innovative cultivations or to carry out small-scale on-farm trials. An exception to this picture concerns producer groups certified under the Integrated Management System. The Greek situation clearly identifies with extension systems in which agronomists have the role of experts who disseminate technical information to highly dependent upon farmers.



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



UNIVERSIDADE
DE TRÁS-OS-MONTES
E ALTO DOURO