

## Prospects for Farmers' Support:

# Advisory Services in European AKIS (PRO AKIS)



### **AKIS DIAGRAM**

## Main actors of AKIS:

- (1) Research institutions (state institutes, Hungarian Academy of Science, private institutes);
- (2) Extension (Farm Advisory System, Farm Information Service, Network of Village Agronomists, Commercial Services);
- (3) Education (universities, higher education colleges, vocational schools);
- (4) Support system (producers' associations, product boards, Agricultural Administrative Office, Agricultural and Rural Development Agency, Hungarian National Rural Network)

# Cooperation between AKIS actors:

The co-operation within AKIS is weak

The AKIS in Hungary has rather fragmented and un-coordinated structure; research institutes and universities are usually dealing with theoretical issues and basic research; commercial companies focus on their business (e.g. marketable products and linked innovations); the National Rural Development Training and Advisory Institute (NAKVI) co-ordinates the agricultural secondary schools and providing general professional supervision on adult education and lifelong learning within agriculture and rural development; the NGOs focus on many courses;

#### RESEARCH

#### Ministry of Rural Development (VM)

**Nine institutes** covering: Agricultural economics; Animal breeding and nutrition; Small animal breeding and nutrition; Forests; Fisheries; Food; Biotechnology; Agricultural Engineering; Geodesy, Cartography and Remote Sensing

#### **Hungarian Academy of Sciences**

Six institutes relevant to agricultural producers covering: Agriculture; Pest management; Soils and agrochemicals; Veterinary; Biological Research; Agricultural economics Nine institutes covering: Meat market; Peppers; Vegetables; Milk economy; Fruit and ornamental plants; Grain

#### Other state owned institutions

Ministry of National Resources

21 institutes belonging to agricultural universities and colleges **Private sector** 

Various institutes

## SUPPORT SYSTEMS

#### Producers' associations

Hungarian Chamber of Agriculture

(11,000 members);

MOSZ and MAGOSZ

#### Product boards

Covering: Poultry; Fruit and vegetables; Meat; Grain and feed etc.

#### **Agricultural Administration Office**

Associated with the VM; the Hungarian National Foodchain Safety Authority (NÉBIH) delivers regulatory, monitoring and accreditation services through local offices

#### **Agricultural and Rural Development Agency**

Supervised by the VM; the sole paying agency of EAGF and EAFRD funds and national funds

#### **Hungarian National Rural Network**

Operates within the Rural Development, Training and Consultancy Institute (NAKVI) of the VM

#### **EXTENSION**

#### Farm Advisory System

Set up in 2007; maintained, regulated and controlled by the VM and the NAKVI and mainly funded by the EAFRD; 643 registered active advisors in 2011; seven Regional Advisory Centres and 51 active Territorial Advisory Centres selected by tender which deliver upon-payment advice to farmers

#### Farm Information Service

Set up in 2007; managed by the Hungarian Chamber of Agriculture; financed 71% by the EAFRD; provides free information to farmers about the CAP and direct payments; 205 consultants

#### Network of village agronomists

The Central Agricultural Office, which is directed by the NÉBIH (Hungarian National Foodchain Safety Authority), has a long-established network of village agronomists (588 in 2009) who have public administration tasks and also provide free advice to farmers

### **EDUCATION**

#### **Ministry of National Resources**

Universities: major agricultural, horticultural and veterinary teaching centres in Debrecen; Szeged; Gödöllő; Budapest (Corvinus University); Kaposvár; Keszthely (University of Veszprém); Mosonmagyarovár (University of West-Hungary)

Higher education colleges: major agricultural and horticultural centres in Gyöngyös (Károly Róbert); Szarvas (Tessedik Sámuel); Kecskemét; Nyíregyháza and Mezőtúr (Szolnok)

#### **Ministry of Rural Development**

**Vocational schools:** 19 institutes which are run by the VM covering agriculture, horticulture, food and related topics

# Main supplier(s) of advisory services:

there are four main advisory providers – free consultancy (village extension service and Hungarian Chamber of Agriculture), subsided consultancy (Farm Advisory Service), commercial consultancy; input providers (private sector); but the dominant is public organisation (free consultancy)

## Main clients:

depends on agricultural service provider, in general medium and small commercial farms

## Main topics of advice:

depends on client and advisory provider, but for medium commercial farms the main topics of advisory are: cross compliance, plant and animal production; for small commercial farms – plant and animal production

## Main methods:

mainly individual and group

## Main sources of funding the advisory services:

mixed funding, but depends on service provider, i.e. Sub-regional Advisory Centres have a yearly quota for a certain number of individual contracts with producers; producers pay for the service, then can claim back 80% of the contract value; one farmer can receive max. EUR 1,500 during a seven year period (with a limit of EUR 700 per year) and can use the service up to three times during the seven years





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