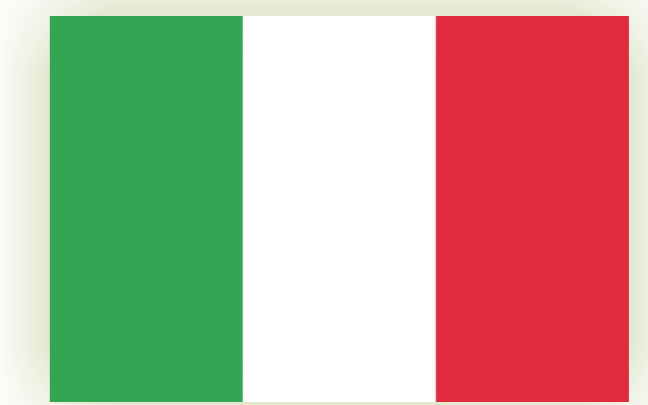




# Prospects for Farmers' Support: Advisory Services in European AKIS (PRO AKIS)



## ITALY

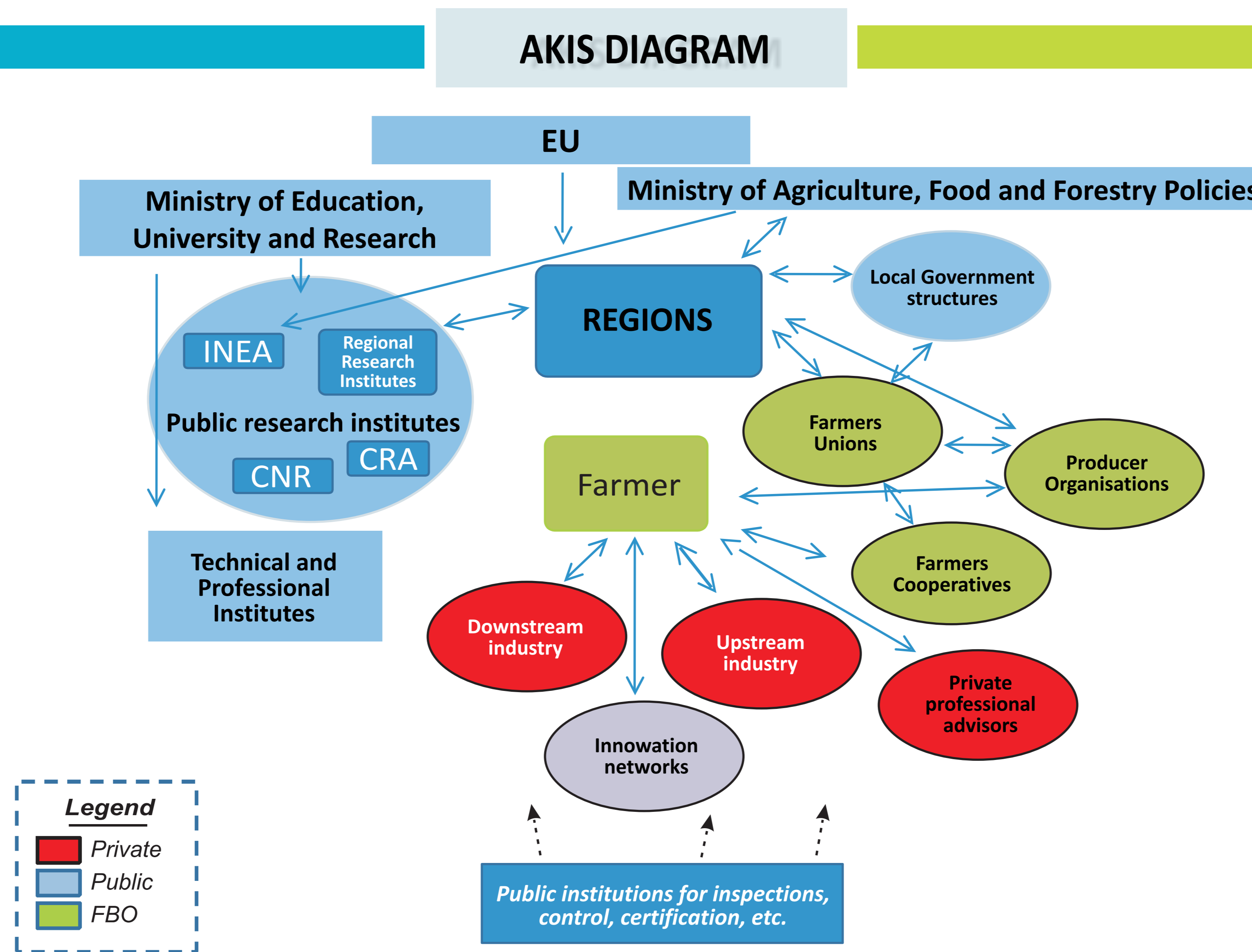
### Main actors of AKIS:

- 21 different regional AKISs with three components: the public and the private sectors (almost always clearly separated), and the farmers associations (in charge of specific public founded extension services in some Regions);
- the national framework is even more complex due to the coexistence of several institutional levels;
- lack of systematic knowledge about AKIS (actors, database, monitoring, evaluation...)

### Cooperation between AKIS actors:

- strong variability across Regions;
- very high number of actors and degree of fragmentation;
- lack of structures or pathways to bridge the gap between the separate entities;
- formal mechanisms to connect research and advisory services planning only in a few Regions

### AKIS DIAGRAM



### Main sources of funding the advisory services:

- The system suffers from a heavy dependence on EU funds, resulting in a lack of continuity without a coherent medium and long-term strategy.
- In recent years the economic crisis has led to further cuts in public spending with a downsizing of human resources and facilities, creating further disparities between the Regions.
- The services mobilise public funding, private funding and mix source of funding, depending on the providers.

### Main supplier(s) of advisory services:

- public organizations (regional agencies, other local authorities), private organizations, FBOs;
- local networks mainly related to the quality of production;
- a greater pluralism and privatization, emerging new players and different organizations /configurations of the traditional actors

### Main clients:

- for private organisations: large commercial farms, agricultural producer groups, and medium commercial farms;
- for public organisations: medium and small commercial farms and agricultural producer groups;
- for FBOs: the main clients depend on organizations

### Main topics of advice:

- for FBOs: plant and animal production, environment, book-keeping and taxes;
- for private: plant and animal production, business and business diversification an environment;
- for public services: increasing attention to environmental issues and rural development

### Main methods:

- FBOs and public organisations use a set of methods – individual, groups and mass;
- private usually use individual methods;
- several experiences of innovative and more participative methodologies



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