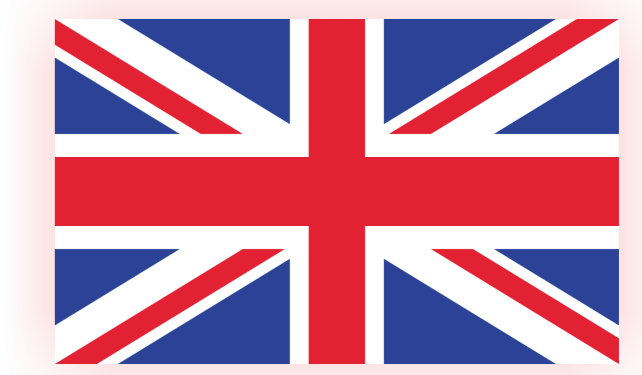




Prospects for Farmers' Support: Advisory Services in European AKIS (PRO AKIS)



UNITED KINGDOM

AKIS DIAGRAM



Main sources of funding the advisory services:
state extension service was commercialised in 1980s, privatised in 1990s;
now mixed sources of funding

Main supplier(s) of advisory services:
different providers in individual UK countries

Main clients:
varies by service provider, gaps identified for young farmers, female farmers, and semi-subsistence farmers

Main topics of advice:
varies by service provider and clients, but primarily market-oriented and environment-oriented topics

Main methods:
a mix of methods is employed, with most extension methods targeting individuals

Main actors of AKIS:

- (a) **public sector:** different government departments and agencies in individual UK countries;
- (b) **parastatal organisations:** Scotland's Rural College (SRuC/SAC); Lantra (the Sector Skills Council); Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute (NI); technology strategy boards, research councils;
- (c) **education and research:** universities (higher education institutes); research institutes (mostly or partly state funded);
- (d) **private sector:** independent consultants, commercial advisory companies (e.g. ADAS, Ricardo-AEA, SAC); levy bodies; trade associations; food chain actors (up- and downstream industries);
- (e) **FBOs:** farmers' cooperatives; producer organisations; farmers' groups/circles; land manager representative bodies;
- (e) **NGOs:** charitable trusts, foundations, other NGOs

Cooperation between AKIS actors:

there are many partnerships between the various AKIS actors: vertical, i.e. designed to improve the flow of new knowledge to farmers; and horizontal, i.e. aimed at broadening the scope (geographical, technical) of the joint effort – often in order to maximise the chances of obtaining state funding but also to achieve scale economies of personnel and facilities; a diverse range of linkage mechanisms are used to connect the AKIS vertically. However, some studies highlight the fragmented nature of the AKIS



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