Challenges for European advisory services

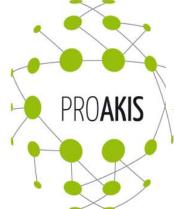
Key findings from PRO AKIS case studies

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AKIS in the ground In-depth analysis through 12 case studies

- Effectiveness of advisory services to respond demands and needs of small-scale farmers
- Capacity of advisory services to bridge research with knowledge needs of farmers
- Agricultural innovation networks which enhance the farmers ability to co-innovate in cooperation with other rural actors



AKIS in the ground In-depth analysis through case studies

- Effectiveness of advisory services to respond demands and needs of small-scale farmers
- Young farmers and semi-subsistence farmers in South Central region of Bulgaria
- Crofters in the West of Scotland
- Agri-tourism farms in the Carpathians, Poland
- New entrants in berry sector in North Centre region of Portugal



- Diversity and vitality of small-scale farmers
 - Multiple and heterogeneous needs and demands
 - Evolving needs and demands
 - New farmers profiles, competences and resources



Multiple and heterogeneous needs and demands

Young farmers in Bulgaria

- Advice on no-farming activities, and new topics
- Young inexperienced farmers demand for complete advice package: project development, technical and commercial....
- ✓ Need for local-specific knowledge which is increasingly scarce due to gaps in applied research (due to public disinvestment)
- Evolving needs and demands
- Small farmers needs and demands are many, diverse and constantly evolving



Crofters in West Scotland

- New farmers profiles, competences and resources
- ✓ High educated with ability to self-search informatic

 ₁ and to convert knowledge
- ✓ New entrants bringing-in to farming outside experiences, knowledge, skills and networks
- ✓ Intensive users of ICT resources, using them to search, share and co-create (tacit) knowledge
- ✓ Prone to use informal networking and networks as tools to share knowledge and information, to co-create knowledge and to coinnovate with their peers



Challenges highlighted

- Diversity and vitality of European small-scale farmers
 - Multiple and heterogeneous needs and demands
 - Evolving needs and demands
 - New farmers profiles, competences and resources



AKIS in the ground In-depth analysis through case studies

- Capacity of advisory services to bridge research with knowledge needs of farmers
- Knowledge transfer mechanisms in Bulgaria linking science to practice
- Experimental stations in Bavaria, Germany
- Development of decision support tools in France
- Demonstration farms in Poland



Challenges for advisory services to bridge research with knowledge needs of farmers

- Coexistence of traditional and novel models to bridge research with farmers
 - Traditional models with well-functioning linkages between research and practice
- Experimental stations (in Bavaria, Germany) and in Bulgaria (also applied research institutions and agricultural universities
- Novel models
- ✓ Network of demonstration farms (in Poland), that join farmers, advisors and researchers
- ✓ Decision support tools (DST) for agriculture allowing for direct linkage between research and farmers (with ICT)



Challenges for advisory services to bridge research with knowledge needs of farmers

Challenges of novel models to advisory

Demonstration farms

- Network of demonstration farms
- ✓ Advantages of putting together farmers, researchers and advisors
- Need public support
- Advisors need to be effective in diffusing and dissem knowledge generated

Decision support tools (DST)

- DST allowing for direct link between farmers and researchers
- Often developed by actors outside the AKIS and without link with advisory
- Designed and usable by medium-large commercial farmers (excludes small farmers and others)



Challenges for advisory services to bridge research with knowledge needs of farmers

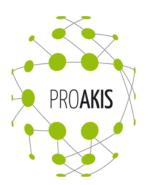
Challenges highlighted

- Coexistence of traditional and novel models to bridge research with farmers
- Traditional models with well-functioning linkages between research and practice
- Challenges of novel models to advisory



AKIS in the ground In-depth analysis through case studies

- Agricultural innovation networks which enhance farmers ability to co-innovate with other rural actors
- Research project-based agricultural innovation network in Brandenburg, Germany
- Anti-Mafia rural network in Southern of Italy
- Farmer-based berries knowledge and innovation network in Portugal
- Monitor Farms: Farmer-based knowledge and innovation networks, Scotland



Agricultural innovation networks enhancing farmers co-innovation and advisory services

- Diversity in agricultural innovation networks
 - Different goals, configuration, actors involved
 - ✓ Agricultural vs rural networks
 - ✓ Project-based, farmer-based, bottom-up, top-down...
- ✓ Well defined boundaries, sectoral delimited, territorial fuzzy
 - Enhancing collective learning and incremental innovation
 - Create platforms for multi-actor interaction
 - Oriented to farmers needs, practice and problem-solving
- ✓ Facilitate integration of codified and tacit knowledge



Agricultural innovation networks enhancing farmers co-innovation and advisory services

- Role of advisory services in/for these networks
- Networks complementing conventional advisory services
- Novel models for delivering advice involving multi-actors and **Monitor Farms** holistic experiences
- Integrated in publicly funded programmes lead by leading institutions of AKIS
- Networks filling (temporarily) gaps in advisory service
- Cluster of soft fruits
- ✓ Farmer-based and research-based, sectoral, national and เบเลา networks, which address the delivering of quality advice by joining multi-actors from AKIS
- Funded by projects which tend to dissolve when funding gets over



Agricultural innovation networks enhancing farmers co-innovation and advisory services

Challenges highlighted

- Diversity in agricultural innovation networks
- Roles of advisory services in/for agricultural innovation networks



Challenges for European advisory services

Take-home messages

- Challenges posed to advisors:
 - Multiple, heterogeneous and constantly evolving needs and demands of European small-scale farmers
 - New roles for advisors in the novel models that bridge directly science and practice
 - New roles and place of advisors in/for agricultural and rural innovation networks



- Check on PRO AKIS website www.proakis.eu
- Country report per each case study (12 reports)
- Synthesis report per topic (3 reports)



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

Partners

Publications and events Contact

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