SCAR SWG AKIS 4 - 5th Meeting
Bonn, 30th -31st of May 2017

The SCAR SWG AKIS4 meeting in Bonn was the fifth of the meetings proposed for the development of the mandate endorsed by the SCAR plenary in December 2015. Venue: Federal Office for Building and Regional Planning (BBR), Deichmanns Ave 31 - 37, 53179 BONN.

This meeting looked to develop the following topics identified in the AKIS 4 mandate:

- **SCAR 'CASA' project interaction;**

- **Knowledge exchange and cross-fertilisation** (mandate points 1, 2, 3 in particular): Policy briefs Advisory services and Education, Agricultural Innovation Summit Lisbon, AgriSpin on Innovation support, Cooperation with SWG Food Systems, BioEast;

- **Analyzing the perspective of AKIS** in Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture **across developing countries** (mandate point 5: GIZ – Green Innovation Centre);

- **Digitization:** Cross-cutting theme (mandate points 1, 2, 3 in particular).

All presentations are available at the SWG SCAR-AKIS dropbox, link:
https://www.dropbox.com/sh/zxe01q1fbyyg9hb/AADqP8VKGLP-g2tF_EIhwb7la/AKIS4/8-%205th%20Meeting%20-%20May%202017%20-%20BONN?dl=0

All discussions during the meeting are summarized in **Annex 1.**
The list of participants is described **in Annex 2.**

CO-CHAIRS: Adrien GUICHAOUA & Aniko JUHASZ
Facilitator: Floor Geerling-Eiff (report)

Day 1: Tuesday May30th

Session 1: SCAR CASA project

Presentation of CASA project - Coordinator - Rolf Stratmann

SCAR Coordination and Support Action (SCAR-CASA). Specific CASA objectives are:

- Increased and broadened participation, interaction and collaboration of Member States and Associated Countries with each other and also with the Directorate-Generals (DG) of the EC;
- Improved quality of outputs and outcomes of SCAR, based on an increased and broadened participation facilitated by CASA;
- Strengthening the production of more strategic policy advice within the evolving landscape of the broader bio-economy based on an increased and broadened participation facilitated by CASA;
- Improved overall organisation, communication and dissemination of SCAR activities, outputs and outcomes for greater impact.

Work packages are:

1. WP1: Representativeness, to increase representativeness of currently less involved member states, maintain interest of currently involved MSs and to widen the involvement in view of wider remit;
2. WP2: Added Value and Improved Quality for Greater Impact, to support SCAR and its SWGs and CWGs to deliver results of improved quality, creating added value to outputs for greater impact within the evolving landscape of the broader bioeconomy;
3. WP 3: Strategic Advice, to assess the state of play of research and innovation policy in the broader bioeconomy area: preparatory work, assessment and SWOT analysis, a SWOT Conference, support SCAR on better alignment of research and innovation policies, support SCAR in developing general procedures and tools for initiating new activities, creating a structure for future SCAR foresight processes, develop an Impact Assessment Framework, develop scenarios on sustainability and follow up activities;
4. WP4: Communication and Dissemination, to ensure adequate knowledge transfer and dissemination of SCAR activities, improved links between the SCAR activities, to reinforce the impact of SCAR activities.

Presentation of CASA WP4 Communication – WP Leader – Valérie Dehaudt

The CASA communication group is developing a logo and factsheet for each working group. Furthermore they will publish a newsletter twice per year. The first one should be released June 23d 2017. It will contain news about 1) the SCAR activities, 2) activities from the SCAR working groups and 3) space for other events and activities.

Overview and prospects of SCAR Foresights – Elke Saggau

CASA WP2, task 2.5. The aim is to support the implementation and dissemination of the 4th Foresight and its recommendations. This means: mapping the present state of implementation / dissemination and mapping the need for further support of implementation / dissemination of the 4th Foresight exercise. Focus lies on policies, research, development, and innovation within agriculture, forestry, fisheries, and aquaculture at national, EU and global level. The expected outcome is to develop guidelines for 1) a process for implementation of SCAR Foresight results and 2) a structure for the continuation of the Foresight process.

Action:
- The task force for the foresight preparation group invites one member from the SCAR-AKIS-group (one member per S/CWG) to join the CASA Task Force on the SCAR Foresight.

Report on CASA WP3 SWOT meeting – Vera Steinberg & Mara Lai

Task 3.1: Assess the state of play of research and innovation policy in the broader Bioeconomy area: preparatory work. The workshop was held in Bonn, March 9th and 10th 2017. Aim of the workshop was working on the SWOT concept, not performing the SWOT itself, defining impact in the framework of SCAR and discussion on key factors of involvement and representativeness. The original task was that the SWOT would provide a picture of the EU bioeconomy strengths and weaknesses and adjacent research policies, the delivery mechanisms applied and the state of their implementation, the actors involved and the national and regional financial and human capacities. Based on the results of the workshop, the task was limited for the SWOT to provide a picture on the EU bioeconomy research and innovation policy landscape and adjacent research policies, the delivery mechanisms applied and the state of their implementation, the actors involved and the national and regional financial and human capacities. The SWOT analysis is now focused on the SCAR, its structures and impact. This new direction of the SWOT-task is currently under discussion.

External studies - SCAR-AKIS CASA

There are two studies that the SCAR-AKIS group proposes:

1. Synergies among EU funds in the field of research and Innovation in Agriculture: the aim of this study is to provide a better understanding of the potential and the use of synergies among EU funds, in the field of Research and the field of Innovation in Agriculture;
2. Inventory of Research and Innovation Infrastructures improving knowledge flows in the field of Agriculture: the aim of this study is to provide a mapping of Research & Innovation (soft & hard) infrastructures in Europe that participate to the flows of knowledge between the several actors and stakeholders, upgrading their skills and that participate to the genesis and the implementation of interactive innovation projects in the broad agricultural field.

Action:
- Rolf Stratmann will contact Alex Percy Smith to discuss the possibility of performing the studies together with other working groups.
- The SCAR-AKIS group is making an inventory who can perform the studies. We're searching 5 to 6 experts. The group members are requested to send in their suggestions for experts, to Adrien;
  o It is also a possibility to involve a (freelancing) expert who is not affiliated to a particular organisation;
- Applications for volunteers for a task force / steering group for the studies: Mara, Simona, Floor, Inge, Andres...

Session 2: Knowledge exchange and cross-fertilisation

Finalising the Policy Briefs on Advisory Services and Education

Action:
- Send in your last comments before June 9th (to Adrien). After that date the briefs will be finalised.

Cooperation with SWG Food System and collection of ideas and relevant experiences

Action:

- The idea is to organise a back-to-back workshop with the food systems group. There is agreement on the main boundary objects. Focus in the cooperation could be on farmers and food SMEs because of similarities and interconnections. We would like to identify a cooperative task force with 2 to 3 representatives from each group, with DG RTD and DG Agri, to identify the topics and for the further organisation of the workshop;
- From the SCAR-AKIS group: Bram, Aniko, Martijn, Natalia and Luis volunteer.

H2020 AgriSpin project on innovation support: recommendations and contribution to the final AKIS Report – Andrea Knierim

The project aims to create more space for innovations, through amplifying good examples of innovation support systems and through multi-actor learning, about ways to stimulate innovation and remove obstacles. The main target groups are intermediates who connect initiators to other actors for involving them in creating innovations, such as farmers, knowledge workers, actors in the value chain, administrators, civil society groups, etc. Key messages from the project for funding and managing authorities are:
- understand innovation as a process (not as an outcome), evolving over time;
- understand innovation as a result of multiple interactions;
- differentiate phases of the innovation process;
- understand specific needs and corresponding innovation support services as typical for certain phases, while others are unspecific in this regard.

Action:

- The comments of the discussion in the SCAR-AKIS group are harvested and will be further discussed within the AgriSpin team;
- The final conference of AgriSpin is held July 3d 2017 in Chania, Greece.

The process of BioEast: how to improve EU East –West cooperation? – Andrew Fieldsend

Exploring possibilities for the deployment of Bioeconomy in Central and Eastern European Countries (CEE). The objectives and immediate actions relating to the objectives, are:
1. initiating cooperation and knowledge based policies development: building a website for BIOEAST Initiative and starting a regular newsletter dissemination (contributing to objective 1 and 7);
2. identifying common challenges and validate common research topics: more workshops to be organized, the first in Poland to cover the remaining CEE relevant research topics;
3. initiating strategies;
4. providing an evidence basis;
5. improving skills;
6. initiating synergies development: active involvement in the development of the H2020 SC2 2018-2020 Work Program (objectives 6 and 7);
7. increasing visibility.

Contributing to all objectives: starting to discuss and lobby the set-up of a common CSA and a common ERA-NET Cofund instrument.

Session 3: AKIS across developing countries

Green Innovation Centres in Africa and Asia – Bastian Beege – GIZ

Background information:

- Assignment since 10/2014, programme duration until 09/2021;
- Budget: 206 million €;

- Program management in Bonn (coordination), Eschborn (finance) and Feldafing (HCD);
- There are GICs in 14 countries, most projects in Africa, some in Asia, focussing on 2 to 4 different value chains each (in total: 35 value chains);
- The value chains consist of 22 different agricultural products. Most of them are stable food like wheat, corn or rice, but the GIC also work with cash crops such as cacao or sunflowers.

Objectives are:
- Development of value chains from the field to the plate" through introduction of innovations;
- Utilization of know-how from various partners (both from partner countries and Germany);
- Linking research and development with agricultural technical and vocational training;
- Facilitation of self-organisation;
- Support of agricultural finance.

Action:

- The GIC programme and the SCAR-AKIS group can learn (peer-to-peer) from one another. How to organise this, in which form and with whom?

Day 2: Wednesday May 31st

Session 4: Digitization in agriculture

Report on April 2017 EIP Seminar on "Data sharing" in Bratislava - DG AGRI - Louis Mahy

- EIP-AGRI Workshop: "Data Sharing: ensuring a fair sharing of digitisation benefits in agriculture", 4-5 April, Bratislava (Slovakia). Final report : https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/sites/agri-eip/files/eip-agri_workshop_data_sharing_final_report_2017_en.pdf;
- EIP-AGRI Seminar: "Digital Innovation Hubs: mainstreaming digital agriculture", 1-2 June, Kilkenny (Ireland).

More information on the objectives of both workshops is described in Annex 1. All information of the workshop in April is available on the EIP-website and at the following link: https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/sites/agri-eip/files/eip-agri_seminar_dih_short_report_2017_en.pdf.

Agenda:

- 11-12 October: First Agricultural Innovation Summit, Lisbon (Portugal) with a focus on "Digitising rural economies":
  o Networking sessions between operational groups and H2020 projects (11/12);
  o Policy event (12/12).
- End October: Publication of the 2018-2020 Work Programme;
- 14-17 November: SC2 Info Week including "H2020 Digitisation day" (17/11);
  o Overview of policy framework on DSM and opportunities for agriculture and food industry;
  o Showcasing of interesting initiatives and projects.

Data access: Vision of Farmers – COPA COGECA – François Guerin

In the list below Copa Cogeca's (C&C) views on the main principles underpinning the collection, use and exchange of agricultural data, which, in their opinion, can help release the full potential of big data. In summary:

- the farming community believes that developing novel and sophisticated data processing systems to analyse farm data is a priority. In order for the farming community to take full advantage of big data, it is necessary to establish appropriate and robust data infrastructures, e.g. data centres, and services for data to be analysed and stored, as well as creating opportunities for farmers to access existing databases;
- C&C is interested in contributing to the "Digital Skills and Jobs Coalition Initiative" that was launched by the Commission at the end of 2016, in order to underscore the importance of identifying the digital skills that are needed through training, knowledge transfer and guidance to foster the uptake of digital transformation in rural areas;
- protecting the ownership of farm data is of the utmost importance, but it is much more important to ensure that farmers obtain a fair share of the value generated by farm data. This can be achieved through fair and transparent contracts, regulation, guidance, liability mechanisms and training;
- C&C believe that data produced on the farm or during farming operations, should be owned by the farmers themselves;
- contracts should clearly define the purposes for which the data can be used and how the relevant rights may be used, for instance in combination with other data, how to handle derived data, and so on. Information should only be given to third parties as aggregate data. Contracts should not be amended without the prior consent of the farmer;
- personal data must be collected for a specific purpose and may not be further processed in a way that is incompatible with said purpose;
- it is essential to bring transparency, simplicity and trust into contracts on agricultural technologies;
- C&C believe that all farmers are entitled to keeping their data private;
- C&C call on the Commission and Member State authorities to explore voluntary and innovative ways, to use ICT together with farmers and agri-cooperatives, in order to simplify controls and make them less costly and less bureaucratic, provided that, data protection and intellectual property rights and the privacy of farmers are respected.

The COPA COGECA position paper is available on the SWG AKIS Dropbox.

Digitization in Spain: "Experiences from Andalucía for the development of synergies, and the involvement of farmers and value chain" – Andrès Montero

Coexphal, Coexphal-UAL chair, Fund Cajamar and Hispatec participate in the IOF2020 H2020 Project with a crucial role coordinating the trial on F&V coops, among the five trials of the project. Andalucía is involved in the development of the S3 thematic EU partnership on Traceability and Big Data. Regarding opportunities for this sub-platform, there exists a need to better connect the different initiatives, projects, infrastructures, platforms, to create synergies that will allow to:

- increase efficiency and make better use of different funding instruments;
- create better conditions for impact;
- strengthen the EU competitiveness with a participatory approach, based on the needs from local/regional levels up to EU level;
- develop pilot actions contributing to build the process beyond 2020.

Presentation available on the SWG AKIS Dropbox.

Digitization in Austria: "First steps to introduce a platform of digitalization and first projects" – Christian Rosenwirth

Austria is working on a platform for digitization to: 1) work on priorities and the need for action, 2) realize possibilities and work on solutions, 3) advice the ministry, 4) develop a survey of activities and projects, 5) link stakeholders, 6) raise awareness for the value of farmer data and their digital identity, and 7) disseminate knowledge through education and training. First projects are:

- GIS-ELA 1 and 2, for the use of geographical information systems for site specific cultivation in order to improve efficiency and ecology in Austrian agriculture;
- the Education campaign of digitisation in agriculture and forestry, to raise awareness and transfer knowledge, networking and enhancing competences;
- Smart farming for energy efficiency;
- Nutrition efficiency and ground water protection.

Presentation available on the SWG AKIS Dropbox.

Digitization in Hungary – "Digital Knowledge Centres and Education" Andrew Fieldsend

Programs of the Digital Agricultural Strategy contain development policy and research and innovation to work on the:

- digital skills: raising awareness, education, training and extension services;
- digital state: regulation, public systems and e-government.

The proposed strategy and programs are in line with the Digital Wellbeing Program and the National Info-communication Strategy. For example, Hungary is working on a programme 'Smart farmers for smart farming' to change the negative image of farming with the help of digitisation, for secondary and higher level education.

Presentation available on the SWG AKIS Dropbox.

Digitization in the Netherlands: "What's keeping the Dutch busy on digitization knowledge for agriculture? Overview and research by Wageningen UR– Floor Geerling-Eiff and Annemiek Canjels

The ambition of the Dutch ministry of Economic Affairs is the transition of the agricultural sector towards a sustainable, robust, climate smart, healthy, nature inclusive and economic viable sector. Digitisation of the sector is seen as an important accelerator to reach these goals with particular focus on smart farming (or precision farming) based on data-driven smart decision making, robotics/mechanisation and ICT-solutions. In addition, the ambition of the Dutch regions (Provinces) is the transition of the agricultural sector into cross-connected parties and a number of product chains, in which agricultural entrepreneurs transform from experts in single production towards experts in supply managing cooperatives (SMART food chains and food system).

The biggest current EU-ICT project Wageningen UR coordinates, is Internet of Food 2020, with 70 partners involved. IoF2020 embraces a demand-driven methodology in which end-users from the agri-food are actively involved during the entire development process, aiming at cross-fertilisation, co-creation and co-ownership of results. WUR uses this approach and structure now for many new projects to build-up a sound knowledge base, and create synergies between projects. The approach for the cases is a combination of the *lean start-up methodology* that focuses on the development of Minimal Viable

Products (MVPs) in short iterations and the *multi-actor approach* that stresses the active involvement of various stakeholders. The cases will actively be supported by three other work packages (WPs). WP3 facilitates sharing, reuse and finally integration of IoT components as described in the previous section. WP4 provides business support in terms of monitoring key performance indicators, business models, market studies and governance aspects (including security, data ownership, privacy, liability and ethical issues). WP5 facilitates the development and expansion of the various ecosystems on case and project level and beyond, amongst others by communication, dissemination, organizing workshops and events. This is realised by active involvement of European and national communities from the demand- and supply-side of IoT, including associations and cooperatives from industry, European Innovation Partnerships, Technology Platforms and ERA-nets. A mid-term open call of 6 M€ will be used to further accelerate these developments. This approach establishes a large IoF2020 ecosystem and collaboration space that is expected to sustain after the project.

Presentation available on the SWG AKIS Dropbox.

Digitization in France: *"Digital flagship activities in the French Applied Research Institutes", Adrien Guichaoua*

In 2015 a digital group was created in synergy with all the ACTA Technical Institutes. A major challenge for the coming years is the ability to integrate and interpret new data of Agricultural Research and Development. Relevant developments are:

– the Applications Programming Interface (API-AGRO) project, which becomes a platform to centralize datasets and manage their visibility, access and valorisation in one place;
– the Digifarm project: to develop connected agriculture / IoT, to move from concept to application by using an open research approach between R&I Institutes, farmers and private actors;
– apps for mobile application, as tools for the choice and the use of plant health products commercialised in France.

Presentation available on the SWG AKIS Dropbox.

Digitization in Portugal – *"Farm 2030" - Luis Mira*

The Farm 2030 project promotes the competitiveness and sustainability of agriculture in Portugal. Objectives are: 1) reengineering of production and precision farming, 2) water use efficiency, 3) energy use efficiency, 4) new methods to combat crop diseases, 5) bio conservation of soils, 6) Farmlab 2030 and 7) monitoring, data sharing and certification system Farm2030.

Presentation available on the SWG AKIS Dropbox.

Digitization in Ireland: *"The Digital advisory tools of Teagasc" –Mark Gibson*

Teagasc works by the following framework:

- Measure: sensors, weights, observations, Internet of Things;
- Capture: getting data from sensors into a structural database;
- Integrate: combine the databases to add value, big data;
- Analyse: data analytics to turn data into useable information;
- Deliver: create a decision support system.

Show cases are:

- Pasturebase Ireland: a web base grassland management decision support tool (used by> 3000 farms);
- NMP Online: a programme to improve nutrient management on (Irish) farms;
- Opt In: a training resources portal that provides information in relation to employment related skills development and diversification opportunities for rural families;
- Farm Appvice: a digital resource library for farm advisers informed by Teagasc extension research.

Presentation available on the SWG AKIS Dropbox.

SWG AKIS & Agri-Innovation Summit - October 2017 - Luis Mira & Adrien Guichaoua

- All SCAR-AKIS members are invited. For those who haven't pre-registered yet, an invitation mail will be sent. The formal registration link is closed;
- There are 3 types of involvement: 1) as participant, 2) as sponsor, as 3) as start-up (showcase). Start-up can be selected (3-5) for a 1 year support programme.

Action:

- Send suggestions for sponsors or start-ups to Luis and Adrien.

Parallel Session on Digitization

The input from the parallel session on digitisation was implemented in the presentation for the SCAR plenary meeting on June 21st 2017. This presentation is available on the Dropbox.

EIP Agri presentation and update – Inge Van Oost

See presentation on the dropbox.

► **Next meeting SWG SCAR-AKIS: October 10th Lisbon.**

Annex 1: Plenary discussions Bonn meeting, SWG SCAR-AKIS

Presentation of CASA WP4 Communication – WP Leader – Valérie Dehaudt.

Suggestions for CASA communication from out the SWG SCAR-AKIS:

- CASA should focus on translating the most important news and messages from the SCAR;
- Try to use social media as much as possible like twitter, hashtags, maybe videos such as interviews (of chairs, for example) on YouTube, maybe livestreaming;
  - o Maybe using social media is too ambitious for all groups but at least it should be stimulated in relation to SCAR activities.

Discussion on the logo by CASA:

- The group congratulates CASA on a fine job;
- In general the group prefers logo 1 (the 'bulb logo');
- Why are the K and I bigger than the A and S? It's good to think about wanting to accentuate different letters or not, and why;
- there's discussion on the light bulb; some say it could be misleading, some say it's a good reference to the SCAR-AKIS group as a think tank;
- suggestion to integrate the pictures in the logo within the A/ α;
- Less is more, the logo might be too ambitious with regard to the amount of pictures being used;
- With regard to the name, the AKIS group has to be connected to the SCAR, so SCAR-AKIS;
  - o The CASA communication group checks the legal aspects;
- Adrien will ask the CASA communication partners to modify the logo and to make new proposals. Once he will have received the new logos, he will ask the AKIS member to vote by email.

Overview and prospects of SCAR Foresights – Elke Saggau

- The task force for the foresight preparation group invites one member from the SCAR-AKIS-group (per S/CWG) to join the TF;
- The CASA group will make: 1) an analysis of the developments regarding foresight studies in the last three years, on both EU and national level, and 2) a gap analysis. The group will also look at how policy is being influenced. The actual foresight will be conducted in 2020 so the timeline for the CASA preparation group is 1 – 1, 5 years. The group should have the results ready then;
- Therefore the CASA preparatory foresight group is looking for the right experts; this question will be discussed during the next meeting in order to provide the SCAR foresight Group with the most relevant and pro-active SWG AKIS expert at an early stage;
- It is suggested by the SCAR-AKIS group to make this a regular agenda point and to discuss it within the whole group, since the group has experience with foresights on agriculture; indeed, nominating a SWG AKIS expert should not hinder to discuss it in plenary meetings and receive comments, feedbacks and input from the whole group;
- The option to harvest relevant national foresights to fuel the SCAR Foresight group, should be discussed and considered in an upcoming SWG AKIS meeting;
- The foresight could make use of a scenario approach; for example every 5 years.

Report on CASA WP3 SWOT meeting – Vera Steinberg & Mara Lai

Vera:
- The original plan was to prepare a SWOT analysis on Bio Economy but another team is working on that analysis already. It was decided in March that the CASA SWOT team (WP3) would focus on an analysis of the SCAR;
- The results of the SWOT analysis on the SCAR will be presented this fall (2017);

- There's cross fertilisation with the CASA foresight group (Elke Saggau).

Mara:

- In general there is a lack of coordination and a lack of common structure when it comes to research and innovation;
- The CASA SWOT analysis can be very useful to better inform and involve EU countries.

External studies - SCAR-AKIS CASA

- These are broad subjects which could be conducted in cooperation with other S/CWSGs to get more impact;
- Especially if we want to address the whole bio-economy, 25 KE per study is not sufficient budget in relation to the ambitions. Until now this has not been discussed with other groups yet, not by CASA nor by the SWG SCAR-AKIS. The possibility of performing the study together, should be discussed with the food systems group first;
- The objectives of both proposed studies should be more concretely clarified;
- With the budget available, will it be possible to perform a more in-depth study or does it have to be restricted to an overview study? Will the outcome be an overview on how it works rather than recommendations for future developments? The objective would be to have an overview (to enhance the understanding of the functioning of synergies) but also to formulate recommendations from the overview, specific study cases and best practices identified;
- We also have to look at what we can learn from failures, instead of merely focusing on the best practices;
- The two studies are interconnected. We are working towards improvements: how can different instruments support follow up developments, how are knowledge and experiences better exchanged and how can for example, operational groups but also other projects, be formed (easier, better) because of synergies?

Finalising the Policy Briefs on Advisory Services and Education

- One of the big challenges is how to get the latest knowledge to advisors. Next to availability of tools and equipment for advisors and farmers, this also includes incentives for researchers to exchange and communicate their knowledge to end users. We have to promote the multi-actor approach;
- Non-agricultural advisory was not taken into account;
- Focus should not only be on technical developments, there should be adequate focus on the development of soft skills;
- Advisory systems are and should also be interconnected with education systems, advisors should also work with actors in education / teachers;
- With regard to the PB on advisory systems, there are a few shopping lists but it does not recommend where the money should come from (taxes, levies, industry?);
  - o It is discussed if that is the task of the SCAR-AKIS group; the aim of the SWG is to provide policy makers with clear recommendations and to draw the main track to be followed but not to make decisions for policy makers. In this way, the recommendations formulated in the Policy briefs are relevant;
- Discussion on the terminology of the documents: is it a policy brief or a position paper? It was decided to keep the term 'Policy Brief", as it is similar to the previous policy papers produced by the SWG AKIS, and to clearly indicate with a disclaimer that it is a product of the group and that the document does not state individual positions of the participating MS' experts.

H2020 AgriSpin project on innovation support – Andrea Knierim

- AgriSpin identified diverse types of innovation. Is innovation as a process, not recognised by local actors in general?
- The problem lies with the practical and juridical difficulties of subsidising certain innovation steps in the innovation spiral;
- Innovation services are usually innovative as well. Start-up companies should be better acknowledged in the knowledge and innovation chain. The system is changing rapidly, accelerating programmes and start-ups arise from every corner;
- If we divide the innovation process into parts there will still be different risks and difficulties to overcome;
- The suggestion (to be discussed) is to use the innovation spiral for funding bodies to see if it's workable for projects, for reflexive monitoring and evaluation (as a mirroring tool, to learn);
- The big question is how to gain trust from different funding authorities. The results could be discussed in line with the outcomes of the Pro-AKIS project, which common pathway we foresee (one or a few clear messages);
- It is important to emphasise how relevant the different cases are;
- We see a shift in learning processes. For example, when the outcome of a study is that at a current time a certain process or technology is not implementable yet, we are used to calling that research. However, we are making a shift towards the practical testing of new knowledge in innovation settings with end users as part of the knowledge and innovation chain (hence the multi-actor approach). With this shift there should be more acknowledgement and the risk for the role of the entrepreneur as knowledge worker, as part of this chain. In particular if the outcome is that the particular technology/result is not implementable yet, should be implemented otherwise or furthermore developed. Synergies in different types of instruments for knowledge and innovation should support knowledge development and valorisation for innovation in one integrated chain;
- In one of the recommendations it was said that "researchers cannot be advisors at the same time but there is a need for links/connection between the two groups". Researchers ought to get different incentives for practical impact, not only scientific impact. The multi-actor approach should stimulate and facilitate synergies through different instruments to stimulate cooperation between different knowledge and innovation actors, referring to research, advise, extension, education, entrepreneurs and policy makers to optimise the multi-actor approach for long lasting effects.

Green Innovation Centre in Africa – Bastian Beege – GIZ

Discussion:
- The centres are not organised around sectors but around different cultures. Every country is assessed and a gap analysis is made, depending on the needs. Then we look at what kind of innovation support we can provide;
- Focus is on organising the innovation system around the farmers and partners involved, mostly through training and learning-by-doing;
- It is still early in the process of the programme to talk about the results but the current outcome is promising;
- Our peer-to-peer organising is organised through an advisory group (NGOs, education, etc., approximately 30 members) that meets 2x per year. We exchange experiences and expertise to improve our work;
- It is important to focus on the effects and the follow up after the programme, that the people are self-supporting after the programme stops;
- The CGIs are working with other programmes from other countries but in general with regard to synergies there is still efficiency to gain.

Report on April 2017 EIP Seminar on "Data sharing" in Bratislava - DG AGRI - Louis Mahy

EUROPEAN UNION

Project co-funded by
H2020 Programme under
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EIP-AGRI Workshop: "Data Sharing: ensuring a fair sharing of digitisation benefits in agriculture", 4-5 April, Bratislava (Slovakia). Objectives were:
- to explore existing and potential data governance models, to protect and satisfy the interests of the different parties involved, both within and outside agriculture;
- to evaluate the benefits for farmers of the most promising data governance models as well as to identify which constraints hamper their involvement in these models;
- to bring the relevant actors together to create the identified enabling environment(s) for data sharing and create new business/data sharing opportunities;
- explore the potential of the principles and concepts described in the Communication on Building a European Data Economy.

EIP-AGRI Seminar: "Digital Innovation Hubs: mainstreaming digital agriculture", 1-2 June, Kilkenny (Ireland).
Objectives were:
- to clarify the concept of Digital Innovation Hubs (DIHs) and how they can contribute to mainstream digital innovation in agriculture;
- to identify and connect existing initiatives and entities in Europe with the capacity to share technical, financial, training and/or other services to contribute to the development of DIHs in agriculture;
- to identify and discuss about the specific needs and potential barriers to develop DIHs in Europe focused on agriculture;
  to define main priority steps to further develop DIHs in agriculture (and to foster collaboration among them at European level)

Remarks SCAR-AKIS group:
- Focus should be on putting and keeping digitization in agriculture on the agenda: be careful that the agricultural sector is not left behind;
- More attention should be paid to educating and training farmers, especially for elderly.

Annex 2

Participants list SWG SCAR-AKIS-4, 5th meeting, May 30th and 31st Bonn.

Austria	1. Christian Rosenwirth	Policy
Belgium/Germany	2. Karen Ellerman Kuegler	Advise
Belgium/Germany	3. Michael Kuegler	Advise
DG AGRI	4. Inge Van Oost	EC policy/EIP
Estonia	5. Annika Suu	Policy
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France	8. Valerie Dehaudt	Policy
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Germany	11. Hanna Steffens	CASA
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Germany	13. Rolf Stratmann	CASA
Germany	14. Elke Saggau	Policy/Research
Germany	15. Andrea Knierim	Research
Hungary	16. Andrew Fieldsend	Research/advise
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Spain	25. Natalia Villalobos	Research
Spain	26. Andres Montero	Research/advise
UK	27. Peter Midmore	Research