



# **ONLINE WORKSHOP ON AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER IN WESTERN BALKAN COUNTRIES**

**KOSOVO CASE  
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# Introduction

- The agriculture sector is the sector of great importance in the Kosovo overall economy.
- Currently, it contributes with 13.5% to gross domestic product.
- Kosovo has put in place elements of a legislative framework in research.
- The main challenges remain the implementation, allocation of financial resources and adequate capacities and knowledge in research and innovation.



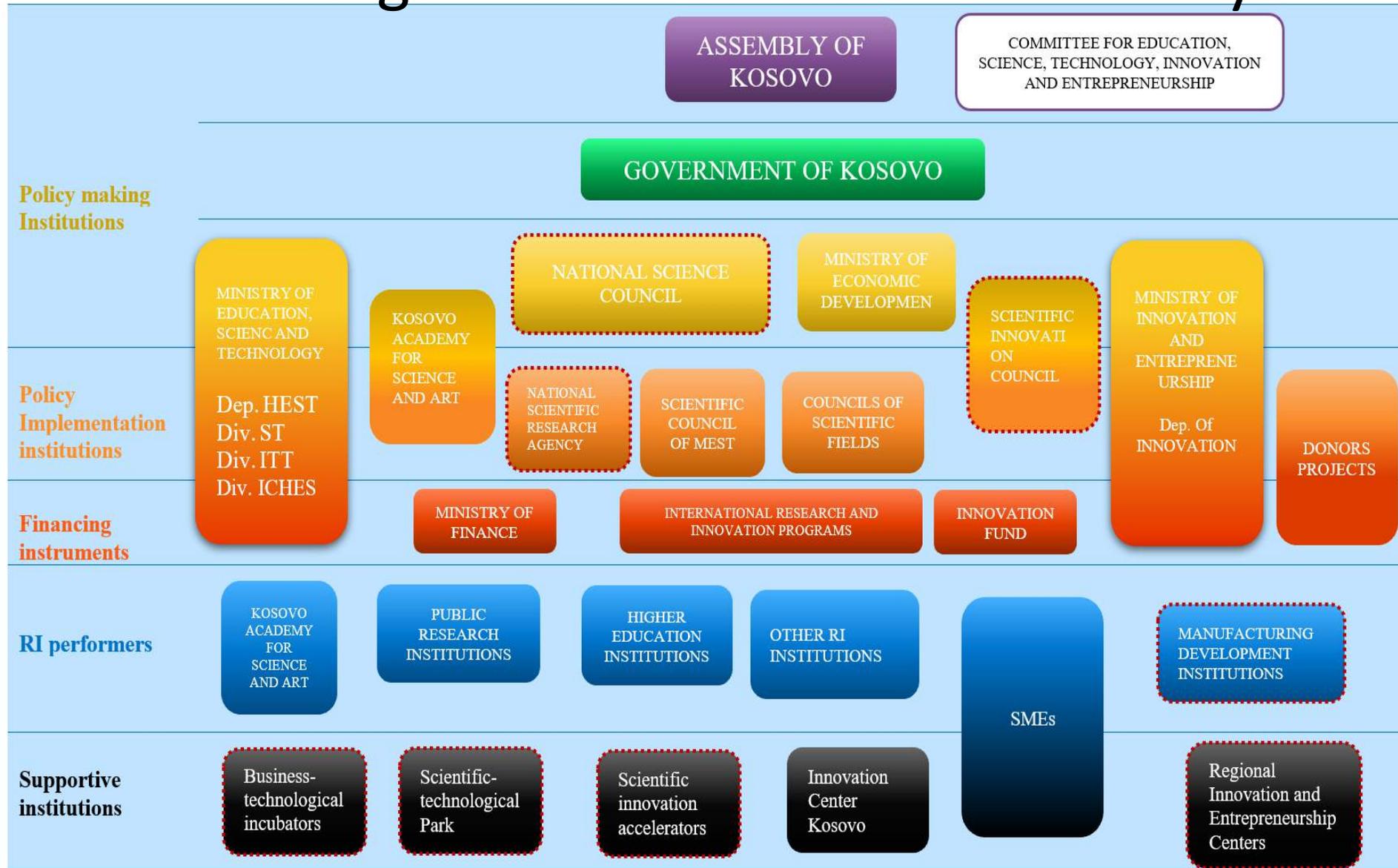
# Current research areas and capacities in Kosovo

## Legal basis:

- National Research Programme 2017-2021
- Education Strategic Plan 2017-2021
- Law on Scientific Research Activities 04/L-135
- Law (No. 06/L-049) on Scientific Innovation and Transfer of Knowledge and Technology
- Law (No.04/L-037) on Higher Education in the Republic of Kosovo
- Law (No. 2004/ 19) on Academy of Science and Arts of Kosovo



# The organization of the national RI system



Red dotted lines show RI bodies that aren't functional or not established yet

Source: HERAS Report, 2019.



# Cooperation among ministries, universities, research facilities, farmers and businesses-research strategies

- Article 5 of the Law on SRA, specifies that” for providing the conditions and necessary means for scientific-research activity, the GoK allocates zero-point seven percent (0.7 %) of the local annual budgeted.
- “Innovation Fund” grant scheme dedicated to innovative ideas with potentials for export and employment creation for micro, small and medium sized enterprises (MSMEs). The maximum amount of grant is €50,000

Other donor projects:

- European Research Framework for Research and Innovation, Horizon
- COST Program
- Regional Cooperation Council / South East Europe 2020 strategy
- Western Balkans Regional R&D Strategy for Innovation
- Erasmus + Program
- CEEPUS (Central European Exchange Program for University Studies)



# Capacity of advisory services to provide support to research facilities

- In Kosovo, the main institutions that are dealing with agriculture research are:
- The Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Rural Development (MAFRD)
- The Ministry of Education Science Technology and Innovation (MESTI)
- The Kosovo Agriculture Institute in Peja and
- The Universities



# Cooperation among researchers and businesses/farmers

- Over 97 % of Kosovo's economy is composed of small and medium enterprises. Despite significant growth in the agricultural sector, the small structure micro-enterprises (with 1-9 employees), still present the low level of growth in the overall economy
- The small agro-firms in Kosovo face difficulties with employing and keeping skilled people on new technology.
- Several innovative companies in Kosovo have responded to the new market trends. Thus, the market forecasts suggest that digital and new technology will help the agri-food sector to correspond to the changes and market trends.
- Foreign investors such as Tetra Tech and USAID have invested in high-tech and labour-intensive production.
- Several other institutions in Kosovo (Ministry of Education, Science Technology and Innovation, Ministry of Economic Development, Ministry of Trade and Industry, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development, International Organizations and NGOs) have been working in promotion and raising awareness in agriculture innovation.

# EU, international and regional cooperation

- The financial instruments are allocated to support the development of the rural economy and closely connected to the ability to make good links to urban centres and ensure the availability of transport infrastructure.
- In addition to the funds of MAFRD, there are several projects from donors such as EU, World Bank, DANIDA etc. that supports the MAFRD to design, manage and implement Rural Development measures aimed at supporting the setting up the managerial support and technical assistance to farmers.
- Credit support is another financial form that farmers can use to improve their capacity and serve to the agricultural sector.
- MAFRD, the US Embassy in Kosovo and six local banks (ProCredit Bank, Raiffeisen Bank, TEB, NLB Prishtina, Economic Bank and BKT) agreed to establish an Agriculture Credit Guarantee Fund of EUR 20.1 million (or USD 26 million).



# Needs and potential of the research sector in Kosovo

In general, the development of agriculture research shows little progress, mainly in the objectives of strengthening capacity building and increasing the budget. As well as:

- Institutional set up improvements
- Research Policy improvements
- Empowering local stakeholders involved in agriculture research
- Capacity Building





Thank You!

