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Introduction to Albania Roadmap on AKIS

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Background

- Encouraging the transfer of knowledge and innovation is important instruments for achieving agriculture competitiveness
- Knowledge and innovation CSARDF 2021-2027 and National Strategy on Science, Technology and Innovation 2017-2022.
- But.... Albania suffers a fragmented institutional structure and limited public funding.
- A small amount of financing is spent by private operators, mainly input providers operating in the sector.
- There is a need to explore the ways to strengthen knowledge transfer and innovation

Objective

- Formulate policy actions and activities to strengthen knowledge and innovation transfer structures as basis for a regional AKIS in the WBs.

The report aims to

- Use a SWOT analysis for illustrating AKIS development challenges
- Develop a national AKIS map presenting all AKIS players
- Prepare a roadmap to describe main actions for knowledge and innovation transfer system and promote interactions between AKIS actors based on multi-actor partnerships and alliances.

SWOT Analyses

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continual cooperation within MARD depended structures such as ANES and ATTCs. - ATTCs are long experienced institutions in transferring knowledges. - Existing agriculture systems that are absorbing innovation and knowledge - Existing awareness and needs from private operators. - Solid network of input suppliers and high capacity to transfer technologies to farmers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No clear leader institution in discussing long term vision on AKIS models of innovations - Fragmented institutional structure and fragmented financing sources. - Unstable partnership structures with private operators and weak cooperation among AKIS actors. - Weak capacity building and inconsistent contracting for upgrading the research staff in ATTCs, Universities and ANES. - Weakened role of actors outside MARD
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ongoing reform processes in the sector in the framework of European Integration. - Increased demand for information and knowledge in agriculture production. - Limited number of institutions which makes easy the adoption of changes in structures, relations and terms of work. - Increased knowledge and efforts of input suppliers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No incentives for applying for external financing due to absence of competing mechanism within the ATTCs, Universities and other research institutions. - Knowledge provided by ATTCs and Universities are financed by different financial mechanisms. - Weak and not stable role of Civil Society in providing agriculture knowledge and innovation. - Yet weak role of local government in facilitating agriculture knowledge and innovation.

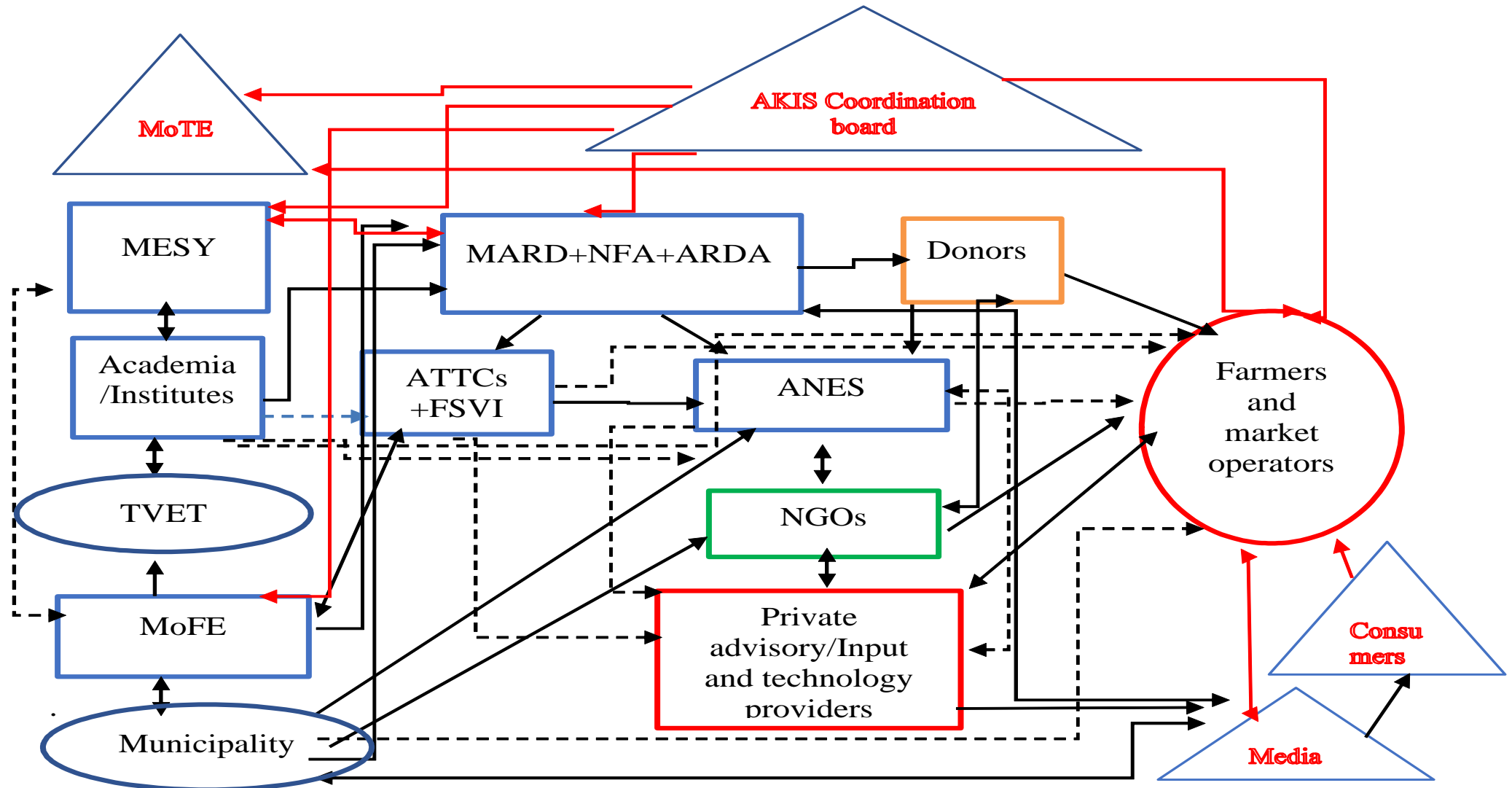
Main stakeholder for AKIS

Stakeholders	Status	Relevant actors
Producers and processors	Private	Farmers
		Processors, Associations of farms and agribusinesses
Input and technology providers		Suppliers (importers) of inputs and technologies Private advisory services
Central government	Public	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MoARD), Albanian National Extension System (ANES), Regional Agricultural Extension Agency (RAEA), Agriculture Technology Transfer Centres (ATTC)
		Ministry of Education and Sciences (MoES), Ministry of Economy and Finance (MoEF) and Albanian Investment Development Agency (AIDA), Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (MoEFA)
Academia		Agricultural University of Tirana, University of Korca, Agricultural vocational schools
LGU		Municipalities
Civil society organizations	Society	Albanian Rural Network (ARN), Local Action Groups (LAGs)
		Consumer Protection Association NPO and NGOs operating in the sphere of agriculture and rural development and environment
Media	Media	TV broadcasting
		Printed media
		Social media
International	Donors	European Commission; Multilateral donors, such as UN Agencies (FAO, UNDP, UNEP) Bilateral donors (GIZ, Italian Cooperation, etc)

Main stakeholder for AKIS

Legend:

- _____ - a functional relationship
- - a non-functional relationship
- _____ - a non-existent relationship



Main trends on AKIS

- Density of non regulated cooperation especially with farmers and market operators.
- A centralized role of MARD depended institutions, namely Agriculture National Extension Service (ANES)
- No direct linkage between ANES and private service providers.
- The institutional link between MARD and ATTCs is more visible while link between Agricultural Universities and ATTC or ANES is disrupted.
- The segment of high vocational schools is vanished while The local government is gradually emerging as interlocutor
- Farmers, agribusiness and associations are well linked with traders of agricultural inputs and machinery
- Media and consumers are very isolated group.
- Cooperation between farmers/market operators and ANES and ATTCs is limited by the financing.

Roadmap actions

Action 1: A national strategic document to be prepared on ad hoc basis on innovation and knowledge transfer in order to formalise AKIS and present in a awareness and dialoguing event.

Action 2: Create new structures to reduce fragmentation:
AKIS coordination board
Establish AKIS local structures
Operational groups EIP like.

Action 3: Provide capacity building and unified financing:
Strengthen service provider to comply with the demand by carrying capacity building,
Introduce and design specific budgetary support measure

Action 4: Support internationalisation and integration of Albanian AKIS in the region.

AKIS Roadmap

Objective	Milestone	Deliverable	Resources	Timeline
Action 1. A national strategic document to be prepared in order to formalise AKIS to be presented in a dialoguing event.	Expert advisory group established in the last quarter of 2022	Key experts identified TOR prepared Report on the national study.	<u>MoARD, SWG AKIS scientific group, Donors</u>	Short term
	Awareness and dialoguing event organized in the first quarter of 2023 National strategic document for agriculture knowledge and innovation drafted within the second quarter of 2023	Awareness and dialogue event prepared Evaluation forms and list of participants filled. Strategic policy document	<u>MoARD, Donors, AUT and University of Korca, Donors</u>	Short term
Action 2. Create new structures: AKIS coordination board and Establish AKIS local structures: operational groups EIP like.	A multi-institutional framework will exist in within 2023 AKIS coordination board will be finalised within 2023 Formalise the operational groups by establishing semiformal meetings	Listing of institutions and Nomination of leading agency Memorandum of understanding formulated and signed. AKIS coordination board ToW defined Formalisation of AKIS network within 2023	Council of Ministers, <u>MoARD</u>	Short-term
Action 3: Strengthen service provider to comply with the demand by carrying capacity building and implement a specific budgetary support measure	Prepare capacity building activities Introduce and ICT based platform Prepare a national budgetary measure for ARDPF for supporting operational groups	Training materials and training activities held within 2023 ICT space created within 2024 Budgetary measure prepared and applied as pilot within 2024.	<u>MoARD, Donors</u> Academia, Donors, ARDA	Short-term
Action 4. Internationalisation and integration of Albanian AKIS in the region.	Establish an agreement within counties for the functioning of an interregional AKIS framework withing 2025. Establish cross-border Operational Groups.	Agreement within counties for an interregional AKIS framework withing 2025. Albanian AKIS will be part within 2025 into a potential cross-border Operational Groups	SWG SWG and Ministries	Mid-term

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Thank you!

Suggestions and comments welcomed!

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