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# Regional Expert Advisory Working Group on AKIS



## *Second Interim Meeting*

## *Achievements, issues, gaps*

Charalambos Kasimis

Professor Emeritus

Agricultural University of Athens/SWG

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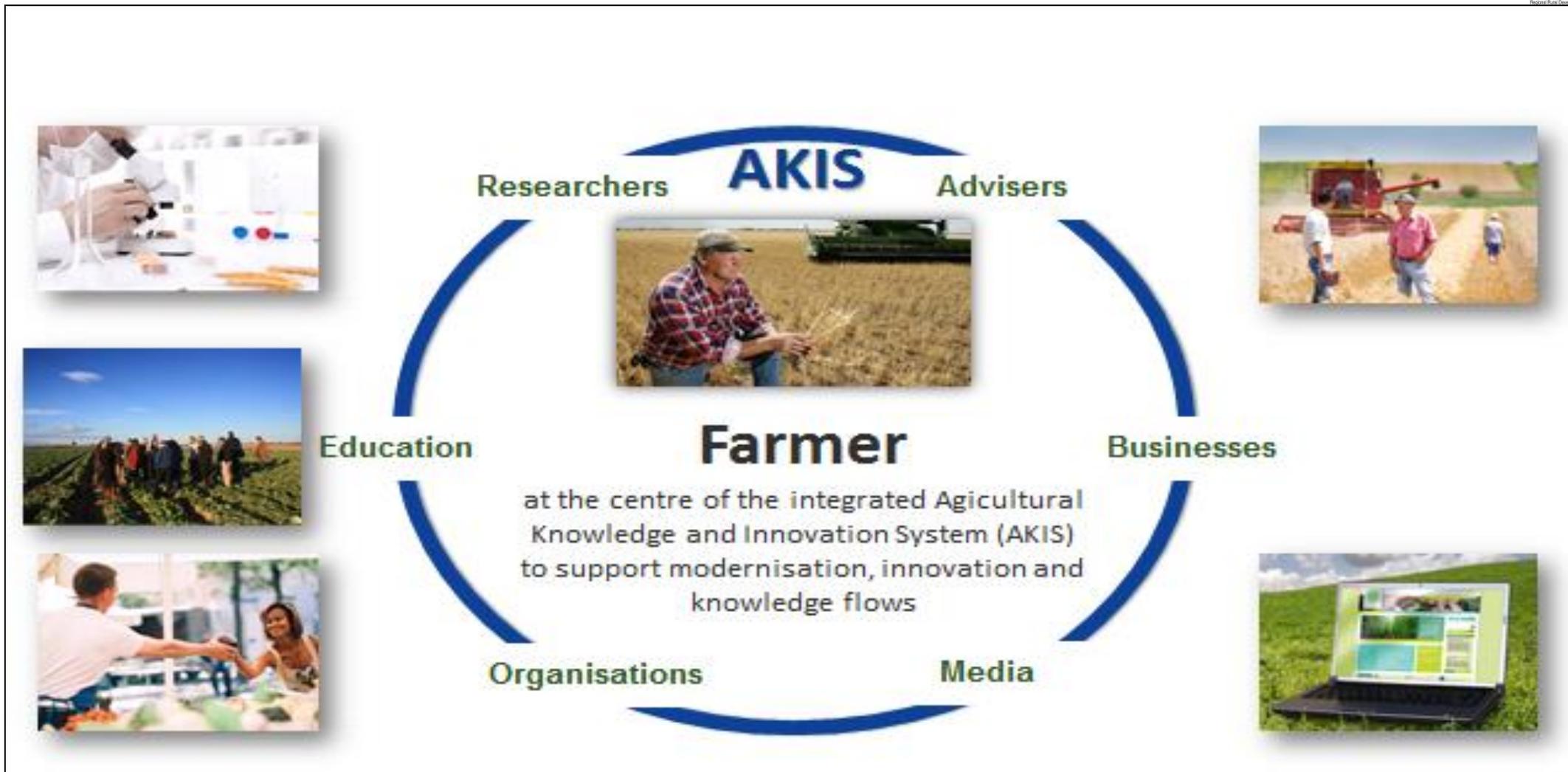
Bar, Montenegro



Bayerisches Staatsministerium für  
Ernährung, Landwirtschaft und Forsten



# The graphic presentation of AKIS



# Set out targets of the project

After a few months in the project, I would say that the key targets of it have been reset:

- First target is the **setting up of a network** bringing together farmers, representatives of governments, research institutions and the private sector to establish a functional AKIS structure that would facilitate the dissemination of knowledge, innovation and technology as an in-between mechanism acting top-down and bottom-up.
- Second, the targeted preparation of two preconditions connected with the designation of **national Roadmap strategic documents and of national Action Plans** for the implementation of the specified strategic objectives.
- Third, the development and application of **regional and/or sectoral or thematic AKIS Plans** aiming at fostering knowledge and innovation transfer in defined topic areas.
- Fourth, the development of one **education and communication measure** for scaling up technical innovations and innovative business models with special target groups of young, dynamic farmers and agri-businesses.

# Methodological steps taken 1

- RITT project **SWOT matrices were updated and AKIS SWOT analysis helped us design** the map depiction of the AKIS elements involving additional material related to AKIS from the RITT project (Focus Group analysis, other secondary qualitative information etc.)
- **National maps were developed presenting** the existent/missing, functioning/non-functioning AKIS actors/elements as well as an evaluation of their interaction, coordination, functionality and governance.
- A National **Roadmap** for the development of functional and integrated national AKIS systems was constructed

# Methodological steps taken 2

These steps were aiming at two plus one interconnected **key objectives**:

- The evaluation, promotion and monitoring of the formalization process of the National AKIS systems and of directly related integral structures like the Advisory Services, or indirectly connected policies like the 3S, plus various other substructures like coordination bodies, innovation centres, hubs etc.
- The designation of a National Action Plan which would lead to,
- the preparation of a regional, sectoral/or thematic AKIS Action Plan

# Methodological steps taken 3

- For the Roadmap *we requested a rough presentation of:*

- ✓ Objectives
- ✓ Milestones
- ✓ Deliverables
- ✓ Resources available (if possible to know) and,
- ✓ Timeline

- We considered the *Roadmap as a strategy document* which would transform the information generated in the SWOT analysis and the mapping of AKIS elements and actors and would simplify it into a national structured strategy roadmap available to all actors/stakeholders expected to get involved in the implementation of the Action Plan to follow.
- The Roadmap then would be *an overview tool* in the hands of the various stakeholders/actors in pursuance of successful results.

# First achievements and deliverables

1. An updated and prioritized national SWOT analysis
2. A National AKIS map depiction (and a joint regional AKIS mapping worked by SWG)
3. A National Roadmap for the development of functional and integrated national AKIS systems

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# Common ground and key strategic objectives set for AKIS in the National Roadmaps <sup>1</sup>



- Legislative and regulatory formalization of AKIS
- Legislative and regulatory formalization of key components of AKIS with the emphasis placed on the advisory services
- Formalization, institutionalization and integration of private advisory services in the system
- Improved funding
- Enhancement of stakeholder human resources and capacity building (advisory services training, digitalization and accreditation)
- Education and research institutional upgrading



# Common ground and key strategic objectives set for AKIS in the National Roadmaps 2

- Farmer awareness raising in the use of knowledge, technology and innovation
- Science internationalization and external fund raising
- Upgrading of linking and improved functionality between the various AKIS stakeholders with the contribution of a bottom up organisational structures and networking
- Establishment of **new complementary AKIS structures** like:
  - National Coordination Board
  - New institutional structures like Innovation centres, Centres of excellence, Business incubators, Standing Committees on Agri Research, AKIS local structures (operational groups, EIP like, and joint local government structures)
  - New forms of networking and exchange (focus groups, demonstration and monitor farms, mentoring etc)

# Final reviewing of the Roadmaps 1

- Map depiction and presentation of AKIS has been upgraded and technically homogenised with the assistance of SWG.
- An improved connection of SWOT analysis and mapping with the Roadmap is registered despite some continuing weaknesses in the presentation and the prioritization of the elements of SWOT analysis.
- Roadmapping has improved significantly, has obtained maturation and that was reflected in its projected correspondence with the Action Plans. However, a slight confusion as to the differences between the Roadmap and the Action Plan still pertains.
- Attention needs to be given to the fact that in two cases the formalization of AKIS is not set as an objective in the Roadmap.

# Final reviewing of the Roadmaps 2

- An improved and operational visualization of roadmapping is still considered necessary.
- Explanatory notes are still missing in some reports.
- In cases, roadmapping prioritization and timeline scheduling are not satisfactorily justified.
- ‘Importance’ and ‘Feasibility’ are differently provided in the National Roadmaps and, in some cases, ranking is not satisfactorily justified.
- The ‘realism’ of Roadmapping and Action Planning should be ‘tested and concluded’ in focused discussions and consultation with government officials and AKIS connected stakeholders in order to come into a policy consensus for implementation.