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Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems (AKIS)

Country/Territory: Albania

Proposed actions in focus for 2023/24

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Project background



Objectives

- Strengthening knowledge transfer and innovation structures in WB countries/territories
- Strengthen knowledge and innovation transfer structures as a basis for a regional (AKIS) to support innovations in agriculture and agri-food services and products in the Western Balkan.

Update on AKIS activities

- AKIS is part of SARDF 2021-2027
- Meetings has been carried with MARD representatives for selecting priorities which are more feasible to be adopted considering the new policy framework.
- Based on discussions two components of Action 2 and Action 3 were selected as main components of the activities to be carried in 2023-2024

Pillars of AKIS Action Plan in Albania

The main strategic objectives of AKIS are

- Action 1. A national strategic document to be prepared on ad hoc basis on innovation and knowledge transfer in order to formalise AKIS.
- Action 2. Create new AKIS structures and EIP like operational groups
- Action 3: Strengthen service provider to comply with the demand by carrying capacity building, introducing ICT components and implementing specific budgetary measures
- Action 4. Internationalisation and integration of Albanian AKIS in the region.

Components to be covered for 2023-2024

- Part of Pillar 2 is **preparation of the structures at local level-operational groups and create an EIP like.**
- Part of Pillar 3 is **Budgetary measure** should be designed by using partly (without clashing) the previous funding used for ATTCs and other research institutions in the agriculture sector.
- **Overall objective:** Preparation and capacity building for a budgetary support measure at ARDPF based on an open call for semi-formal operational groups (EIP like network) in order to develop innovative activities for financing adoption and mitigation activities in order to address climate change

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Objective for 2023-2024



- i. Preparation and capacity building for a budgetary support measure at ARDPF based on an open call for semi-formal operational groups (EIP like network) in order to develop innovative activities for financing adoption and mitigation activities in order to address climate change

Rationale for chosen activity

- i. Establishment of several operational groups and creation of EIP like network in order to increase cooperation and involve better the private operators at local level.
- ii. Operational groups should be established on 5 clusters with clear orientation such as Vegetables (Fier), Fruits and livestock (Korce), Citrus and Olives (Vlore) and MAPs and Nuts (Shkoder).
- iii. In order to foster the functionality of operational groups a budgetary measure should be designed by using partly (without clashing) the previous funding used for ATTCs and other research institutions in the agriculture sector.

Rationale for chosen activity

- i. Support of the AKIS by inserting budgetary measure in order to tackle the problem of funding fragmentation and create better targeting.
- ii. Budgetary and institutional changes should create the basis for strengthening service providers (both public and private) to comply with the demand by carrying capacity building, introducing ICT components and implementing specific budgetary measures.
- iii. Focus should be given to key priorities of the SARDF 2021-2027:
innovative measures in addressing climate change

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Tasks for 2023-2024



1. Carry a rapid sector and regional analysis for assessing the potential to structure operational groups in Albania
2. Draft a proposal for a support measure for innovation with focus on addressing climate change adaptation efforts
3. Prepare a proposal for support documents for the criteria of selection in earmarking the grants for innovation.
4. Draft a proposal for an awareness raising campaign for promoting the benefits of the support measure for innovation
5. Support operational groups into selecting proposals for applying the call for innovation

Actions in focus for 2023/24

Deliverable	Timeframe/Deadline
1. Carry a rapid sector and regional analysis for assessing the potential to structure operational groups in Albania	March -April 2023
2. Draft a proposal for a support measure for innovation with focus on addressing climate change adaptation efforts	April-June 2023
3. Participation in the 5th Interim meeting on AKIS	30 May 2023 (online)
4. Finalise a support measure for innovation with focus on addressing climate change adaptation efforts	September-November 2023
5. Participation in the 6th Interim Meeting on AKIS	21 – 23 November 2023
6. Prepare a proposal for support documents for the criteria of selection in earmarking the grants for innovation and	20 December 2023
6. Prepare a proposal for support documents for the criteria of selection in earmarking the grants for innovation and prepare a very short guide on how to establish operational groups.	February 2024
7. Draft a proposal for an awareness raising campaign for promoting the benefits of the measure and also the benefits of the creation of Operational Groups	February 2024
8. Participate and present the goal of this measure and the benefits of formalising Operational Groups in one awareness raising event with representatives of potential applicants.	January-March 2024

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Tasks for 2023-2024



Thank you for your attention!

Suggestions welcomed!

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