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Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems (AKIS)

Country/Territory:

Republic of Srpska, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Proposed actions in focus for 2023/24

National Expert:

Željko Vaško



Introduction

- The AKIS action plan for the Republic of Srpska was completed in 2022;
- The plan contains five (5) objectives and 30 required actions and milestones;
- The AKIS report and draft of action plan were submitted to MAFWM or the Republic of Srpska in November 2022;
- Personal feeling of lack of ownership of that document in the ministry;
- It is unclear who in the ministry should be responsible for the implementation of AKIS (sectorial organization vs. AKIS multispectral approach).

Selected priorities

- Three priorities were identified by the ministry as initial steps for implementing the AKIS action plan in 2022;
 1. Sensitize and mobilize various multi-actors on the need to formalize an integrated AKIS system;
 2. Establish the AKIS Coordination Board;
 3. Support applied research in agribusiness sector from the agricultural budget.
- For those activities, the ministry could use technical assistance from the SWG through the continuation of the engagement of the consultant who worked on the preparation of the report and action plan.

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Actions in focus for 2023/24



- The previous three priorities identified by the ministry for 2023 will be main activates of expert support within the Agricultural Policy Dialogue Germany – Western Balkans.
- Priority and expert activities for 2024 are not yet defined.

Eppur si muove / Still it moves!

1. A new Agricultural advisory strategy is being prepared, in which AKIS will be an integral part;
2. EU4Agri project has measure (sub-program) to strengthen agricultural practices through networking with scientific and research organizations (2.4 mill. EUR);
3. Some HEI (Faculty of Agriculture in Banja Luka) are working on innovating the curriculums;
4. The Ministry of Agriculture support financially activates which contribute (1) the improvement of the system of transfer of knowledge and skills in agriculture, (2) the improvement of technological innovations and (3) he improvement of the activates of experimental-educational and development centers.

What could/should be done?

- Appoint the AKIS coordination board;
- Define priorities and the working method of the AKIS CB;
- Organize the exchange of information on the functioning of AKIS and prepare periodic reports;
- Nominate expert group to draft AKIS strategy;
- Incorporate AKIS in the Smart Specialization Strategy of RS;
- Strengthen budgetary support for applied research in the agribusiness sector;

What should be done?

- Digitalize and by other ways disseminate results of scientific research and advisory services;
- Provide training and introduce licensing of agricultural advisors;
- Improve cooperation between research institutions and AES;
- Establish demo farms and transfer of knowledge and skills between farmers and entrepreneurs;
- Pushed forward the rate of application of new technologies and innovations in agriculture sector (by subsidies, etc.);
- Increase cooperation between farmers and scientific research institutes.