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Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems (AKIS)

**Bosnia and Herzegovina
The Republic of Srpska**

Proposed actions in focus for 2023/24

National Expert: **Željko Vaško**

Scientific research

Actions in focus in 2023

1. Sensitizing and mobilizing various multi-stakeholders on the need to formalize the integrated AKIS system in the Republic of Srpska;
2. Proposal to MAFVM RS in nominating and appointing the AKIS Coordination Board in the Republic of Srpska;
3. Contribution to the development of the Agricultural Advisory Strategy of the Republic of Srpska from the perspective of AKIS;
4. Technical assistance in drafting the rules of procedure and **work program** of the AKIS coordination board;
5. **Input to Knowledge Reservoir – preparation and analysis of two AKIS related case studies (successful or not successful) in the respective country/territory;**

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Actions in focus in 2024

6. Draft proposal for the improvement of the procedure for supporting applied research in agriculture from the RS budget;
7. Collecting inputs for the preparation a report on the implementation of AKIS in the Republic of Srpska in 2022;
8. Organization of a round table on the strengthening and improving cooperation between science, advisory and the business sector in agriculture;
9. Piloting the digitization of scientific research results.

Task 1 - Sensitizing and mobilizing various multi-stakeholders on the need to formalize the integrated AKIS system in the Republic of Srpska

- A series of meetings and consultations were held;
- Lack of legal support for the appointment of board!
- Instead of coordination board, it will act at the level of a working group;
- Consultations with a number of potential representatives in the working group;
- Finally agreed on who and how many representatives will be in the AKIS working group (3+3+3).



Task 2 - Proposal to MAFVM RS in nominating and appointing the Coordination Board of AKIS in the Republic of Srpska

1. Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management – Department of Agricultural Policy;
2. Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management – Department of Agricultural Extension Service;
3. Ministry for scientific-technological development, higher education and information society – Department for Scientific Research;
4. University of Banja Luka – Vice-rector for Scientific Research and Development;
5. University of East Sarajevo – Faculty of Agriculture;
6. Agricultural Institute of the Republic of Srpska;
7. Cooperative Union of the RS;
8. RS Chamber of Commerce – Agriculture and Food Industry Branch;
9. Union of Associations of Agricultural Producers of RS.





Task 3 - Contribution to the development of the Agricultural Advisory Strategy of the Republic of Srpska from the perspective of AKIS

- Provided support for the development of the Agricultural Advisory Strategy (by delivering written material and meeting);
- The final text and adoption of the strategy was prolonged for 2024;
- Consultant from Slovenia (same for RS and FBiH);
- A public discussion and the possibility of giving final contribution is expected.

Task 4 - Technical assistance in drafting the rules of procedure and work program of the AKIS coordination board - *the responsibilities of the AKIS working group* - **still open?**

- 1) Monitoring and evaluation of the results of scientific research and application of new technologies and innovations in the function of the development of agriculture and rural areas and preparation of annual reports;
- 2) Coordinating activities and connect of various actors from the sub-systems of education, research and advisory in the system of transfer and application of knowledge and innovations in agriculture and rural development;
- 3) Harmonizing priorities and encouraging scientific research in the field of agricultural sciences and securing and unifying sources of their funding;



Task 4 - Technical assistance in drafting the rules of procedure and work program of the AKIS coordination board - *the responsibilities of the AKIS working group - still open?*

- 4) Proposing different solutions that contribute to faster and wider application of knowledge, innovations and new technologies in agricultural practice;
- 5) Giving opinions on strategic and program documents in the domain of creation and application of knowledge and innovations in agriculture;
- 6) Consulting political decision makers regarding the improvement of the system of creation, transfer and application of knowledge in agricultural and rural development.



Task 4 - Technical assistance in drafting the rules of procedure and work program of the AKIS coordination board - **draft procedure on the work of the AKIS work group prepared**

- Competence of the WG;
- Meetings;
- Right of decision;
- Invitation for a meeting;
- Delivery of materials for meetings;
- Rights and obligations of the president;
- Rights and obligations of members;
- Making decisions;
- Determination of the agenda;



Task 4 - Technical assistance in drafting the rules of procedure and work program of the AKIS coordination board - **draft procedure on the work of the AKIS work group prepared**

- Adoption of minutes;
- Discussion;
- Closing the meeting;
- Content of minutes;
- Annual plan;
- Progress report;
- Amendments to the procedure;
- Effectiveness.



Task 5 - Input to Knowledge Reservoir – preparation and analysis of two AKIS related case studies (successful or not successful) in the respective country/territory

- Guidelines are expected from the sixth meeting of the SWG AKIS expert group.
- There are positive cases, but the participants not easy decide to share their experiences.



Task 6 - Draft proposal for the improvement of the procedure for supporting applied research in agriculture from the RS budget

- Rulebook on conditions and means of obtaining financial incentives for the development of agriculture and rural areas (Official gazeta RS, ...)
- The right to use **incentives for the introduction of technological innovations in agriculture** is granted to legal entities for the projects of applied research in the field of agricultural production, which is carried out **in partnership between scientific research institutions, the ministry and agricultural producers**.
- The project from paragraph 1 of this article must contain: description of the applied research, innovativeness of the applied research, expected impact of the applied research on the production result, description of the methodology that will be applied, obligations of the project partners for the implementation of the project, description of the project costs.



Task 6 - Draft proposal for the improvement of the procedure for supporting applied research in agriculture from the RS budget

- The amount of incentive for the purpose referred in this article is determined after processing all requests in the amount of up to 50% of the cost of eligible investments, in accordance with the Utilization plan and cannot exceed 50,000 KM (EUR 25,000) per project.
- The applicant submits a request, with which he attaches: an applied research project, on Form 31 from the Annex to the rulebook, and an estimate of the necessary investments for the implementation of applied research.
- The user of funds is obliged to submit a report on the use of funds on Form 30 from the Annex to this rulebook, documented by invoices, contracts, completed situations and evidence of payments made, within six months from the date of payment of funds to the user's account.



How and how much the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Srpska finances technology and innovation transfer into agriculture sector?

System of automatic regulation and control of irrigation of agricultural production plots	Cooperative Smart willage	12,500 EUR
Applied research in the production of seedlings through the use of technological innovation of LED lamps / light control	Cooperative Plodovi Slatine	22,600 EUR
Innovations in technology for the formulation of industrial hemp products.	Company Prirodno bilje	25,000 EUR
Application of innovative technologies in the fight against climate change in the production of agricultural and industrial plants	Cooperative Klekovaca	24,400 EUR
Total		84.500 EUR

Task 7 - Collecting inputs for the preparation a report on the implementation of AKIS in the Republic of Srpska in 2022

- Based on the expectation that the AKIS board-working group will function and that it will request data and prepare structure of AKIS annual progress report with my assistance.



Task 8 - Organisation of a round table on the strengthening and improving cooperation between science, advisory and the business sector in agriculture

- It was agreed that the round table will be organized within the scope of the International Scientific Symposium of Agricultural Sciences AgroReS 2024 in Trebinje in the last week of May 2024.



Task 9 - Piloting the digitization of scientific research results

- The idea to establish a directory on the web platform <https://www.ruralexension.org/centar-za-ruralni-razvoj/> on which scientific papers, books, project reports and other materials relevant to AKIS in BiH and the region will be disseminated (issue of copyright, only what is publicly available, without copyright restrictions).



How and how much the Ministry of Science of the Republic of Srpska finances scientific research and innovation transfer?

Call for financing scientific publications in 2023 (momographs, proceedings and journals)	50,000 EUR
Call for co-financing scientific meetings in 2023	40,000 EUR
Call for co-financing PhD 16 students	20,000 EUR
Call for co-financing the program of international scientific research cooperation in 2023	20,000 EUR
Total in 2023 for all sub-sectors	130,000 EUR



Who is the main driver of the AKIS watch?

