



SOLINSA

Support of Learning and Innovation Networks for Sustainable Agriculture

Agricultural Knowledge Systems In Transition :
Towards a more effective and efficient support of Learning and Innovation Networks for Sustainable Agriculture

solinsa.net

FACTSHEET 03 ANALYSIS OF LINSA

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01. WHAT ARE LINSAs?

Learning and Innovation Networks for Sustainable Agriculture (LINSAs) are networks of farmers, food producers, consumers, NGOs, experts and local administrations, looking for alternative ways to produce food and contribute to rural sustainable development. They operate mostly outside the main Agricultural Knowledge System (AKS) and those involved share, learn and innovate together.



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02. HOW DO LINSAs EMERGE AND DEVELOP THEMSELVES?

The LINSAs emerge in different ways, from small groups of individuals with a progressive process of co-opting to the formalisation of existing networks. Common stimuli of network formation include: knowledge needs, economic rationale and collaboration. Some are loosely connected while others are well integrated. As they develop LINSAs seek legitimacy.

03. HOW IS INNOVATION TAKING PLACE IN LINSAs?

Learning and Innovation Networks of Sustainable Agriculture (LINSAs) create mutual engagement around sustainability goals in agriculture and rural development. They co-produce new knowledge by creating conditions for communication, sharing of resources and cooperation on common initiatives.

04. LINSAs INVOLVE RADICAL AND INCREMENTAL INNOVATION

LINSAs may involve radical innovation in one sense, but be incremental or conventional in another, dependent to a large extent on context and timing. Radical innovation that 'breaks the rules' can also become incorporated into a modified mainstream AKS; in this way innovation may be radical initially before subsequently becoming normalised. As such, it is crucial to understand both the process that constitutes innovation, as well as the context and timeframe in which it takes place.

HOW TO LEARN MORE?

See the [list of LINSAs](#) on the website
A training course on how to support LINSAs will take place in Autumn 2013. If you are interested please contact: cours@agridea.ch

HOW TO SUPPORT LINSAs?

- Provide an enabling environment
- Time is needed to foster processes of innovation and learning
- Do not compromise integrity and trust of the LINSAs
- Support promising novelties to enable their transformation into a coherent niche