



FACTSHEET 02

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF EUROPEAN AKS

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| | Universities | Extension Consultancy (private) | Government | Agro-food | Unions | NGOs |
|-----------------------|--------------|---------------------------------------|------------|-----------|--------|------|
| Infrastructure | | | | | | |
| Laws & regulations | | | | | | |
| Values & culture | | | | | | |
| Networks | | | | | | |
| Capabilities | | | | | | |
| Market structure | | | | | | |

Innovation System Performance Matrix
(K. Woolthuis et al. 2005)

EUROPEAN AGRICULTURAL KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS (AKS) HAVE A COMMON DIVERSITY

All countries studied report a diversified landscape of both formal and newly emerging informal organisations and share common trends:

- Traditional categories of fundamental and applied research are disappearing
- A distinction between commercial and non-profit advisory systems is weakening
- Agricultural education is struggling due to lack of funds, a lack of students, or both

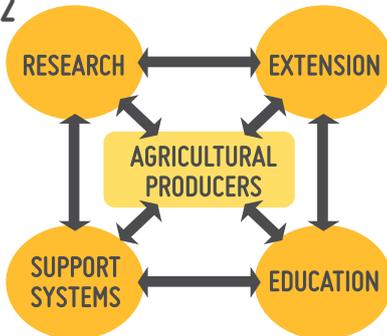
DISTINCTION BETWEEN OPEN AND CLOSED AKS

- A closed AKS is more manageable. The lines of communication are short and there is a shared vision on the future. However new information and actors have difficulty getting recognized
- In an open AKS the range of knowledge suppliers is broader, but end-users can get lost in the abundance of information. Bottom-up initiatives have easier access to formal research institutions, however government still has difficulty in steering the AKS in a sustainable direction as there is no consensus over the direction of the agricultural sector.

INNOVATION POLICIES COULD BE IMPROVED

Innovation policies are often incoherent and bureaucratic, focussing on short term results. At the same time the result and learning effects of innovation programmes are not systemically documented and feedback mechanisms are not formalised.

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Agricultural Knowledge System (AKS)
(Source: Rivera, 2005)

HOW TO LEARN MORE ?

Download the report *A synthesis of the comparative analysis of the AKS in 8 countries* on: www.solinsa.net to answer two main research questions:

What are the main characteristics of the AKS in each country?

How can these countries systematically be compared?

HOW TO SUPPORT LINSAs ?

- There is a need for innovation funding that also values the 'soft' social outcomes of innovation projects
- Cultural predispositions can hinder or foster collaborative innovation networks.
- Highly competitive environments make information sharing and collaboration more difficult
- Farmers, consultants, extension workers, researchers and scientists all need to develop skills to communicate more effectively across disciplines