

Supporting the development of a Scottish Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation System

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Fellowship purpose

- To assess the outcomes of the requirement for each member state to include 'AKIS' within their Common Agricultural Policy Strategic Plans (2023-2027)

Approach

- Literature review
- Focus group discussions with representatives of 10 EU countries (14 participants total)
- August – October 2024



What is AKIS?

- “An Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation System (AKIS) is represented by the combined interactions, knowledge flows and innovative practices instigated between persons, organisations and institutions in the agricultural sector. Key stakeholders in the AKIS include supply chain actors, farmers, crofters, farm advisory services and advisors, land-based business organisations, and research and education providers, including research institutes, universities and colleges.”



Key impacts of CAP AKIS Strategic Plans

- Establishment of AKIS coordination bodies in most member states
- Increased understanding of innovation processes and actors involved in the AKIS
- Increased profile and collaboration between AKIS actors
- Increased prioritization of AKIS activities in some countries
- Increased emphasis on support for peer-to-peer learning, as part of a broader transition towards supports for collaborative innovations



Key Issues

- AKIS is not a familiar term to most farmers or policy makers
- Evaluating the AKIS on an ongoing basis is mandated for all member states
- Private advisors and some types of farmers are difficult to involve in AKIS coordination activities
- Bridging the gap between research and practice remains a common challenge
- The skills needed by AKIS actors in future are likely to be different
- There may be a shortage of young people becoming agricultural advisors



Options for Scotland's AKIS

- Establish an AKIS coordination body
 - 1 Map AKIS actors
 - 2 Build on existing structures
 - 3 Include relevant government departments
- Hold regular AKIS gatherings to facilitate networking
- Evaluate the AKIS development progress
- Establish topical hubs on priority AKIS topics
- Align policies across departments in support of AKIS
- Increase supports for peer-to-peer learning, and associated skills development
- Internationalise AKIS through cross visits (farmers and advisors)



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