

COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY

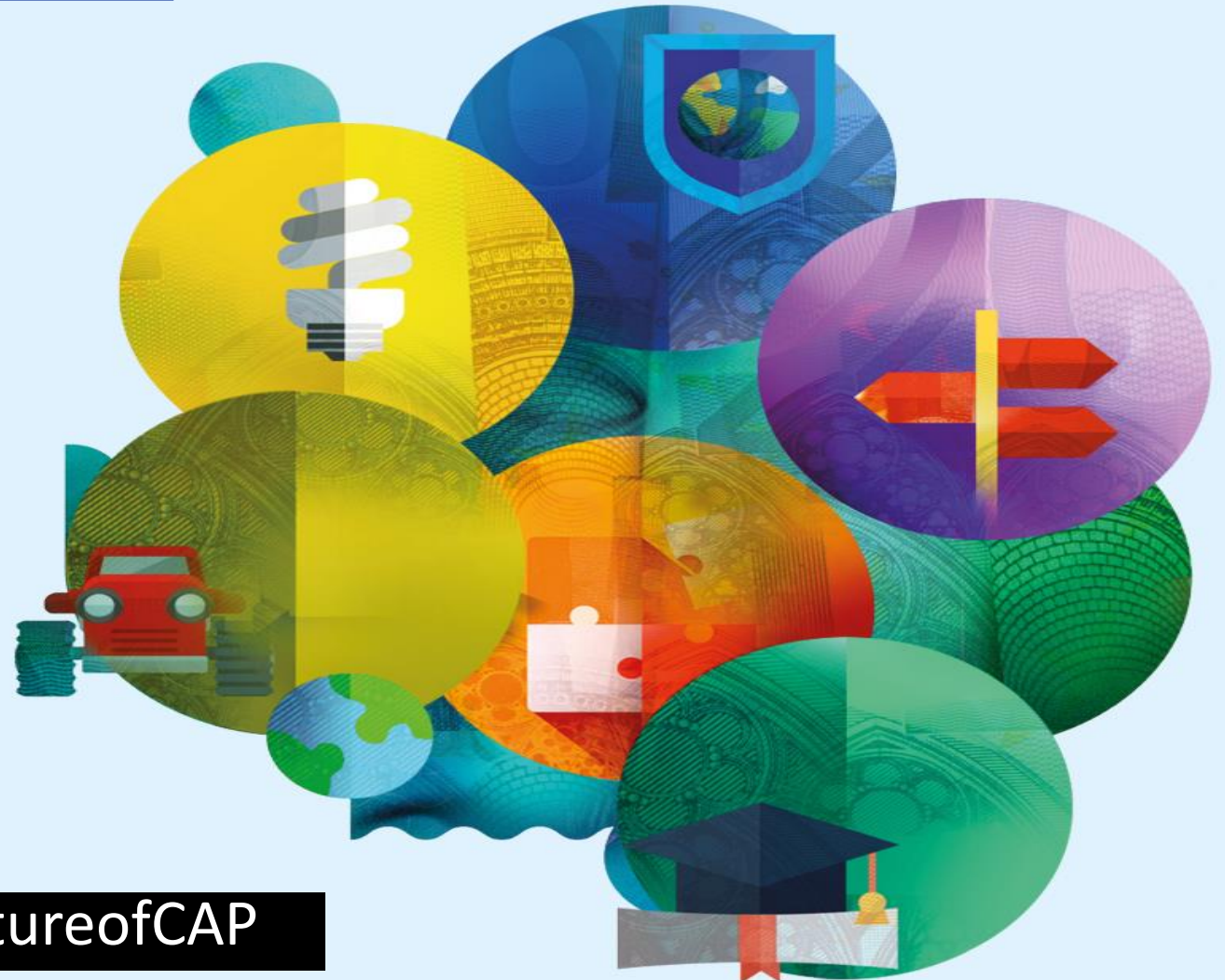
Post-2020

*AKIS, Farm advice
and Innovation Networking*

Inge Van Oost - DG AGRI

Unit B2 – Research & Innovation

#FutureofCAP



**From funding innovative projects.....
.....to a whole innovation ecosystem**

Objectives of the CAP

General objectives (art. 5)

- *Smart, resilient and diversified agriculture ensuring food security*
- *Environmental care and climate action contributing to EU objectives*
- *Socio-economic fabric of rural areas*
- ***Cross-cutting objective: modernisation of the sector by fostering knowledge, innovation and digitalisation of agriculture and rural areas***

Objectives of the CAP

Specific objectives (art. 6), all supported by the EIP

- (a) support viable **farm income** and resilience across the Union to enhance food security;
- (b) enhance **market orientation** and increase **competitiveness**, including greater focus on **research**, technology and digitalisation;
- (c) improve the farmers' **position in the value chain**;
- (d) contribute to **climate change** mitigation and adaptation, as well as sustainable **energy**;
- (e) foster sustainable development and efficient management of **natural resources** such as water, soil and air;
- (f) contribute to the protection of **biodiversity**, enhance **ecosystem services** and preserve **habitats and landscapes**;
- (g) attract **young farmers** and facilitate business development in rural areas;
- (h) promote employment, growth, social inclusion and local **development in rural areas**, including **bio-economy** and sustainable **forestry**;
- (i) improve the response of EU agriculture to **societal demands** on food and health, including **safe, nutritious and sustainable food, food waste**, as well as **animal welfare**.

What is AKIS?

Actors and Knowledge flows



What is an Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation System (AKIS)?

What:

AKIS is the organisation and interaction of persons, organisations and institutions who use and produce knowledge and innovation for agriculture and interrelated fields.

Who:

The main players of the AKIS are: farmers, advisors, researchers, (farmer) organisations, retailers, media, services, ministries...: they all produce and need knowledge!

Why:

The aim is to create a regional/national innovation ecosystem by enhancing knowledge flows between the AKIS players as well as strengthening links between research and practice.

CAP post 2020 Commission Communication "The Future of Food and Farming"

*“The **European Innovation Partnership for Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability (EIP-AGRI)** has proven its value in mobilising the agricultural sector for innovation.*

*Success depends on the **combined performance** of advisors, agricultural training and educational systems, researchers and farmer organisations often referred to as the **Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation System (AKIS)** which operates very differently from one Member States to another.*

*The role of the farm advisor stands out as particularly important. **A modern CAP should support the strengthening of farm advisory services.** This should become a condition for the approval of CAP Strategic plans.”*

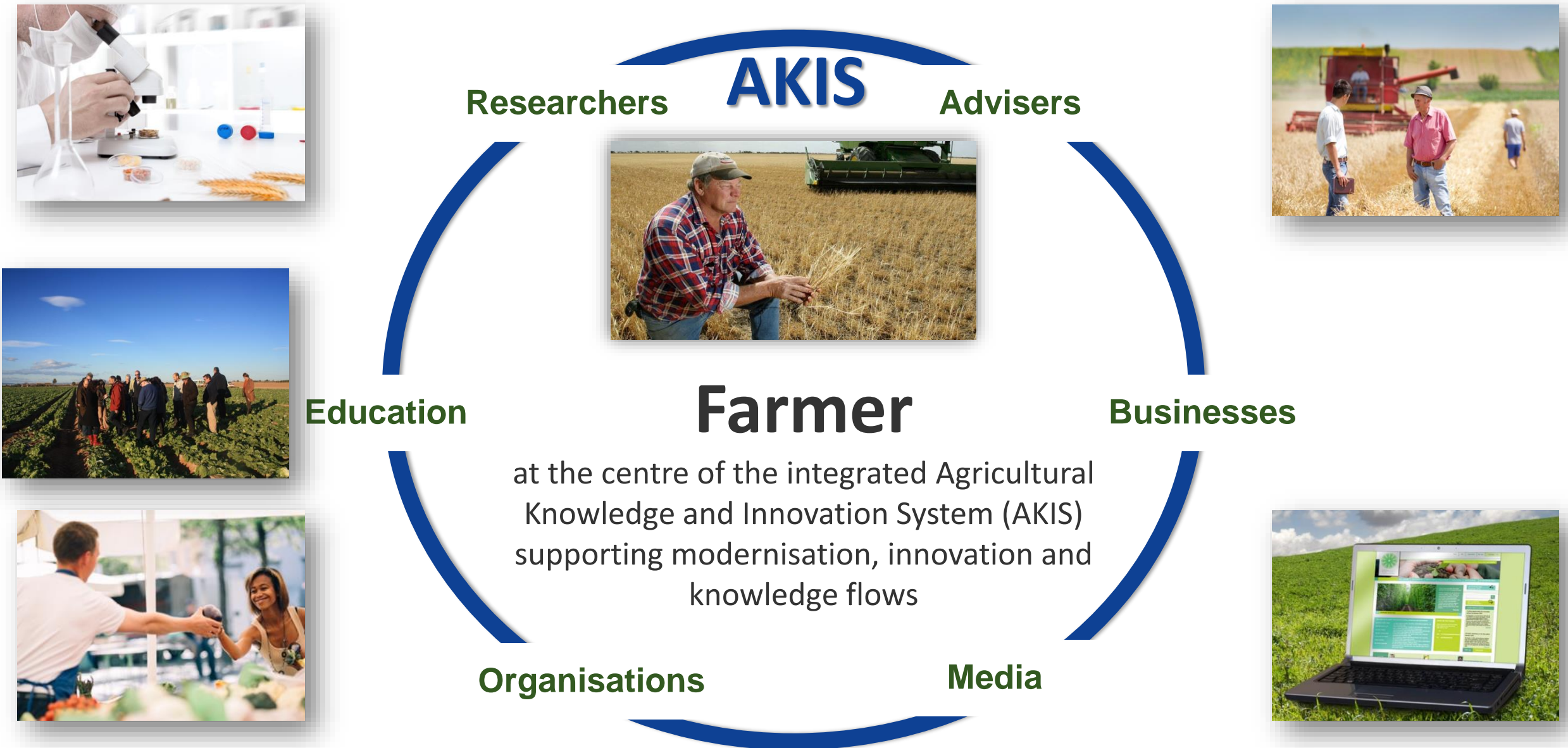
*A **strategic AKIS plan** will also form a part of the **CAP Strategic Plans** to be approved*

CAP Strategic Plans

Member States shall draw CAP Strategic Plans, setting targets, defining interventions and allocating financial resources, in line with the specific objectives and identified needs. Contents of the plans (art.95):

- a) an assessment of **needs**;
- b) an **intervention strategy**;
- c) a description of elements common to several interventions;
- d) a description of the direct payments, sectoral and rural development **interventions** specified in the strategy;
- e) **target and financial plans**; (=> INDICATORS);
- f) a description of the governance and coordination system;
- g) a description of the elements that ensure the modernisation of the CAP;**
- h) a description of the elements related to simplification and reduced administrative burden for final beneficiaries.**

Integrated approach supporting modernisation, innovation and knowledge flows



Integrated approach for modernisation, innovation and knowledge flows

Art 5
Cross-cutting objective of modernisation, knowledge sharing, innovation and digitalisation



Strategic approach to plan CAP interventions

Art 102 Modernisation in CAP Strategic Plans:
Well-functioning AKIS:
research + advisors + CAP networks +... working togetherand digitalisation

Tools = targeted CAP interventions to support the CAP strategy:

Art 72
Funding for knowledge exchange, advice and information

Art 71
Cooperation:
Funding for preparing and implementing EIP OG projects

Art 13
Details on Advice and Innovation support to be given

Art 114
Details on EIP and OGs,
Interactive innovation model

Art 113
CAP networks:
Fostering innovation and knowledge exchange

Modernisation through CAP Strategic AKIS Plans

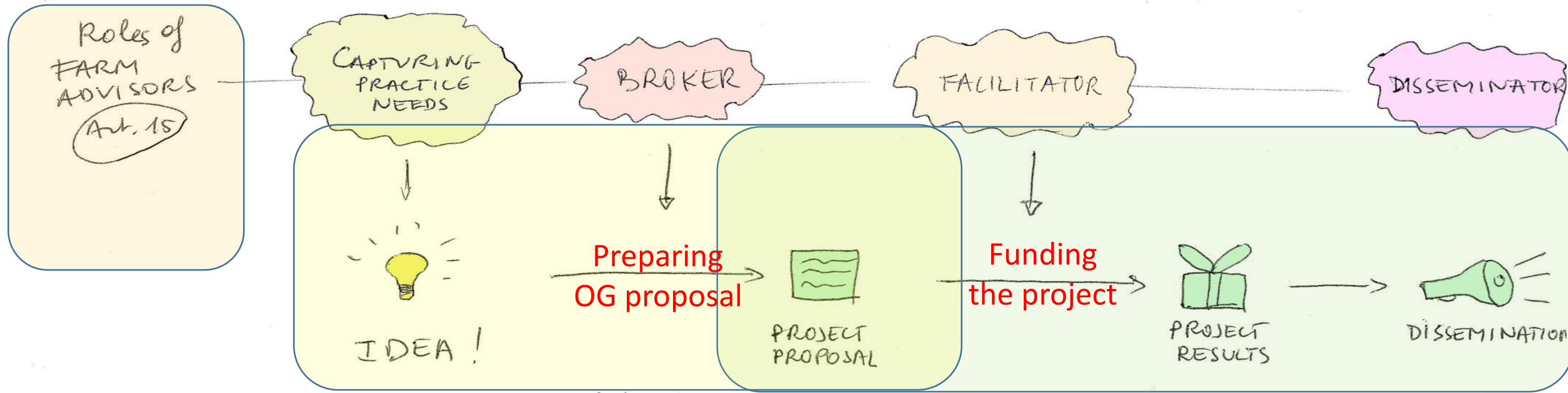
With respect to **modernisation** (art.102), the CAP Strategic Plans shall contain:

1. Their contribution to the cross-cutting general objective related to fostering and sharing of knowledge, innovation and digitisation, notably by describing:
 - **The organisational set-up of the AKIS**
 - **How advisors, researchers and CAP networks will work together within the framework of the AKIS, and**
 - **How advice and innovation support services are provided**
2. A description of the strategy for the development of **digital technologies** in agriculture and rural areas

Art 13 and 72: Farm advice organised within the AKIS structures in CAP Strategic plans

- ✓ *Advising farmers and other beneficiaries of CAP support to be included in the CAP plans*
- ✓ ***Advisors shall be integrated in the AKIS in an inclusive way, to be able to cover economic, environmental and social dimensions and to deliver up-to-date technological and scientific information** developed by R&I*
- ✓ *Advisors must be **impartial** and be able to provide **Innovation support**, in particular for **preparing and implementing Operational Group** projects of the EIP AGRI*

New roles for farm advisors in interactive projects



Farm advisors/innovation support services' role in interactive innovation processes:

- Capture practice needs
- Broker to set up interactive innovation projects
- Facilitate interactive innovation projects
- Disseminate newly generated knowledge
- +

Innovation brokering function

How to capture ideas?

- Capturing bottom-up ideas from the grass-roots level
- Getting an innovation project ready to start by acting as a go-between: helping single actors which might have difficulties in finding the adequate partners
- A close connection with and understanding of agriculture is important
- A cross-cutting approach beyond existing sectors, regions, initiative and institutes may bring added value
- Different approaches may be useful e.g. vouchers etc ("**simplified cost**") for easier use and reduction of administrative burden

Art 114. EIP Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability

*EIP–AGRI Operational Groups' innovative projects shall develop innovative solutions based on the **interactive innovation model**:*

1. **Focusing on farmers'/foresters' needs** while also tackling interactions across the supply chain where useful
2. **Bringing together partners** with complementary type of knowledge such as ... in a targeted combination as best suited to the project objectives
3. **Co-deciding and co-creating** all along the project

Art 114. EIP Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability

- Shall **contribute to all specific objectives** of the CAP (Art 6) by stimulating innovation and knowledge exchange (= **agric + rural**)
- Make use of the "cooperation intervention" Art 71 (= broad type of activities)
- To incentivise innovation, by way of derogation, the maximum **EAFRD contribution rate for EIP OGs shall be 80 %** instead of 43%
- Member States may decide to pay **advances of up to 50%** (Art 42(3) HZ reg)
- The envisaged innovation may be **based on new but also on traditional practices in a new geographical or environmental context.**
- Operational Groups shall **disseminate their plans and the results of their projects**, in particular through the CAP networks.

The Innovation Dimension of the future CAP network

***Mission:** A platform providing for more exchange of knowledge in order to capture the results and added value of the policy at European level, particularly the Horizon Europe policy*

***Members:** Network of organisations and administrations, advisors, researchers and other innovation actors in the field of agriculture and rural development*

*One of the 3 main supporting elements cooperating to provide input for countries' and regions' AKISs: advisors, research and CAP networks "will work together" within the framework of the AKIS. **EIP OGs and Horizon Europe projects** will disseminate plans and **outcomes through the CAP networks in support of the AKISs.***

Art 113. EU and national CAP networks

Objectives:

- *increase involvement of stakeholders in the design and implementation of CAP strategic plans*
- *facilitate **peer to peer learning and interaction** among all stakeholders*
- ***foster innovation and support the inclusion of all stakeholders in the knowledge-building and knowledge-exchange process***

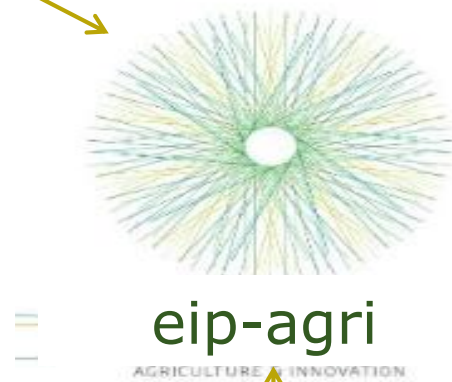
Tasks:

- *Collection, analysis, dissemination of information/good practices*
- *Capacity building of MS administration and other stakeholders*
- *Collecting and facilitating exchange of information between stakeholders*
- *Facilitating networking of LAGs, EIP Operational Groups, etc.*
- *Preparation of future CAP plans*
- *...*

Funding for interactive innovation projects

Rural Development (regional/national level)

- Funding for setting up of an **“Operational Group” (OG)**: farmers, advisors, agribusiness, researchers, NGOs,...)
- Project funding for the **Operational Group’s project**
- Supporting innovation support services



EIP networks
MS/regions

**Unique EU
repository of
contacts and
practice abstracts**

Horizon 2020 (European projects)

- **Research projects**, to provide the knowledge base for innovative actions
- **Interactive** innovation formats: **multi-actor projects and thematic networks** genuinely involving farmers, advisors, enterprises, etc.... **“all along the project”**



**Involvement of OGs is
strongly recommended**

How can CAP networks help strengthening innovation and knowledge exchange on all 9 CAP objectives?

1. Collecting and sharing outcomes of 3200+ EIP OGs
2. Collecting and sharing outcomes of 180 H2020 multi-actor projects
3. EIP website + knowledge reservoirs being prepared under H2020
4. Connecting OGs with Horizon projects
5. Support local knowledge exchange for all AKIS actors (farmers, advisors, businesses, researchers,..): training for advisors and farmers, peer-to-peer events, website, e-learning,...
6. Organise events to link and network AKIS actors for future cooperation. Discovering farmers' needs. Selecting and translating info.
7. Start now, already testing future interventions and brainstorm in AKIS coordination platforms

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