



Germany

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Overall AKIS

Public Comm.

Research

Education

Advisory
System

Outlook

Some remarks about AKIS Germany/Baden- Württemberg

**Prof. Dr. Volker Hoffmann in collaboration
with the Ministry for Rural development
and Consumer protection Baden-
Württemberg**

Presentation at the Meeting of the SCAR collaborative
Working Group

What is special with Germany ?

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Largest number of inhabitants in the EU

Powerful economy with west-east and south-north gradient

Great diversity of natural ecosystems and farm structure

High environmental consciousness on all levels of society

Great research tradition, technical univers., dual vocational education

DLG – German Agric. Society as successful knowledge broker in agriculture and food

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Enhanced federalism – 16 States with own politics in agriculture, education, science and research

Shrinking trust in politics and politicians

High bureaucratic hurdles – 6 administrative levels

Rather uncoordinated AKIS, subsystems quite unconnected, responsibilities scattered among ministries (agriculture, economics, science, education, environment, econ. cooperation, etc.)

Plethora of oversized organizations in AKIS fighting for survival

Shrinking budgets for AKIS functions

What is special with Baden-Württemberg ?

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Second strongest economy among 16 German States

Outstanding university system

Great diversity of natural ecosystems and farm structure

Stable system of part time farming and multifunctional agriculture since longtime

Good distribution of settlements and jobs = nearby markets

After 58 years of conservative government, since recently green-red

Good opportunities for direct marketing

Strong governmental engagement in most AKIS functions

High quality of life in attractive cultural landscape

Rather low importance of agriculture

Unfavorable topography and small farm structure

Low coordination between AKIS subsystems, thinking in AKIS just started

Shrinking budgets for AKIS functions

Low participation and bottom up drive for AKIS functions

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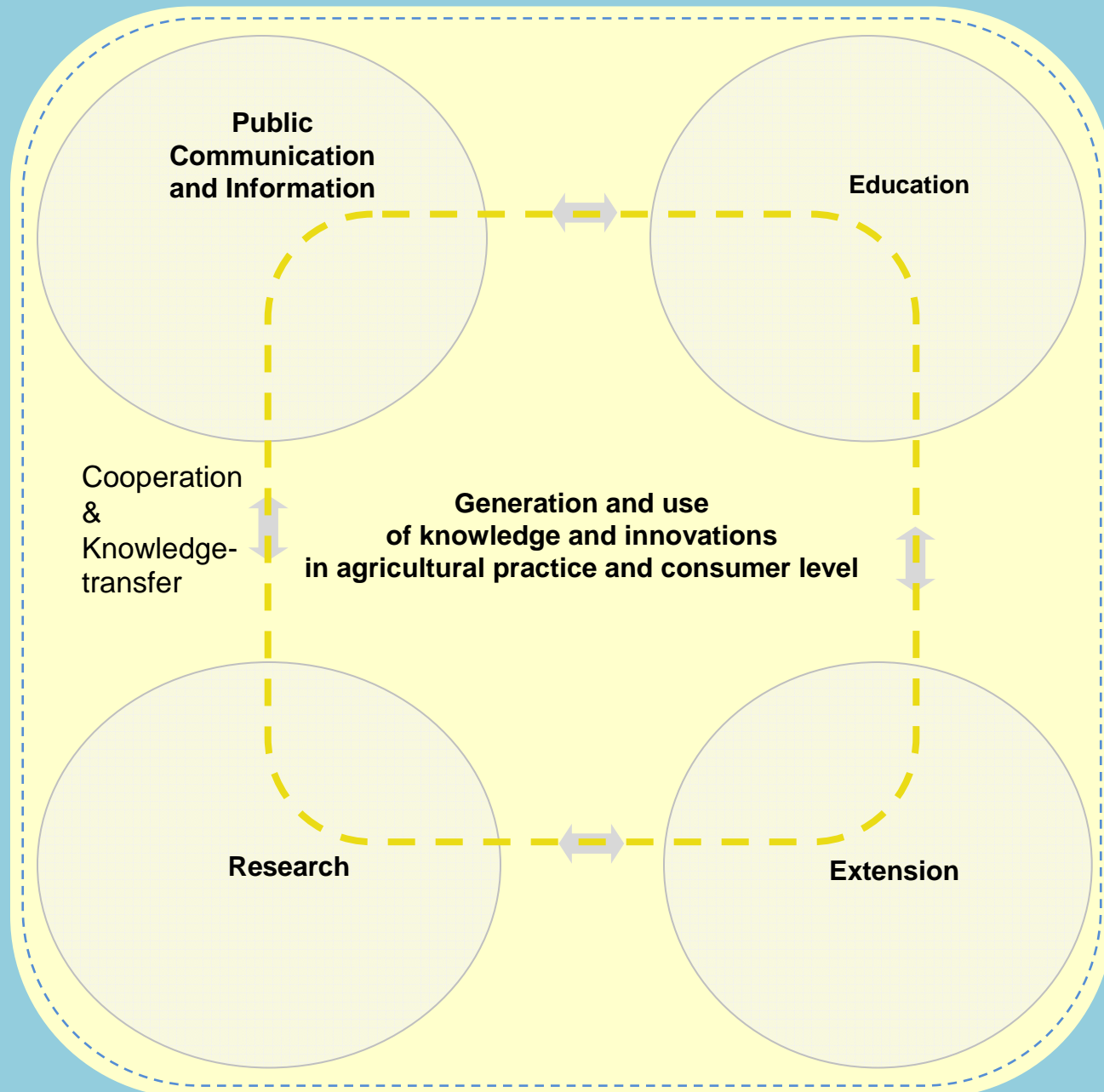
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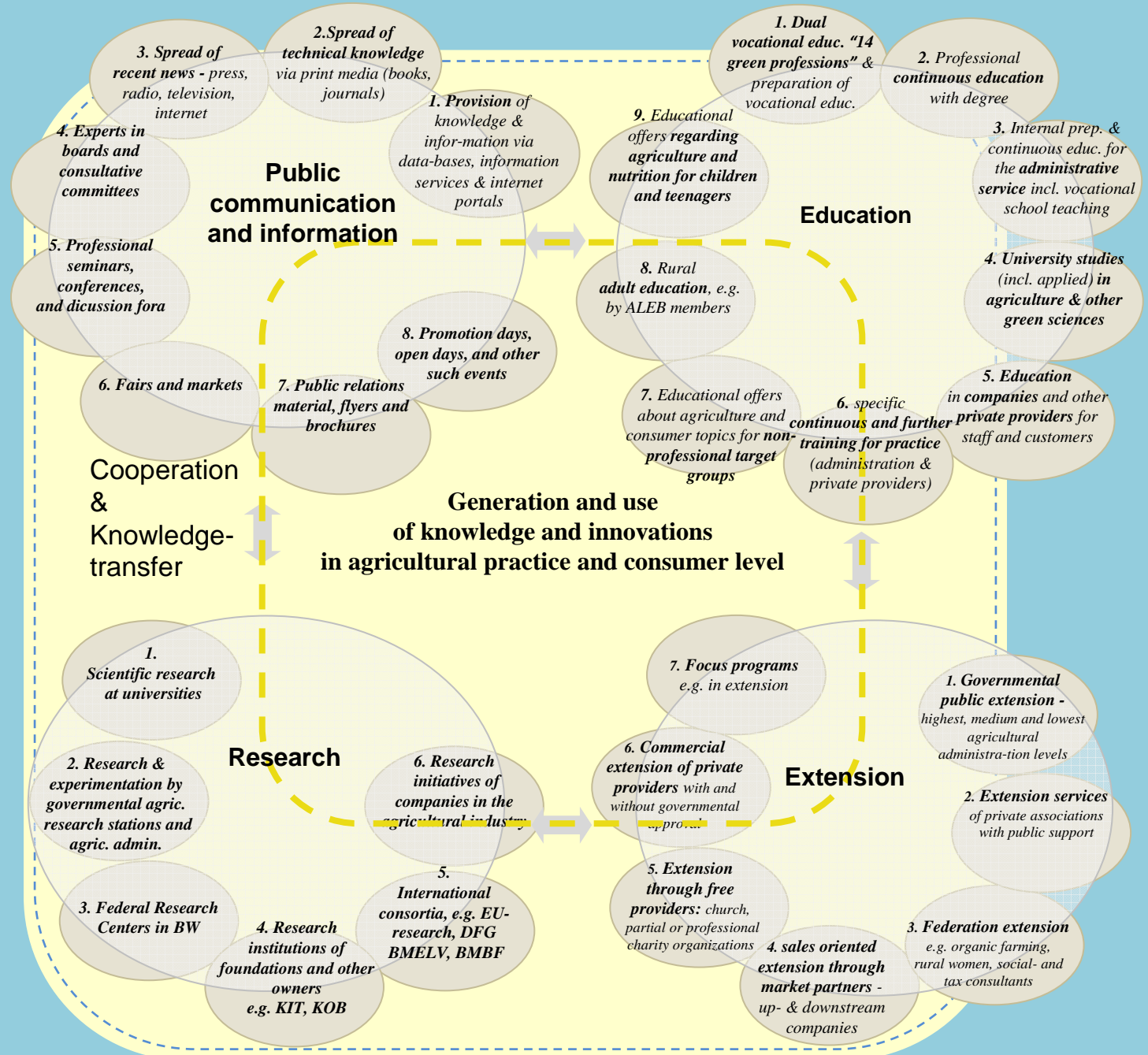
Outlook

How did we structure the overall AKIS ?

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How did we structure the overall AKIS ?



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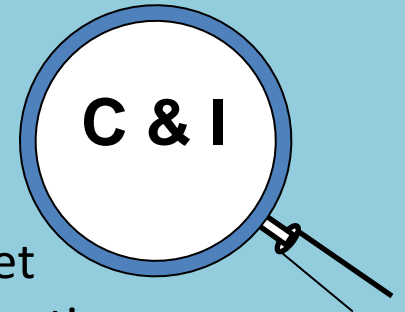
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Subsystem Public Agricultural Communication and Information System in Germany



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Increasing amount of information available - internet
Existence of publicly financed agricultural communication institutions (e.g. AID, KTBL)

Strong professional organizations (DBV, DLV, DLG, BÖLW etc.) which generate and disseminate relevant information material
Proximity to booming markets in Eastern Europe and former Soviet States also opens new markets for export of agricultural, professional information

Existence of a farmer driven and financed central knowledge brokerage organization: DLG

Leading trade fairs in Europe (Agritechnica, Eurotier, Biofach, Anuga, etc.)

Many agricultural magazines, book publishers

Boom of popular magazines about rural life (e.g. Landlust)

Split image of agriculture, in general positive, but critical about animal production

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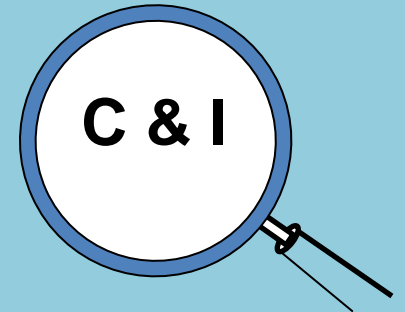
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Subsystem Public Agricultural Communication and Information System in Germany



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Rather critical but not well informed journalism

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News system is selecting – only bad news are good news

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Reduced public spending made ZADI and CMA disappear

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Split Agriculture and public fight bio/eco against conventional + gene technology

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Shrinking number of readers and buyers as well of advertisers in the agricultural press

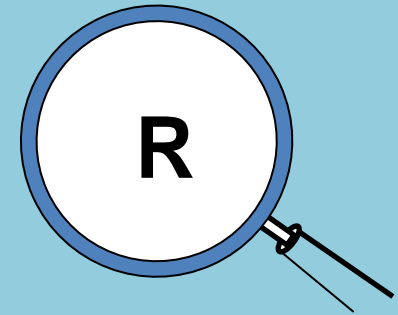
Advisory System

Language barriers to European and international information systems

Outlook

Low public support for subsidizing agriculture and it's sustainability

Subsystem Agricultural Research in Germany



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150-200 years of tradition in agricultural research

Good connections with international research centers

Basic research at universities and special research institutes

Close ties between research and teaching at the universities

Transdisciplinary and adaptive research at Governmental
agricultural research organizations at federal and at state level

Increasing shift to collaborative international research partnership
projects

Long experience with interdisciplinary research projects

Emphasis of public research system on sustainability issues

Very strong, but intransparent private research

DLG opened own crop research and demonstration centre

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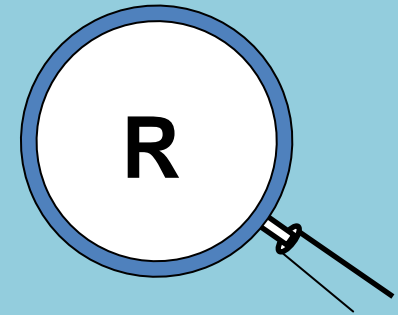
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Subsystem Agricultural Research in Germany



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Agricultural faculties struggle for survival, due to decline of students and budget

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Decrease of the permanent research capacities

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High communication barriers between the ministries of agriculture, environment, economy research and international cooperation

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Lack of communication and cooperation between all actors from ministries down to individuals

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Organizational fragmentation, too many and too small research institutes, lack of cooperation and coordination

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Declining attractiveness of university careers

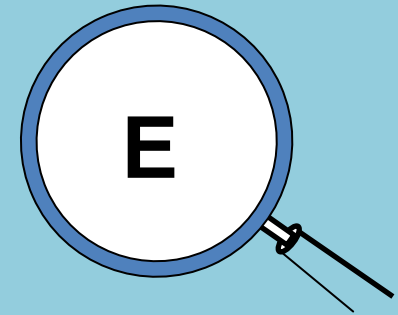
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Wrong incentive system (publication index) destroys applied research

Drastic cuts of university owned research farms

Nearly total shift of certain topics from universities to private companies (gene technology, agricultural chemistry)

Subsystem Agricultural Education in Germany



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Dual vocational education: farm practice and school
Still sufficiently tight net of professional schools and higher education providers for the agricultural and the food sector
Ample and slightly further improving perspectives for professionals by new, alternative options for income generation (Energy, agricultural commodities, services)
Great organizational diversity offers a wide field of job opportunities
Strong professional organizations (DBV, DLV, DLG, BÖLW etc.) which offer both basic and continuous vocational education
Local universities of applied science are attractive for young farmers in the respective region
Vocational education system increasingly provides options for specialization in organic farming
Large training opportunities on different levels with porosity

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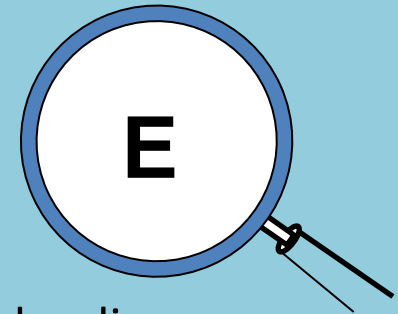
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Subsystem Agricultural Education in Germany



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Decentralized steering (excessive educational federalism, subsidiarity)

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Excessive regulation, bureaucratization of education

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Decreasing attractiveness of vocational education programs

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Poor payment of work in the agricultural sector makes related education and careers unattractive

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Vocational training is less evaluated compared with school training

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Far distances to reach vocational training schools

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Small number of female students in agricultural vocational trainings (since 10 years approx. 10%)

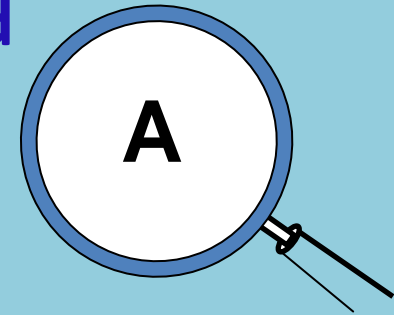
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Universities without entry barriers (e.g. numerus clausus) foster the “education of the masses”

Bologna process reduced education quality, Universities and technical Univ. Colleges now in direct competition

Univ. training no more focused on labour market, only on attracting high numbers of students

Subsystem Agricultural Advice and Extension in Germany



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Great organizational diversity

Good traffic- and communication infrastructure

Research in geographic proximity, in the chambers of agriculture research and extension are under one roof (but role conflicts hamper relationships)

Good knowledge transfer institutions: AID,KTBL,DLG,AHA, rural adult education schools, public research on state and federal levels

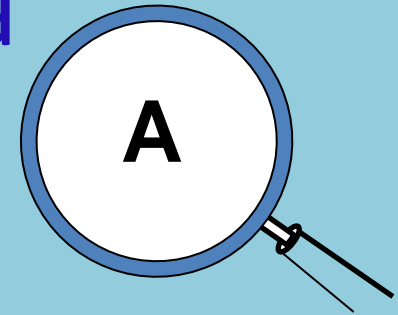
Growing numbers of private advisors

Decentralized steering and unequal public finance from 0 to 50 ?%

Majority of clients are well trained and good farm managers

Methodology of nondirective advice yet well known and applied

Subsystem Agricultural Advice and Extension in Germany



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Reduction of public extension capacities, which before was available free of charge for all sections of agriculture

Reduction of systematic education and lifelong or continuous learning for private agricultural advisors

Decentralized steering (federalism, subsidiarity) – in every state the remnants of public extension have a different status

Many States lack the 50% co-finance for EU programmes

Organizational fragmentation, too many and too small extension providers, lack of coordination

Communication- and cooperation lack between all actors from ministries to individuals

No professional organization of the advisers, no umbrella organization

Weak economic power of the clients, especially in the South, hinder purchases of extension services

Extension for organic farming is strongly fragmented

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Some preliminary Conclusions and Recommendations

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AKIs is yet an unknown concept

Finance and governance in the public sector follow ministry lines and divisional logics

Voluntarily this will not change in Germany

Money from EU could be an incentive to change structures

Incentives should be given to unite umbrella organizations on EU level

Groups for sustainable rural development should be strengthened by

EU, facilitation cost in stakeholder negotiations should be covered

Knowledge brokering, as DLG is practicing should be promoted and disseminated throughout Europe

Journalists should be invited to excursions and journeys to learn more about real agriculture

Less individual and more public interest, more coordinated action and less particularism, more efficiency despite less beaurocracy should be principles of public spending

Sources

Holz, Brigitte, et al. 2011: Das Baden-Württembergische Wissens- und Innovationssystem im Agrarbereich, AKIS W. Unpublished draft. MLR Stuttgart. 337 pp. plus 36 pp. Annex.

Hoffmann, V., Helmle, S., Bauer, V. 2011: SOLINSA Country Report: Germany. Unpublished Draft, 33 pp

**Thank you for your
attention**