



Responses of the French AKS to new challenges

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Ministry of agriculture,
food, fisheries, rural affairs
and land planning;
France

Major components of the AKS in France

- **Research (incl. applied):**
INRA (8600 staff), other R O
16 agricultural institutes (1500 staff), 16 food
institutes (760 staff)
- **Extension: 105 agricultural chambers (7800 staff, 4200 elected**
representatives)
Co-ops and private firms
- **Education**
19 agricultural colleges (15 000 students)
Universities
800 secondary/vocational agricultural schools (170 000 students)
- **Support system: funding agencies, evaluation agency, non sectoral**
innovation support tools, agri-bank, insurance, social security scheme
- **Farmers and farmer's organizations: Unions, Interprofessions, Local**
groups

How do they relate to each other?

- Competitiveness clusters
- Research and higher education clusters
- Merger of agricultural colleges and establishment of the « Agreenium » consortium
- Mixed research units
- Mixed Technological Units, Mixed Technological networks

Evolution trends: higher education

- Regional strategies of governance
- Evaluation of faculties by independent national agency
- Evaluation of professors by their peers is maintained
- New modalities of government funding: autonomy

Evolution trends: public research

- Competitive calls: research, innovation
- Private funding less than 10%
- Evaluation of organisations and units by National Evaluation Agency (discussion on evaluation criteria). Consequences on funding
- Evaluation of individual researchers by own organisations.
- The « Investments for the future » programme

Evolution trends: applied research

- Food applied research: qualification by Ministry
government recurrent funding < 20% Incentive for participating in Mixed Technological Units, Mixed Technological Networks.
competitive calls (Regional, National, European)
- Agricultural applied research: qualification by Ministry
government recurrent funding: > 50% . Weight of history and compromises
competitive calls funded by ministry: 10%
incentive for participating in Mixed Technological Units and Networks, in collaborative projects
recurrent funding linked to farm gross income
40% funding by commodity boards
- Reform linked to new wave of qualification

Evolution trends: extension

- Electoral system in agricultural chambers: elections shape priorities for action
- 50% of budget from land tax. Ministry funding for extension on priorities of public policy. Incentive for participation in Mixed Technological Networks. Decrease of funding by Ministry.
- Alternative extension systems

Evolution trends: Agricultural Education (secondary, vocational)

- Public and private schools
- Modernization of structures and governance in a tight budgetary context
- New curricula for new jobs.
- Maintenance of core activities in the field of agri-production
- Incentives to participate in collaborative/international projects
- Recognition by local farmers

Other players

- Concentration of co-operatives
- Advisory services of some major co-operatives linked to commodities, but evolving towards sustainable agriculture

Towards a new cohesiveness?

- **Clusters, Agreenium as factors of cohesiveness and innovation**
- **The same goes with Mixed Technological Units and Networks**
- **Links between academia on one hand (public goods) and applied research/extension (private or sectoral interests) on the other hand are still weak due to collective perception and funding structure**
- **The 3 directions of reform of applied research**

European/international endeavours

- **Joint programming initiatives**
- **SCAR**
- **Global research alliances**
- **The reform of the CGIAR**

Monitoring and evaluation of AKS policy

- **No set of indicators monitoring the AKS as a whole**
- **There are sets of indicators (too many) monitoring the activities of public actors of the AKS**
- **No explicit, mechanical, linkages between indicators and budget allocation, but other effects (qualification of applied research institutes, broad orientation of organisations in the frame of contracts with the state...)**
- **Autonomy of universities will give more weight to monitoring and performance indicators**
- **Performance indicators for budgetary reporting to parliament, but not consistent with an AKS approach**
- **Designing a set of indicators pertaining to AKS at European, level based on already existing data collection and databases?**

Thank you
Merci

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