

# EU Agricultural Research and Innovation

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# Innovation is a broad concept

- ❖ is the implementation of a new or significantly improved **product** (good or service), or **process**, a new **marketing** method, or a new **organisational** method in business practices, workplace organisation or external relations [OECD].

**Agricultural innovation** is the process whereby individuals or organisations bring new or existing products, processes or ways of organisation into use for the first time in a specific context in order to increase **effectiveness**, **competitiveness**, **resilience** to shocks or **environmental sustainability** and thereby contribute to food security and nutrition, economic development or sustainable natural resource management. FAO(2018)

**Agricultural Innovation** is the result of R&D investments in agriculture.

**Public investments in R&D for GREECE ( -19%) 2008-2018.**

Productivity growth is used as an indicator for research or innovation impact (OECD, 2019).

The establishment of **European Innovation Partnerships (EIPs)** in different sectors represents a new approach under the **Europe 2020 Strategy** to advance EU research and innovation. **Flagship Initiative: Innovation Union**

### **EIP-AGRI for Agricultural productivity and sustainability (2012)**

EIP-AGRI aims:

1. Foster a competitive and sustainable agriculture and forestry
2. Achieve “more and better from less”
3. Work in harmony with the environment
4. And ensure a steady supply of food, feed and biomaterials in harmony with natural resources
5. Main objective: **bridging the gap** between research and farming practice, focusing on real, existing issues and research needs from the field
6. Operational Groups (**OGs**)

# 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 interrelated fields.
- ▶ **Who:** The main players of AKIS are: farmers/foresters, advisors, researchers, (farmer) organisations, NGOs, networks, retailers, media, services, various 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 straitening links between research and practice.

# FUNDING SOURCES

## **European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)**

### **RDP (89,9 billion euro):**

- ▶ **Funding for setting up of an Operational Group (OGs)** with farmers, advisors, agribusiness researchers NGOs to plan an innovation project.
- ▶ **Co-operation measure**
- ▶ **Project funding**
- ▶ **Focus Groups** focusing on a specific subject
- ▶ **EIP AGRI Service Point support services** (communication, partnering, dissemination, knowledge flows and collecting practice needs).

# Horizon 2020 (4,5 billion euro)

**Societal Challenge SC2:** *Food security, sustainable agriculture and forestry, marine and maritime and inland water research and the bioeconomy*

- ▶ **Multi-actor projects** (needs and problems of farmers and other participants)
- ▶ **Thematic networks** (bring people together creating useful outputs for farmers)

**10 billion euro** for research and innovation under **Horizon (2021-2027)**

# Concluding Remarks

- ▶ Innovation is high on the policy agenda (CAP Strategic Plan).
- ▶ to foster Knowledge, innovation and digitalization in agriculture and rural areas
- ▶ to enhance knowledge flows within the AKIS and strength links between research and practice
- ▶ to get access to improved farm advice (financial instruments, business plans, environmental/plants/animal directives, risk management, EIP)