**ARIMNet2 Project**

Task 5.3: **INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE for AKIS in the Mediterranean**

12-13 October, 2016 Antalya-TURKEY

**Introduction**

The Mediterranean priorities (water scarcity, food security, nutrition, rural development, employment in the Med...) ask for increased effort to generate innovation and socio-economic impact of policies. It implies to modify the way research is conducted and funded. The objective of the conference is to bring together funding agencies, researchers and interested stakeholders to identify priorities to foster and improve the Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems in the Mediterranean.

WP5 of ARIMNet2 project (*From Research to Innovation*) is devoted to analysing the link between research and innovation and intended to prove that agricultural research can contribute to deliver positive impact on the socio-economies in the Mediterranean.

Within the framework of WP5 in order to provide a larger view on the areas open to coordination and improvement of the Mediterranean knowledge and innovation system, an international AKIS conference will be convened with the following objectives:

* Sharing of opinion and mutual learning on approaches to innovation processes and policies in the Mediterranean;
* Drawing on conference exchanges, to formulate evidence of good practice in innovation process and policies for informing regional Scientific and Technological Innovation (STI) authorities and enriching the formal Mediterranean STI policy dialogue;
* Fostering exchange and networking among Euro-Mediterranean actors on STI cooperation, particularly around strategies for the translation and adoption of R&D outputs into technologies, goods and services;
* Providing an opportunity to meet the Innovation actors for future networking within the Mediterranean countries.

**Structure of the Conference**

It will be a two-day stakeholders' conference consisting of:

* Key note speeches on knowledge based innovation for addressing global challenges;
* Good practice examples for fostering innovation based on projects supported through ARIMNET and the others.
* **Parallel workshops on:**

1. **Platform/Cluster between firms and academia**: Interest of developing Platforms for innovation/clusters between academic and industries
2. **Extension services and Interactive Innovation models**: How to improve the efficiency of the farmer’s extension services by increasing the interactions among research and extension institutions, farmers, entrepreneurs and other centers of knowledge (i.e. creating operational groups gathering farmers, advisors, researchers, agribusiness…)
3. **Innovation potential of the research projects:** How to better valorize research results for innovation? How to predict the innovation potential of research projects? How to increase the innovation potential of research projects? Defining criteria to evaluate the innovation potential of a project (i.e. involvement of stakeholders, dissemination conferences...)

Each topic will be introduced by one or two speakers inplenary, then will be discussed in parallel sessions or other more interactive session(s).

As it is known, there is still a resistance of old concepts, for instance, the idea of transfer from research to beneficiaries (*Linear Innovation*). The conference intends to contribute to changing this towards to and promote the idea of **interactive *innovation***. Innovative, concrete solutions by leader farmers should be valorized; therefore, conference will reflect that idea by documenting concrete and original innovation processes and practices rather than delivering narrow institutional speeches. A participatory approach will be followed; therefore, diverse actors of interactive AKIS will be invited to the conference.

* **Potential speakers:** In addition to WP5 Task Force, 4-5 invited experts with complementary expertise representing different actors of interactive Innovation will be the speakers of the Conference.
* **Participants:** 100 to 125 people: 40 ARIMNet2 *(1 or 2 per institution from the ARIMNet2 budget of each institution)* + 60 invited people and speakers *(from the GDAR budget devoted to this conference)* + possibility of 25 on their own funds.
* Each ARIMNet2 partner should suggest right after the Thessaloniki meeting, names of 4 persons who could be invited. As much as possible, a balance should be searched between topics/sessions, including ***at least one leader innovative farmer*** and ***one representative of agri-business involved in AKIS issues.***
* **Organizing Committee***:* Sahin ANIL (GDAR-TR), Anabel de la PENA (INIA-ES), Aniss Ben RAYANA (IRESA-TN), Moez JEBARA (MESRT-TN), Pascal BERGERET (CIHEAM IAMM- FR), Maria Joao MAIA (FCT-PT), Fatima EL HADAD-GAUTHIER (CIHEAM IAMM- FR) and Maha HAMMAMI (MESRT-TN).

**OUTCOME**

* Improved mutual understanding of the perceptions, roles and success factors of innovation policies and systems in Mediterranean region;
* Scenarios for enhancing the outcomes of Mediterranean cooperation partnerships through joint innovation activities for translation of R&D outputs into technologies, services and goods for addressing global societal challenges;
* Conference recommendations on innovation and Mediterranean STI cooperation partnerships to inform up-coming regional STI policy dialogue.

***Date and venue***: 12-13 October, 2016, Antalya-TURKEY

DRAFT AGENDA

**Day 1: Morning**

**Opening Session**

* Welcome and Conference Opening Address: ……………, Director General of Agricultural Research and Policy (**GDAR**), Turkish Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock
* General presentation about the stakes of AKIS: Main challenge in food security and agriculture by Krjin Poppe, SCAR SWG AKIS (*to be confirmed*)

**Potential Invited Speakers (Round table)**

**Masum BURAK** (CIHEAM President); **Hafez GHANEM**, Vice-President of the World Bank for NENA countries; **Maria-Elena SEMEDO**, Deputy Director General for Knowledge, FAO; **Josefina STUBBS**, Director, Strategy and Knowledge Department, IFAD; **Steve Kayizzi-MUGERWA**, Chief Economist and Vice President, African Development Bank; **Inge Van OOST**, DG Agriculture and Rural Development, European Commission-EIP; **Catherine MOREDDU**, Trade and Agricultural Directorate, OECD.

**Coffee Break**

**FIRST PLENARY SESSION**

* Briefing of ARIMNet2 Project in general (Florence JACQUET, ARIMNet2 Coordinator) and WP5: From Research to Innovation in particular (Sahin ANIL, WP5 Leader)

*(Highlighting what ARIMNet is doing; what are the concrete achievements... i.e. funded projects; WP3: how the funded research projects are improving the innovation; lessons learned from ARIMNet1; Outputs of the Spring School ); how ARIMNet is changing the landscape: the footprint of ARIMNet on the Mediterranean Agriculture; connecting people/building partnership…)*

* **Current status of AKIS in the Med countries (Task 5.1)**: Typology and Diversity of the AKIS according to various criteria in the in the ARIMNet2 Countries

1. **Presentation of Outcome Report of Task 5.1:** Analysis of the Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems in the Mediterranean /State of the art (Anna VAGNOZZİ, INEA-IT)
   1. The structure of Mediterranean AKIS: Services provided for farmers, institutions and actors involved
   2. Knowledge flows between research- extension-farmers
2. Concluding Remarks and Discussion

**Lunch**

**Day 1: Afternoon**

**SECOND PLENARY SESSION**

**Platform/Cluster between firms and academia**: Interest of developing Platforms for innovation/clusters between academic and industries/ Promoting Academia-Industry Relationship towards entrepreneurship

The demand for enhanced collaboration and exchange of knowledge is becoming more and more obvious among stakeholders involved in innovation processes in Mediterranean agriculture. From an initial idea or need through the research and the sharing of knowledge, to the implementation of new products, services and optimised societal frameworks, the expertise of several actors has to be combined in complex processes of communication and cooperation.

**Objectives**

* Enhancing research-industry alliances innovation in the Mediterranean agriculture
* Promote the sharing of opinions from AKIS national representatives from academia and industry
* Enhancing the networking of key actors of AKIS within Mediterranean countries

**Methodology**

The workshop will be is a systematic process, which encourages participants to actively involve by contributing ideas in a non-critical or non-evaluative environment. In structured brainstorming, the participants are given guidelines and rules to follow, so that the input from the sessions is in an orderly manner and constructive. Each AKIS representative from academia and industry by each Med country will be asked to answer to the following questions in 5 minutes (maximum).

* Given the current status of AKIS system in Mediterranean countries, do you think that the creation of a virtual network of AKIS country representatives within Med countries will benefit Mediterranean agriculture competitiveness (research and innovation)?

A) If yes, how do you see this virtual network in 2018? (Which challenges should be taken into consideration? Which political instruments should be in place?

B) If not, why? Which are the barriers?

**Participants:** actors that have answered to ARIMNET2 AKIS questionnaire at national level. One or two representatives per country, one from industry and one from academia.

**FIRST PARALLEL SESSIONS**

* Discussions and having proposals on the outcomes of the workshop

**Coffee break**

**THIRD** **PLENARY SESSION**

* Presentation of the draft outcome reports by the parallel session rapporteurs

**Dinner at the Hotel**

**Day 2: Morning**

**FOURTH PLENARY SESSION**

**2. Extension services and Interactive Innovation models**How to improve the efficiency of the farmer’s extension services by increasing the interactions among research and extension institutions, farmers, entrepreneurs and other centers of knowledge (i.e. creating operational groups gathering farmers, advisors, researchers, agribusiness…)In recent years, the priority given to enhancing the impact of research has led research and innovation policy makers to devote more resources to R&D activities as well as on dissemination of knowledge. That growing concern has taken place in developing and developed countries as well.

The traditional linear model of knowledge transfer, still widely spread, is increasingly questioned, as new, more systemic and inclusive approaches of innovation are being advocated, with a view of innovation as an interactive process including different types of stakeholders, like scientists, extensionists, support services, farmers and other entrepreneurs. Besides technology, social innovation is also more and more frequently recognised for its potential to unlock original pathways towards inclusive and sustainable development. Emphasis is now put on communication and the sharing of knowledge of all origins, often through knowledge brokerage.

Innovation is no longer approached as an application of “on size fits all” packages provided by science irrespective of the diversity of situations but as a process anchored in local conditions. Stakeholders’ participation in the co-creation of knowledge is now considered as key to innovation. Extension services are in a process of change to accommodate that new conception of innovation, with the aim of making them more pluralistic, more locally dependant and more open to private and non-government initiatives.

Moreover, the growing complexity and urgency of challenges facing the agro-food sector, from climate change to food safety to the development of rural areas are calling for redrawing the boundaries of extension services in view of including knowledge and competencies beyond its traditional limits.

This workshop will comprise an introductory presentation highlighting the features of new interactive innovation models through one or few well-chosen examples. The presentation will be followed by a group discussion during which participants can exchange experiences and practices. The discussion could be organised around the following topics:

* What conditions must be put in place in order to foster cooperative, multi-stakeholder innovation processes?
* Can social innovation be facilitated? If yes, how?
* Can scientific knowledge and practitioner knowledge be associated to foster innovation? At what conditions?
* Can public and private initiatives complement each other in knowledge brokering?
* What sectors and disciplines beyond agriculture and the agro-food can contribute in fostering agro-food innovation?

**SECOND PARALLEL SESSIONS**

* Discussions and getting proposals on the outcomes of the workshop

**Coffee Break**

**FIFTH PLENARY SESSION**

Presentation of the draft outcome reports by the parallel session rapporteurs

**SIXTH PLENARY SESSION3. How to increase the innovation potential of research projects?**

How to better valorize research results for innovation? How to predict the innovation potential of research projects? How to increase the innovation potential of research projects? Defining criteria to evaluate the innovation potential of a project (i.e. involvement of stakeholders, dissemination conferences...)

This session will be focused on identifying the ways to increase the innovation potential of research projects. It will contribute to the general aims of the Conference, which are to foster agricultural knowledge and innovation system in the Mediterranean and to ensure that agricultural research will impact the stakeholders of the Mediterranean basin and support their economies.

Two issues that are clearly interconnected will be discussed:

1) What are the characteristics of a research project that produces innovation?

2) What are or could be the incentives developed by the funding agencies to support projects with high innovation potential?

Two introductory speeches could be planned, one on each issue. On the first one, it could be a researcher speech that presents the lessons learnt during the Young Research School organised by ARIMNet2 in Feb 2016. On the second one, a funding agency or EC presentation.

**Lunch**

**Day 2: Afternoon**

**THIRD PARALLEL SESSIONS**

**(3. How to increase the innovation potential of research projects?)**The discussion in parallel sessions should then address the following points (to be enlarged):

-Dissemination of results, involvement of end-users during the research projects, valorization of results (including technology transfer, Intellectual property rights, commercialization of results)

-Identification of criteria to assess the innovation potential of a research project

-Identification of financial incentives and funding mechanisms to support innovation (private-public partnership, dissemination activities funding, innovation support dedicated program...)

After discussions, proposals on the outcomes of the workshop will be gathered.

**NINETH PLENARY SESSION**

* Presentation of the draft outcome reports by the parallel session rapporteurs

**Coffee break**

**TENTH PLENARY SESSION**

**PANEL DISCUSSION ON THE FUTURE OF AKIS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN**

An Expert Panel consisting of 3-4 specialists with complementary expertise will be convened on the future issues of AKIS in the Mediterranean.

**Potential panelists**  
**Krijn Poppe,** SCAR SWG AKIS, **Inge Van OOST**, EC-DG Agriculture-EIP,  **Aziz Zine El Abidine**, farmer from Morocco (region of Fez); **Salah Lamouchi**, farmer from Tunisia (region of Bizerte)**FINAL PLENARY SESSION**

**Conference outcome**

*Presentation of draft outcome report of the Conference and getting final reactions from the participants*.

**FINAL REMARKS AND THE CLOSURE OF CONFERENCE**

**Dinner at the Hotel**

**Logistical issues**

* **Date and venue**: 12-13 October, 2016, Antalya,TURKEY
* **Potential Meeting Place:** The RAMADA PLAZA, ANTALYA
* More or less 1000€ per participants (all inclusive)
* Possibility to add a visiting day (on own funds)
* 100 to 125 participants: 40 ARIMNet2 (1 or 2 per institution on the ARIMNet2 budget of each institution) + 60 invited people and speakers (GDAR budget) + possibility of 25 on their own funds
* GDAR will cover additional funds if a participation of other invited experts is needed
* Additional day possible/ on their own cost