



SPEEDING UP  
INNOVATION

VERNETZUNG VON FORSCHUNG UND PRAXIS

2023

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# Quo vadis AKIS?

Land- und forstwirtschaftliches  
Wissens- und Innovationssystem

## AKIS in Finland – aiming for efficient collaboration

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*19. September 2023*

# ***AKIS in Finland – aiming for efficient collaboration***

- Beginning of 2021 AgriHubi was launched.
  - Farmers' competence network
- History goes some years back - at 2019 was published a report evaluating root reasons of poor profitability development of Finnish agriculture.
  - Wide stakeholder hearing round, both private and public, were held during the data collection process.
  - Various actions were proposed.



# AKIS in Finland



- Strong support from Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, also managing authority within CAP.
- AgriHubi is located on Natural Resources Institute Finland, ie. research institute.
- AgriHubi focuses on agriculture and horticulture, other rural sectors and innovation support are located in CAP Network Finland.
  - Strong collaboration among AgriHubi and CAP Network Finland.
  - Common networking platform launched at March 2022.
    - [Maaseutuverkosto.fi](https://maaseutuverkosto.fi) / [agrihubi.fi](https://agrihubi.fi) -> common platform, different contents.



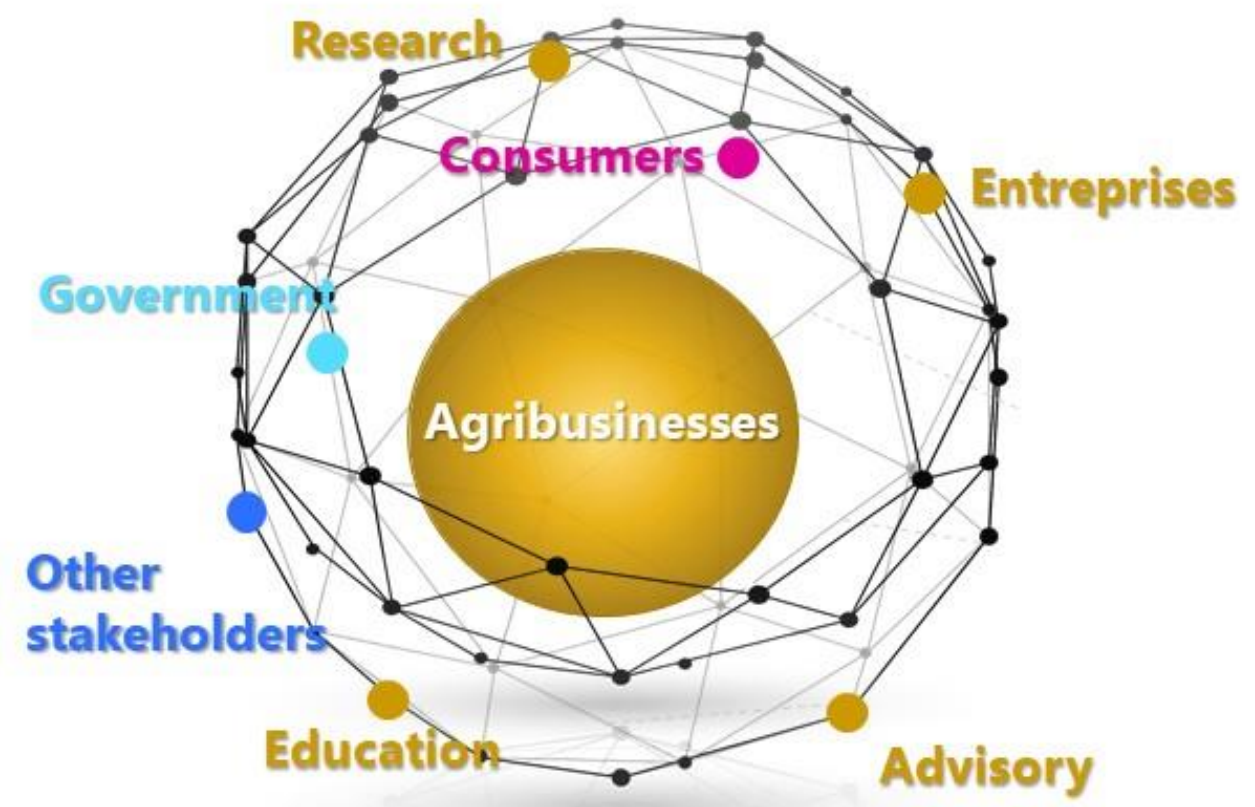
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# Core idea of the collaboration

AgriHubi –Farm Business Competence Network has been launched in 2021. It promotes the export of research results and research based solutions to support farm business management



**AgriHubi** is a collaborative network of research, education and advisory, business, government, and other stakeholders with a focus on farm businesses and improving their profitability. AgriHubi supports data resources' efficient use and adopting of smart farming.

**AgriHubi** generates and coordinates cooperation among the actors and builds new connections on the following topics:

- Business management
- Data sources and resources
- Smart farming

**AgriHubi**-network is open all stakeholders who commit themselves to its objectives and activities.

# *Aiming for collaboration*



- Common goal
  - Profitable and sustainable farming businesses. Living the Nordic with hard to reach access requires own farming for food supply security.
- Do we know each other?
  - Finland is small country, but we have long distances.
  - Lots of actors in education, variety within the advisory services including new emerging actors on that field, multiple research bodies, both in science and in applied research.
  - Often three actors of four or five main actors are mentioned - need to learn to know each other, our tasks and goals to understand the common points of interest with the others.
    - And this takes time.
    - Actions are steered by measurements, peer-review articles vs. provided degrees vs. advisory meetings with farmers...

# *Aiming for collaboration*



- Do we know each other?
  - Competition, but also similar challenges and goals:
    - Farmers' skills level is high – stakeholders need to look forward to be able to answer farmers' needs.
    - Public debate around Finnish agriculture and food production.
    - New students recruitment.
    - Need for project funding, domestic and international.
  - Understanding each and everyones roles within AKIS:
    - Supports collaboration and knowledge flows
    - Knowing different resources within different stakeholders and actors supports organizing activities such as demos, piloting, and applied research.

# Building collaboration



- Starting during times of COVID-19.
- Hands-on-networking started with working groups of education and smart agriculture.
  - Education group started with tertiary educators and expanded to vocational education representatives. Also farmers' union, administration, governance, and advisory services are included.
    - First, this large group meeting regularly despite of the education level boundaries.
  - Smart agriculture group started together with UAS, universities, researchers, advisors, and farmers. Ministry, farmers' union, and CAP Network are participating to the meetings.
    - Common interest of the topic – large group sharing knowledge and understanding.
- Working groups' meetings held in Teams - easy access, but also a barrier. Face-to-face meetings are crucial for open discussion.



# Working groups



- Places to bring people together to share thoughts, ideas, concerns, and to support general discussion.
- AgriHubi facilitates, participants bring in the content and topics for discussions.
- Working groups are now building their own meeting programs and schedules. Democratic and open discussion that is run with forward looking goal – we need to fill the participants’ needs for the meetings.
  - Wasting time with is wasting resources - and growing frustration.
- Value of the working groups comes from the participants – learning to know each other and finding ways to improve practices.
  - Project funding is a good common goal.
  - Access to information – participation for example of ministry representatives or NCPs gives first-hand knowledge.



# Working groups



- Forums to bring up challenges to a common discussion.
  - Lack of knowledge: where more research, education, and/or advisory services are needed.
  - Gap of knowledge flows: different project funding instruments do not have common points supporting the knowledge transfer (eg. Horizon Europe and regional fundings).
- Collaboration activities:
  - SPRING'23 event to bring together agriculture and food related project ideas, innovations, start-ups, and financing options.
  - Regular work for improving the image of agriculture and pull of agricultural education.

# Focus on farmers



- Mostly various stakeholders participate on our working groups, farmers are not participating on those activities.
- Farmers are members in steering group and in routemap –working groups.
- We are listening farmers’ needs and visions thru multiple sources – our stakeholders bring those in to the table and we meet various farmers’ societies to hear their thoughts.
- More farmers’ participation is needed - they have extremely high competencies and capacities.
  - Their involvement needs to be rewarded.



# *What is needed for engagement?*

- Time, coffee, excursions, workshops, places to interact and meet.
- Asking questions why things are as they are.
- Drawing "service paths" to see the common points of knowledge transfer and flow – on different directions.
- Reading project proposal calls together.
- Opening up the organizations' activities – we know, but we do not truly know.
  - Vocational education actors have presented their facilities on each other.

# *Network engagement*

- Only active participation will bring value.
- Networks do live on time and from the people.
- Listening of each other is crucial.
- There are always hard topics and those need to be talked thru.
- Relying on existing resources puts the current actors on spotlight - network facilitating is only a tool to bring people together.





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Questions?  
*Thank you!*