



SOLINSA
Support of Learning and Innovation
Networks for Sustainable Agriculture

Agricultural Knowledge Systems in Transition
Towards a more effective and efficient support of Learning
and Innovation Networks for Sustainable Agriculture

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The SOLINSA Project: Support of Learning and Innovation Networks for Sustainable Agriculture (LINSa)

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Final Conference, Brussels



Funded by the European Union

Society wants agriculture and rural areas to become more sustainable

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2

Diversity of new approaches

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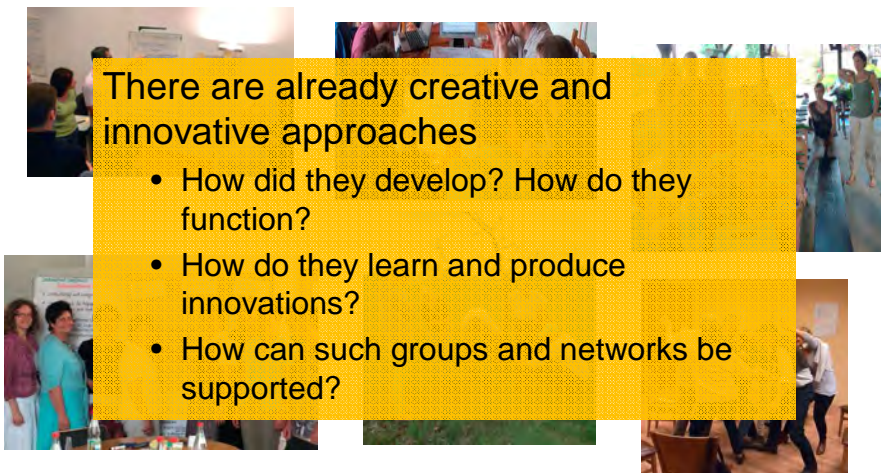
3

Innovations need networking

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There are already creative and innovative approaches

- How did they develop? How do they function?
- How do they learn and produce innovations?
- How can such groups and networks be supported?



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4

How did we address the questions?

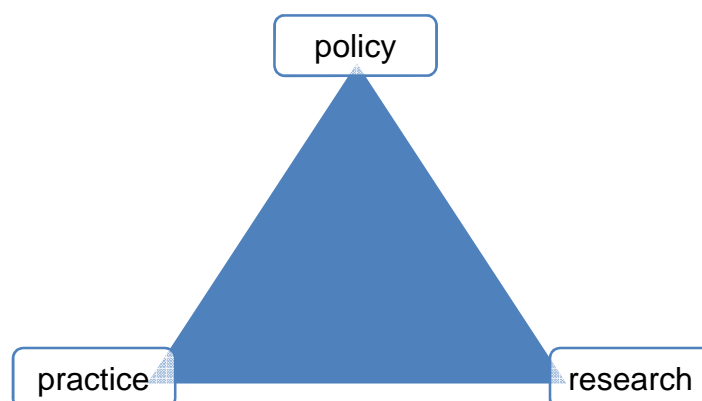
- Close collaboration between science and practice: crossing boundaries
- Experimentation of new methodologies and approaches



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5

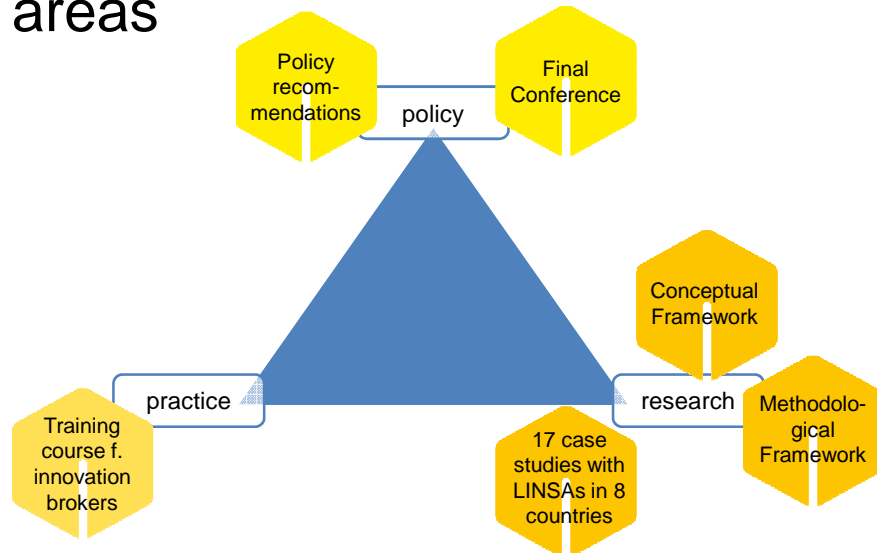
Supporting innovation in three areas



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6

Supporting innovation in three areas



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7

Some results...

...from working three years with LINSAs and continuously reflecting the process of knowledge co-creation

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Constraints and Opportunities

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- Opportunities of the LINSA
 - Good volunteer spirit
 - Good relationships with the state, the public, the established institutions of the agricultural knowledge system
- Constraints
 - Limited financial resources
 - Not so strong in management and governance
- «Social learning», i.e. learning as a group is important



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9

Learning in LINSA

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LINSA development

Learning approaches

Diffuse networks,
few links to AKS

Uncoordinated learning,
informal approaches

Some formalisation, no
overall coordination

Close links with AKS

Highly coordinated



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10

Dynamics of LINSA and innovation

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- LINSA development/trigger:
 - Develop from outside or inside pressure
 - Bottom-up and top-down management
 - Majority remain closed networks, some are open
- Different types and ways of innovation may lead to longterm change
 - begin radical, more incremental as it is more widely accepted
 - radical at the local level, but incremental at the EU level

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11

LINSA's support needs

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- Soft-skills training (e.g. management & communication)
- Seed money for experimentation and opening spaces for reflection and innovation
- Funding of volunteer work
- Exchange across different networks to stimulate learning
- Linking to AKIS
- Innovation brokers and facilitators

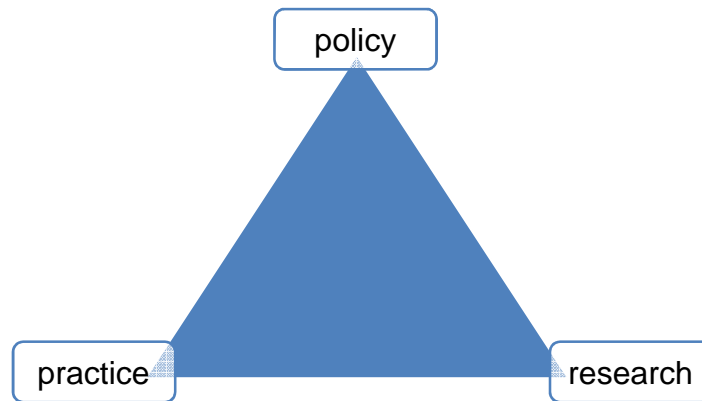


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12

Different LINSA need different adapted support

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13

Different LINSA need different adapted support

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- Policy: Framework for support and flexibility to specific needs of LINSA
- Practice: Targeted support with researchers, advisors, farmers, policy makers...
- Research: Focus on research that integrates practice and science to find solutions

We need changing the attitude and the self-perception of researchers, advisors, farmers, policy makers...

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14

The consortium – Thank you!

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15



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16