



AKIS in action:

Fostering knowledge flows & innovation – Aligning research with practice needs

Join us for the 2nd session of this event, where we'll explore how research can achieve real-world impact through multi-actor and co-creation approaches, bridging science, and practice. In this context, the event will also address the challenges faced by researchers in initiating co-creation processes and fostering collaboration. In addition, multi-actor and co-creation approaches including Knowledge Hubs and Networks of lighthouse farms will be presented.

Agenda

10:00H-10:15H

Introduction to the event and to modernAKIS

Julia Eberharter, Austrian Chamber of Agriculture, Austria (Moderation)
Stephanie Bürger, Austrian Rural Educational Institute, Austria

10:15H-10:30H

Co-creation or Co-frustration? Structural barriers that researchers face in engaging in multi-actor approaches

Sangeun Bae, University of Hohenheim, Germany

10:30H-10:45H

Swedish Knowledge Hubs

Jennie Cederholm Björklund, Swedish CAP Network, Sweden

10:45H-11:00H

Lighthouse farms as innovation drivers for soil and climate-friendly farming strategies: The Austrian network

Niklas Bruhn, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences Vienna, Austria

11:00H-11:30H

Q&A Session

Julia Eberharter, Austrian Chamber of Agriculture, Austria

Key Learnings

- Explore multi-actor and co-creation approaches
- Explore the concept of Knowledge Hubs
- Explore the concept of networks of lighthouse farms
- Gain inspiration from expert experiences across different countries.

Who should join?

- Researchers and academics
- Advisors, innovation support services, and other providers of specialized services
- AKIS coordination bodies
- Networks (CAP network or other)
- Managing authorities and Public authorities



Meet the Speakers



Sangeun BAE
Scientific staff member
and PhD candidate
University of Hohenheim



Jennie Cederholm Björklund
Innovation Coach and
AKIS Coordinator
Swedish CAP Network



Niklas Bruhn
Doctoral student
University of Natural Resources
and Life Sciences (BOKU) Vienna

Sangeun Bae is a scientific staff and PhD candidate at the Institute of Communication and Advisory Services in Rural Areas at the University of Hohenheim in Germany. Her research deals with the role of reflection in facilitating social learning processes in multi-actor collaborations. Outside of research, she is also an active trainer, engaged in several training programs aimed at developing competencies for participatory research and innovation.

Jennie Cederholm Björklund holds a PhD in Innovation Science focusing AKIS and entrepreneurship in agriculture, and works for the Swedish CAP Network as an Innovation Coach and AKIS Coordinator, as well as Coordinator of Innovation Support within EIP-Agri. She also coordinates the Swedish AKIS CoP and is the Swedish representative in the consortium for modernAKIS.

Niklas Bruhn holds a Master's degree in Organic Farming and currently works as a doctoral student at the Institute of Agronomy at BOKU University in Vienna. In his PhD thesis, he investigates effects of regenerative farming practices on different soil health indicators in arable soils. He is part of the research group "Boden.Pioniere" at BOKU who, together with farmers and extensionists, collaborate to set up a network of lighthouse farms in Austria.



Presentations

Co-creation or Co-frustration? Structural barriers that researchers face in engaging in multi-actor approaches

Co-creation is now the cornerstone of EU research and policy agenda. But is it enough to simply bring researchers and practitioners together? In this presentation, we draw on ongoing work from the ModernAKIS project to explore the less visible – but deeply influential – barriers that researchers face in engaging in meaningful co-creative processes. We argue that without addressing these underlying structures, co-creation risks becoming a source of frustration rather than the transformative goal it seeks. Ultimately, the presentation aims to spark reflection on what needs to change – at different intervention levels – to make co-creation truly work.

Swedish Knowledge Hubs

This presentation will outline the reason and purpose behind the establishment of the four Swedish knowledge hubs, as well as their mission and working methods.

Lighthouse farms as innovation drivers for soil and climate-friendly farming strategies: The Austrian network

Bodenpioniere 2050 is a national Austrian research project aiming to make soils more climate-resilient and ensure sustainable food production. It brings together over 100 living labs and lighthouse farms and researchers to co-develop practical, science-based strategies for improving soil health. The focus is on enhancing organic matter content, nutrient efficiency, and climate adaptation through regenerative practices. Modern tools and data (including satellite imagery) are used to assess soil functions and management impacts. A key goal is to support EU targets - 75% healthy soils by 2030 - through farm-based innovation, as well as setting up a network of lighthouse farms in Austria. The project will deliver a soil health advisory tool and identify high-performing farming systems. Close collaboration between farmers and institutions like BOKU ensures practice-oriented research.