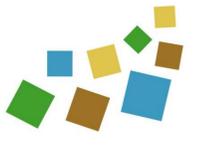


INtegrated Spatial Planning, land use and soil management Research ActiON:



National results: ROMANIA

Societal challenges and needs

- Most of the small and medium-sized farmers in Romania do not have the proper knowledge in the field of management methods, modern production technologies and food safety standards, nor about the environmental practices that bring benefits to biodiversity, soil and water. The research and innovation sector is not sufficiently adapted to the specific needs of farmers. The modest collaboration between farmers and stakeholders promoting innovation and research has led to a **limited research and innovation transfer from suppliers to farmers**.
- The natural environment of Romania is generally characterized by a good preservation of natural resources of soil and water, variety of traditional landscapes and a remarkable biological diversity. Romania has one of the richest resources of agricultural land that can be classified as having high nature value (ranked 5th in EU-27, with a surface of over 5 mil ha). **Opportunities regarding the existing resources are often overlooked**.
- The yields in the Romanian agriculture have a modest level, indicating a use of production factors far below the optimum values. The average cereal production per ha in Romania continues to be 30% below the EU level. Some reasons are related with the **low use of the inputs in agriculture or the insufficient/improper use of alternative input sources**. However, in Romania, the pressure exerted by fertilizers and pesticides on soil and water is low, but the use of chemical fertilizers in agriculture has a tendency to increase (by 13% in 2012 compared to 2007).
- Top societal challenges seen as important: (i) "Contribution to food security and food safety", (ii) "Reduce raw material and resource consumption, Ensure efficient use of natural resources" and "Contribute to a healthy living environment", (iii) "Contribute to climate change mitigation and societal adaptation".

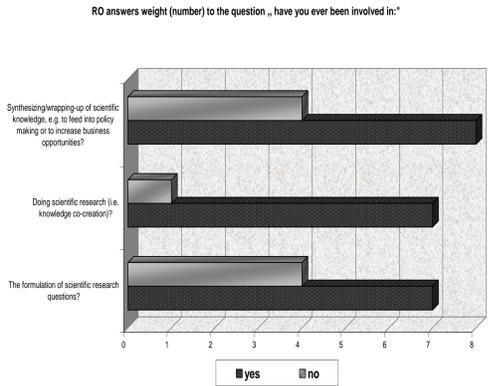


Topics / research needs to be included in the SRA

- RO-1: Food security and food safety. Soil and water management environmentally oriented practices: a need for more practical tools for farmers;
- RO-2: A healthy living environment. Organic farming fits the current state of the soil quality and land use in the country? Well, yes;
- RO-3: Raw material and resource consumption. Nutrients: maintain and improve soil fertility under the increased demand of higher yields and increased rates of nutrients export.

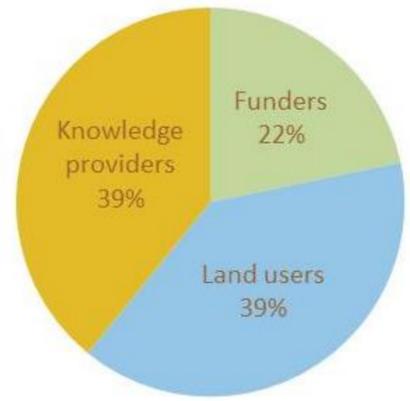
Experiences regarding the connection of science to policy and practice

- Connecting the content of discussions held in the NKS Workshop held in September 2015 with the results of the questionnaire based study, the following top of the most important national Science-Policy-Interface documents came up:
 - I. National Strategy for Research, Development and Innovation 2014-2020;
 - II. National Rural Development Program 2014 – 2020;
 - III. Strategy for the agri-food sector medium and long term development – horizon 2020/2030.
- Generally, the NKS capacity to influence the setting of scientific research policies/agendas in the country is low. Few NKS were involved in "doing scientific research".



Background of Romanian Key Stakeholders

- In total, 23 expert interviews were conducted.
- 17 experts participated in the national workshop in Agieea - Constanta on 10th –13th Sept. 2015.



National and transnational funding schemes

- Ministry of National Education and Research, National Authority for Research and Innovation- Core Programs
- UEFSCDI, Ministry of National Education and Research- National Plan for Research, Development and Innovation
- Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development-Research Sectorial Plan
- Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development- Rural Development National Plan 2014-2020, Measure 16, Cooperation (to be open)

A key message from Romania:

- NKS quote: "(Within the national research programs), little attention in Romania is given to the soil issues, with particular emphasize to water and plant relationship. With regard to the sediment, there is no interest recorded at all. There are also some other topics overlooked, like conservation agriculture technologies, nutrients management, soil quality monitoring at large scale, GHG emissions or even the training of the soil scientists. The **inexistence of an EU Directive for Soil and Soil protection** hampers the funding for fundamental and applied research in soil science and the awareness and priority given to the soil importance is low. In Romania, the research thematic area regarding soil was dropped from the National Research Plan".

