

## Innovation support in farmer-driven processes – Lessons from Greece

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**Abstract:** *Nowadays, the dominant linear paradigm of agricultural innovation espousing that innovations originate from scientists, are transferred by extension agents and are applied by farmers, has lost utility as an explanation of what happens. Therefore, emphasis has shifted from transfer towards joint learning in and by multi-actor networks and Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems (AKIS). This paper, following the afore-mentioned problematique/rationale, aims at analysing the interactive innovation cases explored during the AgriSpin H2020 project ([www.agrispin.eu](http://www.agrispin.eu)) cross-visit to Greece which took place in the context of a wider study of over 57 innovation cases across 13 case study regions. More specifically, this paper aims at illustrating the support needed by groups of farmers in the process of putting together and implementing innovative ideas (see: spiral of innovations and innovation support functions) and the role(s) of various actors in providing farmers with the necessary support. It is worth noting a) that in Greece there is no extension mechanism and b) that the cases examined, besides the technical-knowledge component of the innovation pursued, have a strong social-organisational component in that they attempt to introduce a new collaborative scheme (new generation cooperatives) in Greece.*

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