Brief summary of the meeting:

The main aims of the Knowledge Network on Sustainable Intensification (KNSI) kick off meeting were to introduce one another and exchange information, discuss and adopt the terms of reference for the KNSI Committee and to establish a programme of work for 2016-2017.

Huub Löffler (GB, NL) opened the meeting and FACCE-JPI and KNSI were introduced by Annette Wijering (GB Vice Chair) and Lucy Foster (GB, UK) respectively. During the first half of the meeting, MACSUR and the UK national SI networks were presented with an aim to have a view on how a Knowledge Network could look like. It was concluded that the KNSI should learn from their best practices and draw from their strengths and weaknesses. Smart goals and priorities should be set in line with the available resources. It was noted that the added value of KNSI was in bringing together the researchers and funders/policymakers which would ensure a broader view of the SI landscape to help identify synergies and gaps.

In session 1, the terms of reference (ToR) of the KNSI Committee was presented (by Paul Wiley, Secretariat), discussed and adopted following clarification and agreement on few issues:

- Flexibility to accommodate the meetings according to the Committee’s request;
- Standardising to ‘country’ or ‘member country’ when referring to participating countries;
- Statement about new memberships (country) in the KNSI to be separated from the paragraph on ‘duration of Committee membership’;
- Reiterating that the exchange of information between the participating country and the NRLs and NFRs should occur.

In session 2, the National Funder Representatives (NFRs) and National Research Leads (NRLs) or their representatives from 9 participating countries (CH, DK, ES, FI, FR, IE, NL, NO and UK) gave presentations on their current national state of play in the SI (Sustainable Intensification) domain.

Following key points were noted from the presentations:

- Most participating countries have no formal SI networks but a lot of activities are happening in the area;
- The participating countries feel that the network will be valuable to align transnational activities and ensure collaborative approach to achieving SI. They are keen to share data, information, expertise and best practices to build on current knowledge.
- The participating countries feel that the network should contribute to influencing high level European policy agendas e.g. Food and Nutrition Security Strategy, FP9 etc.
- The Knowledge Network could help increase impacts in SI and in broader issues of agriculture, food security and climate change by facilitating integration at different aspects and levels (from farm to consumers, from research to farmers and end-users).

During the second half of the meeting, the Committee discussed the potential programme of work. Following the discussions, the Committee noted the following main actions for 2016-2017:

- Mapping of SI related activities, key sites (study farm, research site etc.), key areas covered, economic constraints and standard SI metrics and indicators;
• Defining boundaries for SI i.e. scope of the network activities;
• Discuss and agree on ways of working (who does what and when);
• In the longer term, the KNSI should aim to achieve all the objectives outlined in the ToR.

The Committee then discussed the transversal issues of capacity building, data and infrastructure, information dissemination and miscellaneous topics related to the network in a world café setting. Some main themes emerged as below:

• Capacity building: links to existing initiatives (e.g. Nitrogen programme), possibilities for training schools, exchange of information and expertise with non-EU countries given the global nature of the theme, indicators and metrics for capacity building, ensuring self-sustainability of the network etc.
• Data and infrastructure: Identify the type of data that is needed and how it would be obtained through a dynamic mapping, create a metadata to generate meaningful information, developing agrimetrics data, identify and develop infrastructures (farm systems, modelling, databases etc.), develop tools for decision making etc.
• Information dissemination: create a website/webpage, identify key audience group (funders, policymakers, farmers etc.) and determine what should be communicated to whom (SI mobile app?), communicate at a global scale, ways to raise awareness about SI etc.
• Other related issues: clarify roles of KNSI committee members, align with global agendas like SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals), establish clear benefits of joining KNSI (with examples), determine how and when to involve competing networks, a ‘blueprint’ for how other countries could develop their own national SI network, learning from the existing examples etc.

The next steps were summarised by Dorri te Boekhorst and the meeting was then concluded by Huub. Following are the actions for the KNSI Secretariat:
• Finalise the Terms of Reference of the Committee;
• Contact the KNSI Committee with regards to the election/appointment of two co-Chairs;
• Circulate doodle poll to agree on a date for the next meeting – explore the possibility to have it back to back with the TempAg meeting of 5th – 7th October 2016;
• Prepare a report to include summary of all presentations, input into transversal issues (world café session) and an action plan for 2016-2017;
• Take forward the actions coming out of the meeting.

A detailed report of the meeting will be prepared and circulated for comments in the coming weeks.

END

FACCE-JPI Secretariat /MB

June 2016