



Scotland's centre of expertise connecting  
climate change research and policy

# CXC: Land use and a just transition

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# Establishing an agricultural knowledge and innovation system

Agricultural land management

Mitigating climate change

Addressing biodiversity crisis

A just transition for land and agriculture



[Just transition in land use and agriculture: a discussion paper](#)

# The policy context

## NOW – Farm Advisory Service

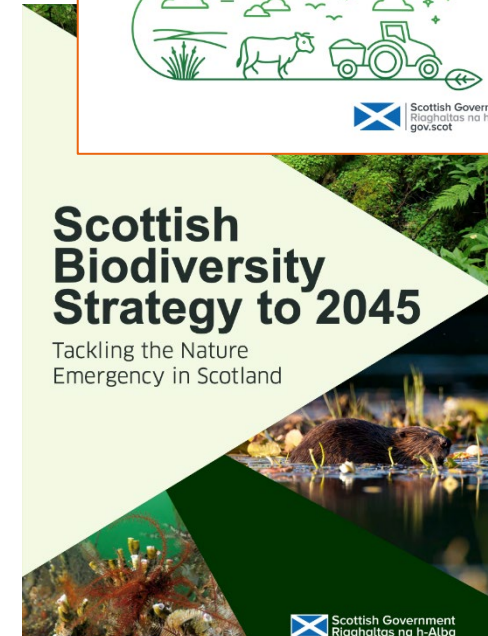
- currently £5m per year
- delivers a trusted advice service to farmers, land managers and crofters

## NEXT – agricultural knowledge and innovation service

- to support delivery of the just transition to a net zero rural economy (broadly aligned to EU CAP principles)



Agriculture and Rural Communities (Scotland) Bill	
[AS INTRODUCED]	
CONTENTS	
Section	
	<b>PART 1</b>
	OBJECTIVES AND PLANNING
1	Overarching objectives of agricultural policy
2	Rural support plan
3	Rural support plan: matters to be considered
	<b>PART 2</b>
	SUPPORT FOR AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED MATTERS
	<i>Power to provide support</i>
4	Power to provide support
5	Funding third party support



# The research

## Assess the existing evidence

- For design and implementation from existing systems
- From countries comparable to Scotland
  - Ireland, Sweden, Flanders

## Present options for a potential model for Scotland

- Based on engagement with a representative group of stakeholders

### Authors

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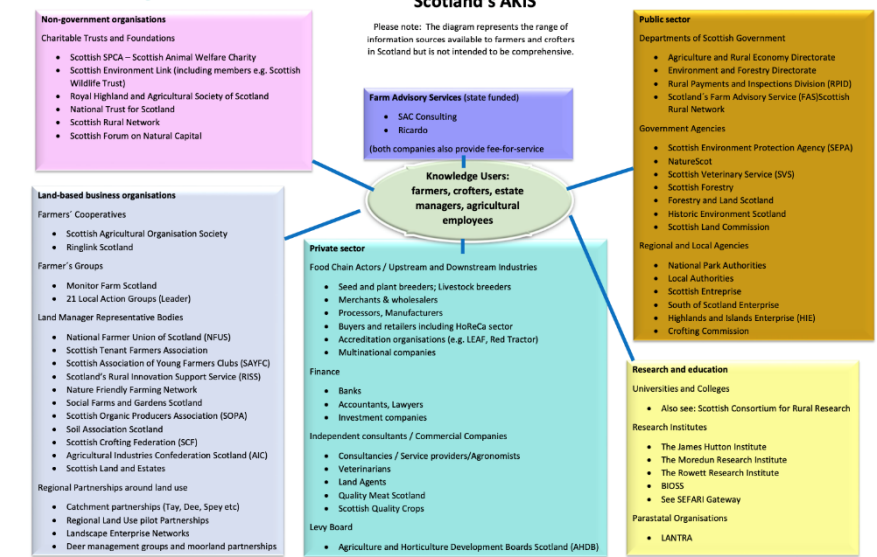
The James Hutton Institute

# Results

## 35 options across 6 themes

- Creating a unified system – that is inclusive and responsive
- Factoring in regional variation and specialisation
- Supporting peer-to-peer learning and farmer collaboration
- Promoting diversity and generational renewal
- Digital opportunities and upskilling
- Building capacity across the system

9.3 Scottish AKIS Diagram



### 1.3 AKIS options summary table

Option	Strengths	Weaknesses	Opportunities	Threats
<b>Creating a unified AKIS</b>				
1. Institutionally integrated AKIS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One-stop shop for land managers.</li> <li>Reduce duplication of service and address gaps.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Very expensive to achieve (logistical barriers).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Could build on the current FAS.</li> <li>Direct alignment to emerging needs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No stakeholder support for this option.</li> <li>Over-centralisation could make it unwieldy</li> </ul>
2. Direct Supports to a broader range of organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Actively enrol a diverse array of organisations in advice provision.</li> <li>Broaden the reach of advisors.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential for duplication and bureaucracy associated with allocating funding.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased collaboration: different organisations providing specific services.</li> <li>Competition between potential service providers could increase quality.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Limited stakeholder support for this option.</li> <li>Potential for fragmentation.</li> </ul>
3. Formal AKIS Governance Structure: AKIS Secretariat and/or Oversight Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mechanism for strategic direction.</li> <li>Mechanism for identifying and bridging gaps</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Challenging to reconcile competing interests.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Empower stakeholders to direct AKIS development.</li> <li>Mechanism to identify and address gaps.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Could become bureaucratic and political.</li> <li>Requires a clear remit.</li> </ul>
4. Strategic Plan for AKIS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Achievement of Scottish Government's aims for the</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increases bureaucracy.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Should bring together multiple policy areas (e.g., agriculture,</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Good governance is important to ensure opportunities for</li> </ul>

# Delivering a just transition in Scotland

- We can learn a lot from international partners – e.g. Ireland, Sweden & Flanders
- Regional and national levels, but also understanding personal interaction, e.g. peer-to-peer learning
- An integrated approach :
  - across different ‘institutions’ (formal and informal)
  - Integrated across land uses – thinking widely
  - Integrated across the rural economy



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