

Facts & Figures



Agrilink partner

Ruralis



Budget for advisory

10 mill €¹



Number of farms

38 938²

A brief history of national/regional farm advisory policies

- From governmental driven extension to demand driven advisory service.
- Public extension service: from extension to support, regulation and control.
- Fragmentation of advisory service.

The Norwegian advisory service system has transformed from a governmental-driven strategy with farming and public goods in focus, into a commercialized business with farmers in focus. As in many other countries, the agriculture sector in Norway has shifted to be more market oriented since the late 1980s. The number of farms declined, and those remaining became larger and more specialized. Specialization in production and new eco-

nomical activities on farms have increased the need for specific competence building and related advisory service support to farmers. This transformation in AKIS governance over the last 30 years has also affected its advisory system. For example, there is a smaller budget for publicly funded advisory services at the county and municipal levels. Hence, the advisory service is private to a high degree and dominated by farmer-owned cooperatives.

Key objectives of current Regional farm advisory policies

- Farmer owned cooperatives dedicated to take care of advisory service.
- Implicit objective for advisory service.
- Public sector more on support and control.

The main objectives in national policy for agriculture are:

- Food security, regional distribution of agriculture, increase sustainability, increase value added;
- No specific regional policy for advisory service. County level may support specific efforts to strengthen regional advisory service;
- Advisory service is intended to adapt to national policy, and implement objectives for agriculture;
- Ambitious objectives for knowledge and innovation policy in agriculture but in general

poor explicit description of the role of advisory service, except: advisory service is pointed to as an important tool to meet climate change;

- Farmer owned cooperatives are the main actors in advisory service and competence development;
- Governmental bodies support financing investments at farm, in development projects at local, regional and national level at both traditional and differentiated productions.

(Source: Ministry of Agriculture and Food. 2016. "Meld. St. 11 (2016 – 2017) Endring og utvikling: En fremtidsrettet jordbruksproduksjon.")

¹ Governmental support to advisory service, National budget 2020

² SSB 2019

Overview of advisory public policies and of their impact on regimes

The table below showcases the main advisory policy tools and their impacts on the advisory regimes in the region/country of study. Agrilink partners identified the most relevant policy tools as well as their funding, competent authority in charge

and type of instrument. The effects of the policy tools in the advisory regime of the regions/country are described in terms of boundaries, identities, attributes, financing and control.

Policy tools linked to EU policies			
What?	Funding R&D and funding of program for competence development	Public supporting structure: 1) Gvnm bodies 2) Funding projects 3) Support farm investments	Market based, private and cooperative farmer owned advisory service
How?	State funding, research fee on products from farmers. Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Norwegian Agriculture Agency, Research Council Norway. Various funding schemes, mostly call for tenders	State funding. Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Norwegian Agriculture Agency, County governors, municipalities Various funding schemes. Guiding funding. Control.	Own funding, paid by farmers direct/indirect. NAES support funding. Project support.
Impact	Diffuse strategy for advisory service in national agricultural policy but advisory service can be partner in R&D. Efforts to meet climate change are revitalizing the role of advisory service Demand driven and own paid advisory service may increase relevance but also exclude groups of farmers Independent advisory service need public support to include those farmers that are not front runners Embedded advisory service is increasing, new advisory actors get stronger positions Increased competition in advisory service may lead to poor coordination	Project based funding for advisory service.	Demand driven advisory service that must show benefit for farmers, often in short term. Market oriented advisory service. Groups of farmers do not follow the market.

