

NDA Lithuania

AKIS Organisation - Lithuania

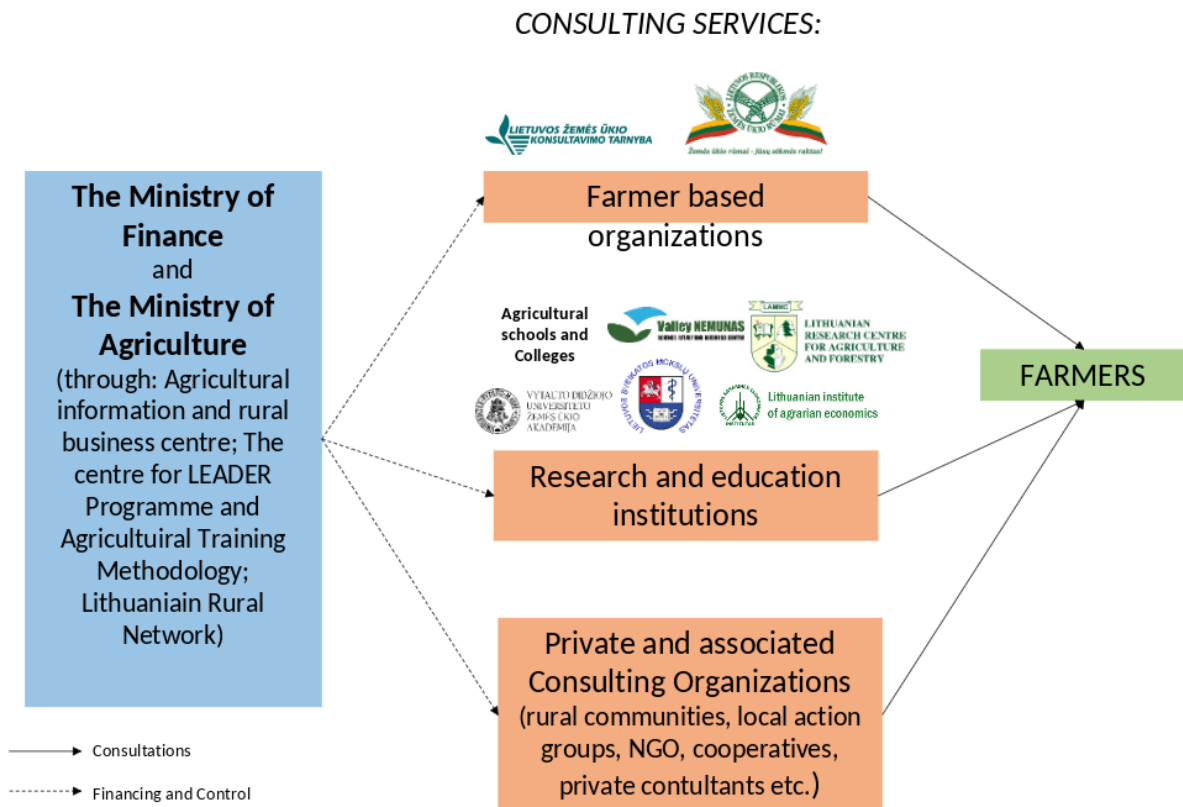


Figure 28. Dairy Agricultural Knowledge & Information System (AKIS) in Lithuania

Lithuania has a regional dairy AKIS that consists of 13 members (Figure 29):

- 6 pilot farms
- 3 associations: the Lithuanian Cattle Breeders Association, the Lithuanian Association of Breeders and Improvers of Beef Cattle, the Lithuanian Veterinary Doctors Association.
- 1 company: Litgenas
- 2 educational institutions: Vytautas Magnus University (VMU) Academy of Agriculture, Lithuanian Chamber of Agriculture (CARL)
- 1 government institution: Lithuanian Ministry of Agriculture

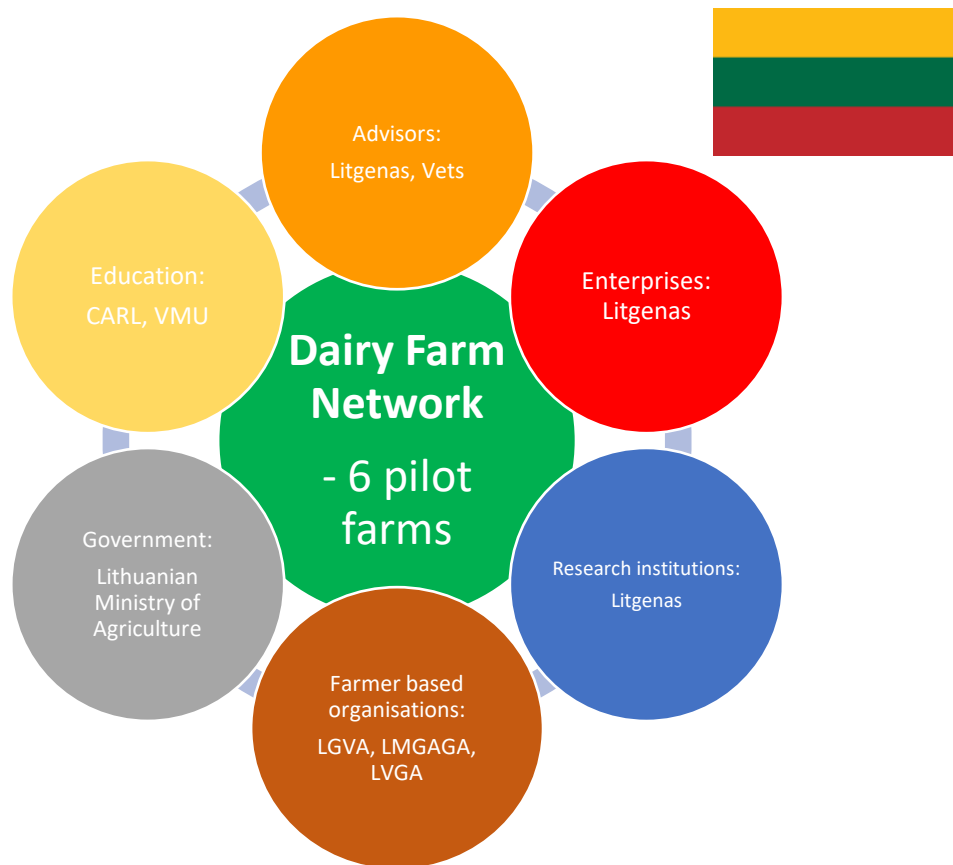


Figure 29. The regional dairy AKIS of Lithuania consists of 6 pilot farms and 7 non-farmer institutions each with their own expertises.

Below, each member will be described into more detail.

Pilot farms

The six pilot farms are spread over Lithuania and are depicted in Figure 30.



Figure 30. Location of the 6 pilot farms in Lithuania.

1. Ieva Bitaitytė (Vaitiekūnai)
 - Volume of milk production: 420000 litres per year
 - Dairy cows: 58
 - Reason to include this farm: The farm is housed in old collective farm buildings, but plans are afoot to reconstruct them and adapt them to new technologies.
2. Saulius Gaidžiūnas (Grinkiškis)
 - Volume of milk production: 940,000 litres per year
 - Dairy cows: 124
 - Reason to include this farm: This farm is currently working on a project for robotic milking. A complete overhaul of cow housing and care is planned.
3. Audronė Rudienė (Kusiai)
 - Volume of milk production: 400 000 litres per year

- Dairy cows:
56
 - Reason to include this farm:
Tethered livestock farm resulting in loss of milk and, at the same time, farm earnings.
4. Donatas Kaktys (Plungė)
- Volume of milk production:
650 000 litres per year
 - Dairy cows:
70
 - Reason to include this farm:
Farmers apply new technologies related to livestock breeding, feeding, health in order to use resources more efficiently. Farmers use a cow management program cow manager. Farmers water calves with an automated system Urban Alma Pro.
5. Vilmantas Navickas (Vilkaviškis)
- Volume of milk production:
130 000 litres per year
 - Dairy cows:
30
 - Reason to include this farm:
They change the system, rebuild the old stables to new ones.
6. Viktorija Švedienė (Kėdainiai)
- Volume of milk production:
63832 litres per year
 - Dairy cows:
8
 - Reason to include this farm:
Cows on hot days are kept in the shade with artificial ventilation, graze freely in the meadows for about 7 months. As far as possible, we apply non-destructive tillage as much as possible.

Non-farmer stakeholders

Education:

1. Vytautas Magnus University, Academy of Agriculture
This is a place where knowledge about nature and technology are combined to move us towards a safer, cleaner, greener future. Here, a community inspired by sustainability ideas discovers opportunities to improve the world in practical, meaningful, and innovative ways. The Academy is a strong university school of agricultural sciences in the Baltic region, working alongside the world's best universities, serving its own country and the sustainable development of the world.
2. The Chamber of agriculture of the Republic of Lithuania
Dialogue and partnership between the people of rural Lithuania, farmers and the authorities, as well as international interest representation and cooperation, are the cornerstones of the activities of the organisations of the Chamber of Agriculture. CARL organises training courses to introduce modern and efficient breeding, rearing, and feeding of breeding heifers on dairy farms. The objectives of the training programme are to introduce the principles of building a healthy and productive herd, the modern basics and objectives of feeding breeding heifers,

and the systems and methods of rearing and rearing of offspring cattle. This training programme can help farmers to identify the weaknesses in their heifer production and address them at the lowest possible cost, by making efficient use of the genetic potential of their farms and by innovating to create a sustainable and economically strong dairy farm.

Advisors:

1. Litgenas
Represented by Edvardas Gedgaudas
Lithuanian – German JSC “Litgenas” is a breeding company in Lithuania, founded in 1993. With more than 20 years of experience we can offer our clients the highest quality products and services. JSC “ Litgenas” produces bull and boar semen, imports highly evaluated bull semen from foreign countries, offers cow and pig insemination services in Lithuania, consults breeders and mediates cattle sales in Lithuania and other European countries.
2. Veterinarian
Represented by Rasa Bitaitienė
Rasa Bitaitienė works as an independent consultant on the dairy farms of Ieva Bitaitytė and Saulijus Gaidžiūnas. She has been working for many years taking care of the cows on the farm, welcoming new-borns, choosing the right food, etc.

Enterprise:

1. Litgenas
Litgenas' specialists provide farmers with advice, together with an overview of the overall analysis of the farm and help them to choose the right bulls according to the latest global evaluations. They also sell boar semen and insemination equipment and a wide range of goods. Litgenas seedstock breeders provide seedstock breeding services to farmers. They also work with seed breeders throughout Lithuania. In line with global innovations, they can offer the Cowmanager herd management software to perform various calculations, pairings and make the best decisions to improve the economic efficiency of the farm.

Researchers:

1. Litgenas
Litgenas' specialists provide farmers with advice, together with an overview of the overall analysis of the farm and help them to choose the right bulls according to the latest global evaluations. They also sell boar semen and insemination equipment and a wide range of goods. Litgenas seedstock breeders provide seedstock breeding services to farmers. They also work with seed breeders throughout Lithuania. In line with global innovations, they can offer the Cowmanager herd management software to perform various calculations, pairings and make the best decisions to improve the economic efficiency of the farm.

Farmer based organisation:

1. The Lithuanian Cattle Breeders Association (LGVA)
The LGVA is an officially recognised breeding authority. The LGVA is entitled to carry out the breeding programme for Holstein and Holstein cattle and to keep a herd book for these cattle. The pedigree book is used to issue pedigree certificates for breeding cattle based on the data in the herd book of animals kept by members of the LGVA. The cattle of the members of the Association are entered in the herd book in accordance with the provisions

of the Herd Book Regulations. The entry of a bovine animal in the Stud Book is important because only a bovine animal with pedigree data will be recognised as a breeding animal.

2. The Lithuanian Association of Breeders and Improvers of Beef Cattle (LMGAGA)

The Lithuanian Association of Meat Cattle Breeders and Improvers is an autonomous public organisation set up to meet the common needs of its members. The Association cooperates with the State Livestock Breeding Supervision Service under the Ministry of Agriculture, the State Food and Veterinary Services, the Chamber of Agriculture, scientific institutions, municipalities, agricultural processing enterprises, other public organisations in Lithuania and abroad.

3. The Lithuanian Veterinary Doctors Association (LVGA)

The Lithuanian Veterinary Surgeons' Association unites veterinarians, registers refresher training events, prepares draft normative acts and amendments to normative acts related to veterinary medicine, animal husbandry, organisation of veterinary work, professional rights and obligations of veterinarians, veterinary labour relations and social matters and proposes them to the relevant institutions for consideration. The Association is a member of the World Federation of Veterinarians and the European Veterinary Federation. The aim of the Association is to bring together veterinarians, to promote veterinary science, education and practice, to inform the public about developments in veterinary medicine, and to defend the professional, social, economic and academic interests of its members.

Government:

1. Lithuanian Ministry of Agriculture

An institution of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania responsible for the implementation and coordination of state policy in the field of agriculture, food, fishery, rural development and agriculture.

Facilitation methods

What have we done?

Two national meetings were organised to discuss dairy farming in Lithuania. During the brainstorm, the main aspects that Lithuanian representatives should work on in this project were discussed and the main challenges that dairy farmers face were highlighted.

What was easy?

It was easy to find motivated pilot farms farmers.

What was difficult?

The COVID-19 situation has made it difficult to get the group together. Meetings were held remotely.