

Inishowen Uplands European Innovation Partnership (EIP)

PRESENTATION

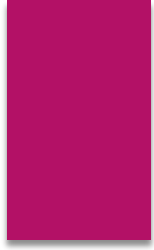


Introduction to the project

- ▶ Inishowen peninsula is a very distinct area in North West Ireland
- ▶ Mixed farming mainly cattle and sheep (APPROX 2500 FARMS)
- ▶ Many farms consist of lowlands, Uplands and commonage
- ▶ Flood mitigation is a theme running through all the project
- ▶ **KEY OBJECTIVE- To improve the profitability and sustainability of farming in Inishowen**



Location of the Inishowen Peninsula



Measures involved in the project

- Upland Grazing with Cattle
- Agroforestry
- Establishment of diverse clover swards
- Establishment of red clover for forage conservation
- Pond creation



Cattle on the uplands

- ▶ Mixed grazing beneficial for all animals
- ▶ Increases grazing platform
- ▶ Improves biodiversity of uplands
- ▶ Keeps land eligible for payments
- ▶ Improve the returns from farming

Agroforestry



Agroforestry- supporting conventional Agricultural enterprises

- ▶ Extending the grazing season
- ▶ Providing shelter to farm animals
- ▶ Prevent disease spread between animals
- ▶ Capture nutrients from the deeper soil
- ▶ Improve water infiltration / dry up land
- ▶ Reduce the need for housing of animals
- ▶ Increase biodiversity
- ▶ Increase carbon sequestration

Where to locate the Agroforestry

- ▶ On existing boundaries beside hedges
- ▶ In exposed areas
- ▶ In wetter areas and areas where water flows can be reduced
- ▶ Beside existing trees
- ▶ Where we will increase the resilience of the farm
- ▶ To join up wildlife corridors











White clover based diverse swards



White clover based diverse swards

- ▶ Reduce Nitrogen fertiliser use
- ▶ Improve drainage of soil
- ▶ Deep rooting
- ▶ High quality forage
- ▶ Health benefits

Red clover swards for fodder production



Red clover swards for fodder conservation

- ▶ Reduce nitrogen fertiliser use
- ▶ Produce high quality feed
- ▶ Produce large quantity of feed
- ▶ Improve soil structure and drainage
- ▶ Improve water infiltration

Farm ponds



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Farm ponds

- ▶ Increase biodiversity
- ▶ Provide flood mitigation
- ▶ Farm water supply

Farmer participation

- ▶ Approximately 30 farms
- ▶ Full engagement with as many of measures as possible
- ▶ Detailed analysis of measures established and maintained on farm
- ▶ Detailed analysis of financial returns from measures
- ▶ One to one consultation and advise
- ▶ Group consultation and workshop sessions (KT by another name!!)
- ▶ Detailed analysis of performance of measures

Timelines

21st of June Deadline for receipt of completed applications

- ▶ May be second call when we measure level of engagement of each individual participant to ensure full budget is allocated
- ▶ October 2019 farmers join the scheme
- ▶ Farm plans in place by January 2020
- ▶ 31st December 2023 project ends

Conclusions

- ▶ Agroforestry is a long term project and results will not be evident over a short period
- ▶ Measurement of results of all types is crucial.
- ▶ Huge potential for climate change mitigation
- ▶ Ireland has no history of Agroforestry
- ▶ Trees have a place in all farming systems and have an opportunity to provide additional income to farmers.