

EIP-AGRI

Operational Groups

Ireland



Dr Maura Farrell – NUIG/NRN
Margaret Murray – DAFM
SCAR-AKIS Meeting 16th April 2019



Overview

» **Introduction** – Dr Maura Farrell

» EIP-AGRI OGs Ireland

» Background and Selection



Margaret Murray
DAFM

» OGs – Up and Running

» ‘Off the Ground’ – Research Results

» NRN and EIP-AGRI OGs



Maura Farrell
NUIG/NRN



Operational Groups: Background and Selection



Ireland's EIP AGRI: Operational Groups

Themed – Hen Harrier = €25m



Themed – Pearl Water Mussel = €10m



Open Call – Environment = €20m



Open Call – General = €4m



Themed Projects

» Hen Harrier



» Pearl Mussel



- Both themes agreed with Commission as part of our RDP.
- Operational Groups recruited by **competitive tender**
- Responsible for developing local partnerships on the ground and developing actions



Open Call Projects

General and Environment

- **Bottom-up Operational Group Call**
- Recruited by a **simple** application process
- Designed to be **accessible** to all.
- **Stream A:** General
- **Stream B:** Environmental



First Call: Results

- 118 Applications
- 23 Successful to stage 2
- 12 Successful to full implementation
- **Stream A:** 3 General OGs
- **Stream B:** 9 Environmental OGs
- All projects have commenced



Second Round: Results

- 69 Applications
- 19 Successful to stage 2
- **March 2018:** Workshop for all successful in stage 1
- **Stream B:** Environmental - 9 Successful to full implementation
- **November 2018:** Workshop for Groups successful in second call



Operational Groups – Up and Running





Irish EIP-AGRI Operational Groups



1 Inishowen Upland Farmers Project



2 Cúlra Créafóige - Cultivation Renewal Programme



3 The Conservation of Breeding Curlew in Ireland



4 Farming Rathcroghan Project



5 Maximising Organic Production Systems (MOPS)



6 North Connemara Locally Led Agri-environmental Scheme



7 Caomhnú Arann



8 Hen Harrier Project



9 Biomass to Biochar for Farm Bioeconomy (BBFB)



10 Mulkear EIP



11 Allow Project - Duhallow Farming for Blue Dot Catchments



12 Biorefinery Glas



Small Biogas Demonstration Programme 23



DANÚ Farming Group 22



Sustainable Uplands Agri-environment Scheme (SUAS) 21



Enable Conservation Tillage (ECT) 20



Blackstairs Farming Futures 19



The Duncannon Blue Flag Farming and Communities Scheme 18



Protecting Farmland Pollinators 17



Biodiversity Regeneration in a Dairying Environment (BRIDE) 16



Ovi Data 15



Pearl Mussel Project 14



Sustainable Agricultural Plan for the MacGillycuddy Reeks 13



* The location points for each EIP-AGRI Operational Group relates to the group's Lead Partner, however the Operational Groups, in most cases are far reaching regionally and nationally. A specific indication of 'Geographical Location' for each group can be found in the EIP-AGRI Project Storyboard Database on the National Rural Network website and also on the EIP-AGRI Service Point website.



Themed Projects

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Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

EIP-AGRI
Operational Groups

The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development
European Investing in Rural Areas

National Rural Network

Locally Led Scheme for the Conservation of the Hen Harrier

Geographical Location	IE 011 Border Region, IE 013 West, IE012 Midland, IE 025 South-West, IE 023 Mid-West
Keywords	Hen Harrier, Special Protection Area, High Nature Value Farming
Project Leader	Fergal Monaghan, the Hen Harrier Project Ltd. (email: fergal.monaghan@henharrierproject.ie)
Project Type	Operational Group
Starting Date	2017
End Date	2022
Project Status	Ongoing
Main Funding Source	Rural Development Programme (RDP) 2014-2020
Total Budget	€25,000,000



HEN HARRIER PROJECT

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EIP-AGRI
Operational Groups

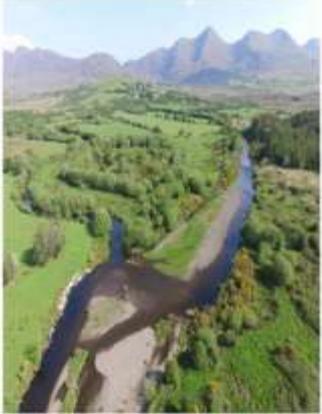
The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development
European Investing in Rural Areas

National Rural Network

Pearl Mussel Project

Farming for nature in a vibrant rural economy

Geographical Location	IE 025 South-West, IE 013 West, IE 011 Border Region
Keywords	Farming practice, Landscape management, Fertilisation and nutrients management, Water management, Biodiversity & nature management
Project Leader	Dr Patrick Crushell, The Pearl Mussel Project Ltd. (email: patrick@pearlproject.ie)
Project Type	Operational Group
Starting Date	2018
End Date	2023
Project Status	Ongoing
Main Funding Source	Rural Development Programme (RDP) 2014-2020
Total Budget	€10,000,000




Stream A – General EIP-AGRI OGS

	Project Title	Project Overview	Location	Calls
1	Biomass to Biochar for Farm Bioeconomy (BBFB)	Biomass to Bio-carbon for farm Bio-economy (BBFB)	Limerick / Clare	Stream A
2	Maximising Organic Production Systems (MOPS)	Maximising organic production through integrated cropping systems	Westmeath	Stream A
3	Ovi Data	Increasing sheep genetic gain in Ireland through scientific data capture and analysis	Cork / Kerry	Stream A

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National Rural Network

Biomass to Biochar for Farm Bioeconomy (BBFB)

Geographical Location	Clare & Galway (E 022 Mid-West)
Keywords	Biomass, Pyrolysis, Biochar, Innovation
Project Leader	Bernard Casey (email: boughiegal@mail@gmail.com)
Project Type	Operational Group
Starting Date	2018
End Date	2021
Project Status	Ongoing
Main Funding Source	Rural Development Programme (RDP) 2014-2020
Total Budget	€996,377



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Maximising Organic Production Systems (MOPS)
Maximising Organic Production through Integrated Cropping Systems

Geographical Location	Cork, Galway, Kildare, Kilkenny, Leitrim, Wicklow and Wexford
Keywords	Organic Horticulture, Cropping Systems, Collaborative Agriculture
Project Leader	Gillian Westbroek, Irish Organic Farmers and Growers Association (email: gill@westbroek@tda.ie)
Project Type	Operational Group
Starting Date	January 2018
End Date	December 2020
Project Status	Ongoing
Main Funding Source	Rural Development Programme (RDP) 2014-2020
Total Budget	€597,416



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Ovi Data
Increasing sheep genetic gain in Ireland through scientific data capture and analysis

Geographical Location	Ireland (not limited to one region)
Keywords	Sheep, Genetics, Genomics, Genotype, Parentage, Health, Carcass, Longevity
Project Leader	Earthen Wall, Sheep Ireland (email: ewall@sheep.ie)
Project Type	Operational Group
Starting Date	January 2018
End Date	December 2022
Project Status	Ongoing
Main Funding Source	Rural Development Programme (RDP) 2014-2020
Total Budget	€315,325



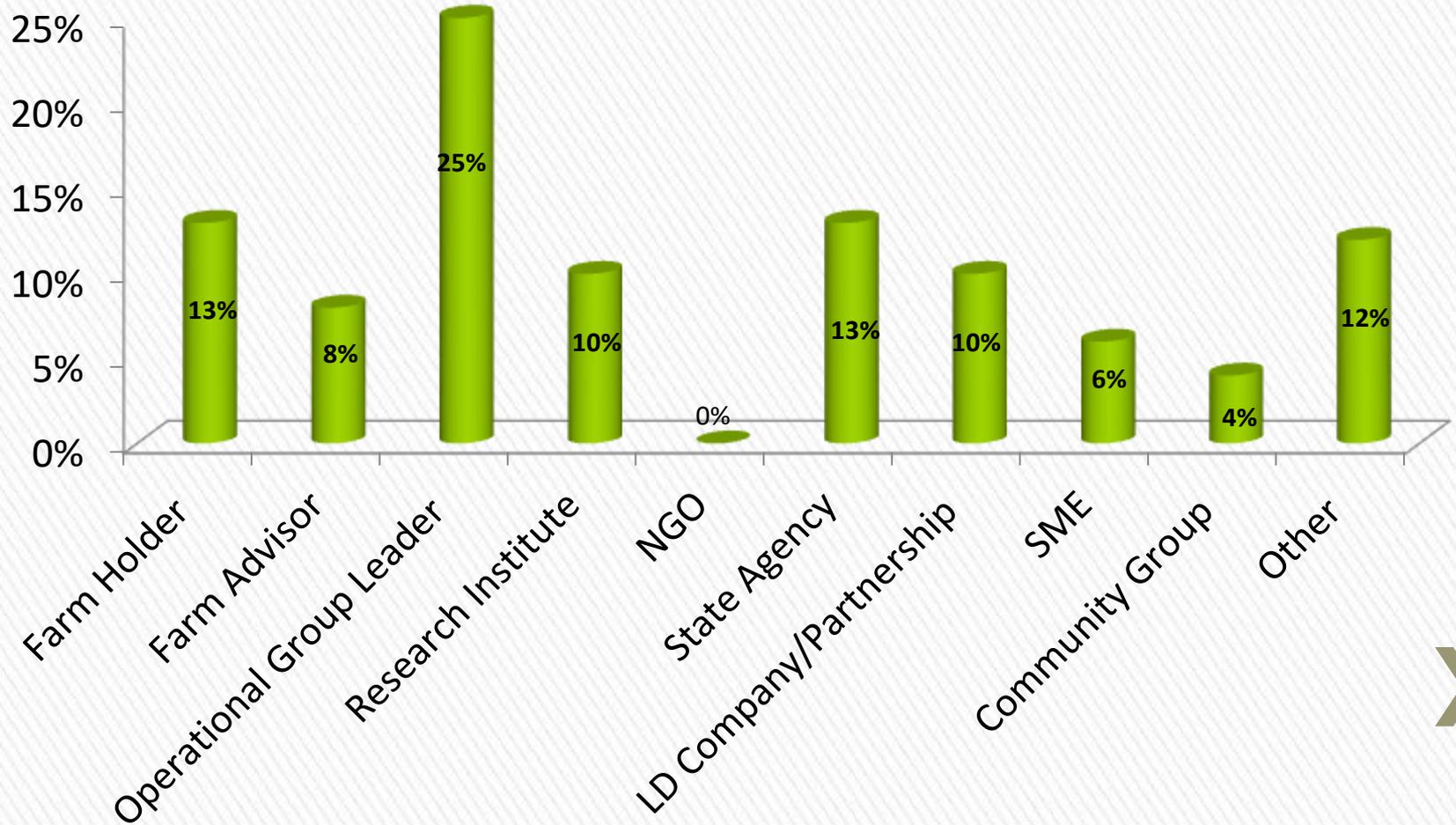


Stream B: OGS: Environment

	Project Title	Project Overview	Location	Calls
1	Allow Project - Duhallow Farming for Blue Dot Catchments	Protection of high ecological status water bodies.	North Cork	Stream B
2	Biodiversity Regeneration in a Dairying Environment (BRIDE)	Biodiversity Regeneration in a Dairying Environment (BRIDE Project)	Cork / Kerry	Stream B
3	Biorefinery Glas	Small Biogas Demonstration Programme	Nationwide	Stream B
4	Blackstairs Farming Futures	Sustainable farming project in the Blackstairs Mountains	Carlow / Wexford	Stream B
5	Caomhnú Arann	Managing the habitats of the Aran Islands to maximise their agricultural and ecological output	Mayo	Stream B
6	Cúlra Créafóige - Cultivation Renewal Programme	Restoration of small scale farming enterprises	Donegal	Stream B
7	DANÚ Farming Group	Project plan for a biological farming transition programme	Nationwide	Stream B
8	Enable Conservation Tillage (ECT)	Wider adoption of sustainable conservation tillage systems	Leinster	Stream B
9	Farming Rathcroghan Project	Sustainable farming in the Rathcroghan Archaeological Landscape	Roscommon	Stream B
10	Inishowen Upland Farmers Project	A whole farm approach landscape management	Inishowen, Donegal	Stream B
11	Mulkear Integrated Catchment Management Partnership	On Farm Technology Transfer to Enhance Water Quality in the Mulkear Catchment	Limerick and Tipperary	Stream B
12	North Connemara Locally Led Agri-environmental Scheme	Conemara West Locally Led Project	Galway/Mayo	Stream B
13	Protecting Farmland Pollinators	Encouraging whole farm polinator friendly	Waterford	Stream B
14	Irish BioEnergy Association (IrBEA)	Small Biogas Demonstration Programme	Nationwide	Stream B
15	Sustainable Agricultural Plan for the MacGillycuddy Reeks	Conservation and restoration of Upland Habitat in the MacGillycuddy Reeks	Cork / Kerry	Stream B
16	Sustainable Uplands Agri-environment Scheme (SUAS)	Addressing the complex agricultural, environmental and socio-economic challenges associated with the land management of the Wicklow/Dublin uplands	Dublin / Wicklow	Stream B
17	The Conservation of Breeding Curlew in Ireland	Conservation of Breeding Curlew in Ireland	Galway / Midlands	Stream B
18	The Duncannon Blue Flag Farming and Communities Scheme	Sustainable Farming Scheme	Wexford	Stream B

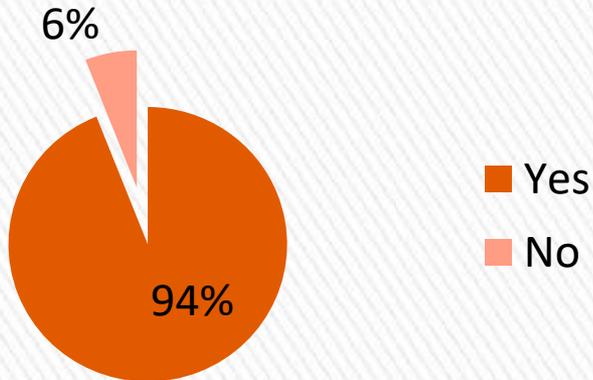
On-line Survey

All OGs: 52 Responses: 23 Operational Groups

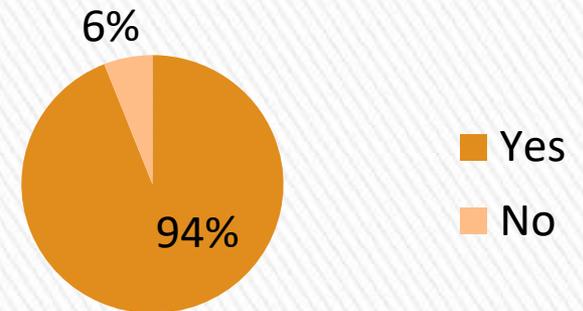


OG Set-Up

OG Fully Operational



All Original OG Members Still Involved



- “Some staff changes in local government”.
- “We have a full range of potential participants and experts in the group with only one body refusing to sign up”.
- “Two members left but were replaced”

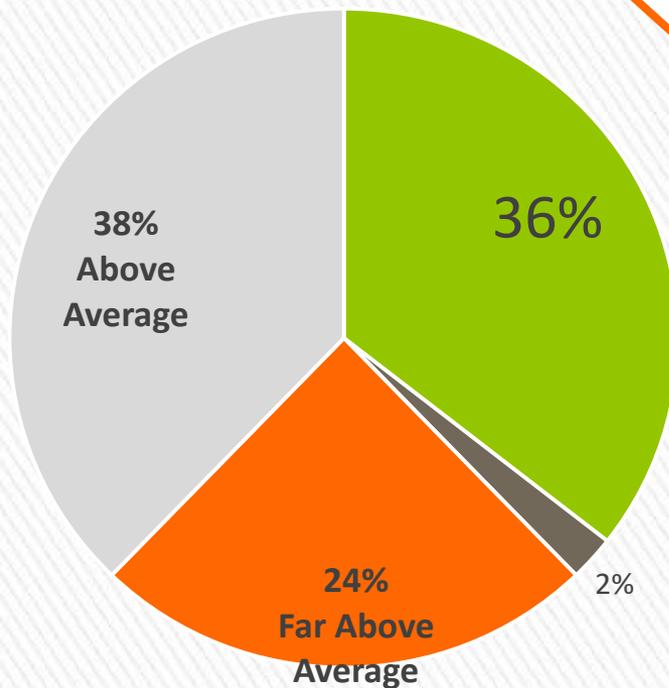


Rate Level of Involvement of All OG Members

- *“Everyone involved has volunteered their time and expertise towards bringing this project to fruition”.*
- *“It has been a big investment to all involved over the years and all are pleased and more than willing to see it through”.*
- *“An excellent diverse group of people that put a lot of their own time into it”.*
- *“OG meets on a quarterly basis and their input to the project is through various ways such as advisory/ research/ farm visits/ application forms and other data collection”.*

Level of Personal Involvement

Rate Level of Personal Involvement



■ Average

■ Below Average

- *“We are the lead organisation, so the main active member is ourselves*
- *I attend all meetings and keep in touch with some other members*
- *I may have under estimated the scale of the personal investment I have had to make in the running of the project.*
- *As Project Coordinator I may not be best positioned to answer this question. At a personal level, it sometimes feels all consuming!!!”*

Challenges in Setting up an OG

	NOT AT ALL CHALLENGING	SLIGHTLY CHALLENGING	MODERATELY CHALLENGING	VERY CHALLENGING	EXTREMELY CHALLENGING
Administration	7.32%	26.83%	34.15%	29.27%	0.00%
Working with the different OG members	43.90%	36.59%	17.07%	2.44%	0.00%
Organising the OG finances	34.15%	9.76%	41.46%	9.76%	2.44%
Networking	56.10%	24.39%	17.07%	2.44%	0.00%
Communications	46.34%	34.15%	19.51%	0.00%	

- *“Developing a relationship with stakeholders has been very successful. There is a lot of goodwill towards the project from many quarters and this has been of huge assistance”.*
- *“Communication was identified as key very early on with all team members and to be fair advisors and participants have helped spread the word”.*



Other Areas Of Challenge and Success in Setting-Up the OG

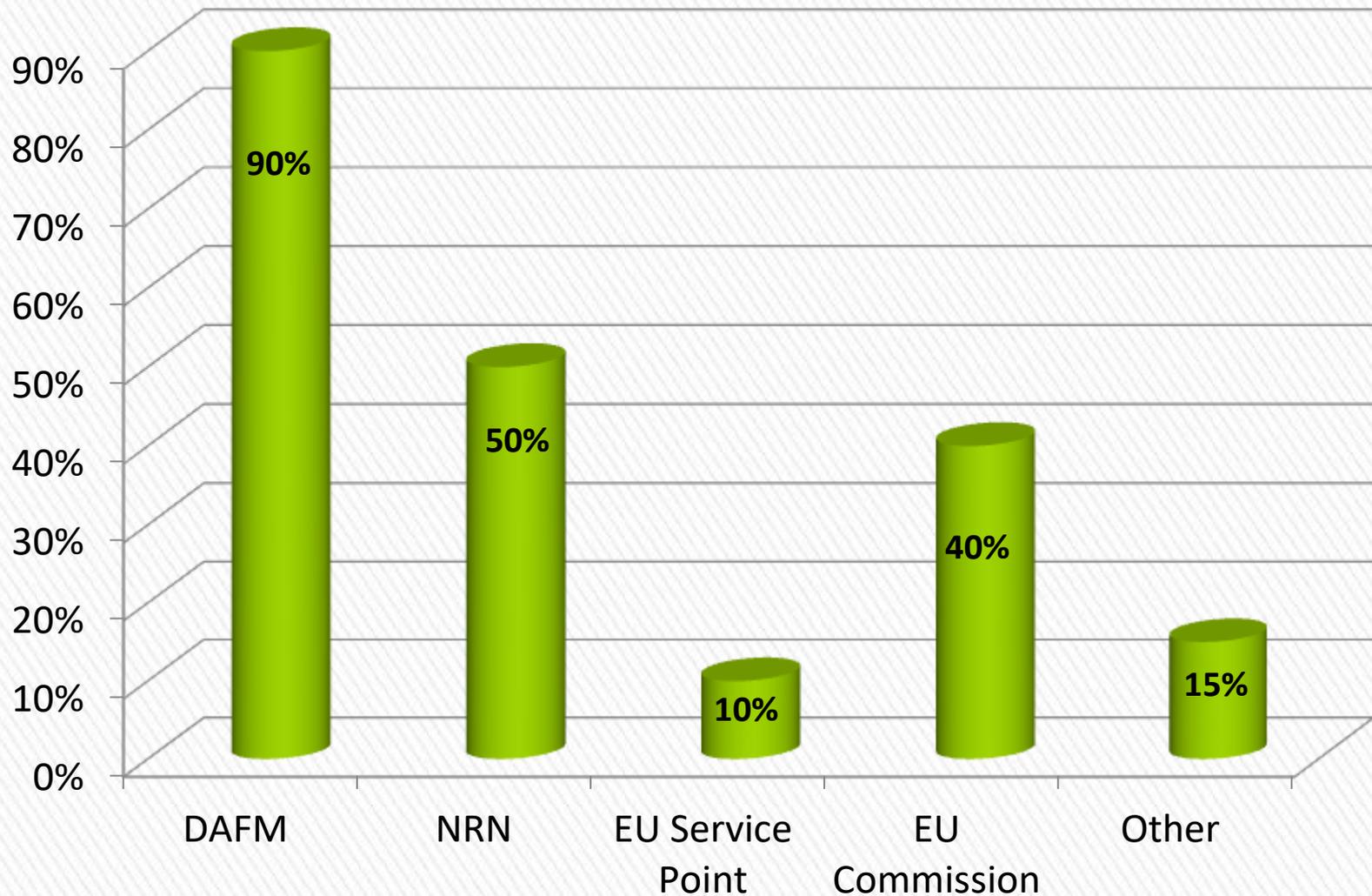
Success

“Our existing Environment Working Group with experience in overseeing Life and some elements of LEADER facilitated the EIP”

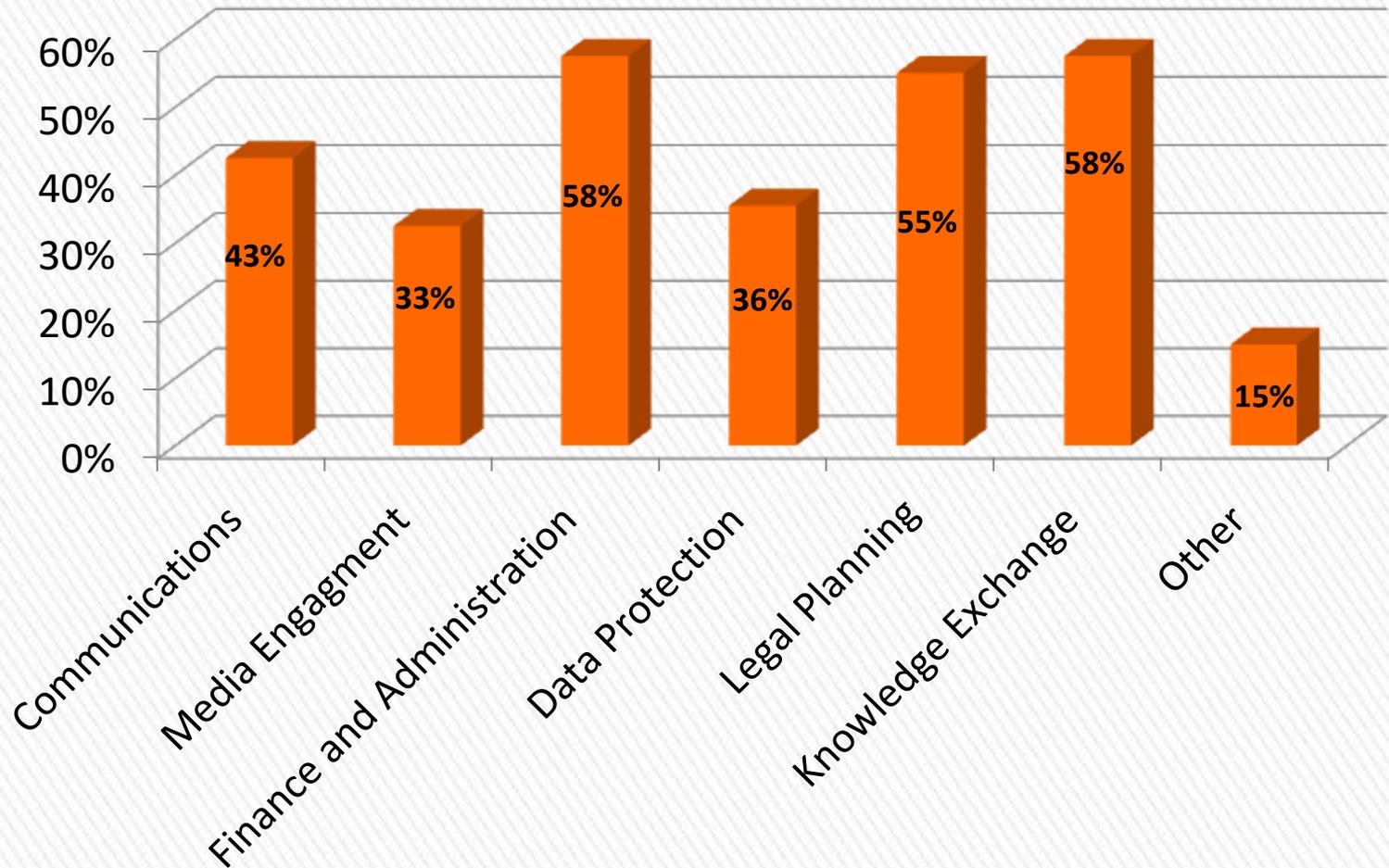
Success

“Teagasc research and advisory as well as a local agri-consultant saw this as a common goal in making farmers more sustainable so common goals worked particularly well”

OGS - Sources of Information



Workshops Needed



Key Learnings From OG Set-Up

- » Strong multi-actor approach in many OGs
- » Groups with a shared history or ethos appeared to establish themselves quicker and easier.
- » High level of commitment needed from all OG members, with many underestimating this.
- » Challenges across the board, but most felt they were surmountable
- » Many positive successes at this early stage
- » Definite need for continuous workshop assistance, networking and communication skills development.



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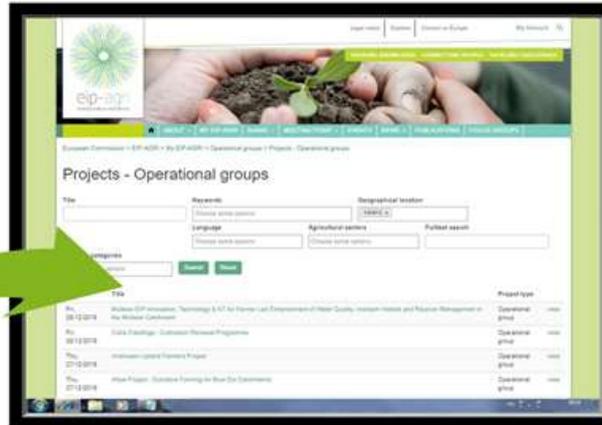
National Rural Network

- Support the DAFM with EIP-AGRI Programme and Support OGs
 - Evaluation
 - EIP-AGRI Advisory Committee
 - Meeting and Workshops
 - Abstracts
 - National and EU Dissemination



OG Abstracts

Irish EIP-AGRI Operational Group Projects



All Irish OG Abstracts have been uploaded to EU Service Point Website.



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Irish EIP-AGRI Operational Groups Infographic



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Irish EIP-AGRI Operational Groups



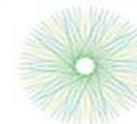
The European Agricultural Fund
for Rural Development
European funding to help us grow



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eip-agri

Infographic designed and produced by
Dr Sharon Conroy (NRI/NIJ/Galway)

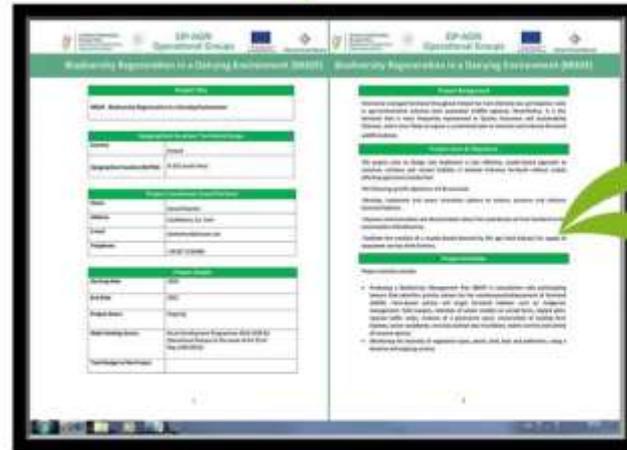
Irish EIP-AGRI Operational Group 'One-Stop-Shop' NRN Storyboard Database



NRN Operational Group Project Poster



EIP-AGRI Service Point Project Database



NRN Operational Group Project Abstract



Project Social Media

EIP-AGRI Guest Blogs



EIP-AGRI Videos

Featured in
Newsletters,
Local
Newspapers,
National
Newspapers
etc.

THE EUROPEAN INNOVATION PARTNERSHIP AND THE NATIONAL RURAL NETWORK

In a changing world, the EU's economy needs innovation to become smarter, more sustainable and more inclusive. To meet these demands, the European Commission launched European Innovation Partnerships (EIP-AGRI) in 2013, as an exciting and novel approach to agricultural innovation.

The overall aim of EIP-AGRI is to be the pooling of expertise and resources through a multi-stakeholder approach, which sees individuals and community groups from a farming, research, advisory or business background coming together to carry out an Operational Group Project. In recent months, the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) selected thirteen Operational Groups following a competitive process for project funding.

The National Rural Network (NRRN) has been invited to this process from the outset with Dr Pádraig Farrell, head of the research and Geography Lectures at NUI Galway acting a key role in the selection and evaluation process. Outside of this involvement, the NRRN assists the DAFM in raising awareness of EIP-AGRI amongst network stakeholders, facilitating the search for Operational Groups (OG) Partners, building networking for advisory and innovation support services and collecting and disseminating examples of OG projects.

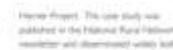
To promote the Operational Group Projects the National Rural Network commenced its dissemination process by developing a web-portal in and around the first Operational Group selected. The NRRN

is Pádraig Farrell has created a series of posters based on the elements of each Operational Group which can be used for publicity and dissemination of each project.

As a follow on from this initiative, the NRRN will outline all successful EIP-AGRI projects into a guide format so others interested in the EIP-AGRI process or projects can gain of research knowledge. As a novel approach to project dissemination, NRRN and DAFM have worked on the creation of an EIP-AGRI Story Board which is an interactive tool providing the mapped geographical locations of all projects, in addition to key facts about respective Operational Groups.

On an international basis, over the course of locally EIP-AGRI projects, the NRRN will encourage Cross-border Groups to disseminate their projects via EU EIP-AGRI workshops and conferences. The NRRN will also actively engage in the process, ensuring the continuous dissemination of projects and results, which can be replicated and considered as innovative approaches for other EU countries. It is the NRRN's delight to be involved in such a exciting multi-stakeholder approach to agricultural and rural innovation in Ireland and throughout the EU.

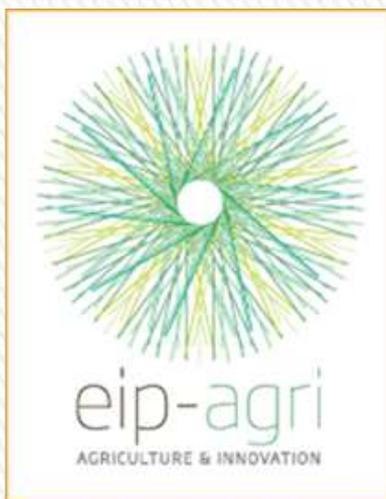
For further details of the EIP-AGRI process and current Irish OG Projects log on to: www.nationalrurallnetwork.ie/eipagri/



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“The OG provides a unique opportunity of working and learning together to achieve a shared vision. Hopefully, this will leave a lasting legacy for future locally led initiatives” (OG Member, 2019)





**On behalf of
Margaret Murray and
Dr Maura Farrell**

Thank you for listening



**An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara**
Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine



National Rural Network



**Ireland's EU Structural and
Investment Funds Programmes
2014 - 2020**

Co-funded by the Irish Government
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