European Innovative Partnership (EIP)

Farming & Environment Working Group

- Government recognised failure of existing approaches to address or reverse negative trends in biodiversity, water quality etc.
- We are a group of more than half those EIPs who have lots to offer and want/need to feed into that learning/adaptation process.
Scale of Challenge

Changing climate; summer droughts, winter floods
Habitat loss and pollution
Land conversion, intensification and abandonment
Invasive species and disease
Farm economics and viability

.... Leading to Depletion of biodiversity, contributing to climate change and reducing supply of Ecosystem Services for current and future generations
How have we gone about it?

- **Ideas for National Framework of the CAP Green Infrastructure**
- **Farmer buy-in-different farm enterprises, geographical areas.**
- **Working with a range of Stakeholders-Farmers, LAWPRO, NPWS, L.A’s, OPW, Heritage Council etc.**
- **We exist because of Govt. need- now Govt. need to work with us**
- **Knowledge Sharing between projects**
- **Changing perceptions and attitudes**
- **Landscape level interventions**
What has worked?

- Have developed regional, local and farm level solutions
- High uptake & retention levels
- Designed with the farmers
- Similar issues- different approaches/solutions
- Results based approach well tested & received
- Innovative approaches
- Have buy-in
- Local teams
- Meeting targets
- Achieving results
Working across a range of sectors
Remaining challenges

• Issues with current system-eligibility etc.
• Conflicting policies
• Needs to be a coherence nationally while being locally appropriate/adapted
• Need to balance aspiration & deliverability
Lessons for the next CAP

- Need **real reward** for delivery of environmental services - need incentive
- Those who are doing ‘things right’ already need to be supported
- If we want a real future for young farmers, it must pay.

- A simple national scheme would not be enough to learn the lessons: a combination of the national and the local is essential in the next CAP.
- Need flexibility/adaptability
- No one project has all the solutions - but combining the learning from more than one can produce some potentially powerful tools.
- We don’t have all the answers, but we are all willing to work with DAFM
- Room for some EIP’s to grow - cover geographic areas, address specific issues etc.
Locally Adapted Programmes

Why they work and why they are needed
Why a Locally Adapted Approach is needed

- Climate and Biodiversity Emergency
- Huge investment of public money
- Farmers are doing their best
- Why are farmers efforts and public investment not achieving the desired results?
- Why is the situation continuing to deteriorate?
Movement

• Birds move
  – Corncrakes and Geese are migratory
  – Hen Harriers move to other areas in winter

• Breeding territories can take in large numbers of farms
  – There is a real limit to what one farmer can achieve

• Rivers flow
  – Catchments cover large areas
  – Water quality is influenced by large numbers of farms and other stakeholders
Scale

- Challenges may be greater than could be expected of a participant in a farm plan contract
  - Bespoke solutions with targeted investment may be required
  - Technical support may be needed

- Free movement of stock across large open areas involving multiple land parcels
  - Imposed parcel stocking commitments are almost meaningless
Threats

• Don’t respect farm boundaries
  – Predators cover large areas
  – Floods are linked to upstream management
  – Wildfire spread is based on fuel and topography not land parcels
How can we do better?

• Traditional AE Schemes can address some issues, e.g. Field boundaries and Nutrient Management Planning

• But a one size fits all model does not allow for specific contexts, e.g. the Burren, HNV Farmland and Priority Species/Habitats

• And cannot address local issues that impact outcomes
  – Predation
  – Erosion blackspots
  – Invasive Species
  – Wildfires

• Solutions to these require flexibility and co-ordinated action at a landscape level as well as on farm
The Solution

- **Catchment/ Landscape level approach**
  - Pioneered in the current European Innovation Partnerships
  - Intensive and Extensive settings

- **A series of AE Measures with the farmer as the beneficiary**
  - Priority catchments in intensively farmed areas, Corncrake, Commonages, Hen Harrier, etc

- **Hybrid Results Based Model**
  - Payment for habitat
  - Shared investment in supporting infrastructure and habitat enhancement
  - Bonuses where appropriate
Intensive & Extensive Agriculture

- Solutions focussed
- Environmental Assets
  - Minimum level as part of basic conditionality
  - Additional assets to count towards delivery of a points based eco scheme approach
- Standalone targeted investments where appropriate
  - LAWPRO
  - Nest Protection
- Marketplace
  - Track and trace of environmental attributes across the value chain
- AKIS
  - Broader focus
  - Increase expertise in ecology among advisors
  - Reform of Syllabi in Ag Colleges
Delivery

• Implementation by locally based teams through the Co-operation measure
  – Assist
  – Co-operate
  – Demonstrate
  – Facilitate
  – Invest

• Supported by landscape level interventions
  – Monitoring
  – Nest protection
  – Targeted investment
  – Training and outreach

• Adaptable
  – Allows for dissemination of good ideas
  – Opportunity for trials of new approaches
  – Stakeholders input into the setting of local objectives
Benefits to the Farmer

- Minimal admin burden on the farmer
- Reduced private transaction costs
- Reduced regulatory burden
  - Screening of works by project team
- Popular with farmers
  - High participation rates >80% of eligible farmers, many programmes over subscribed
  - Negligible attrition
- Farmers role in delivering environmental benefits is valued and appreciated
- Technical support available where needed
- Almost no need for penalties,
  - Farmers define their own level of delivery
  - Geotagging and data analytics detect at risk declarations
Programme Wide Benefits

- Reduced public transaction costs
- Responsive to local needs, e.g. Fire Ponds
- Helps ensure that farmers efforts lead to a positive result
- Monitoring data provides evidence of efficacy
- Co-ordination with other stakeholders possible
- Data as a Resource
  - Environmental attributes can be linked to agricultural outputs improving farmers place in the value chain
- It works
Cost effective

Technology is in place
Increases efficiency
Allows identification of training and investment needs

Admin costs for full scale roll out are comparable with cost of GLAS
Scalable

Current EIP Projects accommodate up to 2,500 participants

IT Infrastructure is easily cloned for multiple projects

Can be integrated into DAFM IT systems

Procedural alignment between projects eases audit and control functions for DAFM

No technical limit to the number of farmers that could be accommodated

Ready for roll out

Bird species
Aquatic Species
Commonage
Priority Habitats and Catchments
What is needed

- Land Eligibility rules must enable progress
  - Land under management to deliver the objectives of the CAP must be eligible for direct payments
- Eco schemes to acknowledge environmental assets in excess of basic conditionality and incentivise delivery of more if these are lacking
- National AE scheme to support the delivery of ecosystem services
- Targeted higher level programmes to address challenges at a catchment/landscape level
- Coherence across all aspects of the CAP
  - Development of both pillars must be in tandem
  - We cannot assume they will knit together afterwards
- A smooth transition
- Achieving this is up to Ireland