



Clare Public Participation Network  
Clonroad Business Park  
Clonroad  
Ennis  
Co. Clare

[www.clareppn.ie](http://www.clareppn.ie)

**Clare Public Participation Network submission  
to the  
Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine  
in respect of the consultation on the environmental assessment of  
the Common Agricultural Policy.**

**Clare PPN (CPPN)** is a network of 331 community, voluntary, environmental and social inclusion groups from Clare. It exists to facilitate the formal participation by the community sector in Clare County Council's policy making structures and to support communication and information sharing in the community and voluntary sector in Clare. It is funded jointly by the Department of Rural and Community Development and Clare County Council but is autonomous and its activities are directed by its members through an elected secretariat. Clare PPN's website is [www.clareppn.ie](http://www.clareppn.ie) and we are on twitter @clare\_ppn and <https://facebook.com/clareppn/>

Clare Public Participation Network welcomes the public consultation on the Environmental Assessment of the Common Agricultural Policy. This submission is made on behalf of Clare PPN's environmental college members and is based on our ongoing work and consultations with them.

We wish to raise the following issues which relate to the protection of biodiversity, climate change, sustainable rural livelihoods, protection of water catchments, and securing a just transition:

1. CAP as administered in Ireland needs to develop and enhance horticulture and smallholding. 70% of the world's food is produced by small farmers and the reversal of intensification can bring huge benefits and promote local food security.
2. Clare PPN considers that a change in EU and national policy which steers farming towards food security and food sovereignty and away from a profit motive is necessary. Clare PPN considers that the investments currently made in making the for profit systems financially viable should in the face of the climate crisis be reoriented towards making food systems sustainable, climate neutral and regenerative. Our member groups consider that this transition can and should be progressed whilst sustaining the incomes of famers.
3. Clare PPN considers that there is a need for supported funded systems to ensure sufficient new farmers enter the vocation. Our consultations with the

farming community have identified this as an issue. Our skills base for food production needs to be replenished and routes other than the traditional familial transfer of land need to be established so that people can enter the profession as a choice rather than only as an inheritance. Community of commonly held land options as well as establishing a system for the long term leasing of land should be considered and resources as an environmental action.

4. Clare PPN recommends an expansion of 'farming with nature schemes' an expansion of organic farming schemes and the promotion and support for locally produced food.
5. Clare PPN recommends significant supports be introduced for 're-wilding' of supposed non-productive land rather than the traditional drainage, planting or reclamation of same.
6. Clare PPN recommends that schemes to encourage tree planting are redesigned so that they facilitate mixed planting and agricultural usage of land which can assist soil quality, shelter, prevent erosion and provide carbon sequestration.
7. Clare PPN recommends a re-balancing of 'input' based farming where intensive nitrates and fertilizer usage is required to sustain farming incomes. As these inputs increase in price it will become more logical to promote and sustain methods of farming which do not require them.
8. Clare PPN notes that water and river catchment pollution is concentrated in areas of heaviest dairy farming. We consider this unsustainable and that a recalibration of farming methods and intensity is necessary. Clare PPN strongly supports the protection of rural and farmers income during the necessary transitions.

Clare PPN thanks you for the opportunity to make this submission and we welcome any enquiries in respect of any aspect of it.

