

# KT Discussion Groups, 2016

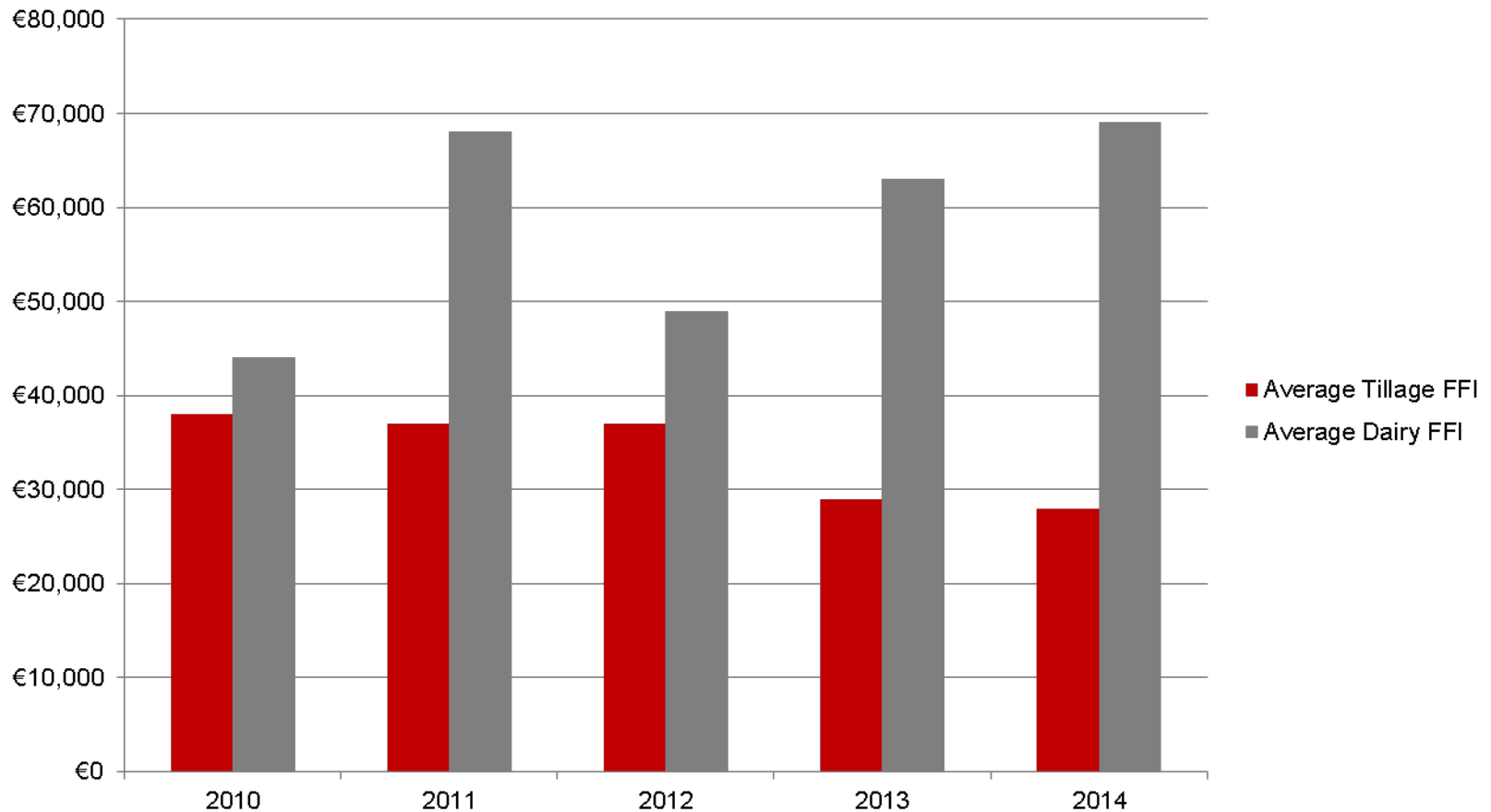
**Phelim McDonald**  
*Teagasc Knowledge Transfer, Co. Carlow*

Malting Barley Seminar 22/02/2016

# Outline

- ◆ The Bottom Line Benefits of Discussion Groups
- ◆ How else can Groups help Malting Barley Growers
- ◆ A flavour of how groups operate

# Tillage incomes Vs dairy incomes



Source: Teagasc National Farm Surveys

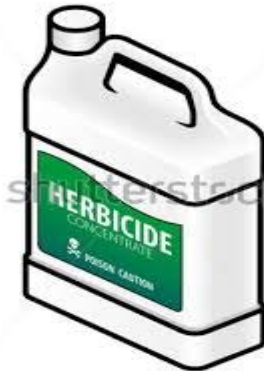
# So many challenges and decisions

Taxation  
WEATHER  
Fertilizer  
Land  
Trading  
FARM SAFETY  
Labour  
Prices  
Grass Weeds  
RESISTANCE  
Format  
Finance  
EDUCATION  
Succession  
Policies  
Machinery  
Money &  
Family Life  
Yields  
Time  
Plant Protection

# The opportunity of technological advances



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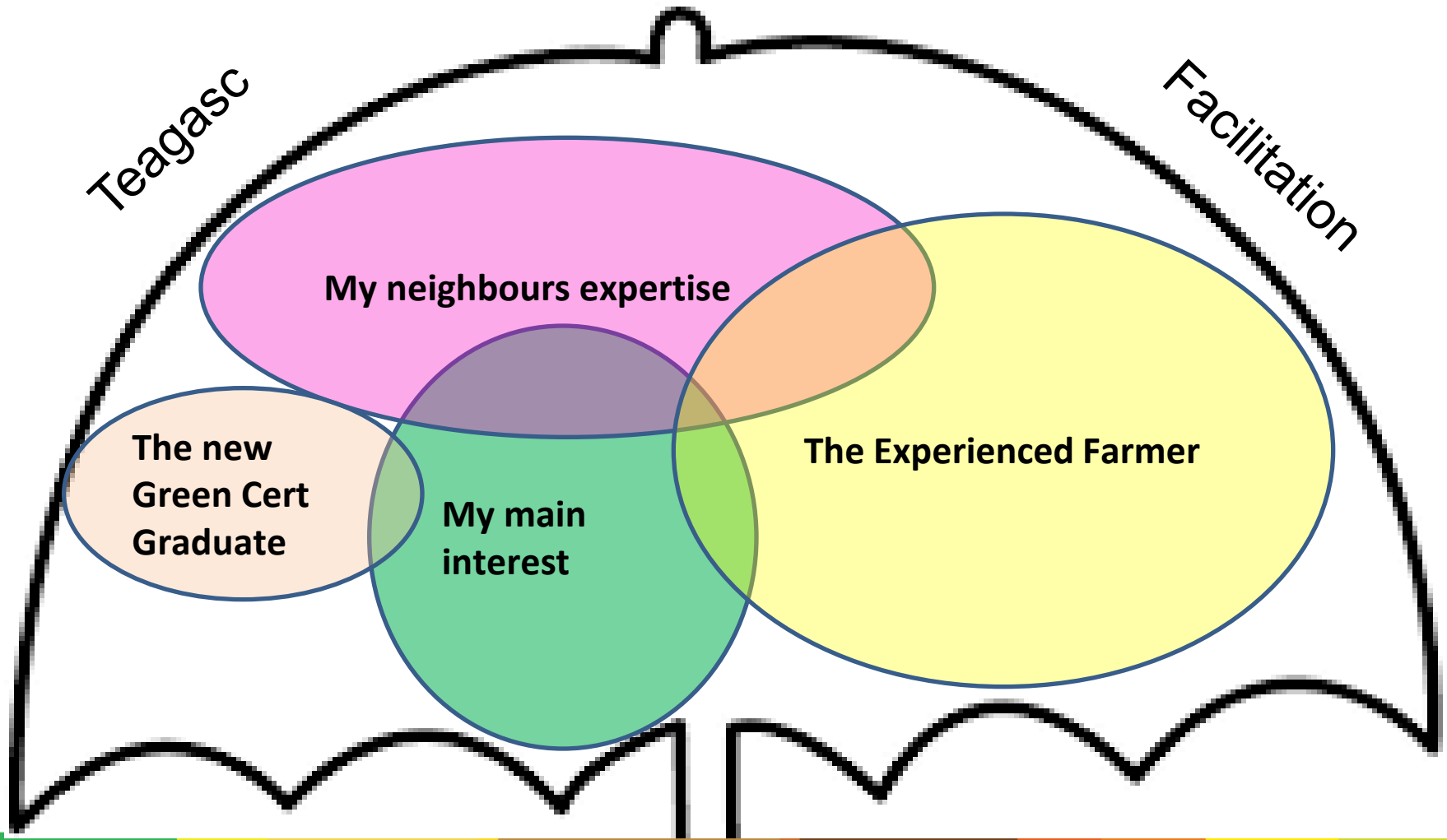


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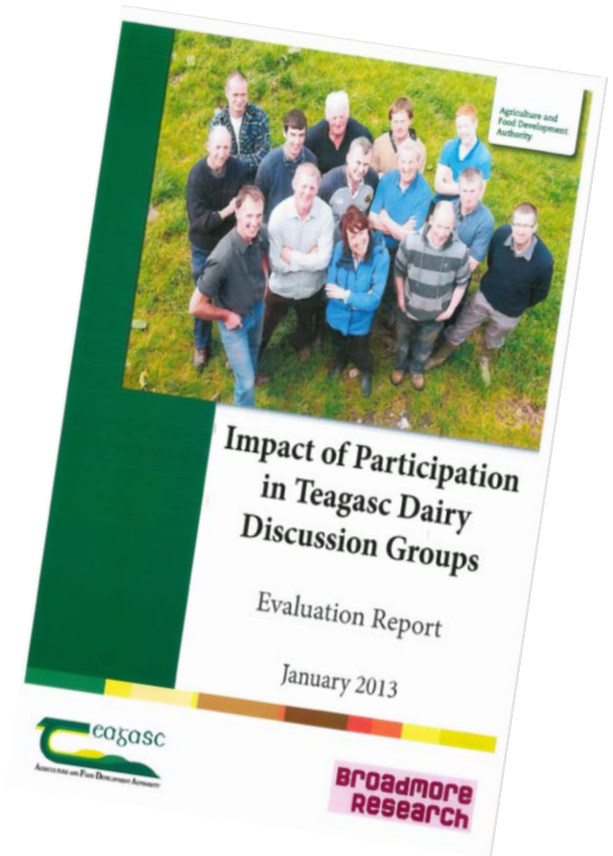
# Why would a discussion group be of benefit?



# Broadmore research findings on dairy & beef discussion groups

## Why Farmers Join Groups?

- ◆ To get new and updated information
- ◆ As a source of new ideas
- ◆ Way of learning and problem solving
- ◆ To acquire & adopt/adapt new skills
- ◆ Addressing specific challenges
- ◆ A social outlet
- ◆ For payment, through schemes



# Broadmore research report findings

## Compared to non group members...

### Better physical performance

55% vs 39% hitting targets

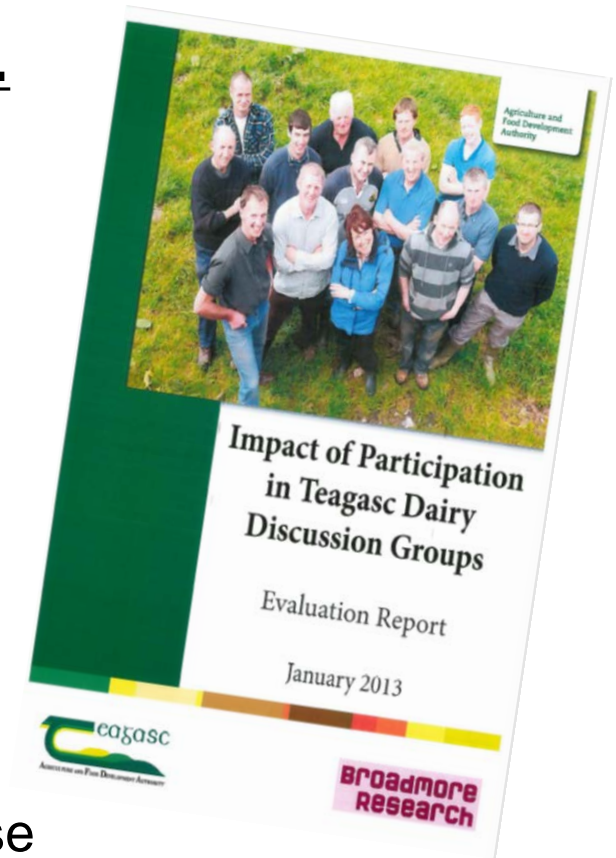
### Better financial outcomes

+ 2c/Lt (dairy)

+ €95/Ha (beef)

### Better practice adoption

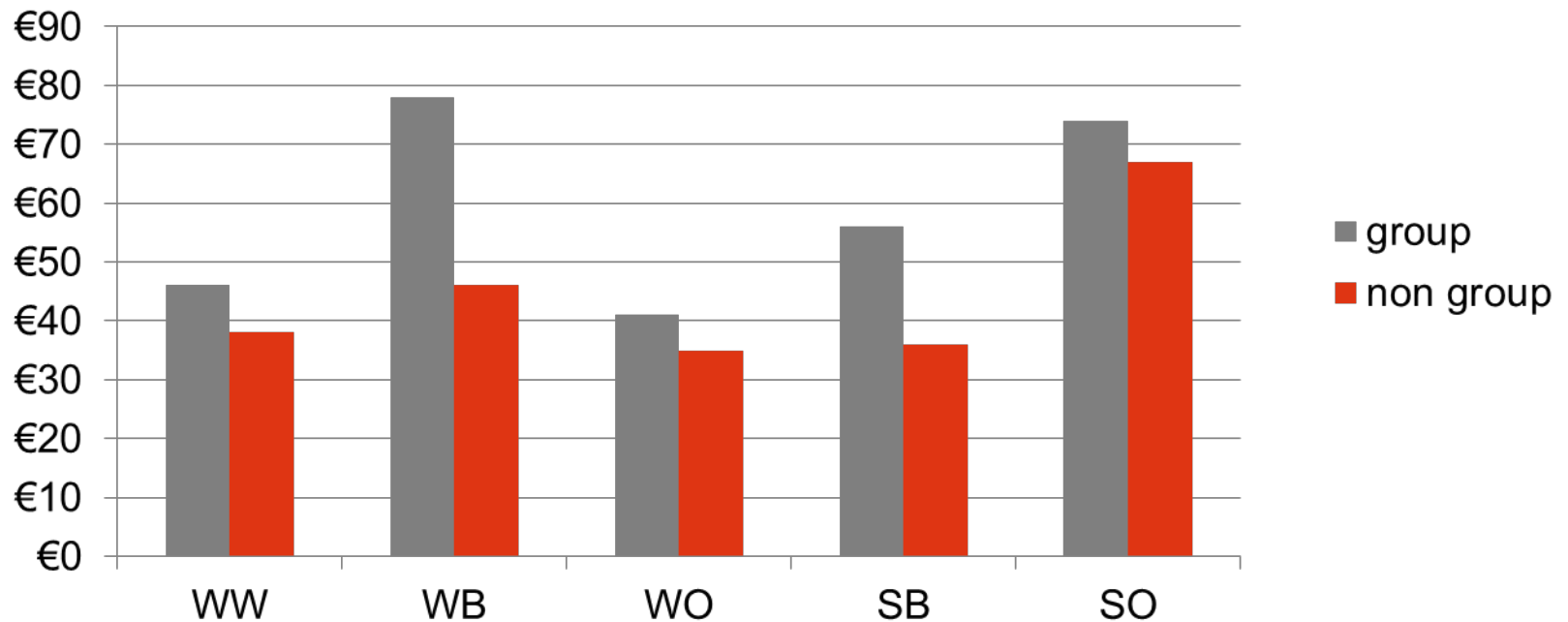
eg. from report = Twice Genomic Bull AI use





# Tillage groups – financial outcomes

## 2012 Crop Margins (€/Tonne)



eProfit Monitor Results, Carlow, 2012

# What works well in groups

- ◆ Small projects
- ◆ New Technology
- ◆ On farm measurements
- ◆ New or “Hot” topics
- ◆ Demonstration
- ◆ Visits outside the group



# What works well in groups

- ◆ Physical & visual props
- ◆ Division of group to tackle an issue
- ◆ Benchmarking the group
- ◆ Variation of topics
- ◆ External speakers



# Tillage groups – practice adoption

Eg.

Earlier fungicide application to diseased barley crops

- ◆ Group members noticed yield potential not realised
- ◆ Loss of tillers/grain sites identified
- ◆ Adjusted fungicide timing –tillering
- ◆ Better % of potential attained
- ◆ Peer to peer learning is best



# Other 'knock on' advantages

- ◆ Farmer/facilitator relationship strengthened
- ◆ Better understanding between all members
- ◆ More efficient use of time for all
- ◆ Improved speaking and listening skills
- ◆ Opportunity to undertake training (eg for chairperson)



# Essential Roles – Secretary &/or Members

## Chairperson

- ◆ Elected, helps with agenda,
- ◆ Keeps on topic & can speak for the group



## Members

- ◆ Contributions vital
- ◆ Can take on other roles



## Facilitator

- ◆ Technical backup, leads or takes up slack
- ◆ Links to other services
- ◆ Directors or conductors role



# Example of a Useful Yearly Programme

## 1<sup>st</sup> meeting – pre sowing

Discussion of soil and weather conditions.

Varieties and sowing rates.

Methods of establishment.

Compound fertilizer/lime requirements.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting – 2-3 leaf stage

Measure plant establishment achieved.

Weed control, issues and options.

Up-coming top dressings – Protein levels & N quantity/splits.

## 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting – mid tillering

Tillering progression.

Trace elements.

Disease assessment.

Tillering fungicide and product/rates.

# Example of a useful Yearly Programme

## 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting – GS 30/31

Early stem elongation.

Max tiller numbers.

## 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting – Flag leaf / straw strategy / scutch etc

Awns peeping fungicide.

## 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting

July event.

## 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting

Post Harvest/ Safety & Wellbeing/ Speaker/ Other topics.

## 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting

AGM / Review / ePM & margins / Varieties&Rotations?/ Manures, etc.



# Starting out in a new group

- ◆ Approach a group chairperson/member/facilitator
- ◆ Perhaps round up half dozen like minded farmers yourself!
- ◆ Commit to confidentiality and truth
- ◆ Commit to making regular, positive, open contributions
- ◆ Remember DAFM funded KT Groups should be available this year
  - ◆ Payment €750/yr.
  - ◆ 1 to 1 with facilitator.
  - ◆ Farm plan.

# Summary

- ◆ Solid reasons for joining KT Discussion Groups
- ◆ Solid evidence that members benefit
- ◆ Groups should operate to agreed yearly outline.

# KT Discussion Groups 2016

Thank you for Listening

Your Questions or Comments are Valued

Phelim McDonald  
Teagasc Knowledge Transfer  
Carlow