

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

Agroforestry Preparation



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

Our participants



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

Upland Farm ponds



This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under



Advantages of Farm ponds

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

Farmer participation

- ▶ 25 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 advice
- ▶ Group consultation and workshop sessions (KT by another name!!)
- ▶ Detailed analysis of performance of measures

Workshops for participants



Conclusions

- ▶ The EIP approach is working very well to develop actions which work for farmers and for the climate , water quality and Biodiversity
- ▶ Measurement of results of all types is crucial.
- ▶ Huge potential for climate change mitigation on Irish farms
- ▶ Farmers will engage when consulted in the right way
- ▶ Delivering environmental and climate objectives does not have to be a cost for a farmer and can simply be adopting new practices on the farm which work for the farmer and the environment.