

MAgrSc Innovation Support Programme 2017-2019



Study title: The implementation of recommended Nutrient Management planning actions on a targeted Dairy Discussion group

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Study Objectives

1. To quantify the uptake of NMP actions on Irish dairy farms.
2. Investigate and develop an approach/approaches which may be a solution to the problem.
3. Assess and evaluate the approach/approaches which are carried out and illustrate the results.
4. Identify the barriers which may affect the adoption rate of NMP actions on Irish dairy farms.
5. Investigate and identify the farmers' opinion/perception on the use of NMP actions on their farms.



Study Methodology

1. Semi – structured interviews with 16 dairy farmers part of targeted discussion group.
2. Semi – structured interview with Kerry Agri-business Joint program coordinator .

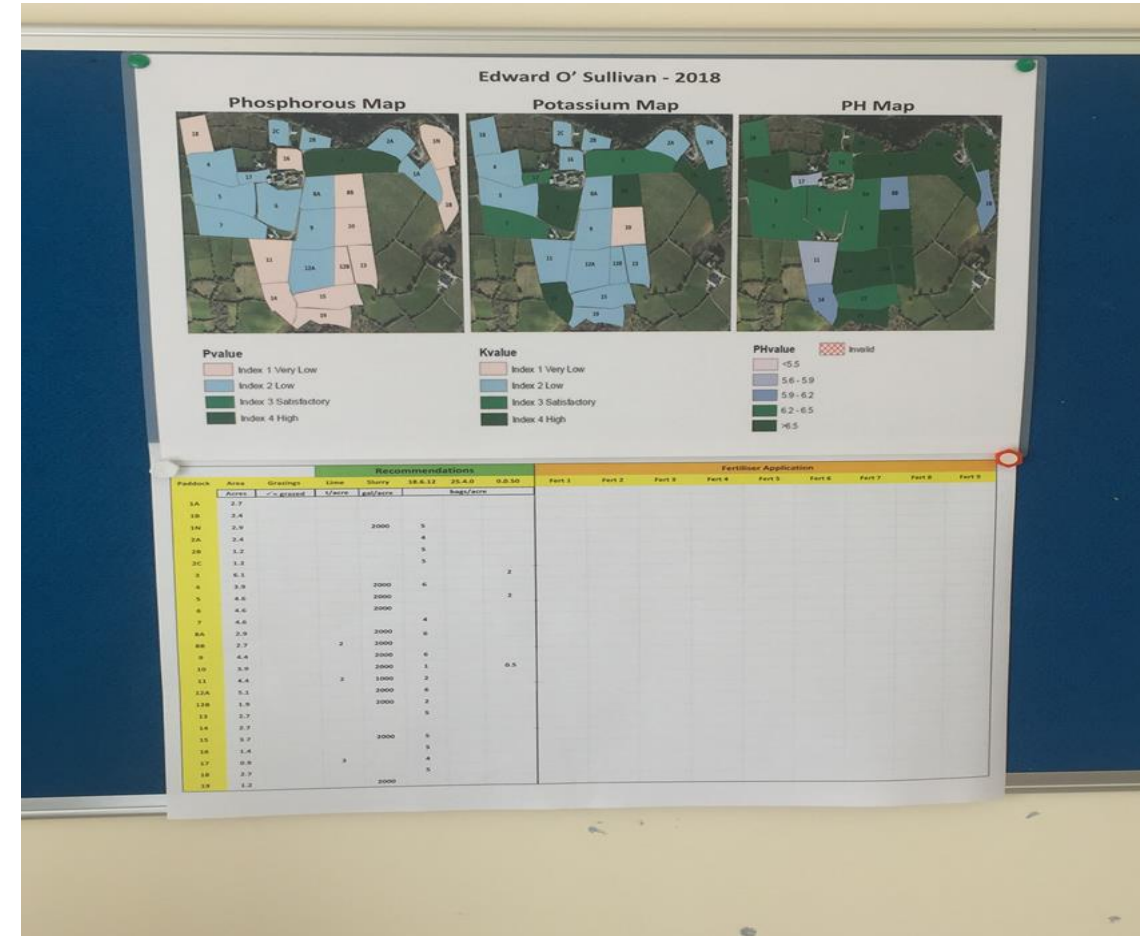


Targeted dairy discussion group

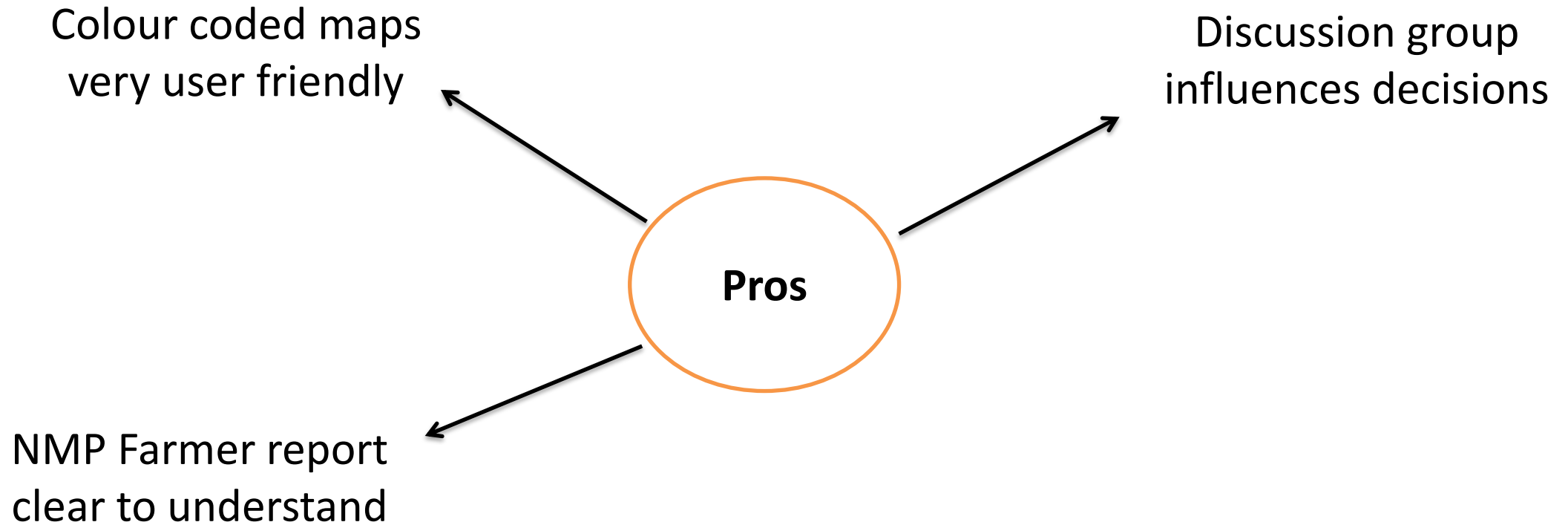
- **Name:** Young Farmer Discussion Group
- **Number:** 16
- **Age:** <45
- **Education:** All have Green Cert

Progress to date (Since Jan 2018)

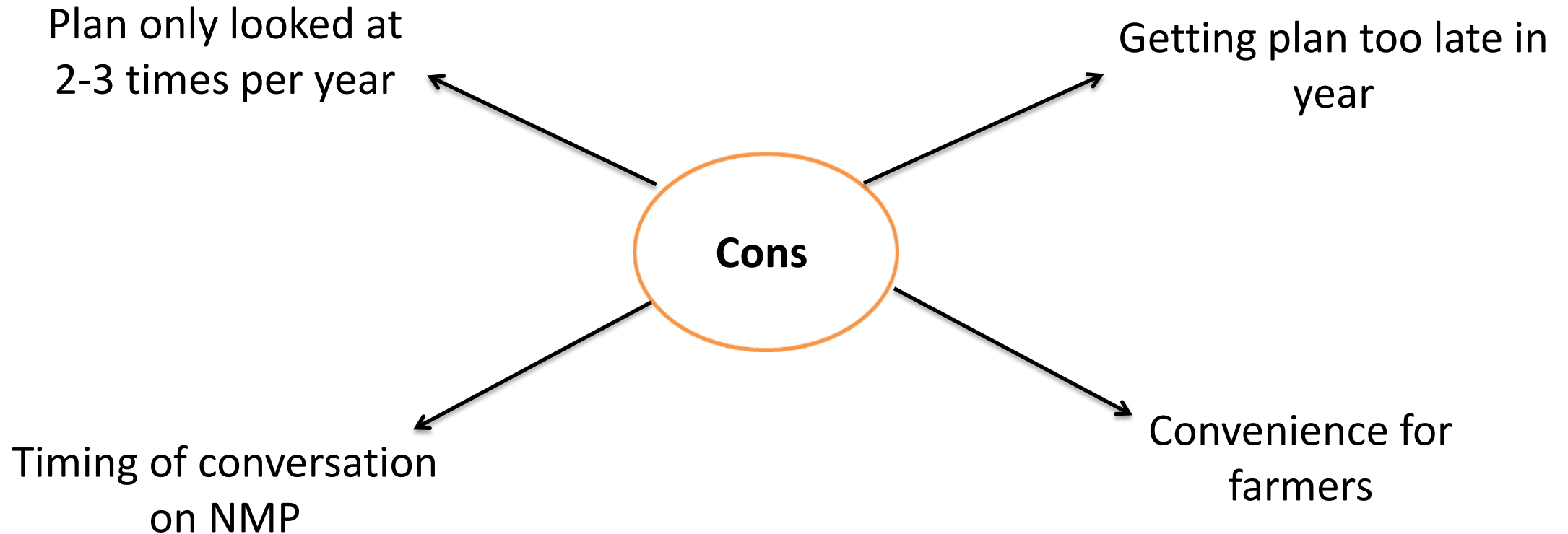
- NMP developed for all 16 farmers of targeted dairy discussion group based on recent detailed soil analysis results.
- Semi- structured interviews carried out with 11 of the 16 farmers of targeted dairy discussion group.
- Development of A3 Lime, Slurry and Fertiliser Application record sheet including A3 colour coded map.



Findings to Date



Findings to date



Issues/Problems arising

- Delayed update of NMP online system.
- Difficult spring to arrange interviews with farmers.



Advisory/Education work (Jan – June 2018)

- Nutrient Management Plans for clients of local dairy advisor including targeted dairy discussion group being used for research.
- Helping advisor with derogation plans.
- Testing silage samples for local farmers.

Schedule of Activities (Work Plan)

- **June to Sept 2018:** Complete interviews with targeted farmers, interview with Kerry-Agribusiness coordinator, Complete implementing approach/approaches on targeted dairy discussion groups, monitor and evaluate approach/approaches implemented, begin writing up results for focus group and interviews.
- **October to Dec 2018:** Evaluate findings, begin decision on suitable approach/approaches.
- **Jan to March 2019:** Finalise on a suitable approach/approaches and begin writing thesis.
- **April to June 2019:** Complete writing up thesis.