

Barriers to The Adoption of The Teagasc MACC Actions on Mitigating Greenhouse Gas Emissions on Dairy Farms.

MAIS, Donnacha Ryan

Agriculture accounts for almost one third of the total national greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and has increased over the past four years in Ireland. There is an acknowledged need to increase GHG mitigation measures among Irish farmers. In 2018 Teagasc published the Marginal Abatement Cost Curve (MACC) which identifies mitigation measures to help reduce agricultural GHG emissions over the next 10 years.

Four specific mitigation measures, namely: Dairy EBI, Nitrogen Use Efficiency, Change of Fertiliser Type and Low Emission Slurry Spreading were selected from the Agricultural Mitigation MACC. These measures were determined to have the most significant impact in reducing GHG emissions as well as being the most implementable for dairy farmers across Ireland. The aim of this study is to investigate dairy farmers' perceptions of GHG mitigation and their adoption of the selected mitigation measures. Provisional findings from the nationally representative sample of dairy farmers indicate a positive view of GHG mitigation measures. A better understanding of dairy farmers' attitudes, to the need for and effectiveness of mitigation measures, can help inform policy design towards encouraging greater adoption of mitigation measures by Irish dairy farmers.