

Barriers to the adoption of the Teagasc MACC actions on mitigating greenhouse gas emissions on dairy farms



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Background

Irish agriculture accounts for 34% national GHG emissions in 2019.

Agricultural GHG emissions are increasing over the past four years.

Teagasc published the Marginal Abatement Cost Curve (MACC) in 2018 to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Irish agriculture.

Measures with significant impact in reducing GHG emissions and are most implementable for dairy farmers across Ireland.

Four specific mitigation measures identified.



Dairy EBI



Nitrogen-Use Efficiency



Change in Fertiliser Type



Low Emission Slurry Spreading

Research Objectives

1

Farmers' understanding and attitudes to GHG measures.

2

Farmers' awareness and attitudes of the four selected mitigation measures.

3

Factors limiting of adopting of the four selected mitigation measures.

4

Better inform policymakers and extension services to effectively encourage adoption of GHG measures to dairy farmers.

Study Methodology

National Survey

- Google Survey sent to ICMSA dairy farmers across Ireland.
- Identify farmers perceptions to GHG mitigation.
- Identify farmers perception and adoption of the mitigation measures.

Focus Groups

- Participants: Majority dairy farmers assisted with industry leaders/specialists.
- Expand on the results/findings from the survey.
- Identify any limitation to farmers' perception to GHG mitigation.

Provisional Results

559 Total responses.
482 Valid responses analysed.

Majority of farmers agree that agriculture has an important role in reducing GHG emissions.

Fair representation of dairy farmers across Ireland.

Overall finding so far show a positive perception to GHG mitigation.

At least 50% of farmers have adopted one or more mitigation measures.

Mitigation Measures Already Adopted

- Dairy EBI 73.8%
- NUE 67.2%
- Protected Urea 42.6%
- LESS 55.9%

Next Steps

