Delivering farm advisory services in the digital age

Dr John Hyland Teagasc/SRUC Virtual Conference 2021 9 February 2021



A Question?

Digitalisation of advisory/extension work a substitute or an aid?

Digital technologies are substitutes for farm extension activities and will replace on farm advisors in future



Or

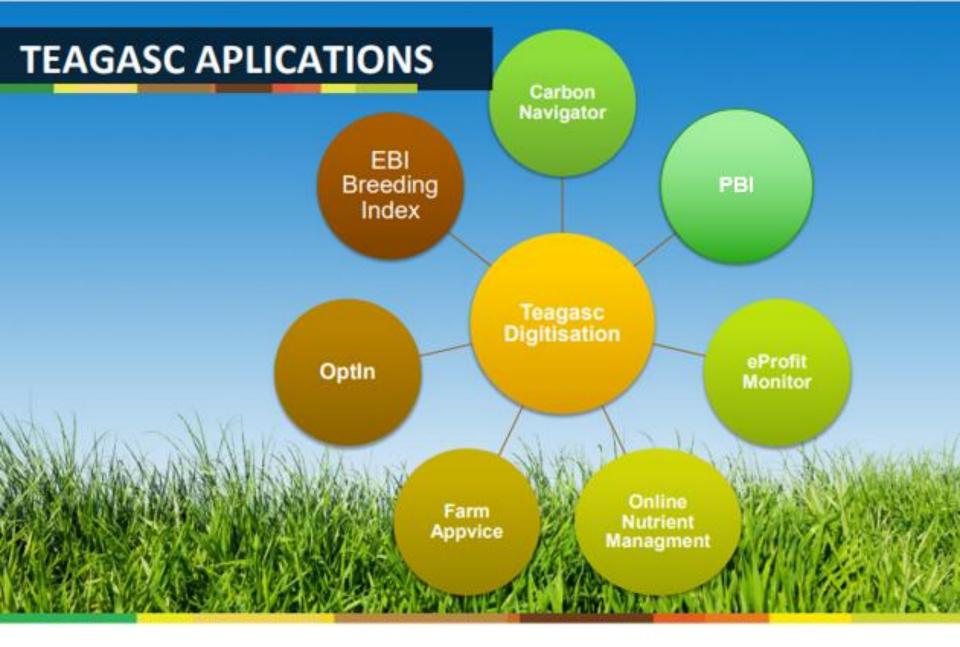
Digital technologies will improve the efficacy and quality of extension services and strengthen farm advisors

Global Advisory Digitalisation Drivers

- Farmers: Better more specific advice and decision support (pull)
- Advisors: New ways to support farmer decision making (pull)
- Government: More efficient process administration (e-government etc.) (push)
- The advance of low cost digital technology (pull)



2020 Covid19 – A giant leap in digital extension





SRUC Applications

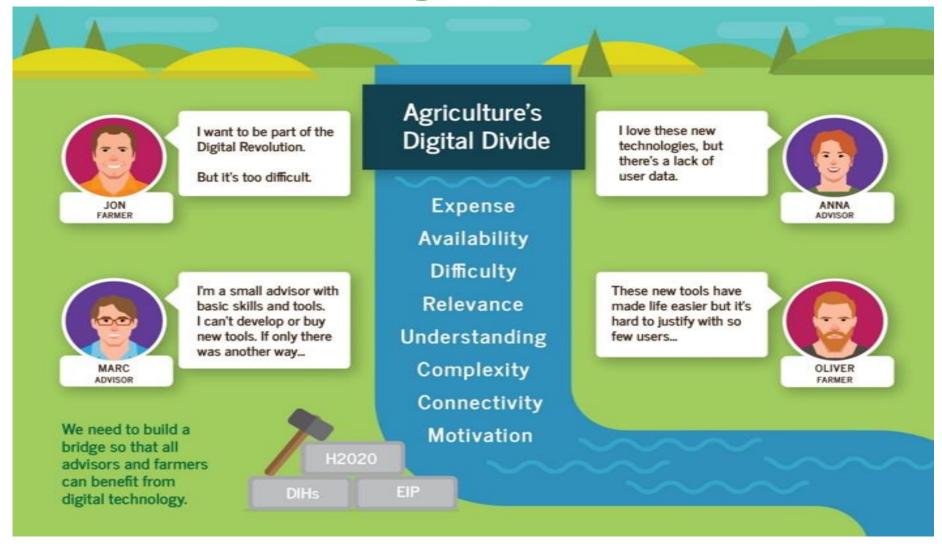








The Digital Divide









FAIRshare Overview



- A €7 million funded project
- Coordinated by Teagasc
- 22 partners from 15 countries across Europe
- 5 year project (2018-2023)
- Aims to ensure that farm advisors effectively use digital tools and services

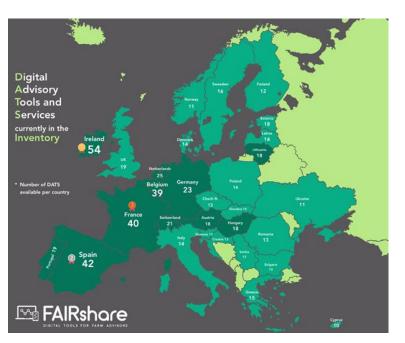


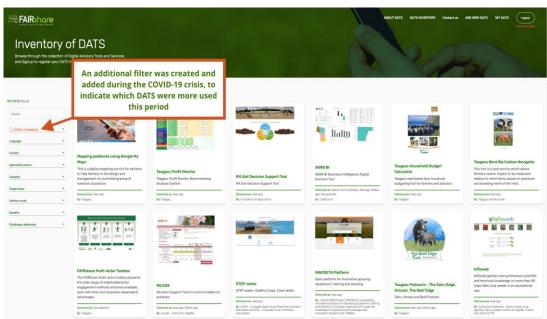
Digital Advisory Tools and Services (DATS)





The DATS Inventory





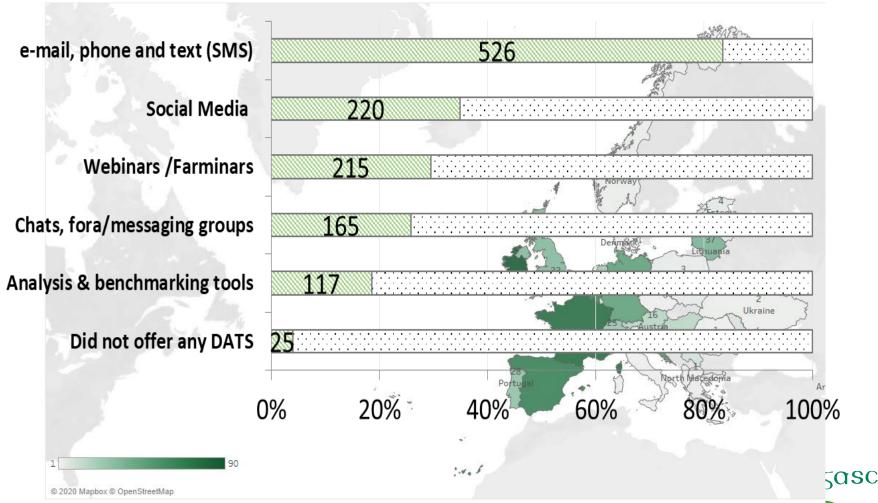
- www.h2020fairshare.eu (FAIRshare Digital Tools Inventory)
- 17% communications
- 80% analytical/benchmarking/decision support
- 3% organisational



FAIRshare 2020 Survey & Workshops



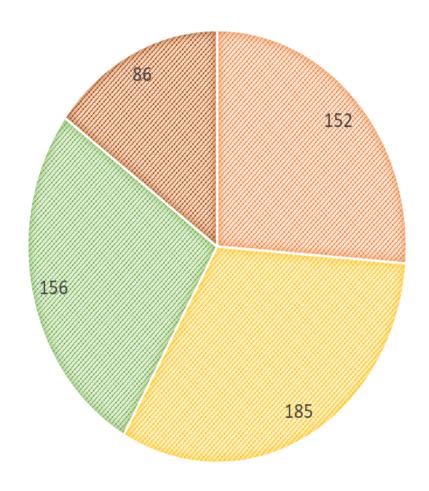
FAIRshare Questionnaire Results?



% of Farmer Clients who use DATS

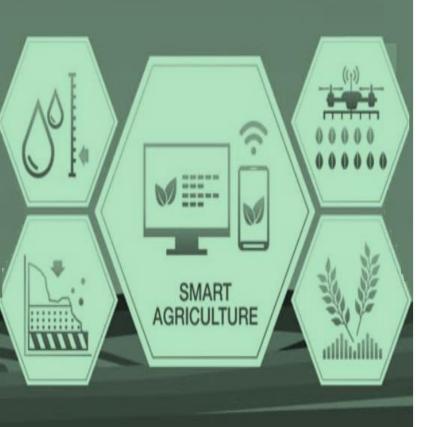


Iess than 20%
■ 20% to 50%
■ 50% to 80%
■ More than 80%

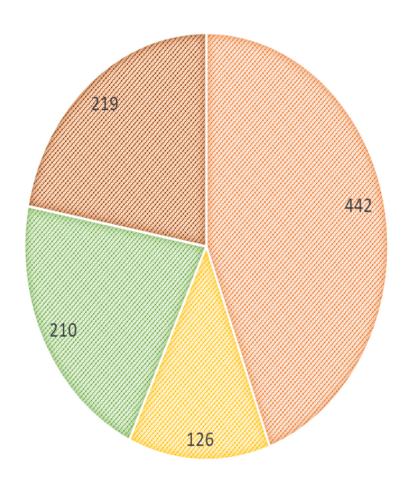




Source of Data used in Digital Services

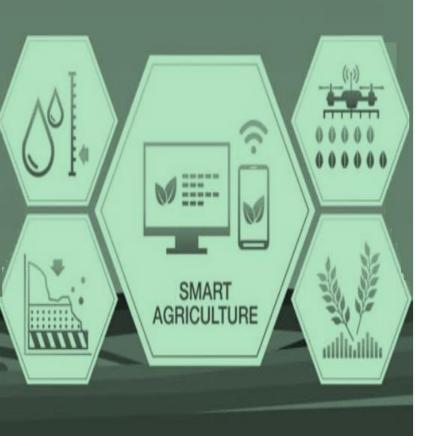








Main Findings



- Positive influence of advisors
- ✓ DATS benefits are not easily understandable especially for farmers
- ✓ Lack of availability of automated data and data interoperability
- ✓ Advisors rely on their organisation to identify and discover DATS
- ✓ Advisors recognise their need to receive training in the provision of digital advisory services

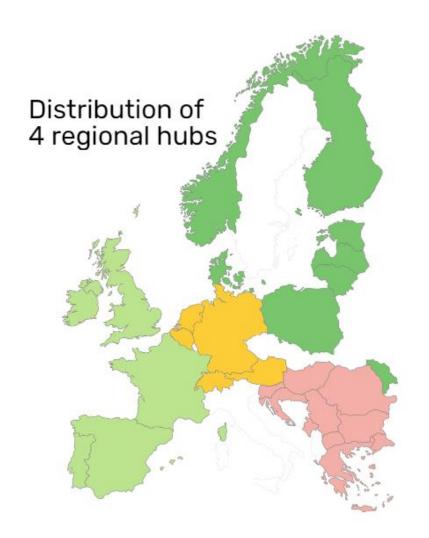


FAIRshare User Cases



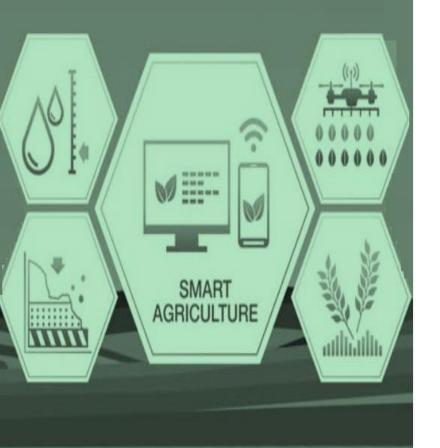
FAIRshare Approach: User Cases

- A challenge faced by a group of advisors
- A new approach with targets of what they want to achieve
- One or multiple DATS that the advisors have identified to solve their challenge
- ✓ Improved advisory services





How to get involved?



Select 20 external cases

Provide financial support

 Identify the change management and innovation process issues arising

 Enable these cases to address challenges to embedding DATS and help them to make the right strategic choices.



Thank you for listening.

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