

# Higher value potential of Irish-grown rye?



**Sinead Dermody**  
Teagasc, Oak Park & UCD

**National Tillage Conference 2026**

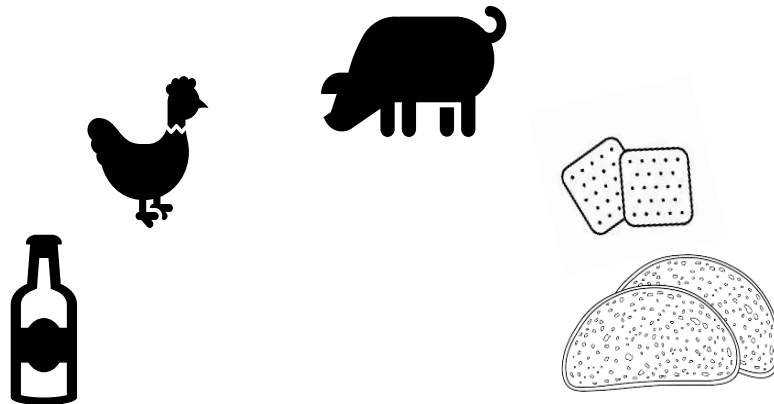
Wednesday, 29th January | Lyrath Hotel, Kilkenny

[www.teagasc.ie/tillagecon26](http://www.teagasc.ie/tillagecon26)

# Why consider alternative uses for Irish rye?

- Current uses; Mainly pig/poultry feed & small amount for distilling
- Area increased from **476 ha to 3713 ha from 2020 to 2025**
- Up to 30% of world rye production enters human food applications

**Due to increase in acreage & limited markets, PROTEIN-I examines the potential of Irish-grown rye in terms of food**



# Assessing variety performance in-field

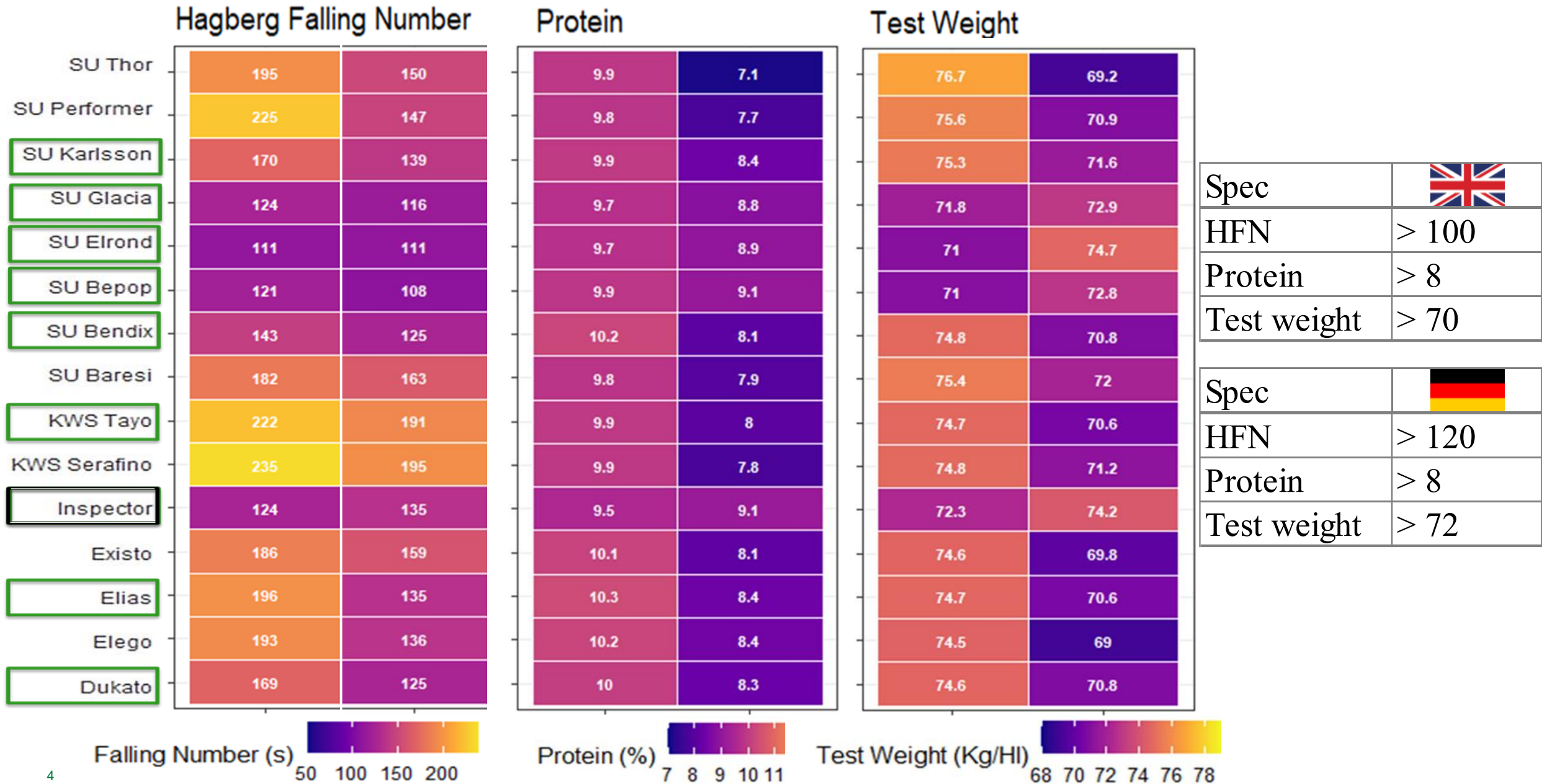
- Hybrid & population “multipurpose” varieties
- Established in early-mid October (2022-2024)
- In 2 locations (Carlow & Waterford)



## **Aims:**

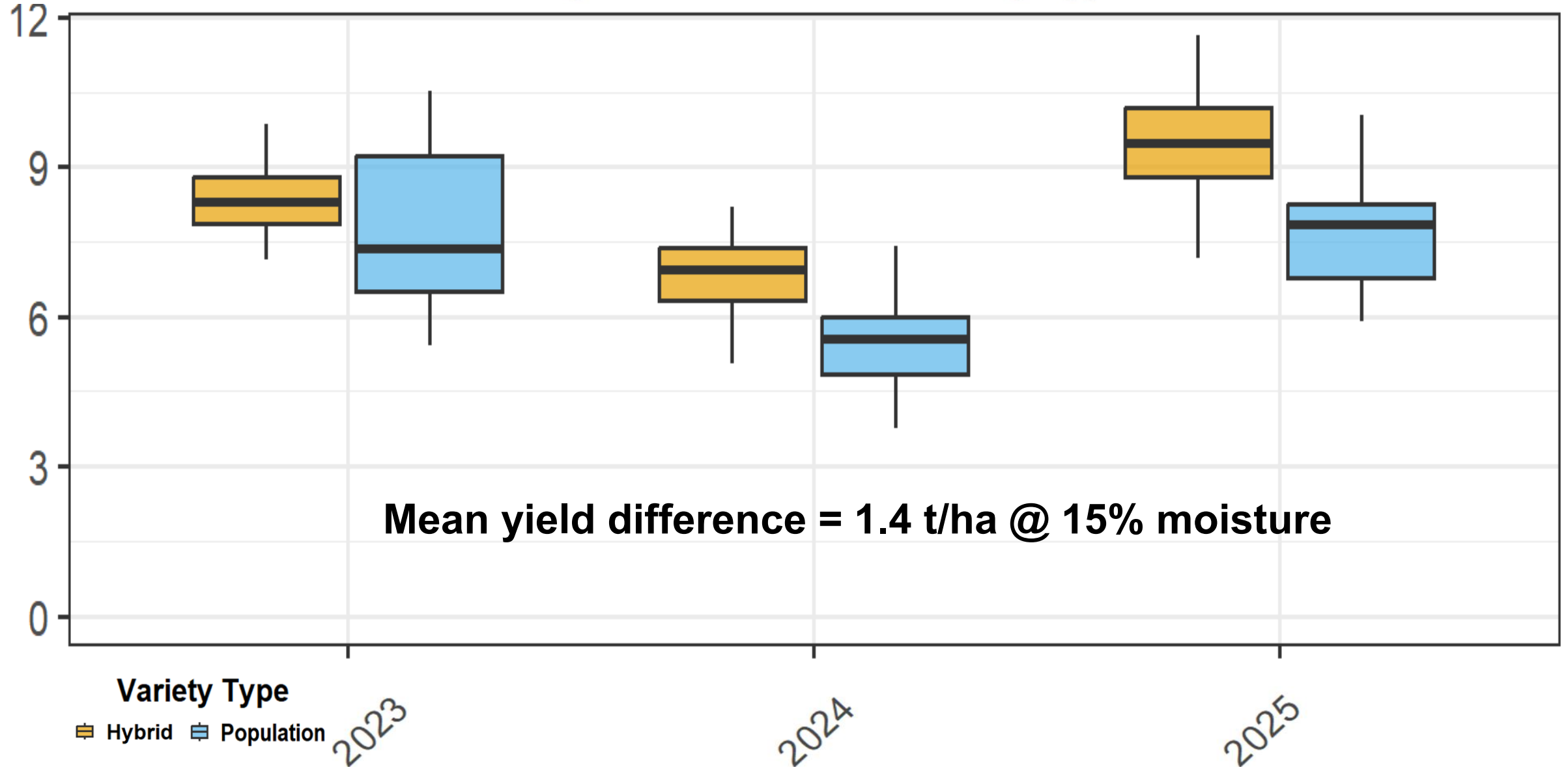
- (i) Characterise varieties in terms of agronomic, food quality & nutritional attributes (Amino acids, minerals, phenols)
- (ii) Benchmark against international minimum quality specifications

# Varieties meet quality specifications under Irish conditions



# Hybrid varieties, higher mean yields

## Grain Yield by Harvest Year and Variety Type



# Conclusions

**Can rye grown in Ireland achieve food quality specifications?**

- **Yes, certain varieties** (UK targets) - *Dukato, Elias, Inspector, KWS Tayo, SU Bendix, SU Bepop, SU Elrond, SU Glacia, SU Karlsson*

Based on this research:

- Hybrid varieties can produce high grain yields & meet UK food specifications under Irish growing conditions
- Some population varieties too, but produce lower mean yields

# Acknowledgements

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**Prof Carl Ng**



An Roinn Talmhaíochta,  
Bia agus Mara  
Department of Agriculture,  
Food and the Marine



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