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European Innovation Partnership (EIPs)

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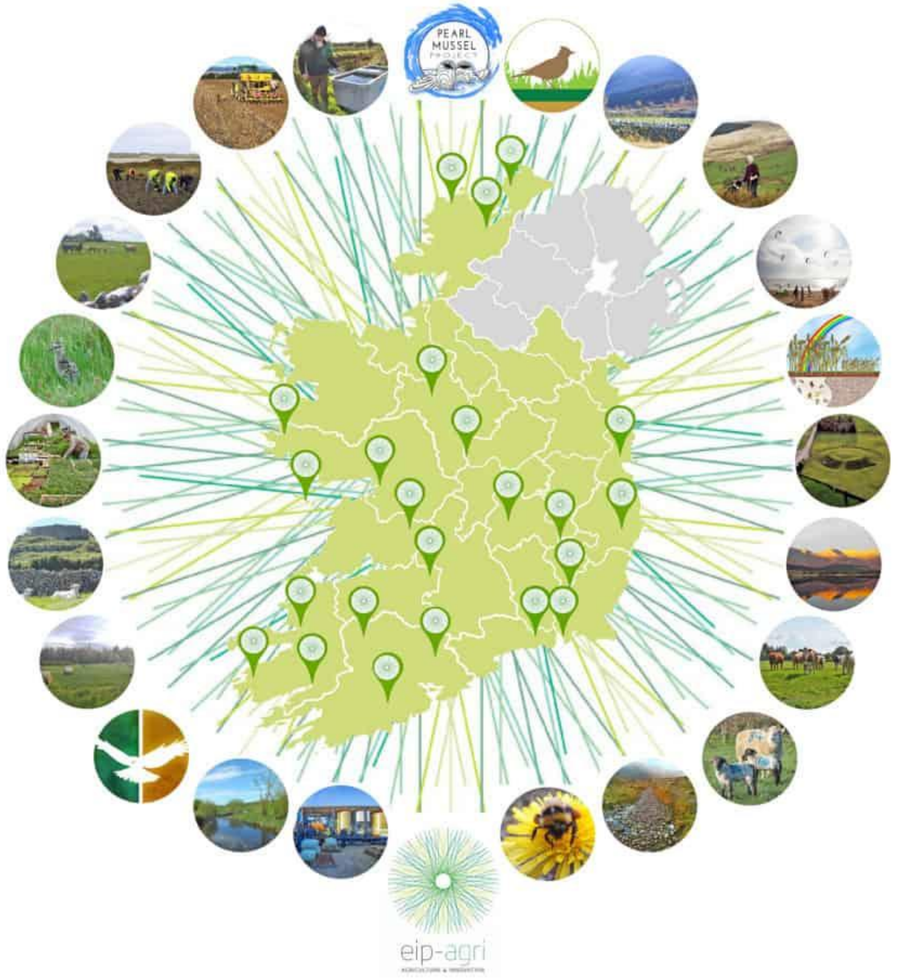
EIP-AGRI projects: What are they?

- EIP-AGRI projects (EIPs) seek to address agricultural challenges across a range of themes
- Operational Groups (OGs) comprised of a range of actors (farmers, academics, environmental groups etc.) work to put research results into practice on farms to test efficacy
- Focus on locally led collaboration, innovation and results
- Allow results to be disseminated widely for up-scaling into schemes

EIPs under the previous CAP

- Projects ran from 2017 to 2023
- 57 EIPs
- Total Budget €66 million
- Two approaches were taken to identifying projects for funding under the RDP:
  - Direct Recruitment for two projects, the Freshwater Pearl Mussel and the Hen Harrier
  - Competitive Calls to select a number of collaborative projects under thematic Calls for Proposals
- Under the RDP there was greater emphasis on result-based schemes where farmers are paid for the result rather than the action: the better the result, the higher the payment.



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The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development: Europe investing in rural areas

Ireland's European Structural and Investment Funds Programmes 2014-2020
Co-funded by the Irish Government and the European Union

National Rural Network

The EIP Programme under CSP 2023-2027

STREAM A

- Call 2: Animal Health & Welfare including support for the rearing of pigs with intact tails on Irish farms
- Call 3: Greater Gender Balance in farming in Ireland
- Call 4: Promote Generational Renewal
- Call 5: Digital Tools and Technologies

STREAM B

- Call 1: Breeding Waders
- Call 6: Environmental Sustainability - sub-themes:
  - Climate mitigation and climate adaptation at farm level
  - Farming in Coastal areas
  - Farming within the organic and horticulture sectors
  - Food sustainability, security and the role of short supply chains
  - Regenerative Agriculture
  - Protecting and restoring our soils and their sustainable use
  - Sustainable farming systems for intensive agriculture at local and landscape levels
  - Innovative approaches within the bio / circular economy at a locally-led level
- Call 7: Biodiversity in an arable environment along the south coast

Two large EIPs currently under way

FARMING for WATER
Water European Innovation Partnership - AGRI

WATER EIP

- €60 million - €50 million from DAFM , €10 million from DHLGH
- LAWPRO as lead
- Launched in March 2024
- 5500 farmers participating
- Reducing losses of phosphorus, nitrogen & sediment to water from farmland

Breeding Waders EIP

- €25 million - €7.5 million from DAFM €17.5 million from NPWS
- Irish Rural Link as lead
- Launched in May 2024
- 400 farmers participating
- Securing and increasing breeding wader populations

Co-Funding Model with other Gov Depts and Agencies

Teagasc – Soil Cycle EIP

Call 6: Environmental Sustainability

The Teagasc Soil Cycle project aims to boost nutrient recycling in Irish tillage by applying organic manures in-crop to improve yields, reduce chemical fertiliser use and cut environmental losses.

- Show the agronomic and economic feasibility of replacing autumn slurry with spring in-crop applications.
- Reduce reliance on chemical fertilisers, improve nutrient use of slurries thereby reducing nitrate leaching.
- Agricultural Contractors, Focus Farms, Regional Hubs, Precision GPS Equipment and Compaction Monitoring Equipment

Challenges and Opportunities

- Wide range of calls and projects of varying scale
- Initiation and set up period takes time causing delays in spending funding, creating budget challenges
- Huge potential for knowledge sharing across groups to maximise efficiency
- Need for continued focus on impacts, especially with larger projects
- Potential to apply learnings to future schemes

Thank You