



Allow Project

Duhallow Farming for Blue Dot Catchments

Geographical Location	IE 053 South-West Region
Keywords	Farming practice, Landscape, Fertilisation and Nutrients Management, Water Management, Biodiversity, Nature Management
Project Leader	Dr Darren Reidy, IRD Duhallow (email: darren.reidy@irdduhallow.com)
Project Type	Operational Group
Starting Date	2019
End Date	2023
Project Status	Ongoing
Main Funding Source	Rural Development Programme (RDP) 2014-2020
Total Budget	€1,460,707



Project Rationale

The protection of high ecological status water bodies, as defined by the Water Framework Directive (WFD), is a national priority in the implementation of the River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2018-2021 (RBMP). Agriculture is a significant pressure impacting on high-status waterbodies and measures required go beyond those currently available under current Agri-environment protection programmes.

Project Aims & Objectives

This project aims to restore the status of a high-status objective waterbody not meeting its objective in an agricultural catchment (River Allow, Duhallow, Co. Cork), through a collaborative locally led farmer focused approach, between farmers with experience of high-status bespoke conservation measures and those with none.

To achieve this goal, the project will pursue the following specific objectives:

- (i) Restore and protect high status objective waterbodies in the project target area;
- (ii) Develop and implement a three tiered locally led results-based payment scheme for farmers in high status catchments.
- (iii) Implement bespoke measures to achieve the integrated catchment management impact required through knowledge exchange between farmers with target waterbodies;
- (iv) Develop and implement an on-farm citizen science approach with the farmers;
- (v) Incorporate biodiversity and greenhouse gas payments within the measures;
- (vi) Carry out catchment visioning on the importance of high status to the local farming through knowledge exchange and the wider community through public engagement &
- (vii) Inform national policy and programmes on best practice for the management of high-status waterbodies.

Project Activities

- Develop and roll out a result based locally led farming for conservation programme for the restoration and protection of high-status water bodies in 100 farms in Duhallow through incentivisation of bespoke high status measures and nutrient management strategies, developed under previous high status farm focused conservation projects in the area
- Integrate with WaterMARK to further harness social learning across catchments and improve nutrient management.
- Set up 5 demonstration farms to show case the full range of measures required.
- Through knowledge exchange discussion groups and workshops, set in motion a catchment wide farmer sharing of experiences of Agri-environment schemes and nutrient management/conservation initiatives to bring about social learning on what is required to conserve high status sites through behavioural change and measure on a farm by farm basis.
- Incentivise additional biodiversity and greenhouse gas reduction benefits of proposed and developed measures.
- Work with farmers through a citizen science approach to measure performance of key measures.
- Bring about a shared understanding of 'what a high-status waterbody means to a local community' through catchment visioning at knowledge exchange discussion groups.
- Work with industry to increase participation by farmers in the scheme through further incentivisation.