

# What is EIP-AGRI and what supports can CAP Network Ireland provide

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# What is EIP-AGRI



# What is a European Innovation Partnership (EIP)



- The European Innovation Partnership (EIP) is a dynamic and innovative approach to research and development
- EIP-AGRI is one of five European Innovation Partnerships (EIPs) launched to boost the EU's capacity to innovate
- EIP-AGRI concentrates its efforts on agriculture and forestry, distinguishing itself from other EIPs that address concerns such as active & healthy ageing, water, raw materials and smart cities & communities.
- EIPs are characterized by:
  - Their challenge-oriented nature
  - They prioritise societal benefits and the modernisation of various sectors
  - They foster collaboration among research and innovation partners
  - They aim to achieve more rapid and improved outcomes compared to traditional approaches.
  - Interactive Innovation Model: Goes beyond the Linear innovation models of the past

# What is the objective of EIP-AGRI

The overarching objective of EIP-AGRI is the combination of expertise and resources through the collaborative engagement of public and private sectors at the EU, national, and regional levels.

EIP-AGRI is committed to:

- Highlighting the formation of partnerships through a bottom-up approach.
- Connecting stakeholders through diverse interactive innovation projects, such as Operational Groups (OGs) operating under Rural Development Programmes (RDPs)
- Addressing key environmental concerns and challenges
- Integrating measures from both the supply and demand sides, introduced through connected stakeholders



# The EIP-AGRI Operational Group

EIP-AGRI Operational Group projects are based on the 'interactive innovation' model, this approach stimulates cooperation and innovation.

The three elements forming the key principles of Operational Groups are;

- the project brings together partners with **relevant complementary knowledge** that serves the project objectives, such as farmers, foresters, advisors, researchers, businesses, non-governmental organisations or others from the supply chain – in a combination that best suits the focus and goals of the project and that includes actors from practice;
- the project is based on a '**bottom-up**' approach, focusing on actual needs from farmers, foresters or rural communities that offer an opportunity or require an innovative solution;
- the partners in the Operational Group collaborate throughout the project on an equal basis, '**co-creating**' from the very start, making decisions and creating all results in the project together.

# The EIP-AGRI Operational Group (OG)



A group of people with complementary knowledge



Actors from European (AKIS) to advance innovation in farming



Seize opportunities or find practical solutions for challenges



Well-chosen partners whose expertise can help tackle the objectives of the project – considered approach



The OG will identify the specific challenge



Build proposal around the specific innovative way proposed to address the identified challenges

## When setting up your OG refer to the Competitive Call document 'GUIDELINES FOR FIRST PHASE APPLICANTS'



- The OG is the collection of people who are in the **best position** to help realise the project goals.
- All EIPs must be delivered by an OG, and there must be **more than one member** of the OG.
- The application should set out clearly all the actors who will be members of the OG.
- It must also set out what the **role and contribution** of each OG member will be in relation to achieving the goals of the project including which member(s) will be lead Partner.
- Proposals which successfully move to **phase 2** of the selection will be required at that stage to **finalise** the membership and roles of all actors in the OG.
- OGs are expected to be **hands on** in terms of working towards the implementation of their proposal.
- OGs shall be set up by **interested actors** who are relevant for achieving the objectives of the EIP project.
- An OG can also bring together any advisors/multipliers who have the expertise and knowledge needed by the project at various times, or who can disseminate/promote aspects of the project, but who do not need to be a permanent part of the Operational Group.
- Successfully selected OGs must establish **internal procedures** that ensure that their operation and decision making is transparent and that situations of conflict of interest are avoided.
- Only OGs **based in Ireland** will be eligible for this funding.
- In the Proposed Selection Criteria for the EIP OGs – The **Quality of the OG** - Relevant qualifications and experience, contribution proposed, and representative nature account for **30%** of the application

# Each OG is part of the wider EIP community



- Nearly 10,000 Operational Groups have been established in the EU.
- Since 2014 more than 3,400 EIP-AGRI Operational Groups have been established
- Over 6,600 projects are planned for the period 2023-2027



[Learn more about Operational Groups](#)

<https://eu-cap-network.ec.europa.eu>

## About the EIP-AGRI project database

The EIP-AGRI project database features innovative projects from across Europe that boost innovation and knowledge exchange for agriculture, forestry and rural areas.

[Browse projects](#)



## EIP-AGRI Innovation Awards 2024 for Operational Groups



# How EIP-AGRI is Administered in Ireland

- Support for farmers and rural stakeholders under the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) in Ireland is managed in the 2023-2027 period through the CAP Strategic Plan (CSP)
- Funded under the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD), European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF) and national contributions.
- Irelands CAP 2023-2027
  - Follows a performance and results-based approach built around the objectives that frame Ireland's CAP Strategic Plans
  - Combining targeted interventions addressing specific needs and delivering on EU-level objectives.
- The total indicative financial allocation for this intervention is €36.12m for the period 2023-2027

# EIP-AGRI Theme selection

- A public consultation seeking potential themes for projects was launched May 23rd, 2023. This public consultation was an opportunity to inform the programme direction
- Stream A – EIPs aimed at;
  - Supporting greater Gender Balance in farming in Ireland
  - Animal health and welfare challenges
- Stream B – EIPs aimed at addressing areas related to;
  - Environment
  - Biodiversity
  - Climate change challenges.
- Dedicated calls for proposals on topics that will include
  - Generational renewal
  - The uptake and utilisation of digital tools and technologies at farm level
  - The protection of breeding waders
  - Targeted water quality improvements
  - The integration of the bioeconomy at farm level

# Ireland's EIP-AGRI Journey

- Launched 2016
- Budget of €59 million Funded by DAFM under the Rural Development Programme (RDP) 2014 - 2020

- Two Themed Projects
  - Hen Harrier
  - Pearl Mussel
- Open Call Projects 1 & 2
  - Environmental
  - General
- 23 Operational Groups



# Ireland's EIP-AGRI Journey



- 24 Locally-Led Farm and Community Biodiversity OG's
- 8 Farm Health & Safety & Wellbeing OG's & 2 Rewetting of Farm Peatland OG's

Total of 57 EIP-AGRI OG projects were funded by DAFM under the Rural Development Programme (RDP) 2014 - 2020 (Extended to 2022)

For more information visit [www.capnetworkireland.eu](http://www.capnetworkireland.eu)





# What are the Key Learning from EIP-AGRI 2014–2020



- The success of projects not only lie in their innovation, but also OG's ability to engage with the multi-actor approach.
- High potential for transferability
- Networks formed and communities brought together to work on a shared problem fostered a lasting legacy
- Knowledge exchange between all rural stakeholders – bottom-up rather than 'top-down'
- Building trust and respect between all actors involved
- Merit and Impact of a Results-Based Approach
- Bosting innovation in agriculture and the revitalisation of rural areas
- Value of flexible, practical, locally adaptable, locally relevant measures



# What did the OGs say

*'Seeing government agencies working together for the betterment of the project'*

*'Buy in from landowners and impressing the important of conservation'*

*'Getting a group of farmers together to talk'*

*'We got to engage with diverse bodies through our OG allowing new knowledge to filter through, whether it was from the researchers to farmers or farmers to researchers. This knowledge exchange allowed for collaboration and interaction with each other leading to development of innovation within our sector'*

*'Gaining farmer interest in having sustainable farming while contributing to good water quality'*

*'Seeing the innovations and results we developed in this project potentially having an enormous application, both nationally, and further afield'*

# What supports can CAP Network Ireland provide



# What supports can CAP Network Ireland provide During the Application Process



- **Phase 1.** The CAP Network is hosting this webinar which will be followed with an information pack for applicants to assist in preparing their Phase 1 application
- **Phase 2.** The CAP Network will provide support to those projects which have been selected at Phase 1. This will include information in relation to what is required at Phase 2 of the process;
  - Content of project plans
  - Level of detail required
  - How to access funding
  - Partner Search
- **Phase 3.** The CAP Network will provide support to the successful teams moving to full implementation to clarify what is required at this stage of the process;
  - Reporting requirements
  - Payment mechanisms etc.

The Department will also liaise on an ongoing basis with successful projects as they progress through the implementation phase.



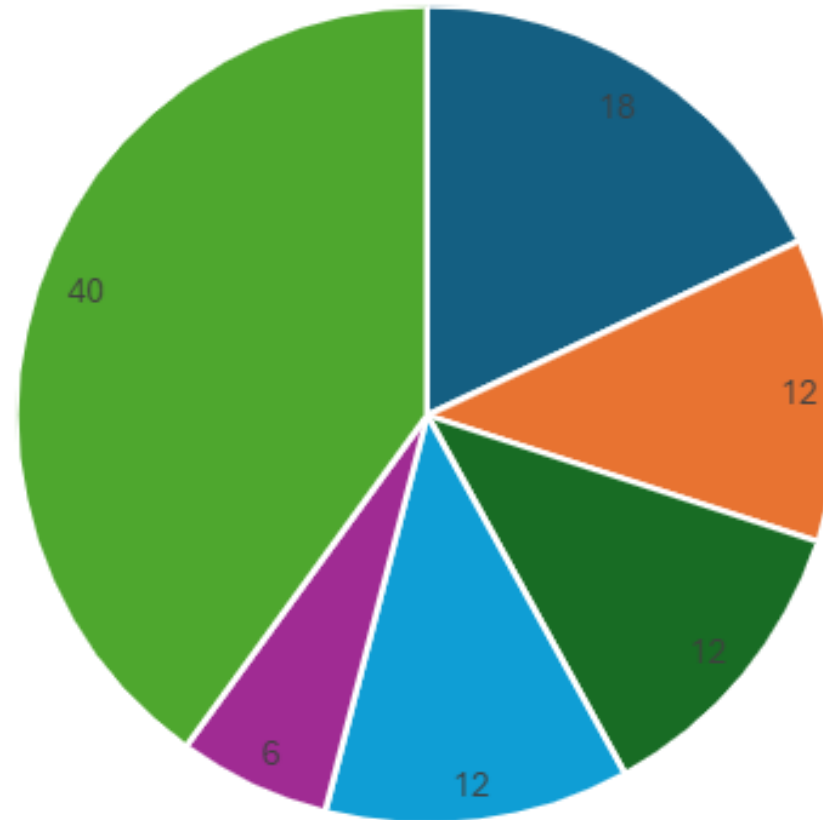
# Assistance with Partner Search



- Farmers
- Foresters
- Researchers
- Advisors
- Businesses
- Environmental groups
- Consumer interest groups



# Key Lessons from past applicants



- Time shortage in writing proposal
- Issues with Collaboration
- Engaging Farmers
- Working with DAFM
- Lack of Experience in proposal writing
- Other

## Other

- Getting everyone working in same direction
- The administrative burden
- Hiring a Project Manager
- VAT & state Aid issues
- Getting it off the ground



# What supports can CAP Network Ireland provide During the Project

Dissemination of the projects results

- 87 Publications
- 36 Videos
- 59 Case Studies





Representation in Europe

Promoting your events to our Network



# What supports can CAP Network Ireland provide after the project is completed



-  CAP Network Ireland have developed a template for the EIP AGRI Reporting
-  Promote Irish Projects at the EIP-AGRI Innovation Awards
-  CAP Network Ireland will review outcomes and innovations from the EIP-AGRI projects
-  CAP Network Ireland can assist OG's in examining funding opportunities after the EIP is completed



# After the EIP is Completed

Biorefinery Glas was an EIP – AGRI project funded by DAFM under the Rural Development Programme 2014-2020. The project received funding of €940k

The OG was led by MTU with partners including the Barryroe Co-operative, the Carbery Group, GRASSA B.V. and UCD

The Biorefinery Glas EIP project has led to Infrastructure funding from DAFM (€3.1m), Pilot Plant funding (€300k) and a CBE JU project (€9m) involving 4 out the 5 original EIP partners.

James Gaffey from the project said *'Even the way our CBE JU is set up, it's going to be a very farmer focused project, interaction through demos, workshops, training etc. it's **EIP-Agri** inspired. I'd say our project ended up being far more impactful because we worked directly with the farmers - it significantly increased the level of interest compared to a standard research project. So, I think as a model it has really worked'*.



**Circular  
Bio-based  
Europe**  
Joint Undertaking

**Thank you for your attention today**  
**For further information**  
**Visit : <https://capnetworkireland.eu/>**  
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