

CONTEXT PROFILE







INNOVATION

Grass allocation using PastureBase Ireland





MAIN DOMAIN OF THE INNOVATION

Improvement of grassland management



AGROCLIMATIC AREA

Atlantic north



CLIMATE

Moderate rainfall



SOIL TYPE

Loam



MANAGEMENT

Pasture dairy



TECHNICAL

Computer-based



FINANCE/INVESTMENT

Low



MARKET

Local-rural



SOCIAL

Full-time farmer





Case Study: IE_09	Agroclimatic Zone								
Item (Key Innovation Elements)	Alpine	Atlantic Central	Atlantic North	Atlantic South	Boreal	Continental North	Continental South	Mediterranean North	Mediterranean South
Availability and access to locally adapted, user-friendly decision support tools	++	+	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	++	+++
Capability operate decision support tools (e.g. PastureBase Ireland) for farm management	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++













Implementation Gaps

 Reliable models of various variables (e.g. remote sensing data, biomass quality and quantity, animal movement data, weather data etc.) need to be synthesized and put into a practical app for farmers to use on a daily basis

Research Gaps

None

Suggestions to Adapt

• Make use of the herbage measurements with the help of an advisor



COST-BENEFIT ANALYSIS

INVESTMENT COSTS

Total initial investment costs at start up:	low	
Initial authorisation costs (e.g. sanitary, veterinary, etc.)	not applicable/not known	
Initial advisory costs	mid	
Initial buildings and machineries	mid	
Initial certification costs	not applicable/not known	
Initial working capital (personal qualification, marketing and promotion, etc.)	low	

ON-GOING COSTS

On-going advisory costs	not applicable/not known
On-going certification costs	not applicable/not known
On-going buildings and machinery costs	high
	not applicable/not known

BENEFITS RELATIVE TO ORIGINAL SYSTEM

Economic

Reduction in energy consumption (electricity; fuel consumption)	mid
Reduction in input use (fertilizers; pesticides; feed) etc.	mid
Payback period	mid
Product value added	not applicable/not known
Additional farm income through agroecological/agri-environmental payment schemes	not applicable/not known

Environmental

Animal feed self-sufficiency increase	high
Biodiversity increase	high
Improved nitrogen cycling	high
Soil regeneration	mid
Animal health and welfare improvement	mid

Social

Workload reduction	not applicable/not known
Engagement of young generation	mid



Literature

English

- PastureBase Ireland: A grassland decision support system and national database ScienceDirect
- https://doi.org/10.1111/gfs.12577 (Study on the general potential of decision support tools in grazing)
- https://doi.org/10.1117/1.JRS.18.017502 (Study on the general potential of decision support tools in grazing)