CONTEXT PROFILE

IRELAND

FARMER
Killian Brennan

INNOVATION
Extending the grazing season length

Video

MAIN DOMAIN OF THE INNOVATION
Improvement of nutrient cycle

SOIL TYPE
Gley

FINANCE/INVESTMENT
Low

AGROCLIMATIC AREA
Atlantic north

MANAGEMENT
Pasture dairy

MARKET
Local-rural

CLIMATE
Moderate rainfall

TECHNICAL
Computer-based

SOCIAL
Full-time farmer

All contents of this document are expert opinions of the G4AE Scientific Technical Working Group

CONTEXT PROFILE

IRELAND

Case Study: IE_13	Agroclimatic Zone								
Item (Key Innovation Elements)	**Alpine**	**Atlantic Central**	**Atlantic North**	**Atlantic South**	**Boreal**	**Continental North**	**Continental South**	**Mediterranean North**	**Mediterranean South**
Long term program to improve soil fertility	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	++	++
Improve grass production by incorporating white clover for the grazing paddocks and red clover for the silage paddocks	++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	++	++
Improve access to the grazing paddocks (cambered roadways; astroturf on high volume areas; multiple access points etc) - positive effects improve cow flow; reduce lameness; increase the number of grazing days	++	+++	+++	++	+++	++	++	++	++

+++ **Strong transferability**

++ **Slightly limited transferability**

\+ **Very limited transferability**

× **Generic information/not relevant**

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Implementation Gaps

- Establish the cost/benefits of the soil fertility program, grass production improvements and access to grazing paddocks;
- Use other materials to improve the farm roads;

Research Gaps

- Impact on the biodiversity of the farm is not clear;
- Economic/animal welfare benefits;

Suggestions to Adapt

- Adapt the management of the soil fertility program to the farm/soil needs;
- Use other plant species adapted to the local conditions to improve grass production (grazing & silage production);

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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	low
• 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
On-going working capital	not applicable/not known

BENEFITS RELATIVE TO ORIGINAL SYSTEM

- **Economic**

Reduction in energy consumption (electricity; fuel consumption)	high
Reduction in input use (fertilizers; pesticides; feed) etc.	high
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	high
Animal health and welfare improvement	not applicable/not known

- **Social**

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

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Literature

English

- Salomon, E. and Spörndly, E. 2016. Materials to prevent trampling damage on pasture areas subjected to high dairy cow traffic. In: Höglind et al (Eds.) Proceedings of the 26th General Meeting, Trondheim, Norway. 4-8 September, pp 113-115.
- Berry, E., Stoddart, M. och Broughan, J. 2008. Locomotion scoring of cattle using a lameness-speed index on different types of track. Veterinary Record, vol. 163, pp 601-602.

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