



Agri-environment schemes - paying farmers for biodiversity quality:

Lessons learned from a pilot in Ireland & Spain

Seminar on Friday 22nd June –
Hodson Bay Hotel, Athlone, Co. Roscommon
10am – 4pm

How can agri-environment schemes be redesigned to pay farmers for the quality of the biodiversity on their farmland?

During the past 3.5 years, the Results-based Agri-environmental Payments Scheme (RBAPS) pilot project has been working with farmers in Ireland and Spain to test how paying for the quality of biodiversity can be achieved in a way that is fair to the farmer, the environment and also meets national and EU regulatory and administrative requirements.

This seminar presents the experiences and findings of the RBAPS project, and will explore how payments for the quality of farmland biodiversity can work in reality, with a particular focus on grasslands. The project teams will summarise how scoring assessments can be developed for such schemes and what supports are needed to ensure their success.

Agenda:

- Welcome and introduction by Project Coordinator, Derek McLoughlin of the European Forum for Nature Conservation and Pastoralism (EFNCP), (Chair)
- Development and use of scoring assessments - Dolores Byrne, Institute of Technology, Sligo
- Implementation: how it works on the ground, challenges and opportunities - Alex Copland, BirdWatch Ireland
- Monitoring and evaluation: designing in success from the start - Caitriona Maher, EFNCP
- Recommendations on the future of results-based agri-environment payment schemes and how they can be facilitated through the Rural Development Policy - James Moran, Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology

Panel discussion with representatives from the farming community, farm advisors, The Hen Harrier Project EIP, National Parks and Wildlife Service and Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

This event is aimed at anyone interested in the future of agri-environment schemes, particularly farmers, farming authorities and advisors, administrators and those interested in European Innovation Partnerships, particularly with a biodiversity focus. **Attendance at the seminar is free, but you must register in advance at:**

<https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/rbaps-end-of-project-seminar-tickets-45410866123?ref=estw>

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