



Protect & Enhance The Farm Ecosystem

Soil health | Mixed farming | Benefits of using rare and native breeds | Managing and creating in-field and semi-natural habitats | Lowering the risk of diffuse pollution (water quality) | Efficient water use (including harvesting and storage) | Natural flood management

Try Out Fund



Three Try-Out fund projects have been successful in their applications and these will focus on lowering the risk of diffuse pollution, improving soil health and natural flood management by establishing effective crops under Brassicas.



Lowering the risk of diffuse pollution



Improving soil health



Natural flood management

Discussion Groups



64 discussion groups have been recruited with approximately 750 businesses.

The groups will cover the 3 themes:



Business



Land



Livestock

Focus on:

- > Optimising farm performance
- > Making best use of resources
- > Minimising inputs and optimising efficiencies to reduce farm emissions and maximise carbon sequestration
- > Protect and enhance farm ecosystems

Mentoring



138 hours of mentoring have taken place



- Lowering the risk of diffuse pollution **26.7%**
- Soil health **22.2%**
- Mixed farming **18.9%**
- Managing and creating in-field and semi-natural habitats **17.8%**
- Natural flood management **13.3%**
- Benefits of using rare and native breeds **1.1%**

Extracts from mentoring diaries include:

“Discussed liming and herbal leys, dry weather impacts and small grants.”

“Discussed the pros and cons of hedgerow coppicing.”

“Discussed small grant schemes, red squirrel areas, habitat creation and future farm support schemes.”

Agrisgôp



4 Agrisgôp meetings have taken place



Groups that met during this period focussed on:

Setting up a native breeds pig producer group to market and direct sell its own produce.

- Benefits of using rare and native breeds **42.9%**
- Mixed farming **42.9%**
- Soil health **14.3%**

Advisory Service



Mixed farming



1 Business Plan to look at both beef and sheep enterprises and how they complement each other in cross system grazing.

Managing and creating in-field and semi-natural Habitats

1 Agri environmental advice delivered

Water Quality, efficient use of water (in line with the regs)

12 Businesses supported

Events



Using Fire to Manage Vegetation **1** Course completed

Horticulture Customised Training

Soil Management for a Healthy Vineyard

1

Course

7

Attendees

