



Knowledge Network on Sustainable Intensification (KNSI)

The Irish Context

National Research Lead:

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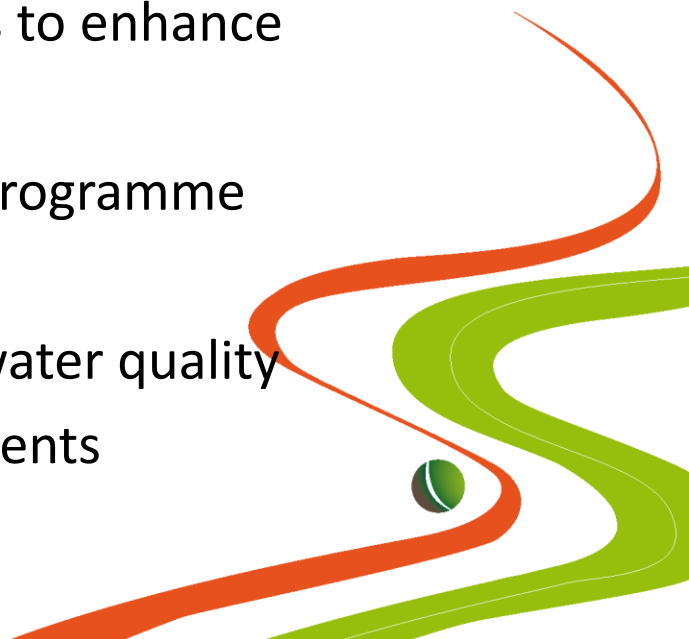
National Funder Representative:

Noel Collins, Scientific Programme Manager - Research
Stimulus Fund, Department of Agriculture, Food and the
Marine

1. Describe any existing (formal or informal) national SI networks and national funding for them (if in place).

• **No formal SI network but..**

- Agricultural Greenhouse Gas Research Initiative Network
 - Seeks to assess the influence of climate and soil on C sink capacity as well as quantifying effective ways to enhance pasture sequestration
 - Funded by Dept of Agri Research Stimulus Programme
- Agricultural Catchments Programme
 - Aims at achieving SI whilst achieving good water quality
 - Working with 300 farmers across six catchments
 - Funded by the Dept of Agr





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2. Describe the SI community in your country and how it relates to a network.

• Stakeholders with an Interest in SI include

- Public policy– Departments of Agri and Environment
- Enforcement – Dept of Agri, Env Protection Agency,
- Research – Teagasc and other third level institutes
- Industry – Meat and milk processors etc
- Farmers – represented through farm bodies
- All these stakeholders regularly interact with one another..
- Including and especially when key strategic plans are drafted
- *...But perhaps not constituted in a formal network*
- Initiatives aimed at better understanding and enhancing SI metrics: Teagasc National Farm Survey and Irish Food Board



3. What are the SI research (and funding) strengths and priorities for your country?

- **SI central in key strategic documents – including..**

- Food Wise 2025 – IE’s 10-year agri-food strategy, copperfastens need for targeted research to help achieve SI
- Approach also endorsed in Innovation 2020 – IE’s 5-year strategy on research, development, science and technology
- IE’s Strategic Research Agenda in Sustainable Food Production and Processing Area – SHARP – informed both high level strategies
- SHARP provides a funding decision tree with 179 topics in 9 pillars areas with prominence to SI-related knowledge gaps



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4. What would you like to get from the Knowledge Network?

- **A Deeper Understanding of what truly ‘Sustainable’ actually means and demonstrated**
- **Building on current knowledge and state of the art**
- **Bridging gaps between cutting edge research and practical approaches relevant to farmers**





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5. What would you like to see the KNSI achieve at the European level (short term and longer term)?

•Short-term? Highlight other countries

- Innovative farm and landscape management practices
- Cases of best-practice for knowledge sharing

•Long-term?

- Can a more coherent, collaborative and strategic approach to various (and sometimes ad hoc) national efforts at achieving SI be facilitated through the FACCE-JPI?