

Multi-Stakeholder Workshop

Sustainable intensification of agriculture - what are the factors which influence its achievement from farm to fork ?

17-18 October 2018, Wexford, Ireland

Agriculture is vital to Europe's prosperity. However, while agricultural production in Europe has significantly increased food security it has also damaged soil and water resources, impacted ecosystem biodiversity and contributed to climate change. With the global population predicted to grow to 9B by 2050, it is estimated that current food production must increase by 60% to meet this demand. Demand for water is also expected to grow by the same amount by 2025, much of it for irrigated agriculture. Further intensification of production to support population growth must be sustainable to minimise future environmental impacts and negative externalities. Sustainable agriculture has been implemented in many countries. It integrates technologies, practices and natural processes to manage pests, nutrients, soil and water, with local knowledge, community and stakeholder participation and management methods which adapt to specific conditions. External inputs (e.g. non-renewable energy, fertilisers and pesticides) are reduced or replaced by natural processes and resources to minimise environmental impacts and conserve resources. Sustainable intensification (SI) of rain fed and irrigated agriculture can improve food production and crop yields while reducing pesticide use, GHG emissions and environmental degradation. A key feature is that production is increased only in ecosystems supporting this. There are many social, economic and environmental benefits, which increase sustainability in different sectors.

The aim of this two day multi-stakeholder workshop is to gain a holistic view of SI and acquire a better understanding of the factors (from different stakeholder perspectives) that influence its achievement within current European agricultural practices and production methods. Participants will gain a greater appreciation of what SI is, how SI can be implemented, the indicators of success or failure of SI, and potential barriers to greater acceptance and incorporation of SI within the European agricultural landscape.

The workshop will be presented by experienced training facilitators and experts from the INSPIRATION Innovative Training Network (www.inspirationitn.eu). The programme includes technical sessions and hosted field trip, with the objective of consolidating participant understanding in the theoretical concepts and practical application of SI in contemporary agricultural production.

The workshop will have wide appeal and is open to external participants including, but not limited to, farmers, local/national government agencies, regulators, practitioners, managers, researchers, students and others with interests in sustainable intensification of agriculture. Participants with backgrounds in farming, agricultural/environmental engineering and management, environmental sciences, social sciences, dairy processing and policy are encouraged to attend. The course will be attended by scientists and researchers from the INSPIRATION Innovative Training Network, the Agricultural Catchments Programme (ACP) and the Heavy Soils Programme, providing a unique opportunity for networking with leading experts in the field.

Further information on the technical programme, joining instructions and venue for the workshop is provided overleaf.



Programme

Wednesday 17th October : Technical presentations and group work

Morning session

Registration

09.00-10.30 : Welcome and outline of workshop

11.00-12.30 : Presentations on stakeholder perspectives and experience (Farmer, Advisor, Scientist, Policy, Industry)

Afternoon session

13.30-16.30 : Facilitated group work

Step 1. Participants will be divided into groups and asked to develop the parameters that they feel are important to achieve the SI indicators presented in the morning "outline of workshop" session, as well as the factors that influence these parameters.

Step 2. Groups will be asked to suggest to what degree the identified factors and parameters influence each other and the SI indicators provided, as well as how the indicators interact with each other. Flow charts linking interactions will be developed, including the direction of the relationship between factors, parameters and indicators (positive or negative) and the degree of influence. Potential barriers to implementing SI and possible mechanisms to overcome these will be identified.

Step 3. Each group will present their analysis and exchange views and opinions with the workshop participants in an open discussion

(Instructors: Owen Fenton, Teagasc, Ireland; Steve Thornton, University of Sheffield, UK; Nenia Niha, ACP Teagasc Economist, Ireland; Karen Daly, Teagasc, Ireland; Sara Vero, ACP Teagasc, Ireland and supported by others from the INSPIRATION Innovative Training Network)

Evening session

17.30-23.00: Viking BBQ at Irish Heritage Park <http://www.irishheritage.ie/>

Thursday 18th October : Fieldtrip to Dunhill-Annestown valley, Co Wexford

09.30-16.30 : The management of water resources requires consideration of the inseparable links between social, economic and environmental interests. These needs include the management of municipal wastewater, farmyard and road runoff, and diffuse polluted waters from fields and agriculture activity – all essential for a healthy and prosperous society. One approach to achieve this was pioneered in the Dunhill-Annestown valley by re-establishing wetland ecosystems to sustainably treat agricultural run-off and other polluted water sources. Known as Integrated Constructed Wetlands (ICWs), the concept combines many aspects of water management with habitat reanimation and landscape-fit. It has evolved over the past 30 years and today more than 120 such reanimated ecosystems operate throughout Ireland and in several other countries. The field trip explores the development and implementation of this approach. *(Instructor: Rory Harrington, Vesi Environmental Ltd, Ireland; <https://www.vesienviro.com/about-us>).*

Registration

Registration for this workshop is essential as places are limited. **Deadline for registration is 10th October 2018.** To register please contact Dr Gabriella Kakonyi (g.kakonyi@sheffield.ac.uk). Technical enquires should be directed to Dr Owen Fenton (Owen.Fenton@teagasc.ie). A Certificate of Attendance will be provided to participants wishing to attend for CPD training.



Cost, Venue & Location

Cost

The fee for the workshop is €175, payable electronically when registering. This covers course notes, lunch, coffee/tea breaks, BBQ, field site visit and Certificate of Attendance. Participants must cover their own accommodation costs.

Venue

The workshop will be hosted in the Clayton Whites Hotel, Wexford, Co. Wexford, Ireland. The map below shows the location of the Clayton Whites Hotel in Wexford, with contact information. The hotel has parking and is close to Wexford bus station (see map).

Accommodation to suit all budgets is available in the Clayton Whites Hotel and many bed and breakfast establishments in and around Wexford. Further information is available on request. A special room rate of €85 for single room and €135 for twin room has been arranged at the Clayton Whites Hotel for participants attending this workshop. To qualify for this special rate, participants should email: info.whites@claytonhotels.com by 16th September, referring to Block ID# 1317219 and reference as the University of Sheffield, when making a room booking.

Wexford can be reached by flights to Dublin and several regional airports. There is a frequent bus service from Dublin airport to Wexford (<https://www.wexfordbus.com/>). The bus station is located close to Wexford town centre (see map). Taxis are available.

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