



IPM adoption in my hub

Facilitation approach and progress made in IPM adoption



My group



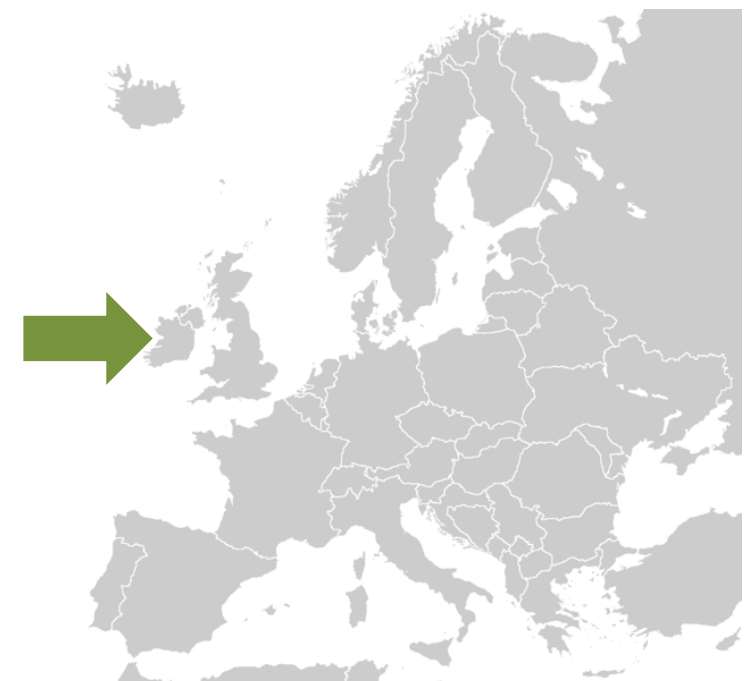
Shay Phelan
Teagasc

PRESENTATION OF THE HUB COACH ORGANISATION

Teagasc is the national agricultural research, advisory and education institution in Ireland. It is funded by government, advisory fees and by research fees and work as a completely independent organisation. Teagasc is involved in all areas in agriculture including crops, livestock, forestry and horticulture and we have a number of research stations and colleges located around Ireland

THE HUB

The hub consists of 7 farmers located from county Meath, just one hour north of Dublin, along the east coast in counties Kildare, Wexford and south in Tipperary and Cork. There are a variety of different systems in the hub including plough, min-till and direct drill as well as some regenerative systems. Crops grown include, winter wheat, winter barley, winter oats, spring barley, beans, peas winter oilseed rape and potatoes.



OBJECTIVES AND MOTIVATIONS OF THE FARMERS

The main objective of the group members has been to reduce the use of pesticides on farm and to try to protect the environment.

DRIVERS

Costs of crop production has increased dramatically in the last decade and one of the main drivers was to try to reduce costs while still maintaining profitability

BARRIERS

There are a number of barriers including:

- loss of key active ingredients,
- pest resistance,
- weather,
- lack of resistant varieties





IPM challenges and results

IPM Challenges

Being on the north west of Europe in a maritime climate fungal diseases such as septoria, rynchosporium and net blotch are a challenge to control.

Grass weeds such as perennial ryegrass, blackgrass and bromes are also a challenge for Irish growers.

Barley Yellow Dwarf Virus can be especially difficult to predict and control particularly in both winter and spring barley

Barley Yellow Dwarf Virus in Winter Barley



The hub's results

Grass weed control was one of the main focusses within the group and IPM techniques have been employed on all farms to control them such as crop rotation, delayed drilling, swapping from winter to spring drilling.

Most of the growers took part in aphid monitoring to try to predict the spread of BYDV with all growers reducing the use of insecticides

Ongoing Challenges

Reliable disease control in all crops still is challenging in the Irish climate. A lack of resistant varieties is making control of the various diseases difficult and expensive

How are the hub farmers going to proceed ?

The members are agreed to continue to implement IPM measures as they have signed up to a new Teagasc programme promoting sustainability

Key conclusions

A full IPM approach to controlling the key pests and diseases is needed.

Chemical pesticides should be the last resort, where possible, to be used to control the various pests.

Facilitation approaches

What is the issue the hub work on more precisely?

Peer to peer leaning is needed to show how IPM approaches can work

How did you proceed? What did you do?

Targeted events to highlight certain issues were held.

Meeting with other hubs were held to discuss similar issues and implementing the different approaches

Title

What conclusions can you draw?

Farmers like to learn from the experiences of other farmers and are more likely to adopt technology when they see testimonials from their peers

My tips for making it work

Be open
Be friendly
Be truthfull



Individual facilitation

- **Develop a solution for the individual situation**
- **Make it personal to their unique situation**
- **Be sympathetic to their situation**

Collective facilitation

- **Allow all to contribute**
- **Encourage positive engagement**
- **Be discreet**
- **Set targets**

IPM adoption & pesticide use



Hub members participated in a project to develop a decision support tool for barley yellow dwarf virus which could help to predict conditions that would assist the spread of barley yellow dwarf virus

“ The members learned more from one another and other hub members that any advisor would have been able to achieve

Shay Phelan

“ Crop rotation and monitoring is key to making my system work. It allows me to avoid using insecticides