



A pilot agroforestry plantation was established in 2011 on part-time farmer Liam Beechinor's 20 hectare (ha) beef farm in Co. Cork. The pilot plantation has been used to proof agroforestry establishment/ management methodologies and as a feasibility demonstration for farmers, professional foresters and policy makers.



Objectives

- Initial objective: pilot feasibility plot
- Secondary objective: demonstration plot
- Tertiary objective: proofing methodologies

Motivations

- As a new land use in ROI, a practical demonstration of successful agroforestry establishment is required
- For the landowner, personal interest, pride and financial support are important drivers
- For the advisor, the open personality of the landowner and willingness to engage are essential tools in the extension effort

Topic selection

- Selected to cover land use rationale, establishment options and early management

Evaluation peer-to-peer learning environment ( 30th April, 2018- Liam Beechinor)

- All participants asked at least one question and shared their points of view, one participant who perceived themselves to be an observer.
- Issue of gender cited as a factor impacting participation
- All participants would recommend the event to others

Audience & participation

- Informing landowners as potential scheme participants
- Professional foresters to discuss management issues
- Policy makers to view feasibility, with a view to whole farm planning
- No participation fee

Demonstration set-up

- Initially top-down (led by extension), but open discussion encouraged.
- Advocacy contribution by the farm owner is considered the most important by advisors
- Demonstrations for different audiences have been both targeted and integrated, with mixed results
- An adjacent standard forestry plantation is used as a contrast

- This demonstration plot is the first state aid-supported afforestation plantation in ROI
- Demonstrates how to engage multi-actors successfully in afforestation promotion & extension
- Points to the potential of a lead forest owner/ master farmer advocacy initiative

