

2021 KT Walsh Scholarship (MAIS) Project Summary

1. Project Title and Associated Programme

KT Programme	Signpost Programme
Project title	Engaging farmers in conversations about climate change

2. Project background

Ireland is committed to reducing GHG emissions as a signatory to the UN Paris Agreement. As an EU member, we must play our part in delivering on the ambitions of both the European Green Deal and the EU Farm to Fork strategy. The Programme for Government 2020, and the Climate Action Amendment Bill 2020, target a climate neutral economy by 2050. Ag Climatise charts a roadmap for the farming sector to meet Climate Action Plan 2019 targets by 2030, whilst also outlining a vision towards climate neutrality by 2050. The Teagasc 2021 – 2023 Strategy (in publication) identifies sustainability as a strategic priority.

With agreement both nationally and internationally of the need for climate action in the face of accelerating climate change, all sectors of the economy must seek to reduce their climate footprint. Agriculture is uniquely placed to contribute to climate change mitigation and the protection of the environment, with farmers central to the transition. However, farmers need to be enabled and supported to make the changes needed to achieve our climate goals, while at the same time protecting their economic viability.

3. Project aims and objectives

The main aim of the project is to increase farmer understanding of climate change and GHG issues, and specifically, how farmers can contribute to both climate change mitigation and protection of the environment. In particular, the proposal aims to assist farmers to become familiar with the underlying principles of climate change, agriculture's contribution to GHG emissions, mitigation and adaptation, carbon sequestration, and emissions policies.

In essence, the proposal concerns building the capacity of farmers so that they can futureproof their farm business to capture opportunities and minimize risks as the climatic, economic and regulatory environment in which they operate changes. An outcome of the project would be the increased ability of participants to engage in informed conversations around climate change, GHG emissions and mitigation actions.