Speakers

• Rhoda Meek
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• Dr Ruth McAreavey
• Professor Andrew Barnes
• Alexander Pirie
• Professor Davy McCracken
Andy Dean
Northern Ireland: Community Led Local Development

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Delivering a New Rural Policy Framework in NI

01 DO MORE OF
- Supporting rural communities and rural networks
- Grassroots involvement
- Collaboration
- Delegating decision-making

02 KEEP DOING
- Effective monitoring and evaluation throughout projects and policy-making
- Developing a place-based approach to economic development
- Integrated interventions to bring in new talent
- Programme development and innovation
- Creating multiple entry points
- Regular review of participation of beneficiaries
- Allowing flexibility
- Programmatic innovations e.g. reprioritizing impact beyond monetary value

03 START DOING
- Prevention of soil erosion and local government structures
- Prioritizing small-scale projects
- Focus on local
- Sustainable financing and delivery
- Embrace relations with local communities
- Emphasize decentralized approach
e.g. high impact in entry
- Feasibility in programme priorities and administrative coordination

04 LESS OF
- Centralized decision making
- Assuming that one size fits all
- Grant programming
- Using integrated meeting processes
- Decision making behind closed doors

05 STOP DOING
- Building community power and trust
- Placing people at the centre of the process
- Community asset building
- Calculated risk taking
- Inclusive programme design
- Recognising and valuing local knowledge
You had council sort of, maybe slipping projects in that they would have been wanting, that’s what worries me going forward.

It’s not just good enough to have the 50/50 or the 51/49 approach, it’s important that the people who actually sit on the board from the social and community and economic sector are strong individuals or have within themselves the knowledge that they have as much power or in terms of decision making as the elected members.
Doing more with less

Andrew Barnes
Professor of Rural Resource Economics
Head of Rural Economy, Environment and Society Department, SRUC

Leading the way in Agriculture and Rural Research, Education and Consulting
Scottish Total Factor Productivity
Comparative Productivity Performance

Source: Fuglie et al. (2012), USDA (2017); ERSA, 2017
Recent performance shows variances

Significant drivers of best performance:
Age, Attitude, use of subsidies, Land Classification, Education and Succession
How can a farm meet ‘best practice’

- adopting new technologies
- changing the size of their business
- changing the input-output mix
Types of Government Interventions

- **policy interventions**, such as removal of support, provision of advice, education and research engagement for change,
- **technological interventions**, such as adoption of new technologies or techniques, or applying alternative approaches to uplift productivity, and
- **management interventions**, which include farmer decision making and farm planning in terms of the ability to switch the mix of inputs and outputs, or increase in scale.
Key Point Complex Supply Chain

Source: Barnes et al (2017)
SRUC have identified and measured the cost-effectiveness of over 300 ‘win-win’ measures.

Source: MacLeod et al (2015, p12)
Net Zero Arran

Alexander Pirie
What is Net Zero Arran.

Net Zero Arran was launched in late 2019 with the goal of quantifying the island’s agricultural carbon footprint and developing a strategy for improvement. The group has grown year and year since the launch and now has the support of 35 businesses on the island.
Impact.

Since the launch of the group each member has undertaken a least one carbon audit, some are on their second and some, their third. We benchmark emissions against output and have seen the carbon footprints for beef herds on the island reduce by 0.18kg CO2e per kg output and flocks on the island reduce by 3.45kg CO2e per kg output.
How has this been done.

Using our own carbon calculator and with data from each business involved we identified areas for improvement that were common across businesses on the island and have taken collective action where possible to tackle these. The key being that actions are farmer driven and specific to local issues.
Future plans.

Rush pasture control and management. Grassland management meets conservation. Promoting pollinators at farm scale.

Summary.

To date, the group has found real traction, with great buy-in and feedback, the carbon auditing has given us a great foundation to inform decision making and continuing it allows us to track progress at farm level and at a group level. There is lots to be done but we are engaged, excited and raring to go! Thank you for your interest tonight and I welcome any questions you have!
Thank You
Prof Davy McCracken