

DID WE MEET OUR EXPECTATIONS?

INITIAL EXPECTATIONS	WERE THE EXPECTATIONS MET?
<p>(Feedback from the members of the project team in February 2022, at the beginning of the project)</p>	<p>(Feedback from the members of the project team in January 2023, at the end of the project)</p>
<p>The project will spark new ideas, imagination and ways of seeing the world.</p>	<p>Yes. It's very clear from the farmers' feedback that the project sparked their imagination - in particular Lisa's drawings and sketches and also the Creative Climate Wall at the Ploughing Championships. The film also brought out new learning and insights.</p>
<p>It will provide fresh thinking for us as an organising team.</p>	<p>Yes. The project gave us a better, and more compassionate, understanding of the challenges facing farmers, particularly in relation to 'cutting the herd'. It gave an insight into how many farmers feel blamed and shamed by the media and the public discourse on farming and climate change. It also threw a light on the challenges facing farmers who want to address climate change, and how complex that landscape is.</p>
<p>It will build a sense of solidarity, support and friendship amongst the farmers involved.</p>	<p>Yes. This is obvious from the feedback given in interviews, and also from watching the farmers interact with each other during the year. In the long term, some may drift away, while others will maintain lifelong friendships.</p>
<p>The farmers' group gels and they will help, support, and influence each other through the learning journey.</p>	<p>Yes. The farmers have all expressed appreciation for how much they have learnt from each other and the sharing of experiences and information. They are also all getting involved in other projects together (John Joe's Natura Hill Sheep Farmers, Dinny Galvin's EIP, etc)</p>
<p>The group might continue after the project ends.</p>	<p>Yes. They have all expressed an interest in the group staying together but know that this will require outside coordination. They might participate at various levels, some will be very active, others just occasionally. The Hub (and Catriona) will facilitate this coming together for another year with bimonthly meetings throughout 2023.</p>

DID WE MEET OUR EXPECTATIONS?

INITIAL EXPECTATIONS	WERE THE EXPECTATIONS MET?
<p>All of the participants will have a better understanding of climate change and climate action, particularly as it impacts on agriculture.</p>	<p>Yes. This has happened, but perhaps not quite to the extent we would have hoped for. The farmers also came from different starting points. Some have farming practices which are more environmentally impactful and consequently have greater potential for change. Others are low input and low impact. There remains a little defensiveness about their role in contributing to climate change which is very understandable. Also, there are very few clear supports for farmers who are ready to take action. This is an ongoing journey.</p>
<p>They will have a deeper understanding of the challenges and barriers to change. This greater understanding will be empowering rather than overwhelming or disempowering.</p>	<p>Yes. The project has been more empowering than disempowering. There were moments where we could sense some anger and some despair, which is entirely natural. They do better understand the challenges – though not perhaps as fully as we would like, but most importantly they see the value in coming together to find shared solutions.</p>
<p>Any defensiveness or cynicism will have dissipated.</p>	<p>This has diminished but it has not disappeared completely.</p>
<p>The farmers will be inspired and open to the possible changes they can make on their farms.</p>	<p>Yes. This seems to be evidenced from the farmers' feedback: going organic, cutting stock, looking at options for agri-tourism and improving habitats for biodiversity on their farms. Also, the filming process helped to give each of them insights into their own farms.</p>
<p>The project will achieve real and meaningful change in the lives of the farmers and families involved.</p>	<p>While the process was transformative and real, it is too early to say that this has been achieved - but, as outlined above, there are obviously signs that change is happening. It will be important to assess the impacts again annually over the next five years.</p>
<p>The project will have an impact outside of the immediate participants and the Dingle Peninsula, bringing hope, creativity and inspiration to others in the farming community.</p>	<p>We always felt that this was something that would happen after the project had ended. However, the appetite for attending the end of year event in the Blasket Centre was heartening, as was the attendance and feedback from the screening in Carlow. The dissemination of the film will play a key role here – already there are a lot of requests to bring it to venues around the country.</p>

DID WE MEET OUR EXPECTATIONS?

INITIAL EXPECTATIONS	WERE THE EXPECTATIONS MET?
<p>The project will break ground in terms of fostering greater understanding between the farming community and wider community - a sense of solidarity with farmers (particularly smaller & medium sized farms) to help support them to diversify and confront climate change - a strengthening of relationships with the farming community and the building of trust at all levels.</p>	<p>We don't have a sufficiently strong grasp of how the wider community perceives or is responding to the project. However, the positive responses to the Survey Monkey (issued after the film screening in the Blasket Centre) are informative and encouraging. We expect that there will be a similar, more widespread, public response as the film is disseminated in a supported way over the coming year or two. The participating farmers do trust us in this project and their experiences will be communicated to their peers, which should help in communicating on climate action to the wider community. Additionally, we are aware that the sustainable message that permeated our public events, activities and actions (around the sustainability of food, waste and travel) has rippled out into the community and created some impact.</p>
<p>The farmers will feel they are getting a better hearing both locally and nationally - they will feel their stories about who they are and what they are, are aired, listened to, heard and have impact.</p>	<p>Yes. Reading and listening to the feedback from the farmers, they do feel heard. They also seem to have a growing pride in what they are doing, they are happy to talk and be heard in public on this topic and they are willing to take a leadership role. It is another outcome that should be more manifest with the wider dissemination of the film and the learning briefs in the coming year.</p>
<p>The ten farmers will become a local voice for farmers in the area and inspire other voices to emerge.</p>	<p>Yes, we think this is happening. Aidan has put himself forward for the role of chairperson with the Maharees Conservation Association and John Joe has recently established a West Kerry branch of the Irish Natura and Hill Farmers Assoc (INFHA). A number of farmers are exploring the development of a European Innovation Partnership (EIP) in the area. Some will be more prominent and vocal than others, but they will all have a role to play within the farming community. It is great that Dinny has a paid role in the Hub to support this.</p>
<p>I hope farmers won't drop away during the year.</p>	<p>Yes!! They all stayed engaged and some became even more engaged as the project progressed. Not one of the farming families left the project during the year, and the project expanded to include the wider families. We can be very proud of this.</p>

DID WE MEET OUR EXPECTATIONS?

INITIAL EXPECTATIONS	WERE THE EXPECTATIONS MET?
<p>Hopefully we will manage conflicting opinions effectively - it is good to encourage differing opinions, but we want to get the best from them in a way that doesn't drive divisions. And this project has the potential for a lot of differences of opinion, particularly around proving information on the science of climate change (and how bad it could get) and emissions targets for agriculture, including reducing the herd.</p>	<p>Yes, overall, we managed this. But this was in part because we didn't get down to some of the real nitty gritty of the role farming plays in climate change and other environmental impacts, such as water quality. There were some differences of opinion but no controversy.</p>
<p>The solutions will be co-created - the ideas will emerge from participants on the course and, ideally, we will be able to match these with support and resources to make them happen.</p>	<p>A hesitant yes. Some of the solutions that are currently being adopted are not necessarily new (conversion to organics, for example), but others are more niche and are getting a wider hearing (Ted Browne's soil conditioner/compost, for example). We have not played any significant role in making these solutions happen. However, this is where the Dingle Hub will play an ongoing role (e.g. exploring the development of a European Innovation Partnership (EIP) in the area)</p>
<p>We will all learn from each other - an extraordinary team with a diverse range of skills and experience.</p>	<p>Yes. It was great to pick up, and share, new approaches, views and skills.</p>
<p>Everyone will get in touch with their creative child within and remember what they used to love (singing, dancing, flower pressing, embroidery etc.) and that we can weave together a unique creative tapestry unique to this time and project.</p>	<p>Not sure this happened for everyone!! But it definitely resonated with some of the farmers.</p>
<p>We will create space and time to be really imaginative, creative and think outside the box.</p>	<p>Yes. Lisa certainly sparked the farmers' imaginations, especially with her drawings at the climate change workshop and then on the Creative Climate Wall at the Ploughing Championships. However, because the project was so busy, it never really felt like we had enough time to be as imaginative as we would have liked.</p>

DID WE MEET OUR EXPECTATIONS?

INITIAL EXPECTATIONS	WERE THE EXPECTATIONS MET?
<p>I would love Irish to be integral to the project and to give anyone who wants to the opportunity to express themselves through Irish. Maybe we need to create more opportunities for conversation as Gaeilge?</p>	<p>We did our best here. If there had been more Irish speakers participating, we would have done more. It wasn't stellar, but it wasn't bad. Lisa, in particular, given that she didn't have a huge amount of Irish, really put a big effort into using Irish where possible.</p>
<p>We will all look back and say 'wow what a year! We learned so much, we were all so free and creative and we had FUN' We will all find the project rewarding, inspiring, fun, energizing - that it was time well spent.</p>	<p>Yes. What a year! The project that keeps on giving and living. There were many fun moments, particularly on the coach en route to fam trips or at some of the more informal gatherings. There was also pressure and some administrative drudgery, but that's inevitable. It was great to get to know the farmers and their families and to build connections with each other in the project team.</p>
<p>The project will be beautifully and meaningfully documented through video, photography, drawing and many other potential media!</p>	<p>Yes. It would have been nice to have been able to film all of it, but we photographed everything and filmed a lot. And of course, there were Lisa's beautiful drawings and sketches and the learning briefs.</p>
<p>We will get the media coverage we need to highlight the project and support climate conversation and action.</p>	<p>We didn't achieve this to the degree that was hoped for during the year, but we understand that broader dissemination of the film should rectify this.</p>
<p>How we work on this project will become the gold standard for other projects.</p>	<p>That might be stretching it a little! However, there are many elements of this project that will provide useful templates to others. As the project team, we are hopeful that the work undertaken will inspire and inform similar projects.</p>
<p>The project will reflect well on the Dingle Hub, the Dingle Peninsula and will augment the burgeoning reputation we have for addressing climate change.</p>	<p>We leveraged the foundational work of the Dingle Hub on other agricultural initiatives to enable us to propose this project. It has now delivered deep and meaningful impact for the farming community and strengthened those relationships even further. Building that social capital is hugely valuable to the work of the Hub.</p>

DID WE MEET OUR EXPECTATIONS?

INITIAL EXPECTATIONS	WERE THE EXPECTATIONS MET?
<p>Dingle Hub will be able to ensure that different initiatives underway can complement and reinforce each other (e.g. Creative Climate Action project, Ploutos, community owned energy development). An agreed vision for the peninsula will be very important so that different projects and initiatives can be aligned towards achieving that vision. Hopefully the bio-district concept may be the right umbrella.</p>	<p>This is ongoing. Some of the farmers from this group are now working together to develop an EIP-Agri organisational group and this will connect in with an overall vision to develop farm-to-fork on the peninsula. The Hub will continue to work with those farms who are trying to establish diversified agri-enterprises by accessing relevant supports for them and identifying and removing barriers.</p>
<p>The creative output and artwork will find an audience and home so that it will spark the public imagination, ignite conversation and have a lasting legacy.</p>	<p>This is ongoing. A film screening has been held in VISUAL, Carlow and a plan is being put in place for broader dissemination both publicly and within the cultural and policy sectors. This we hope will create legacy.</p>
<p>Creative Ireland will feel the funding was well spent and that the project is a solid success.</p>	<p>We hope this is the case.</p>
<p>It will lead into other projects and collaborations to create a meaningful difference in terms of climate change and biodiversity loss.</p>	<p>We are very confident that the outputs, learnings and experience from this project will inform future initiatives led by the Dingle Hub. We also hope that they will be of use to other groups across the country.</p>