

# AGROFORESTRY AND THE AFFORESTATION PROGRAMME IN THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND



## Farmers

- Approximately 16,000 landowners have plantations.
- Average size is 10 hectares.
- New planting is almost all private (Public forests are replanted).
- Co-operatives are being set up (economies of scale/certification).
- Shortages of fodder / animal feed due to weather conditions.

## Legislation

- The 1946 Forestry Act - Currently all land cleared of trees must be replanted.

## National Planting Programme

- Forests and the forest product sector employ approximately 18,000 people.
- 7,000 hectares are planted annually (target is 17% of landmass, currently 11%).
- Farmers receive premiums and contractors receive planting grants.
- 2.2 million tons of carbon sequestered annually.
- Forestry 1% of GDP / Agriculture is 7% of GDP.
- Recreation in Forests has an estimated value of €300 million.



## Forestry Companies

- Approximately 200 registered foresters.
- 7 large contracting companies.
- They sell the schemes to landowners.



## Research

- Other suitable tree species (e.g. red oak, alder, cherry).
- Shade bearing grass species.
- New agroforestry systems.

## Training

- Foresters and Forest companies.
- Farmers and other landowners.
- Delivered by Forest Service, Universities, Coillte, Teagasc.

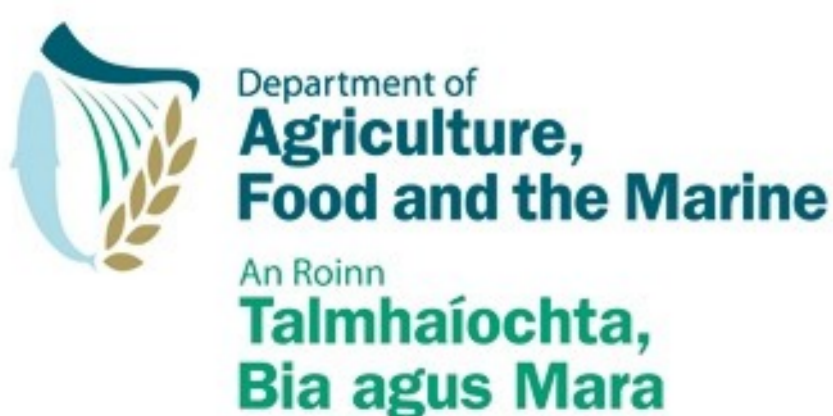
## Land Classification

- Is it Agriculture or Forestry ?  
If the farmer is unable to claim the single farm payment then he/she is unlikely to plant.

## Grant Aided Agroforestry Scheme

## Demonstration Plots

- Lough gall, County Armagh, NI ( Pioneering Plots).
- Rossmore, County Cork, ROI (Demonstration Plot).
- Skibbereen, County Cork, ROI (New Demonstration Plot).



Eugene Curran, Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Coronea, Skibbereen, County Cork, Ireland.

Mobile: 00 353 (0)87 2536576  
Email: eugene.curran@agriculture.gov.ie