

An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
The Heritage Council



European Forum on
Nature Conservation
and Pastoralism

EIP-Agri - Stepping stones to what?



GMIT

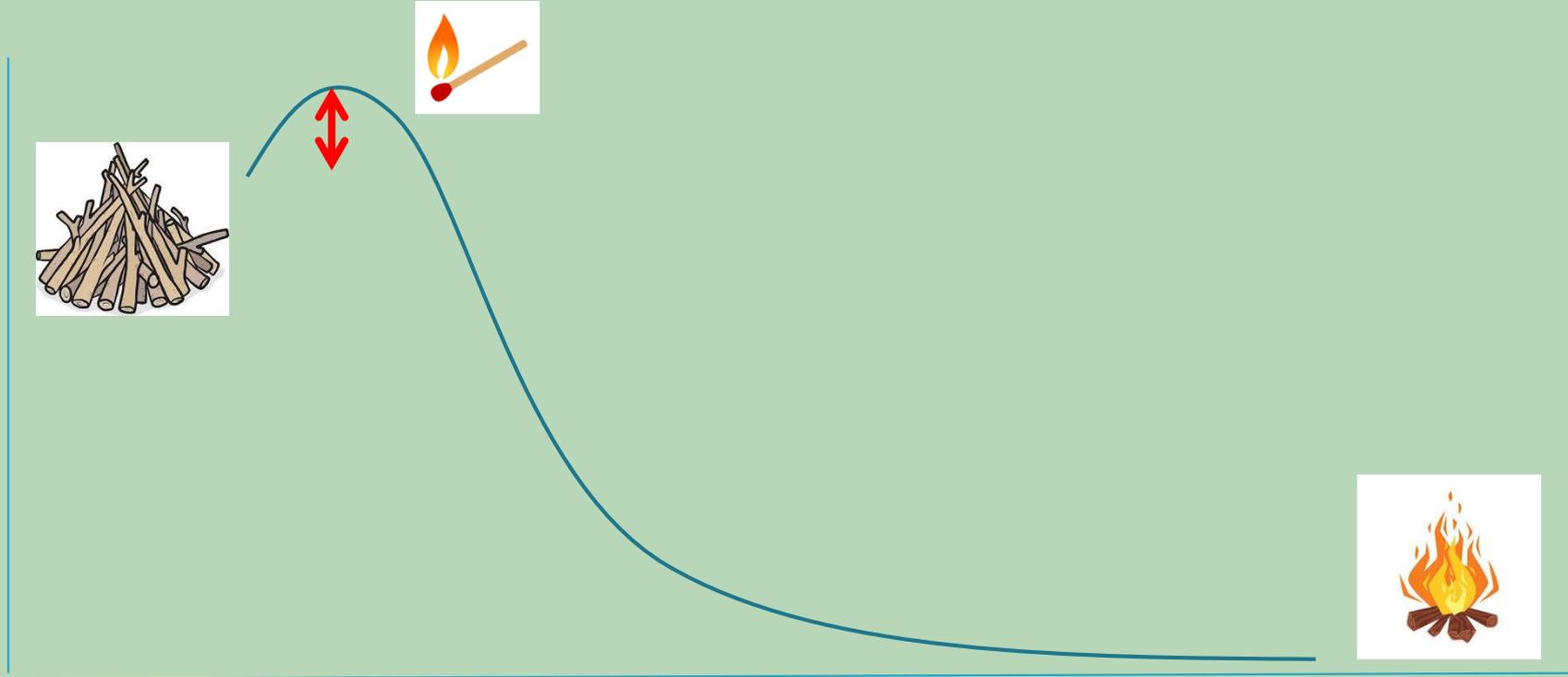


‘Having an idea is one thing, turning it into an innovation action is another’



- The agricultural European Innovation Partnership (EIP-AGRI) works to foster competitive and sustainable farming and forestry that 'achieves more and better from less'.
- EIP-AGRI Operational Groups are project-based and tackle a certain (practical) problem or opportunity which may lead to an innovation.
- The Operational Group approach makes the best use of different types of knowledge (practical, scientific, technical, organisational, etc.) in an interactive way.
- An Operational Group is composed of those key actors that are in the best position to realise the project's goals, to share implementation experiences and to disseminate the outcomes broadly.

EIP unleashes the potential



Fields of innovation



1. Technical and technological
 2. Products and markets
 3. Social and organisational (communities/groups)
 4. Regulatory and support (the State)
- EIPs usually focus on top 1 & 2 (with ‘commercial’ outcomes’)
 - DAFM innovative in asking for relevance for all 4
 - But for post-EIP, State response is key, for 4 in particular



Why EIP-Agri pays for locally-led biodiversity projects in Ireland



- ‘Although significant progress has been made in the past decade, biodiversity loss has not been halted in Ireland.’
- ‘In addition to addressing these issues at national level, .. analysis ... highlighted a requirement to address particular environmental and biodiversity challenges at a targeted and local level in order to ensure a more sustainable and efficient sector.Not all environmental challenges can be addressed at the national level. Rather a more focused approach based on local circumstances and conditions is appropriate in certain instances.’

Why EIP-Agri pays for locally-led biodiversity projects in Ireland



- ‘EIP operational groups will act as a catalyst for change in helping to bring grassroots innovative ideas to implementation using an interactive and bottom up approach. [They] will establish linkages between cutting edge research and technology and mobilise stakeholders to develop innovative solutions aimed at enhancing productivity, efficiency and effectiveness.’
- *‘The approach ..seeks to determine whether ..locally-led approaches... can be scaled-up significantly to address environmental challenges common to a number of distinct areas and habitats and involving disparate groups of farmers’*

What future for EIP-Agri projects?



- For the Hen Harrier and Pearl Mussel EIPs
 - the approach will be piloted on a subset of the geographical ranges of both species, with a view to informing the design of new schemes under the next Rural Development Programme

- For the locally-led EIPs
 - The outputs will be monitored and disseminated with a view to informing the design of new schemes under the next Rural Development Programme.

Discussion topics arising



- What should be the future of current EIPs and/or of the innovations developed in them in the next RDP
 - In general? 1
 - ~~In terms of which specific innovations are more widely applicable?~~
- Is there a need for more locally-led or thematic/regional EIPs in the next RDP? If so
 - What should they be for? 2
 - Could the mechanism be improved in terms of applicants and participants? 3



Discussion and Break out Groups:

- General Discussion (10 mins)
- Break Out - 3 Groups (45 mins + 15 mins feedback)
 - Q1 What is your EIP working towards in terms of roll out? e.g. local roll out of successful innovations within a defined geographic area **OR** wider regional/national roll out of successful innovation from your EIP / group of EIPs with similar character. Have you thought about it?
 - Q2 Where do you feel it will fit or what support will be needed from future Common Agriculture Policy? E.g. agri-environment schemes; cooperation and pilot measure; investments; knowledge transfer; innovation etc.
 - Q3 What external actions/supports would promote local cooperation, partnership, development of ideas? E.g. more EIPs, networks, facilitators, state agency and private sector role.
- Close (10 mins)