

Smart Farming

*Improving farm returns.
Enhancing the environment.*



**NATIONAL SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT GOALS CHAMPION**

**SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
GOALS**





SDG Champions Programme

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Champions Programme is an initiative established by the SDG Unit in the Department of Communication, Climate Action, and Environment. The Minister and the Department believe that the SDG Champions Programme has the potential to achieve nationwide prominence and raise public awareness of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The purpose of the SDG Champions Programme is primarily to raise public awareness of the SDGs, and secondarily to illustrate practical ways in which organisations and individuals can contribute to achieving the SDGs, using Champion organisations' practices as examples.

Each Champion organisation is focusing primarily on a select number of SDGs each. As individual Champions will promote specific SDGs, each of the twelve campaigns will be distinct in terms of the goals they are championing.

However, all twelve campaigns will be built around the core message that the Sustainable Development Goals are for everyone in society and that everyone can make a contribution, large or small, to their success.



www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment



Smart Farming

Smart Farming is a voluntary resource efficiency Programme, run by the Irish Farmers' Association in partnership with the Environmental Protection Agency.

It focuses on delivering the double dividend of improving farm returns while enhancing the rural environment through better resource management. Farmers who participate in the Programme identify ways to reduce their costs by at least €5,000; as well as how to lower greenhouse gas emissions by 5-7%.

Smart Farming collaborates with Ireland's leading academic and advisory bodies, state agencies, and technical institutions to ensure it is current and vibrant.

The Programme strives to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals, including quality education, economic growth, climate action, life on land and partnerships for the goals.



REVITALIZE THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

ENSURE INCLUSIVE AND EQUITABLE QUALITY EDUCATION AND PROMOTE LIFELONG LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL



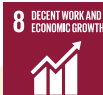
Smart Farming delivers its dual objectives of improving farm returns and enhancing the rural environment through the collaborative leadership of the Irish Farmers' Association and Environmental Protection Agency. This is supported by organisations including Teagasc, UCD, National Federation of Group Water Schemes, FTMTA, SEAI and the Local Authority Waters Programme. These organisations share their knowledge and expertise with Smart Farming participants to continue to improve sustainability in the sector.

Smart Farming uses an "adaptive leadership" model of inclusive education. Farmers are at the centre of the Programme's design, having selected the key themes that can make the greatest on-farm environmental and economic differences. Smart Farming participants share their learnings regarding the cost and environmental savings with their neighbours and friends in peer-to-peer sessions. This is facilitated by the Programme and overseen by suitably qualified advisors.



SUSTAINABLY MANAGE FORESTS, COMBAT DESERTIFICATION, HALT AND REVERSE LAND DEGRADATION, HALT BIODIVERSITY LOSS

PROMOTE INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH, EMPLOYMENT, AND DECENT WORK FOR ALL



Smart Farming works to identify cost savings of at least €5,000 on each participating farm and ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 5-7%. The Programme focuses on eight key areas on farms to deliver these savings: soil fertility; energy use; inputs and waste; as well as machinery, time, water (conservation and quality), grassland and feed management.

In addition to the focus on improving environmental performance, Smart Farming endeavours to enhance the economic sustainability of participating farms. Savings that can be achieved through better resource management are highlighted.

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Why take the Smart Farming Challenge?

SAVE €5,000

Reduce climate impact by 5-7%

What's required?

-  Details of your energy, fuel, water and feed use for the last 12 months
-  Results of recent soil samples, silage and water quality tests and nutrient management plans.
-  The willingness to share good Smart Farming ideas with your neighbours, discussion group, purchasing group or IFA branch.



Gillian and Neil O'Sullivan from Dungarvan took the *Smart Farming* challenge. They identified over **€5,500** in cost savings and ways to reduce their climate impact by **16%**.

Get your **FREE** cost saving study. Email: smartfarming@ifa.ie or call 01 426 0343