

Citizens' Assembly on Biodiversity Loss

15th & 16th October 2022

Saturday 15th

From 8 a.m. **Registration**, coffee

8.45 a.m. Members introduce themselves at their roundtables

9.00 a.m. **Introduction by the Chairperson, Dr Aoibhinn Ní Shúilleabháin**

9.05 a.m. **Brehon Law & Ireland's traditions looking to/after the environment**
Dr Elva Johnston, School of History, University College Dublin

Agriculture & Biodiversity – Policies and Practices Past & Present

9.15 a.m. **General interactions between Agriculture and Biodiversity**

Dr Helen Sheridan, School of Agriculture and Food Science, University College Dublin

9.30 a.m. **Agricultural biodiversity: Current policies, programmes and practices**

Dr Daire Ó hUallacháin, Senior Research Officer in Ecology & Water Quality, Teagasc

9.45 a.m. Roundtable discussion (*private session*)

10.10 a.m. **Q&A**

10.25 a.m. Coffee

Hearing from Farmers

10.40 a.m. **Voices of Farmers:**

- Biodiversity and the farm
- Successes and challenges in managing biodiversity

Panel 1

- **Macra na Feirme** – Shane Fitzgerald – Dairy farmer from Waterford whose farm is a participant in the Teagasc Signpost Programme
- **IFA** – Paul O’Brien (Environment Committee Chair) – Sheep and Tillage farmer in Graignamanagh Co, Kilkenny for 34 years
- **ICMSA** – Pat McCormack (President) – County Tipperary dairy farmer who supplies Tipp Coop with spring calving herd
- **Organic Association of Ireland** – Stephen Meredith (Policy advisor) – Organic beef and tillage farmer, working with his father and brother near Ballylinan, Co. Laois

11.05 a.m. Roundtable discussion (*private session*)

11.30 a.m. Q&A

11.50 a.m. **Voices of Farmers:**

Panel 2

- **Talamh Beo** – Maurice Deasy – Arable and Sheep farmer with his father in North Tipperary
- **INHFA** – Aideen McGloin – Sheep and Beef Farmer, Ox Mountains, South Sligo
- **ICSA** – Dan Lynam – Farmer for 55 years, farming 400 acres with his son in Westmeath
- **Irish Grain Growers** – Pat Cleary – Farms 600 acres with his two sons – the family’s 6th farming generation - in Kildare

12.15 p.m. Roundtable discussion (*private session*)

12.40 p.m. Q&A

1 p.m. Lunch

What can we learn from others?

2 p.m. **What can we learn from other countries?**

Prof. Lynn Dicks, Department of Zoology, University of Cambridge

2.15 p.m. **Engaging and motivating farmers to reverse biodiversity loss**

Dr Brendan Dunford, Manager, Burren Programme and founder of Burrenbeo Trust

2.30 p.m. Roundtable discussion (*private session*)

2.55 p.m. Q&A

3.10 p.m. Coffee & interlude

Woodlands, Forestry and Biodiversity in Ireland

3.25 p.m. **Overview: Woodlands and Forests – Biodiversity Loss and Recovery**

Richard Nairn, Director Natura Trees, member of the Steering Committee of Woodlands of Ireland

3.40pm **Coillte Forestry and Biodiversity**

Mark Carlin, Managing Director for Forestry & Ciaran Fallon, Director of Coillte Nature

3.50 p.m. Roundtable discussion (*private session*)

4.15 p.m. Q&A

4.30 p.m. **Woodland and Forestry video**

- 4.45 p.m. Roundtable discussion (*private session*)
- 5 p.m. **Q&A with people featured in Woodland and Forestry video**
- Eoghan Daltun - Beara Rainforest, Cork
 - Caroline Stanley - Friends of Merlin Wood, Galway
 - Andy Francis - Sitka spruce plantation farmer, Tipperary
- 5.20 p.m. Session ends

Sunday 16th

- 9 a.m. **Questions from Saturday's sessions with the EAG**
- 9.30 a.m. **Environmental Justice and Rights of Nature**
Prof. Áine Ryall, School of Law, University College Cork
- 9.45 a.m. **Q&A**

Peatlands and Biodiversity

- 10 a.m. **Overview of Peatlands & Biodiversity**
Dr Catherine Farrell, Ecologist, Coordinator Peatlands Gathering 2021
- 10.15 a.m. **Peatlands: Voices from the Community**
- **Irish Rural Link** – Seamus Boland, Chief Executive Officer
 - **Community Wetlands Forum** – Ciaran Duggan – Farmer, forester and bog man, connecting nature with community as a member of the Carbury bog committee
 - **Irish Peatlands Conservation Council** – Nuala Madigan, Chief Executive Officer
- 10.40 a.m. Roundtable discussion (*private session*)
- 11.05 a.m. **Q&A**

11.20 a.m. Coffee

11.35 a.m. Taking stock (1hr 10mins) (*private session*)

12.45 p.m. Evaluation forms completion

12.55 p.m. Wrap up by Chairperson

1.00 p.m. Meeting ends