

Green, Low-Carbon, Agri-Environment Scheme - GLAS

Country	Ireland
Sector	Agriculture
Year	2015-2020
Narrative description	<p>With 30% of its greenhouse gas emissions coming from agriculture, Ireland is the only country, which chose 'Resource efficiency and climate' as the main priority of its Rural Development Programme. Many of the measures focus on the increase of emission efficiency, or in other words the decoupling of production and emissions. For instance, Ireland maintains a breeding programme that selects, among other factors, "low emission cows". At the same time Ireland's national strategy for the agricultural sector aims to increase production and exports. Therefore, emissions from agriculture are projected to increase. In other words, any relative gains in emissions efficiency are cancelled out by an overall increase in production and in turn an absolute increase in emissions. However, the "Green, Low-Carbon, Agri-Environment Scheme" GLAS can be seen as an exemplary approach, which combines nature-friendly farming with climate mitigation.</p> <p>GLAS is built on basic environmental action core requirements, priority environmental actions as a first requisite for scheme entry and general environmental actions as funds permit.</p> <p>The supported measures include among others, minimum tillage, hedgerows, low-input permanent pastures, and environmental management of fallow land.</p> <p>This measure is net-zero compatible.</p>
Responsible authority	Irish Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM)
Relevant legal basis	GLAS is implemented pursuant to EU Regulation 1305/2013
Policy Type	Subsidy based on cost incurred

Green, Low-Carbon, Agri-Environment Scheme - GLAS

Governance Level/ Target audience	National
Objectives	To preserve and promote the necessary changes to agricultural practices that make a positive contribution to the environment and climate
Summary of reasons for success	The scheme was designed through a participatory process involving different actors including farmers and nature conservationists, which ensured its actual environmental and climate benefits, but also its acceptability and practicability. The semi-flexible combination of different measures instead of a single-action compensation scheme ensure strong environmental benefits.
Replication potential	The measure could easily be implemented in other member states as well. Likewise, similar schemes with a climate focus and biodiversity safeguards and co-benefits could be designed.
Relevant website	https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/farmerschemespayments/glas/ https://www.agriland.ie/everything-you-need-to-know-about-glas/ https://www.birdwatchireland.ie/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=7yDtwZgNxAc%3D&tabid=1365