

# Agri-environment schemes: paying farmers for biodiversity quality



Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> June  
Hudson Bay Hotel, Athlone  
9:45am – 3:30pm



Seminar theme: How can we design agri-environment schemes to pay farmers for the quality of the biodiversity on their farmland?

Results-based schemes are a farmer-centred approach to farming and conservation, which sees farmers paid for both work undertaken and, most importantly, for the quality of the environmental results.

Over the course of 3.5 years, the Results-based Agri-environmental Payment Scheme (RBAPS) project trialled a mode of paying farmers for the quality of biodiversity on their farms in three differing pilot locations of County Leitrim and the Shannon Callow floodplain in Ireland, and the Navarra region of Spain.

This seminar presents the experiences of the RBAPS and other projects, including the AranLife project and the Hen Harrier and BRIDE EIPs, and will explore how payments for the quality of farmland biodiversity can work in reality.

This event is aimed at anyone interested in the future of agri-environment schemes, particularly farmers, farming authorities, farm advisors, agricultural scientists, administrators and those interested in European Innovation Partnerships, particularly those with a biodiversity focus.

## Seminar agenda:

**Brendan Dunford, Burren Programme, Chair**

-----09:45 – 10:15: Arrivals and coffee -----

**10:15 – 10:45: Welcome and introduction** *Gwyn Jones, EFNCP*

**Overview of RBAPS project:** Navarra, Spain; Leitrim, Ireland and Shannon Callows, Ireland

**10:45 – 11:45: Development of scoring assessments**

- *Dolores Byrne, IT Sligo (RBAPS)*
- *Francis Fox, Leitrim farmer*
- *Caroline Sullivan, Hen Harrier EIP*

**11:45 – 12:45: Implementation**

- *Alex Copland, BWI (RBAPS)*
- *Donal Sheehan, BRIDE EIP*
- *Daire Ó hÚallacháin, Teagasc*
- *Fergal Monaghan, Hen Harrier EIP*

----- 12:45 – 1:30: Lunch -----

**1:30 - 2:30: Monitoring and Evaluation**

- *Caitriona Maher, EFNCP (RBAPS)*
- *Annabelle LePage, Natural England*
- *Amanda Browne, Aran LIFE*

**2:30 – 3:30: RBAPS and RDP: recommendations**

- *James Moran, GMIT (RBAPS)*
- *Andy Bleasdale, NPWS*
- *Margaret Murray, DAFM*
- *Clunie Keenleyside, IEEP*

Please register in advance through the RBAPS website <https://rbaps.eu/events/rbaps-end-of-project-seminar/>