EAAP 2016 Presentation

“Improving the connectivity between young farmers and young scientists”

Presentation by:

Seán Finan

35th President Macra na Feirme
Background

• Sean Finan - Ballinlough Castlerea, Co Roscommon.
• Beef Farmer with father and brother.
• Cattle enterprise.
• Stores / weanlings to beef.
• U and R grade continental heifers.
• Land type: heavy clay soils.
• Focus: Live weight gain from grass.
Macra na Feirme

• 35th National President of Macra na Feirme.

• Two year term.

• Full time role with family support.

• Macra na Feirme is the Irish Young Farmers and Rural Youth organisation.

• Est 1944 - Educate Young Farmers.
Young Farmer Issues

• Represent the interests of young farmers and rural youth.

• Lobbying and working on the issues.

• Land mobility, access to affordable Finance, access to education and farm viability and income.

• Value on education, research and the importance of Knowledge Transfer

• Its fitting that the topic that I'm going to shed some light on today is how to...
Improving the Connectivity Between Young Farmers and Young Scientists

1) Education

2) Effective Communications:
   • Easy to understand
   • Practical and relevant.
   • Effective delivery.

3) Knowledge Transfer

4) Collaborations and Partnerships
Examples of Collaborations - Teagasc

• State agriculture development authority.
• Teagasc is a unique model and not replicated in many countries across Europe.
• It combines Research, Advisory and Education within the one organisation.
• Allows collaboration between young scientist and young farmers.
• Various centres of excellence that exist within Teagasc.
• Grange for Beef, Moorepark for Dairy, Athenry for Sheep, Oakpark for Tillage
Rural Development Programme- Knowledge Transfer Scheme

• Macra training programme - Skillnet

• Continued professional development for young farmers.

• Contact with scientist, advisors and industry specialists.
Improving Connectivity

• Promote discussion groups model.
• Foodwise 2025.
• Grass measuring & soil fertility.
• Science of farming becoming more important.
• Better beef farms programme
• Open days to increase awareness of research.
• Sustainability - Increased efficiency, Increased Profitability
• Origin Green Programme.
Mediums for Communications

• Greater use of Social media.
• Video technology.
• Interactive technology.
• Work with representative organisations.
Conclusions

• Clear and simple communications essential.

• Willingness on young farmers side to engage with Research.

• Scientist – Need to understand the needs of young farmers.

• Lots of collaborations exist but need to be developed further.

• Value of representative organisations to be engage as link.

• Improving the connectivity between young farmers and young scientists.