



The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development:
Europe investing in rural areas

Annual implementation report

United Kingdom - Rural Development Programme (Regional) - Wales

Annual implementation report	
Period	01/01/2020 - 31/12/2020
Version	2020.4
Status - Current Node	Sent - European Commission
National reference	
Monitoring committee approval date	18/06/2021

Programme Version in force	
CCI	2014UK06RDRP004
Programme type	Rural Development Programme
Country	United Kingdom
Region	Wales
Programming period	2014 - 2020
Version	4.1
Decision Number	C(2019)8982
Decision Date	11/12/2019
Managing authority	Welsh Government – Agriculture, Fisheries and Marine Group - Rural Economy & Legislation Division
Coordination body	UK Co-ordinating Body

Table of contents

1. KEY INFORMATION ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME AND ITS PRIORITIES	4
1.a) Financial Data	4
1.b) Common and programme-specific indicators and quantified target values	4
1.b1) Overview table.....	4
1.c) Key information on RDP implementation based on data from a) and b) by Focus Area.....	14
1.d) Key information on achievements towards the milestones set in the performance Framework based on Table F	49
1.e) Other RDP specific element [optional].....	50
1.f) Where appropriate, the contribution to macro-regional and sea basin strategies.....	50
1.g) Currency rate used for conversion AIR (non EUR countries).....	54
2. THE PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTING THE EVALUATION PLAN.....	55
2.a) Description of any modifications made to the evaluation plan in the RDP during the year, with their justification	55
2.b) A description of the evaluation activities undertaken during the year (in relation to section 3 of the evaluation plan).....	56
2.c) A description of activities undertaken in relation to the provision and management of data (in relation to section 4 of the evaluation plan).....	59
2.d) A list of completed evaluations, including references to where they have been published on-line.....	61
2.e) A summary of completed evaluations, focussing on evaluation findings	63
2.f) A description of communication activities undertaken in relation to publicising evaluation findings (in relation to section 6 of the evaluation plan)	64
2.g) Description of the follow-up given to evaluation results (in relation to section 6 of the evaluation plan).....	66
3. ISSUES WHICH AFFECT THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PROGRAMME AND THE MEASURES TAKEN.....	67
3.a) Description of steps taken to ensure quality and effectiveness of programme implementation.....	67
3.b) Quality and efficient delivery mechanisms	70
4. STEPS TAKEN TO IMPLEMENT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND PROGRAMME PUBLICITY REQUIREMENTS.....	71
4.a) Action taken and state of play as regards the establishment of the NRN and the implementation of its action plan.....	71
4.a1) Actions taken and state of play as regards establishment of the NRN (governance structure and network support unit).....	71
4.a2) Actions taken and state of play as regards the implementation of the action plan.....	72
4.b) Steps taken to ensure that the programme is publicised (Article 13 of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 808/2014)	75
5. ACTIONS TAKEN TO FULFIL EX ANTE CONDITIONALITIES.....	77
6. DESCRIPTION OF IMPLEMENTATION OF SUB-PROGRAMMES	78

7. ASSESSMENT OF THE INFORMATION AND PROGRESS TOWARDS ACHIEVING THE OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAMME	79
8. IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTIONS TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE PRINCIPLES SET OUT IN ARTICLES 5, 7 AND 8 OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013.....	80
9. PROGRESS MADE IN ENSURING INTEGRATED APPROACH TO USE EAFRD AND OTHER UNION FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS.....	82
10. REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (ARTICLE 46 OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013).....	83
11. ENCODING TABLES FOR COMMON AND PROGRAMME-SPECIFIC INDICATORS AND QUANTIFIED TARGET VALUES.....	84
Annex II	85
Documents	98

1. KEY INFORMATION ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME AND ITS PRIORITIES

1.a) Financial Data

See annexed documents

1.b) Common and programme-specific indicators and quantified target values

1.b1) Overview table

Focus Area 1A						
Target indicator name	Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2025
T1: percentage of expenditure under Articles 14, 15 and 35 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 in relation to the total expenditure for the RDP (focus area 1A)	2014-2020			10.04	35.39	28.37
	2014-2019			6.74	23.76	
	2014-2018			3.76	13.25	
	2014-2017			1.19	4.19	
	2014-2016					
	2014-2015					

Focus Area 1B						
Target indicator name	Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2025
T2: Total number of cooperation operations supported under the cooperation measure (Article 35 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013) (groups, networks/clusters, pilot projects...) (focus area 1B)	2014-2020			176.00	36.82	478.00
	2014-2019			86.00	17.99	
	2014-2018			60.00	12.55	
	2014-2017			2.00	0.42	
	2014-2016					
	2014-2015					

Focus Area 1C						
Target indicator name	Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2025
T3: Total number of participants trained under Article 14 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 (focus area 1C)	2014-2020			57,944.50	166.91	34,716.00
	2014-2019			22,587.00	65.06	
	2014-2018			10,079.00	29.03	
	2014-2017			5,021.00	14.46	
	2014-2016					
	2014-2015					

Focus Area 2A							
Target indicator name	Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2025	
T4: percentage of agricultural holdings with RDP support for investments in restructuring or modernisation (focus area 2A)	2014-2020	10.18	101.00	10.18	101.00	10.08	
	2014-2019	6.50	64.49	6.50	64.49		
	2014-2018	2.99	29.67	1.47	14.59		
	2014-2017	0.29	2.88	0.07	0.69		
	2014-2016						
	2014-2015						
Measure	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
M01	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	30,777,490.80	91.49	22,770,244.55	67.68	33,641,808.11
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	5,576,550.01	86.15	4,245,600.83	65.59	6,473,423.63
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	33,983,443.58	71.73	23,361,643.86	49.31	47,374,830.90
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	618,750.00	3.25	137,360.21	0.72	19,028,270.53
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	70,956,234.39	66.61	50,514,849.45	47.42	106,518,333.17

Focus Area 3A							
Target indicator name		Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2025
T6: percentage of agricultural holdings receiving support for participating in quality schemes, local markets and short supply circuits, and producer groups/organisations (focus area 3A)		2014-2020	0.76	111.10	0.76	111.10	0.68
		2014-2019	0.70	102.33	0.70	102.33	
		2014-2018	2.11	308.44	0.41	59.93	
		2014-2017					
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
Measure	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
M01	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	53,169,047.69	85.19	19,215,180.98	30.79	62,413,793.70
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	428,239.38	64.60	434,777.28	65.59	662,921.01
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	56,860,305.23	94.90	35,059,923.43	58.51	59,917,712.73
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	3,682,366.32	7.98	2,892,499.75	6.27	46,169,008.65
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	114,139,958.62	67.47	57,602,381.44	34.05	169,163,436.09

Priority P4						
Target indicator name	Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2025
T13: percentage of forestry land under management contracts to improve soil management and/or prevent soil erosion (focus area 4C)	2014-2020					0.00
	2014-2019					
	2014-2018					
	2014-2017					
	2014-2016					
	2014-2015					
T11: percentage of forestry land under management contracts to improve water management (focus area 4B)	2014-2020					0.00
	2014-2019					
	2014-2018					
	2014-2017					
	2014-2016					
	2014-2015					
T8: percentage of forest/other wooded area under management contracts supporting biodiversity (focus area 4A)	2014-2020			0.83	30.73	2.70
	2014-2019			0.77	28.51	
	2014-2018			0.75	27.77	
	2014-2017			0.23	8.52	
	2014-2016			0.20	7.41	
	2014-2015			0.01	0.37	
T12: percentage of agricultural land under management contracts to improve soil management and/or prevent soil erosion (focus area 4C)	2014-2020			4.81	96.48	4.99
	2014-2019			4.75	95.28	
	2014-2018			4.46	89.46	
	2014-2017			4.46	89.46	
	2014-2016			4.36	87.45	
	2014-2015					
T10: percentage of agricultural land under management contracts to improve	2014-2020			6.90	49.89	13.83

water management (focus area 4B)		2014-2019			6.62	47.86	
		2014-2018			6.22	44.97	
		2014-2017			6.22	44.97	
		2014-2016			3.14	22.70	
		2014-2015					
T9: percentage of agricultural land under management contracts supporting biodiversity and/or landscapes (focus area 4A)		2014-2020			63.19	163.06	38.75
		2014-2019			54.82	141.46	
		2014-2018			44.72	115.40	
		2014-2017			44.72	115.40	
		2014-2016			20.94	54.03	
		2014-2015			1.60	4.13	
Measure	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
M01	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	6,414,488.07	126.42	4,510,304.42	88.89	5,073,807.18
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	2,436,972.29	79.70	1,629,103.38	53.28	3,057,577.92
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	90,938,371.76	153.83	48,886,769.65	82.70	59,116,341.63
M08	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	16,334,536.70	87.96	14,990,510.95	80.72	18,571,039.50
M10	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	238,234,370.18	86.19	147,384,905.45	53.32	276,414,061.61
M11	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	29,020,242.00	86.72	22,956,161.03	68.60	33,465,095.56
M15	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	0.00				
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	22,207,661.75	73.53	8,052,146.48	26.66	30,200,131.56
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	405,586,642.75	95.23	248,409,901.36	58.33	425,898,054.96

Focus Area 5B							
Target indicator name		Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2025
T15: Total investment for energy efficiency (€) (focus area 5B)		2014-2020	14,254,387.60	70.50	14,254,387.60	70.50	20,219,521.05
		2014-2019	13,996,168.15	69.22	13,996,168.15	69.22	
		2014-2018	11,587,950.75	57.31	9,380,795.88	46.39	
		2014-2017	1,586,895.45	7.85	1,586,895.45	7.85	
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
Measure	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
M01	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	799,415.35	91.49	593,067.94	67.87	873,813.20
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	157,045.64	86.15	119,563.77	65.59	182,303.28
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	7,919,899.84	96.46	5,701,755.04	69.45	8,210,187.71
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	309,375.00	106.78	68,680.09	23.70	289,739.21
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	9,185,735.83	96.12	6,483,066.84	67.84	9,556,043.40

Focus Area 5C							
Target indicator name		Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2025
T16: Total investment in renewable energy production (€) (focus area 5C)		2014-2020	2,195,851.24	8.74	2,195,851.24	8.74	25,112,831.23
		2014-2019	979,025.41	3.90	979,025.41	3.90	
		2014-2018	1,633,794.74	6.51			
		2014-2017					
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
Measure	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
M01	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	799,415.35	91.49	593,067.81	67.87	873,813.20
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	123,733.49	86.15	94,201.70	65.59	143,632.88
M07	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	589,416.48	7.28	200,293.59	2.47	8,100,891.21
M08	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	1,397,224.71	22.94	834,485.21	13.70	6,091,735.76
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	309,375.00	20.41	68,680.07	4.53	1,515,652.96
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	3,219,165.03	19.25	1,790,728.38	10.71	16,725,726.01

Focus Area 5D							
Target indicator name		Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2025
T18: percentage of agricultural land under management contracts targeting reduction of GHG and/or ammonia emissions (focus area 5D)		2014-2020			8.33	198.32	4.20
		2014-2019			6.40	152.37	
		2014-2018			4.42	105.23	
		2014-2017			4.42	105.23	
		2014-2016			3.11	74.04	
		2014-2015					
Measure	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
M01	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	799,415.35	91.49	593,067.85	67.87	873,813.20
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	1,105,983.46	86.15	842,018.84	65.59	1,283,857.02
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	15,149,137.78	270.88	5,960,042.94	106.57	5,592,579.87
M10	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	10,049,491.69	67.92	8,066,915.68	54.52	14,795,474.71
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	309,375.00	15.31	68,680.13	3.40	2,021,139.06
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	27,413,403.28	111.59	15,530,725.44	63.22	24,566,863.86

Focus Area 5E							
Target indicator name		Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2025
T19: percentage of agricultural and forest land under management contracts contributing to carbon sequestration and conservation (focus area 5E)		2014-2020			0.18	80.00	0.22
		2014-2019			0.18	80.00	
		2014-2018			0.13	57.78	
		2014-2017			0.13	57.78	
		2014-2016			0.03	13.33	
		2014-2015					
Measure	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
M01	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	799,415.35	91.49	593,067.89	67.87	873,813.20
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	617,291.70	110.03	246,177.61	43.88	561,028.93
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	3,249,416.88	74.70	2,479,561.56	57.00	4,349,977.25
M08	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	24,791,584.08	202.95	9,734,033.13	79.68	12,215,687.80
M10	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	1,792,167.24	145.19	1,073,776.34	86.99	1,234,396.85
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	497,939.71	130.95	122,055.35	32.10	380,258.61
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	31,747,814.96	161.85	14,248,671.88	72.64	19,615,162.64

Focus Area 6A							
Target indicator name		Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2025
T20: Jobs created in supported projects (focus area 6A)		2014-2020			12.20	1.59	765.00
		2014-2019			2.00	0.26	
		2014-2018			2.00	0.26	
		2014-2017					
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
Measure	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	220,810.79	60.02	241,301.41	65.59	367,921.16
M06	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	16,867,573.90	124.65	2,983,335.71	22.05	13,531,661.22
M08	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	9,150,721.18	751.17	4,067,371.96	333.88	1,218,200.95
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	3,237,375.37	1,074.62	160,792.49	53.37	301,257.12
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	29,476,481.24	191.17	7,452,801.57	48.34	15,419,040.45

Focus Area 6B							
Target indicator name		Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2025
T23: Jobs created in supported projects (Leader) (focus area 6B)		2014-2020			9.00	9.00	100.00
		2014-2019			4.00	4.00	
		2014-2018			12.00	12.00	
		2014-2017					
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
T22: percentage of rural population benefiting from improved services/infrastructures (focus area 6B)		2014-2020			3.24	7.12	45.53
		2014-2019			0.67	1.47	
		2014-2018			1.93	4.24	
		2014-2017			45.53	100.01	
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
T21: percentage of rural population covered by local development strategies (focus area 6B)		2014-2020			45.53	100.01	45.53
		2014-2019			45.53	100.01	
		2014-2018			45.53	100.01	
		2014-2017			45.53	100.01	
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
Measure	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
M01	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	3,529,411.77	48.74	244,654.20	3.38	7,241,491.36
M07	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	22,845,174.42	94.55	16,140,402.62	66.80	24,163,254.89
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	70,104,059.48	133.94	29,287,343.47	55.96	52,339,864.54
M19	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	61,020,986.53	110.16	27,327,090.34	49.33	55,393,322.47
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	157,499,632.20	113.20	72,999,490.63	52.47	139,137,933.26

Focus Area 6C							
Target indicator name		Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2025
T24: percentage of rural population benefiting from new or improved services/infrastructures (ICT) (focus area 6C)		2014-2020			0.43	2.61	16.47
		2014-2019					
		2014-2018					
		2014-2017					
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
Measure	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
M01	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	399,707.68	91.49	296,533.89	67.87	436,906.60
M07	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	1,531,761.18	94.54	543,805.58	33.56	1,620,178.40
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	1,931,468.86	93.89	840,339.47	40.85	2,057,085.00

1.c) Key information on RDP implementation based on data from a) and b) by Focus Area

Financial Overview

Activity described within this report covers the period from the final quarter of 2015 (October - December 2015) when payments from the Programme commenced to 31 December 2020.

There were no modifications to the Programme approved during the reporting period. However work on the fourth programme modification commenced. This modification planned to make changes to the financial allocations plus minor adjustments to some measures including broadening the scope of LEADER, measure 19 to provide industrial de-Minimis state aid to contribute to the green recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic. The Welsh Government are considering a fifth modification for submission in early 2022 to manage closure of the programme and to take into consideration the continuing impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the delivery of the programme.

Payments of €114m were made for activity undertaken and claimed by the end of 2020, bringing the total paid since the start of the Programme to €539.5m. This represents 55.2% of the Programme allocation. Of the total cumulative expenditure to date €205.8m came from Pillar 1 transfer funding, of which €39.7m was paid during 2020

The 2020 N+3 target for the Programme was met in March 2020 well in advance of December 2020 deadline.

By the end of 2020 total cumulative committed funds were €891.4m. By Priority the highest cumulative commitments were against P4 (€405.6m), P6 (€191m) and P3 (€114.1) with €142.4m committed under the remaining two Priorities. NB: Commitment figures provided by Priority do not include Technical Assistance. By Measure, the highest cumulative commitment was seen against Measure 10 (€250.1m), Measure 4 (€208.1m), Measure 16 (€102m), Measure 1 (€97.49m), Measure 8 (€51.7m) and Measure 19 (€61m) with €121.1m committed under the remaining Measures.

It should be noted that two payments were included in the Quarter 2 2018 SFC declaration to the Commission totaling €5.01m (of which €2.66m EAFRD), under Measure 20. These payments were later removed from the final account figures via the Annual Account Difference document. This adjustment to the Technical Assistance payments has not been included within the Commission's 2019 or 2020 Financial Implementation Reports (FIR), hence a variance occurs between the Total Public/EAFRD expenditure on the FIR and that reported in both the 2019 and 2020 AIR.

The Welsh Government have noted errors with the 2019 data within the monitoring tables. Measure 4.1 expenditure data within table B1 had been allocated against incorrect focus areas, this has been corrected within the 2020 monitoring tables. In addition a correction has been made for Measure 4 total expenditure. Data was incorrectly attributed to FI for this Measure on table B1, measure 4. This has also been corrected within the monitoring tables.

Measure 20: Technical Assistance

Activity funded by Technical Assistance (TA) is essential for the successful implementation of the Welsh Government's Rural Communities Rural Development Programme 2014-20. Activities funded include technical input to the viability of projects, programme implementation and the development of IT systems.

TA funds a number of mandatory elements of the RDP such as the Wales Rural Network (WRN) and monitoring and evaluation costs of the Programme. Technical Assistance also supports actions that support administrative capacity linked to the management of ESI funds. These actions include those associated with supporting the implementation of the programme.

Technical Assistance projects allow the Welsh Government (WG) to meet the regulatory requirements for the delivery of the RDP, activities funded include: Glastir Implementation, Natural Resources Wales (NRW) Woodland Management Planning, Business Improvements, Managing Authority & Delivery Costs, Monitoring & Evaluation, On the Spot Checks, Technical Appraisal, Analysis & Inspection and the Wales Rural Network. The total cumulative committed value for Measure 20 in 2020 was €20.47m. Payments of €4.9m were made during 2020 of which €2.6m EAFRD, providing a total cumulative spend of €21.8m of which €11.6m EAFRD by the end of 2020. TA activities are delivered under Measure 20.1, with the WRN funded through Measure 20.2.

	Number of applications	Total Value (£m)	Total Value (€m) *
Total allocation for TA		£ 41.8	€ 48.7
Committed – Total Public	8	£ 32.5	€ 38.3
Total Spend		£ 19.2	€ 21.8

**Euro conversion of applications under appraisal and approved is based on a €1 = £0.85 planning exchange rate*

IMPLEMENTATION BY FOCUS AREA

PRIORITY 1: FOCUS AREAS 1A, 1B, 1C

Measures 1 (Knowledge Transfer & Information Actions), 2 (Advisory Services) & 16 (Co-operation) are programmed under Priority 1 Focus Area 1A, with Measure 16 also contributing to Focus Area 1B and Measure 1 to Focus Area 1C. In Wales, the Knowledge Transfer and Information actions, along with advisory services, farm management and farm relief services, are horizontal Measures relevant to all Priorities of the Programme with actions within the Measures programmed under specific Focus Areas of the other Priorities. Activity also contributes directly to meeting the cross cutting objectives of innovation, climate change and the environment.

A cumulative total of €49.41m expenditure was incurred in respect of Measure 1 (Knowledge Transfer), €7.85m under Measure 2 (Advisory Services) and €40.86m under Measure 16 (cooperation) across the Programme during the reporting period. Committed expenditure of €6.42m was under Measure 16 during 2020. Committed expenditure of €9.32m was made under Measure 1 and €2.38m under Measure 2 during the reporting period.

Regarding achievement against Target Indicators under Priority 1 of the Programme a cumulative total of €98.12m expenditure (35.18% uptake against indicator T1) was recorded for Measures 1 (Knowledge Transfer), 2 (Advisory Services) & 16 (Cooperation), with 176 Cooperation operations supported through the whole of Measure 16 and 57,944.50 participants recorded (indicator T3) by the end of 2020.

Measure 1.1-1.3 Knowledge Transfer and Information Actions The Knowledge Transfer and Innovation (KT&I) Scheme supports the knowledge, training and information requirements of farming, forestry and food manufacturing Small Medium Enterprise businesses for the ceation of a more sustainable and competitive rural economy. The WG has developed the **Farming Connect** Framework which comprises an integrated pan Wales programme of knowledge transfer and innovation support, the programme is now in its 5th year of a 7 year delivery programme. The programme provides a strong and widely recognised platform of support to help the farming sector adapt. It is imperative that the Knowledge Transfer and Innovation programme continues to be fit for purpose to meet the industry challenges and needs. As a result of the refresh to the programme in 2019, 2020 saw the introduction of a new Governance Structure. In order to achieve the ambition of promoting the programme as “one”, the three (lot) sub-groups were replaced with one Delivery Board with the Strategic Advisory Board (SAB) remaining at the peak of the Governance structure. This has allowed for greater collaboration along the supply chain, having had advice on the direction of travel and priorities for the programme whilst the Delivery Board with membership from levy bodies, regulators, advisors and training providers amongst others develops a delivery programme that includes other RDP funded projects.

The refresh also provided an opportunity to simplify the programme – the programme prior to the refresh, was seen as too large. As a result it was difficult for some customers to follow / understand the offer and for the Development Officers to sell. Whilst it was important to maintain the level of offer, there was a need to simplify the programme with the end user in mind. It was felt that the right “pieces” were available but they needed to be re-aligned to meet the demands of the industry.

Similarly it was an opportunity to improve programme communication and simplify the messaging – the refresh introduced three new themes that all farmers could relate to – Business; Land; and Livestock. (See below for additional information on the Themes).

Finally the refresh provided an opportunity to react to the challenges and opportunities facing both the agricultural and forestry sectors as a consequence of Brexit and future policies.

The Themes:

The three new themes (Business; Land; Livestock) form the basis for the “on the ground” delivery. All interventions, messages and packages of support (all bar Health & Safety) will fall under one of these themes.

Going forward baselines for each of the themes are promoted as best practice and are a starting point for a client’s journey through the programme, ensuring the Farming Connect support is based on need. Whilst not mandatory across the programme acceptance to certain Workshops / Surgeries / Clinics is only on the basis the need can be evidenced, based on one of the baselines identified under the three themes.

The identified baselines:

Business Business Plan/benchmarking*

Land Nutrient Management Plans*

Livestock Animal Health Plans*

*The baselines do not necessarily have to have been delivered by Farming Connect.

During 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic meant that face to face delivery was halted and was replaced with a digital provision. Farming Connect continued to deliver a comprehensive package of support and knowledge transfer services; special projects and online digital events and surgeries to its customers e.g. webinars, vlogs, podcasts and video conferencing supported by the continuation of emails, phone calls and text messaging.

With digital delivery being the default, this meant considerable change for the programme at a time where demand from industry was at its greatest (Brexit & pandemic).

During the transition to digital delivery, a number of opportunities and challenges presented themselves.

One such opportunity was the use of webinars to host one to many activities. Not having to travel long distances to attend allowed viewers from across Wales to participate, where normally in the main it would be restricted to “local” participation. On the negative side digital delivery has also brought challenges such as connectivity issues and IT poverty (IT literacy and access to software/hardware).

As Wales comes out of lockdown and “normality” is reintroduced it is important that Welsh Government use the lessons learnt to establish a hybrid approach to delivery going forward however what should not be forgotten is the benefit to a farmers mental health & wellbeing that results from attending an event – no amount of digital delivery will make up for the lack of face to face interaction.

Measure 1.1

Under Measure 1.1 (vocational training & skills acquisition) a cumulative total of €24.67m has been spent of which €7.86m was during 2020. During 2020 the two core delivery mechanisms within the Programme delivering Measure 1.1 activity were Farming Connect and Project HELIX.

Project HELIX provides funding support for research into global food production, trends and waste to help small to medium sized food manufacturers across Wales to increase production and reduce waste. Developed by Food Innovation Wales (FIW), a partnership of three food centres, Project HELIX supports food manufacturers in Innovation, Efficiency and Strategy. Further information on Project HELIX can be found under the Focus Area 3a section of this report.

Farming Connect has developed several vocational training initiatives under this Measure which deliver to multiple Focus Areas:

1. One to one mentoring

Designed to benefit new entrants, businesses considering a significant strategic change in direction and individuals looking to exit the industry and who are considering share/contract farming possibilities this initiative has been developed by Farming Connect to provide farmers and foresters with peer to peer mentoring. Up until 31 December 2020, 542 mentees have been assigned a mentor. The topics focussed on in 2020 included amongst others succession, health and safety, diversification and woodland management.

2. Agri Academy

The Agri Academy brings together individuals making their way into the agricultural industry in Wales, giving them the inspiration, confidence, skills and contacts they need to become future rural leaders, professional business people and aspiring entrepreneurs. The programme which provides training, mentoring, support and guidance is split into two distinct programmes.

(i) The Business and Innovation programme – aimed at supporting and inspiring the next generation of farming and forestry innovators and entrepreneurs in Wales.

12 individuals took part in this programme in 2020.

(ii) The Junior programme – aimed at supporting young people aged between 16 and 19 years who hope to follow a career in the food, farming and forestry industries (a joint collaboration with Wales Young Farmers' Clubs). 12 individuals benefited from this programme in 2020.

During 2020 the Agri Academy's Business & Innovation and Junior programmes adapted to virtual meetings due to the Coronavirus restrictions and held numerous digital meetings with guest speakers including Breyton Milford from the National Agricultural Youth Society of South Africa and brand design company Loveigloo.

3. Skills

Through the skills programme, individuals can access up to 80% funding for completing short accredited training courses on key topics. To access the training courses individuals must complete an online Personal Development Plan - this helps identify individual as well as business needs together with the training courses which could help them to become more efficient, skilled and profitable. It also helps identify a mechanism by which to strengthen or introduce new skills to the business.

5,790 Personal Development Plans (PDP) had been completed up until the end of December 2020.

There have been a total of 4,942 instances of completed accredited training, covering 75 courses out of an approved list of 80 courses. Examples of courses completed in the period include:

- Marketing your business – 217 individuals
- Financial Recording & VAT – 214 individuals
- Cattle Foot Trimming – 232 individuals
- DIY AI – 231 individuals
- Rough Terrain Telescopic Lift Truck – 355 individuals
- Level 2 Safe Use of Pesticides (PA1) & Safe Application of Pesticides Using Vehicle Mounted Boom Sprayer Equipment (PA2) - 672 individuals

Covid restrictions have affected face-to-face training throughout 2020, Farming Connect, working closely with Lantra Wales and the relevant accreditation bodies, have and continue to deliver a number of sector specific training courses digitally. With over 30% of approved course now available digitally.

1. E-learning

In 2020 existing courses were upgraded to improve the content and user experience. Material for new courses has also been sourced across the themes of Business, Land and Livestock, with an emphasis on quality of content rather than quantity. The aim being to increase the number of courses completed and the number of individuals accessing E-learning.

Up until the end of December 2020 a total of 5,281 e-learning courses were accessed by individuals and completed. Examples of courses include:

- Sheep Lameness – 79 individuals

- Farm Finance – 73 individuals
- Grazing Management - 73 individuals
- Lambing the Basics - 70 individuals
- Farm Liver fluke management - 68 individuals
- Johne's Disease in Sheep – 63 individuals
- Health and Safety (compulsory for machinery or equipment courses) remains the most popular course available. An example of the courses provided can be found [here](#).

1. **Storfa Sgiliau / Skills Store**

Farming Connect has developed a fully funded Continuous Professional Development recording system to capture all knowledge transfer and training activity undertaken by registered individuals during the current Farming Connect programme.

Storfa Sgiliau provides a one-stop on-line system for users, to track and store their records of learning and training certificates. Enabling them to build a comprehensive CV for use in applications for employment and Farm Assurance checks. The recording system sits on the Business Wales (BOSS) website and is free to access and use by all individuals registered with the Farming Connect Programme. Storfa Sgiliau enable users to have instant access to a downloadable or digital reports which sets out an individual's skills, training and relevant academic / professional achievements. It also provides evidence of training courses undertaken for the benefit of Farm Assurance Schemes and supply chain organisations including wholesalers, retailers etc.

Measure 1.2

Under Measure 1.2 (demonstration activities and information actions) a cumulative total of €24.35m was spent by the end of 2020 of which €4.61 was spent during 2020. **Farming Connect** are the sole deliverer of demonstration activities under this Measure, activity during 2020 included;

The **Demonstration Network** – up until 31 December 2020, the Farming Connect Demonstration Network has supported 30 Demonstration farms and has recruited 185 Focus sites. The sites promote innovation and new technology that is available for farmers and foresters and provides a practical platform to demonstrate how this new technology/technique can be implemented at farm/forestry level. Up until 31 December 2020, 786 events have been hosted on the demonstration network with 11,178 attendees. Examples of projects undertaken on the Demonstration network include; using technology to improve health and fertility in a suckler beef herd at the Moelogan Fawr demonstration sit in Llanrwst. Other examples include; Controlling air, litter and water quality to enhance bird health and increase productivity in Welshpool, and Establishing an agroforestry and regenerative agriculture scheme in Henbant, North Wales.

Discussion groups - Discussion groups are made up of approximately eight beneficiaries who meet regularly according to a structured programme with clear aims and outcomes identified from the outset. Between autumn 2015 until 31 December 2020, 157 groups were recruited with a total of 1,679 individual members representing 1,510 businesses. The groups are collecting data that is relevant to their needs; in which supports the group with comparing data and learn about the benefits of recording information which is then used to make management decisions. During 2020 discussion groups were found to be working really well digitally, however there are some that really do not want to engage digitally and one of the main benefits of being part of a discussion group for these people was the social aspect of getting together and the face to face discussion. An example is the South West sheep discussion Group.

Agrisgôp (Action Learning) is a fully-funded action learning programme which brings together forward-

thinking, like-minded individuals from farm and forestry businesses at a local level. Working together in groups of 6-10, group members can learn new management skills, gain confidence, access specialist information and explore and develop viable futures for their businesses. Based on the concept of action learning, Agrisgôp provides the opportunity to progress skills and confidence, which will in turn assist the development of ideas and opportunities to move businesses forward. A total of 171 groups have been established across Wales facilitated by local Agrisgôp leaders. They hold meetings at regular intervals; during this period 1,186 meetings took place. Two examples of Agrisgôp groups set up during 2020 include; Milk Vending and Defaid Damara.

One to one surgeries - One to one surgeries allows beneficiaries to receive bespoke advice on a variety of topics e.g. strategic business planning, succession planning, IT, planning, and marketing and diversification. Since the beginning of the programme there have been 1,128 clinics that have taken place with 7,512 beneficiaries, likewise some 869 surgeries have taken place with 4,387 beneficiaries.

Diversification and awareness seminars - These events aim to help farmers and foresters understand the essential elements of developing diversification ventures. Regional and digital events were held to outline the key elements of planning a diversification project with attendees signposted to the additional support and advice available through the Farming Connect programme and to date 17 events have been held with 1,010 beneficiaries. An example of these was a series of seminars Farming Connect held in February 2020 on 'How diversifying into tourism could benefit your business'. Each of the two-hour evening events had its own line-up of expert farm business people who shared their tips for setting up or expanding a successful farm diversification enterprise. They were joined by invited rural and marketing experts, together with some of Farming Connect's specialist mentors, who provide eligible businesses with fully funded one-to-one mentoring on diversification projects

Venture - This is an initiative designed to help match farmers and landowners who are looking to step back from the industry with new entrants looking for a way into farming. The initiative guides people on both sides through the key steps required to find a potential business partner. An integrated package of training, mentoring, specialist advice and business support equips participants with the skills, knowledge and confidence needed to help them achieve their goals. Up until 31 December 2020, there are 412 active members and out of these 88 potential matches have been identified. The individuals who have found potential business partners are now applying for group advice through the advisory service for further support. There have been 36 new joint venture enterprises established since the start of the programme. An example of the support available can be found here.

Measure 1.3

Under Measure 1.3 (management exchanges and farm visits) a cumulative total of €0.38m was spent by the end of 2020, of which €0.08m was spent during 2020. **Farming Connect** is the sole deliverer of demonstration activities under this Measure, activity during 2020 included:

Farm and Forest short term visits; Spending time visiting other businesses can be a valuable way to discover improved methods of working, to see best practice in action and bring home new ideas to innovate your enterprise. Groups are provided with funding to support a study visit within the UK for up to four days. A total of 34 groups have undertaken visits to a variety of destinations including Scotland, Cheshire and London. Topics of interest have included improving performance in the dairy herd, personal development and grassland. An example can be found here.

Farm and Forest exchanges; Successful individuals undertake a visit to other farm or forestry situations within the EU to learn about new and improved ways of working in the farming or forestry sectors. They can also host a suitably trained and experienced farm or forest manager to visit their holding and learn about different approaches to business management. The aim is to broaden their knowledge, technical ability and management expertise to provide new development opportunities at both a personal and business level. A total of 40 individuals have completed their exchange visits and reports have been published on the Farming Connect website. The visit topics range from red deer farming, Christmas tree production, robotic milking and the wider benefits of a public goods scheme. An example of this activity can be found here.

Measure 2

Under Measure 2 (Advisory Services, farm management & farm relief services) a cumulative total of €7.85m was spent by the end of 2020 with €10.7m funds committed.

Measures 2.1 & 2.2

The **Farming Connect Advisory Service** provides a range of subsidised, independent, confidential and bespoke advice to farm and forestry businesses. Available on a one-to-one basis the individual advice element is up to 80% funded and group advice is 100% funded up to a maximum of €1,500. The Advisory Service is delivered by eight companies, selected and approved by Farming Connect. The framework offers a range of advisers who have a wealth of experience and knowledge to deliver a high standard advice. A random selection of advisory reports are sent to the Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences to be quality assured. This QA process ensures that the reports are of a high quality and provide value for money. Up until 31st December 2020, a total of 4,891 instances of one-to-one and group advice have been completed and claimed.

The following breakdown shows the categories of advice individual businesses have accessed since the start of the programme;

- Business Planning – 1,405
- Business Planning – Forestry Management – 37
- Technical Grassland & Crop Management -3,056
- Technical Livestock Management & Performance –254
- Technical Diversification and Added Value –104
- Technical Timber processing and added value – 1
- Technical Horticulture – 11

Measure 2.1

Farming Connect has enabled effective working across measures to ensure complementarity and support delivery of multiple objectives. This is demonstrated through Measure 2.1, where **Glastir** has used advisory support to develop water management plans carried out and woodland plans continue to be verified against the UK Forestry Standard by Natural Resources Wales (NRW). It also requires use of the expertise of Wales' archaeological trusts to give Contract Managers advice on the most suitable management for Glastir Advanced contracts. During 2020 the work concerned Glastir Small Grants, Glastir Woodland Creation and Glastir Woodland Restoration. The trusts ran a woodland planner training day. During the reporting year, advice was provided on 86 small grant applications and 179 Glastir Woodland Creation / Restoration applications.

Further information on Glastir activity under Measure 2.1 can be found under Priority 4 and 5 sections of

this report.

Total cumulative spend under Measure 2.1 by the end of 2020 was €7.48m with €0.37m under Measure 2.2.

Measure 2.3

This Measure (support for training of advisors) was removed during the second Programme amendment approved in March 2019.

Measure 16.1

In Wales, the **European Innovation Partnership (EIP)** was launched in January 2016 and applications are invited from Groups interested in solving common problems. In August 2017, Menter a Busnes were awarded the contract to run the EIP Wales programme which involves the management and facilitation of every stage from enquiry through to awarding project contracts and execution of the successful projects. EIP strives to strengthen the links between agriculture and forestry and research and innovation.

Groups are supported by the Farming Connect Knowledge Exchange Hub, a collaboration between Farming Connect and IBERS, Aberystwyth University. The Hub assists them by undertaking background literature searches into their proposed topic to gain a better understanding of what is already known about the topic and to inform the project of any gaps in the information that may need to be investigated. The Hub also provides support and guidance on project designs and will work with the Groups throughout the lifetime of the projects to assist with the project outcomes and dissemination.

The Groups are also able to seek fully funded support from an Innovation Broker, who provide guidance and support to the Group throughout the application process. All full applications are assessed by an Assessment Panel. A total of 46 projects have been approved meeting the contract target. Within the 46 projects, there are 313 Group Members, which comprise 233 Farmer Members, 3 SME, 3 Non Government Organisations, 3 Research Institutes, with 40 groups accessing support from an Innovation Broker. The approved projects can be found here,

Total cumulative expenditure by the end of 2020 was €0.69m under Measure 16.1.

PRIORITY 2: FOCUS AREA 2A

Measures 1, 2, 4.1 and 16.1 are programmed under Priority 2. Please see Priority 1 section above for information on Measures 1 (Knowledge Transfer) and 2 (Advisory Services) Farming Connect delivery and also Measure 16.1 (EIP) during the reporting period. Focus Area 2b has not been programmed in Wales.

Under Priority 2 a cumulative total of €50.51m expenditure has been incurred, of which €8.40m was for activity undertaken during 2020. This included €4.44m under Measure 1, €1.17m under Measure 2, €2.73m under Measure 4 and €0.06m under Measure 16 during the reporting period. Regarding committed expenditure a cumulative total of €70.96m in funding was committed under Priority 2 by the end of 2020.

Regarding achievement against Target Indicators under Priority 2 of the Programme the percentage of agri holdings receiving support in investments for restructuring or modernisation (indicator T4) was 10.18% (2,455 absolute value) by the end of 2020 against a baseline value of 24,120 agricultural holdings in Wales. Progress in implementing Measure 4.1 (support for investments in agricultural holdings) has been provided

below;

Measure 4.1

The Sustainable Production Grant (SPG) scheme under Measure 4.1 primarily delivers under Focus Area 2a in addition to Focus Areas 5b and 5d. The Scheme provides support to help farmers improve the economic and environmental performance of their agricultural holding in line with the WG's and agriculture industry in Wales' vision for more sustainable, profitable and resilient farm businesses. It provides capital investment in facilities and equipment that relate to animal health and welfare, crop storage, production housing and handling, renewable energy production and soil and crop management. Grants represent a maximum 40% contribution and, for the first three rounds of the scheme, ranged from a minimum of €18.82k to a maximum of €470.59k to increase on-farm investment, production and resource efficiencies to improve technical performance.

The first three rounds of SPG saw 295 claims being submitted and processed for payment, totalling over €14.7m. A total of 143 claims have been received for SPG windows 4 to 6, of which 67% have been processed for payment, worth €1.16m.

The Farm Business Grant (FBG) also programmed under Measure 4.1 aims to help farmers in Wales to improve the economic and environmental performance of their agricultural holdings. The grant provides a financial contribution towards standard costed capital investments in equipment and machinery, which have been pre-identified as offering clear and quantifiable benefits to farm enterprises. The minimum grant available is €3,529k (£3,000k) and the maximum is €14,118k (£12,000k). To be eligible to apply to the FBG, a member of the farming business must have attended a Farming Connect Farming for the Future event. As the industry enters a critical period of change, businesses are encouraged to take this opportunity to ensure any investment they make supports them to become more sustainable, prosperous and resilient for the future. The seventh round of the FBG opened on 2 March 2020 and closed on 10 April 2020. A total of 415 FBG contracts were offered in the first selection and a further 37 in the second selection. Of these 400 have accepted the contract offer. From this round, a total of 332 claims have been submitted and 321 claims have been processed to date for payments worth €1.4m.

The Welsh Government also held a targeted round FBG, to support farmers to cover existing yards to reduce the volume of rainwater entering slurry stores. The aim of the FBG-Yard Coverings scheme is to improve current on-farm infrastructure, ultimately reducing their production costs. The scheme supported the covering of previously uncovered existing livestock feeding and gathering areas, manure storage areas, as well as existing slurry and silage stores. The scheme was based on a standard cost per metre squared of roof installed. On 4 November 2020, a knowledge transfer webinar was delivered to 1000 participants where an invited expert and Welsh Government and Farming Connect officials set out the detail about the FBG-YC scheme. The FBG-YC EOI window opened on 9 November 2020 and closed on 18 December, with a first round budget of €1.76m. To date, a total of 129 EOI applications have been received. A further round is planned to open in May 2021 with a budget of €2.4m.

Please also see Priority 5 section of this report for further information on Measure 4.1 delivery.

Measure 4.3

Measure 4.3 was to be delivered through the 'Farm and Forestry Infrastructure Scheme, however this scheme was never launched. As such there is no activity or spend to report during 2020. The WG will continue to review this measure in preparation for the 5th modification.

PRIORITY 3: FOCUS AREA 3A

Measures 1, 2, 4.2 and 16 are programmed under Priority 3. Please see Priority 1 section above for information on Measures 1 (Knowledge Transfer) and 2 (Advisory Services) Farming Connect delivery and also Measure 16.1 (EIP) during the reporting period. Focus Area 3b has not been activated as part of the Wales Programme.

Under Priority 3 a cumulative total of €57.60m expenditure was incurred of which €11.31m during 2020. Of the cumulative spend €19.22m was under Measure 1, €0.43m under Measure 2, €35.06m under Measure 4 and €2.89m under Measure 16. Regarding committed expenditure a cumulative total of €53.17m in funding was committed under Measure 1, with €0.43m under Measure 2, €56.86m under Measure 4 and €3.68m under Measure 16.

Regarding achievement against Target Indicators under Priority 3 of the Programme the percentage of agricultural holdings supported under quality schemes, local markets and short supply circuits, and producer groups/organisations (indicator T6) was 0.76% (184 absolute value) by the end of 2020 against a baseline value of 24,120 agricultural holdings in Wales.

Progress against Measure 1.1 (support for vocational training and skills), Measure 4.2 (investments in processing / marketing / development of agri products) and Measure 16.4 (Supply chain) has been provided below;

Measure 1.1

Project HELIX is designed to develop Welsh businesses to enable them to attend UK and International Food and Drink related trade exhibitions and trade development visits, which are key components for increasing growth and improving the competitiveness of companies in Wales.

The Pan Wales partnership developed by the three food centres has, at its core, the development of rural and valleys communities and the creation of sustainable jobs to impact on poverty throughout Wales.

The project has been developed into three key areas and will be delivered Pan Wales under the Food Innovation Wales brand; Food Innovation, Food Efficiency and Food Strategy. The project was launched in March 2017, and to end of 2020 the grants paid equal €10.64m (Please note €7.43m of which was removed under EC reference CEB/2020/049/GB) of a total expected expenditure of €33.96M. In terms of Helix 1, it is important to note that targets were set against a project that was expected to run until July 2023, the contract ended early, on 30th March 2020 as such achievement of outputs should be considered against a pro rata set of targets. Under this project 382 businesses and 607 unique individuals were supported.

The Pan Wales partnership developed by the three food centres has, at its core, the development of rural and valleys communities and the creation of sustainable jobs to impact on poverty throughout Wales.

Recent work undertaken by the centres has identified growth in the sector which tends to originate in areas where unemployment is highest, i.e. rural communities and the South Wales valleys. Due to Wales' geographical location the strategy for a sustainable food sector must focus on the development of start-up companies and support to SMEs. Historically the sale of larger companies to food multi nationals will, in the majority of cases, create a re-alignment of production capacity - this results in the manufacturing site often being incorporated into other processing facilities elsewhere in the UK and internationally. Innovation

and food company regeneration is therefore the key to a vibrant, effective and longstanding Welsh food and drink sector.

Project HELIX is designed to develop Welsh businesses to enable them to attend UK and International Food and Drink related trade exhibitions and trade development visits, which are a key component for increasing growth and improving the competitiveness of companies in Wales.

The project has been developed into three key areas and will be delivered Pan Wales under the Food Innovation Wales brand: Food Innovation

- Food Efficiency

- Food Strategy

In addition to Project HELIX the following Strategic Projects are programmed under Measure 1.1 delivering to Focus Area 3a;

Cywain (Menter a Business) 1 is a five year strategic project offering seamless provision for food-oriented food and drink businesses, bringing together the successes of previous Cywain projects and the Fine Food and Drink Cluster. The project aims to support:

- Business Start ups (businesses under two years of age) and micro businesses that are scaling up.
- Targetted business advice
- Establish collaborative working to join forces of interests or to deal with specific issues

By the end of 2020 the project has supported 941 training days received with 714 participants. In the same period the €6.07m of expenditure has been paid.

Food skills Cymru is a project that aims to develop skills within food businesses as a key component of the supply chain in serving and selling Welsh. To date 141 businesses have completed a Skills Diagnostic and have been provided with a unique training plan. Of these 73 are micro businesses, 49 are SMEs and 19 are large organisations.

As of December 2020- 856 participants had been supported with 3,512 training days being provided.

By the end of 2020, a further 320 funding application forms had been approved resulting in 2,719 participants hoping to complete training by the end of September 2021.

A workstream within Food Skills Cymru is **Wales a Food Destination**. This project promotes and increases the use of Welsh food and drink products within the tourism sector. To date a total of 40 workshops have been held, providing one to one support.

A total of 98 unique businesses have been supported through this workstream. Covid-19 has impacted the delivery of the project, with all face to face training ceasing during lock down. As a result, Welsh Government have had to adapt the project and have had to change the way that it supports businesses by moving training delivery online.

New Training Providers were added to the Framework in July 2020, to enable FSC to expand their offer in light of the Covid challenges especially to the tourism sector. FSC is a partner of the Covid-19 Resilience Group, and to support this important work FSC developed the Jobs Notice Board, which currently has over 100 vacancies on the website. Helping businesses with recruitment and getting people back into work.

Tyfu Cymru (Lantra) is a collaborative project which will bring key stakeholders and commercial horticultural businesses together to stimulate environmental and economic horticultural productivity in Wales. Achievements to date include training provision and advice to 1,200 individuals. An Industry Action Plan for the commercial sector which provides a roadmap for the industry has been developed and is available for current and prospective growers.

The Knowledge Hub has had a more prominent role which has enabled the project to ramp up its market intelligence and information dissemination to businesses.

To the end of 2020 €1.23m (£1.09m) of grant has been paid against a total expected expenditure of €3.62m (£3.07m). Achievements up to the end of 2020 include;

- 624 participants supported
- 120 enterprises assisted
- 14 networks established

Tyfu'r Dyfodol - Growing the Future (National Botanic Gardens of Wales) aims to encourage people within Wales to grow more food. To the end of 2020 €1.66m (£1.46m) of grant has been paid against a total expected expenditure of €2.7m (£2.3m). Achievements to date include;

- 715 operations supported
- 7 jobs created and 12 networks established
- 32,245 participants in training over 9,908 training days

By the end of 2020 a cumulative total of €17.98m expenditure was incurred across Measure 1.1 under this Focus Area.

Measure 4.2

Measure 4.2 is delivered under Focus Area 3a of the Programme, through the **Food Business Investment Scheme (FBIS)**. It is designed to help primary producers of agricultural products in Wales to add value to their outputs by providing support to those businesses that do first and/or second stage processing activities. It is also designed to improve the performance and competitiveness of their businesses; to respond to consumer demand; to encourage diversification and to identify, exploit and service new emerging and existing markets. The 9th EOI window opened on 1 October 2020 and closed on 29 October 2020, with a total of 92 EOIs received were received with a budget worth €28.05m.

FBIS has been a great success to date, with over €171.70m (£146m) new capital projects being developed, in Wales. This demonstrates our pro-business approach to the awarding of grant funding.

Current data collected by Food Division (Business Development Team) shows the following indicator targets, from those FBIS projects approved to date:

Performance Level Indicators achieved to date :

Number of Operations Supported – 104 (Target 120)

Case Level Indicators achieved to date:

Number of new products – 375.

Number of jobs created – 1129.

Number of jobs safeguarded – 807.50.

Number of new markets accessed – 287.

By the end of December 2020 a cumulative total of €35.06m in expenditure has been incurred through the FBIS, of which €5.23m was during 2020

Measure 16.4

The **Co-operation and Supply Chain Development Scheme (C&SCDS)** delivered under Measure 16 provides a broad range of support. The scheme aims to support the development of new products, practices, processes and technologies in the agriculture, forestry and food and hospitality sectors (except for fisheries or aquaculture products), and other actors that contribute to achieving the objectives and priorities of rural development policy including:

- small businesses working together to share production facilities and resources.
- short supply chains and local markets including promotion activities in a local context.

pilot projects where the information is made publicly available and widely disseminated.

The scheme supports collaboration and is designed to make new things happen, achieving transformational change. By the end of December 2020 a cumulative total of €2.82m was spent under Measure 16.4, with six operations supported. The total number of holdings participating in supported schemes under measure 16.4 was 184, exceeding the programme target of 165 holdings.

PRIORITY 4: FOCUS AREAS 4a, 4b, 4c

Measures 1, 2, 4.4, 8, 10, 11 and 16 are programmed under Priority 4. Please see Priority 1 section above for information on Measures 1 (Knowledge Transfer) and 2 (Advisory Services) Farming Connect delivery and also Measure 16.1 (EIP) during the reporting period.

Under Priority 4 a cumulative total of €290.25m was incurred by the end of 2020. Regarding committed expenditure during 2020 a cumulative total of €6.41m in funding was committed under Measure 1, €2.44m for Measure 2, €90.94m for Measure 4, €16.33 for Measure 8, €238.23m under Measure 10, with €29.02m under Measure 11 and €22.06m under Measure 16.

Regarding achievement against Target Indicators under Priority 4 of the Programme by the end of 2020 the percentage realised against 'forest / other woodland area under management contracts supporting biodiversity' (indicator T8) was 0.83% (2586.96 absolute value) against a baseline value of 311,050 ha for forest and other woodlanded land (FOWL) in Wales. Achievement for Indicator T9 'percentage of agri land under management contracts supporting biodiversity and / or landscapes' was 63.19% (899,746.86 absolute value) against a baseline of 1,423,910 of Utilised Agricultural Area (UAA) in Wales. Achievement for T10 'percentage of agri land under management contracts to improve water management' was 6.90% (98,318.93 absolute value) against a baseline of 1,423,910 UAA in Wales. For Indicator T12 'percentage of agri land under management contracts to improve soil management and / or prevent soil erosion' was 4.81%

(68,472.01 absolute value) against a baseline of 1,423,910 UAA in Wales by the end of 2020.

Measures programmed under specific Focus Areas under Priority 4 include;

- Focus Area 4A (agriculture): Measure 8.1 (afforestation / creation of woodland), 8.2 (establishment and maintenance of agro-forestry systems) and 10.1 (Agri-environment-Climate)
- Focus Area 4A (forestry): Measure 8.5 (investments improving resilience and environmental value of forest ecosystems)
- Focus Area 4B (agriculture): Measure 8.1 (afforestation / creation of woodland), 8.2 (establishment and maintenance of agro-forestry systems) and 10.1 (Agri-environment-Climate)
- Focus Area 4B (forestry): activity against this Focus Area was removed as part of the second programme amendment
- Focus Area 4C (agriculture): Measure 8.1 (afforestation / creation of woodland), 8.2 (establishment and maintenance of agro-forestry systems), 11.1 (convert to organic farming practices and methods) and 11.2 (maintain organic farming practices and methods)

Glastir

Woodland creation and agro-forestry, woodland restoration and management, agri-environment and organic support provided under Measures 2.1, 8.1, 8.2, 8.4 & 8.5, 4.4, 10.1 and 11.1 & 11.2, is delivered through the WG's sustainable land management scheme, Glastir, through the following:

- Glastir Entry (legacy), Advanced and Small Grants (Measures 4.4 & 10.1) - Focus Areas 4A, 4B, 5D and 5E.
- Glastir Commons (Measure 10.1) - Focus Area 4A.
- Glastir Organic (Measure 11) - Focus Area 4C.
- Glastir Woodland Creation (Measures 8.1 & 8.2) - Focus Areas 4A, 4B, and 5E.
- Glastir Woodland Management (legacy), Forest Management Plans and Restoration - Focus Areas 4A, 5C, 5E and 6A.
- Glastir advisory support (Measure 2.1) – Focus Area 4A, 4B, 4C, 5D and 5E.

Progress against Measure 1.1 (Vocational training), Measure 2.1 (support to help benefiting from the use of advisory services), Measure 4.4 (non productive investments linked to agri-environment-climate objectives), Measure 8 (Investments in forest area development), Measure 10.1 (Agri-environment-climate), Measure 11 (Organic Farming), Measure 16.5 (joint action to mitigating or adapting to climate change and for joint approaches to environmental projects and ongoing environmental practices) along with Measure 16.8 (forest management plans) has been provided below;

Measure 1.1

Forest Focus First under Measure 1.1 aims to deliver transformational change to the timber sector through a professional skilled workforce by;

- Business Planning – training plans and access to further business management courses; Skills Development – funded training to raise the skills of the sector; Professional Pathways – enable and promote higher level qualifications
- Knowledge Transfer - raise background knowledge and understanding in the workforce; Mentoring – provide a framework to access mentoring within the sector; Innovative Training Solutions – develop and publish old or new resources to maintain access to traditional skills and underpin new

techniques and technology

By the end of 2020, €2.16m (£1.83m) had been paid towards the Focus on Forestry project. Achievements by the end of December 2020 included;

- 2,339 participants in training,
- 8,118 training days received,
- 6 jobs created under Forest Focus First.

By the end of 2020 a cumulative total of €2.28m was spent in total under Priority 4 through Measure 1.1.

Measure 2.1

In addition under Measure 2.1 **Glastir** uses advisory support to have water management plans carried out and woodland plans verified against the UK Forestry Standard by Natural Resources Wales;

Through Measure 2 funding, Natural Resources Wales (NRW) on behalf of the WG are providing a Verification Service of the Glastir Forest Management Plans submitted to the WG by its own group of Glastir Registered Woodland Planners. During the reporting period NRW's verification project has supported the:

- Recruitment of five Full Time Equivalents (FTE) dedicated to the Glastir Woodlands verification project.
- Evaluation and reporting on progress for Woodland Strategy indicators.
- Drawing up verification monitoring documents e.g. verification checklist, value for money (VFM) document.
- Verification of 459 Glastir Woodland Creation (GWC) applications (GWC rounds 1 to 8 inclusive) that comply with past and the very latest edition of The United Kingdom Forestry Standard (UKFS) dated July 2017 and the nine principles enshrined in the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources.
- Supporting the creation of 2,163 hectares (ha) of new woodland creation in Wales since the project start date.
- 61 GWC round 8 applications verified total (245 ha) - 218 GWC round 9 applications currently going through the verification process (11,815ha)
- Verification of 68 Glastir Woodland Restoration (GWR) schemes on Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS) sites across rounds 7 and 8 of the scheme, that again comply with UKFS and felling licence terms and conditions. Restoration of 571 hectares of woodland which have remnant ancient woodland features.
- 25 GWR round 7 applications verified resulting in 64.9 hectares of PAWS restoration.
- Supporting liaison with external stakeholders for scheme consultation e.g. RSPB, CADW, and programme promotion e.g. CONFOR, Institute of Chartered Foresters CF, Woodland Trust, Coed Cymru and Llais y Goedwig.

To note the figures above are based on schemes verified and issued a contract (not necessarily planted).

In addition through Measure 20.1 Technical Assistance (TA) funding, Natural Resources Wales (NRW) on behalf of the WG are providing the management and oversight required for the Verification Service of Glastir Forest Management Plans submitted to the WG by its own group of Glastir Registered Woodland

Planners.

In addition, Glastir requires the expertise of Wales' archaeological trusts to give advice on the suitable design for Glastir Woodland Creation projects, through the provision of archaeological advice for applications received and assessment of applications to ensure activities included in a Glastir contract do not damage or have an adverse impact on the historic environment. This also included a provision for general advice to be provided for Glastir Entry, Glastir Commons and Glastir Woodland Management in previous years.

By the end of December 2020 a cumulative total of €1.57m was spent through Measure 2.1 under Priority 4, with 505 actions supported and 939 beneficiaries advised.

Measure 4.4

Investments that contribute toward Focus Area 4a and 4b objectives are provided through capital works in Glastir Advanced and Glastir Small Grants under Measure 4.4. In **Glastir Advanced**, the capital works are assigned the Focus Area that they deliver against. For example, a fence protecting a Glastir Advanced hay meadow commitment in Measure 10.1 will be assigned Focus Area 4a as the hay meadow commitment is Focus Area 4a, a fence protecting a streamside corridor commitment in Glastir Advanced would be assigned Focus Area 4b as the streamside corridor is Focus Area 4b.

For **Glastir Small Grants (GSG)**, the Focus Area is assigned according to the theme for the individual round of Glastir Small Grants. The Carbon theme is assigned to Focus Area 5e, the Water theme against Focus Area 4b and, the Landscape and Pollinators theme to Focus Area 4a. There have been six EOI rounds of GSG to date.

By the end of 2020 there were 9,938 contracts for Glastir Capital Works (CW) operations under Measure 4.4 with €44.81m cumulative expenditure incurred. It should be noted a breakdown of these figures for NCA, age and agricultural branch in Table C of the monitoring tables has been provided, however figures shown in table C2.1 are lower than those in table B, this will be corrected in future reports once relevant data has been fully captured.

It was necessary to offer an extension to the Landscape and Pollinators contract holders to 30 September 2020 as a result of the floods at the beginning of 2020, followed by the start of the Covid-19 outbreak. All other 2020 capital works claim deadlines remained unchanged. 779 claims have been received and 95% have been processed for payment worth €1.29m.

The GSG Water 2020 EOI window closed on 4 September 2020. A total of 3,228 contracts have now been issued to farm businesses, worth over €3.18m

Those who accept their contracts will have until 31 March 2021 to complete their capital works and submit a claim and supporting geo-tagged photographs.

Measure 8.1 and 8.2

Glastir Woodland Creation (GWC) contracts are delivered under Measure 8.1 (support for afforestation/creation of woodland) and 8.2 (support for establishment and maintenance of agro-forestry systems) and includes Glastir Woodland Creation Maintenance and Premium. A total of eight EOIs have been opened to date.

GWC is programmed Priority 4, Focus Area 4a and 5e, with the majority of funding allocated to Priority 4. GWC has established 6,572 ha of new woodland creation, 6,172ha under Priority 4 and 400ha under 5e

against a target of 3,300 ha. Cumulative expenditure by the end of 2020 was €9.04m, with €5.80m under P4 and €3.24m under Focus Area 5e.

Measure 8.3

The **Forest Monitoring & Risk Management Scheme** is delivered under Measure 8.3 (prevention of damage to forests) by Natural Resources Wales (NRW). The objective of the Scheme is to support monitoring, mitigation and prevention of harmful results from current tree or woodland environment pest or disease outbreaks. The majority of the scheme's funding (75%) is linked to Focus Area 5e with the remaining funds programmed under Priority 4.

The application from NRW was approved in December 2018. Two claims have been received in 2019 and were paid in early 2020 but no additional expenditure was incurred through the Programme during the reporting period for this Measure under Priority 4. Further information on Measure 8.3 can be found under Priority 5 section below.

Measure 8.5 and 10.1

The **Glastir Woodland Management (GWM)** scheme includes only legacy contracts from the previous 2007-2013 Programme and is paid through Measure 8.5 (support for investments improving resilience and environmental value of forest eco-systems) for capital payments and Measure 10.1 (agri-environment climate) for multi-annual, area based payments. At the end of the reporting year there were 101 contracts remaining with an area of 2,862 ha supported under P4. Cumulative expenditure from current plan is €5.24m.

Glastir Woodland Creation uses this measure to pay contract holders a €941.18 (£800.00) contribution towards Registered Glastir Woodland Planner's fees to develop a verified woodland creation plan. It is not reasonably possible to disaggregate payments for plans that supported focus area 4a and 5e elements in them. To date, €0.3m have been paid for plans.

Measures 10 & 11

Measures 10 and 11 are now closed to new contracts. It is the intention to extend Glastir Advanced contracts, including underlying Glastir Entry elements where they are in place, all current Glastir Commons agreements and all current Glastir Organics contracts to 31 December 2021, to aid the transition between current schemes and the new land management schemes post Brexit. This approach will help maintain environmental outcomes during the interim period and ensure continued support for organic farmers. It will assist the industry in facing the upcoming challenges of Brexit alongside the immediate and ongoing problems associated with agriculture pollution. Importantly as well, the extensions will help farmers transition to future Land Management Programmes.

Measures 10

The last standalone Glastir Entry contracts reached their five-year contract period in December 2019, having commenced in 2015. Only where Glastir Entry (GE) contracts underpin Glastir Advanced contracts, can their commitments carry on beyond their initial contract period, as and when the overlying Glastir Advanced contract is renewed or extended. GE has achieved a total of 4,603 contracts, amounting to a total area of 543,496 ha. No further Entry contract offers will be made as the WG considers that more targeted interventions, such as those in Glastir Advanced and Glastir Small Grants are more appropriate to achieve its objectives. Under Glastir Entry, the total expenditure incurred by end 2020 was €96.76m of which the

majority was paid from Priority 4 (€89.42m).

Glastir Advanced now comprises 2,529 contracts of which 911 are stand-alone contracts with 1,618 contracts underpinned by Glastir Entry and a further 74 contracts in Glastir Commons. Expenditure under this RDP has been €44.81m for Measure 4.4 and €84.46m for Measure 10.1. Although no new rounds are planned for Glastir Advanced, to ensure Measure 10 can continue to be successfully implemented during the remaining years of the Programme, new short terms contracts are being used to extend existing contracts. Glastir Advanced contract holders whose initial 5 year contract is due to end on 31 December 2020 will be offered a renewal, whilst those whose contract has previously been renewed will be offered an extension, both until 31 December 2021. Rural Payments Wales (RPW), the paying agency for the programme, has issued 1228 contract offers worth €20.4m (£17.3m), of which, 647 have been accepted to date.

Glastir Commons is programmed entirely under Priority 4, Focus Area 4a, and is closed to new entrants. Glastir Commons consists of 193 contracts covering 119,454 ha of land. All eligible contracts were offered an extension to 2020 to allow time for Grazing Associations to explore other funding mechanisms, such as the Sustainable Management Scheme (Measure 16.5) or Payment for Ecosystem Services prospectuses. Of the 132 Glastir Commons contract holders whose existing contract ended on 31 December 2020 were offered an extension until 31 December 2021. 124 have accepted the offer to date. The extended contracts are worth €4.70m.

Measures 11

The **Glastir Organics Scheme** under Measure 11 supports farmers to convert to (Measure 11.1) or maintain (Measure 11.2) organic farming practices. There have been three windows for this Scheme under the 2014-2020 RDP. Although this Scheme is now closed and no further windows are planned during this Programme, annual extensions are being offered to existing contract holders. During 2019, the WG offered 488 contract extensions to eligible Glastir Organic beneficiaries to 31 December 2020, with 462 beneficiaries accepting this extension offer. To ensure continuity 499 Glastir Organic contract holders whose existing contract is due to end on 31 December 2020 were offered an extension until 31 December 2021. The extended contracts were worth just under €4m.

There were 537 active contracts in place at the end of 2020 covering a total area of 65,279.43ha all under Measure 11.2. Expenditure of €4.24m was achieved during 2020 bringing cumulative expenditure to date under Measure 11 to €22.64m, the majority of which was for maintenance under Measure 11.2 (€19.60m).

Measure 15.1

This Measure (payment for forest-environmental and climate commitments) was removed as part of the second Programme amendment approved in March 2019.

Measure 16.5

The **Sustainable Management Scheme (SMS) scheme** supports direct action on managing natural resources across Wales delivering against the approach and principles laid down in the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 & the Well-being of future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

The SMS requires a collaborative approach rather than single applicants to develop proposals for projects with a 2-3 year delivery phase. The purpose of the SMS is to support collaborative landscape scale projects delivering nature-based solutions to improve the resilience of our natural resources and ecosystems in a way that also delivers benefits to farm businesses and the health and well-being of rural communities. SMS

projects are undertaking actions to enhance biodiversity; improve green infrastructure; sustain better land and water management and importantly, facilitate climate change adaptation and mitigation at landscape scale.

SMS collaborations include land owners, farmers and graziers who have seen the benefits working together can bring and being inspired to work with new and traditional methods. Projects involve partnerships and collaborations at a local level and landscape scale offering nature based solutions to tackle the decline in biodiversity and to improve the resilience of our ecosystems.

Enabling collaboration at the right scale (be that site, regional, catchment landscape or ecosystem) and the right locations is vital to tackling issues and maximising benefits. All the actions contribute to the wider need for Climate Change Adaptation and to improve our Ecosystem Resilience through the sustainable management of our natural resources.

During this reporting period 37 projects are approved with a further 14 projects either in appraisal or working towards full applications. Total cumulative expenditure by December 2020 under this measure was €7.85m.

Projects select indicators that they can monitor and achieve outputs and outcomes relevant to their activities, below shows some of the 37 active projects include;

- Area of peatland habitat re-wetted target 104ha – progress – 14ha
- Area of Upland restored to improve carbon retaining condition - target 46ha – progress – 46ha
- Area of woodland supported target 4610ha - progress – 86ha of existing woodland managed and 5ha of new planting
- Enterprises assisted target 283 – progress 97
- Managed access to countryside or coast target 125km – progress – 119km
- Number of actions to utilise natural resources for health benefit target 1020 – progress 502
- Number of feasibility studies target 32 – progress 24
- Number of individuals gaining a qualification target 114 – progress 24
- Number of jobs created target 21 – progress 21
- Number of jobs safeguarded target 14 - progress 14
- Number of micro small and medium sized enterprises supported target 452 – progress 34
- Number of networks established target 72 – progress 27
- Number of participants in training target 1,323 – progress 770
- Number of pilot activities undertaken / supported target 81 – progress 42
- Number of stakeholders engaged target 5,736 – progress 2,337
- Number of training days target 540 – progress 181

Measure 16.8

Measure 16.8 is delivered through the **Co-operative Forestry Planning Scheme (CFPS)**. The CFPS provides financial support for a range of activities to encourage planning for the creation of broadleaved and conifer woodland to improve the management of natural resources and contribute to the well-being of rural communities within Wales. Eligible activities under this Measure could include the development and co-ordination of collaborative groups, communication and dissemination activities, technical and feasibility studies or monitoring and evaluation activities.

The second EOI window for this Scheme closed in April 2018 with two EOIs invited to submit full

applications. The deadline for submission was July 2019. Changes to the selection criteria were made prior to the second EOI window, in order to allow applications for projects that will help deliver the objectives of the WG's Environmental and Rural Affairs Monitoring and Modelling Programme (ERAMMP).

To date, €0.05m has been paid to one project. The CFPS also delivers to Focus Areas 5c, 5e and 6a within the report.

PRIORITY 5

Measures 1, 2, 4, 7, 8, 10 and 16 are programmed under Priority 5. Focus Area 5A has not been activated as part of the Wales Programme.

Please see Priority 1 section above for information on Farming Connect delivery of Measures 1 (Knowledge Transfer) and 2 (Advisory Services) and also Measure 16.1 (EIP) during the reporting period. Also see Priority 3 and Priority 6 sections for information on Measure 16 (Co-operation), Priority 2 for Measure 4.1 activity, Priority 4 for Measures 8.1, 8.2, 8.3, 8.4, 8.5 and 10.1 delivery also Priority 6 for Measure 7 (Basic Services and village renewal).

During 2020 expenditure incurred against Priority 5 totalled €5.49m bring total cumulative expenditure under P5 to €36.29. The highest cumulative spend was under Measure 4 (€14.14m), Measure 10 (€9.17m) and Measure 8 (€8.77m) by the end of 2020. Regarding committed expenditure a cumulative total of €3.20 in funding was committed by the end of 2020 under Measure 1, €1.91m under Measure 2, €26.32m under Measure 4, €0.59m for Measure 7, €26.19m under Measure 8, with €11.84m under Measure 10, and €1.43m under Measure 16. Bringing total committed funds under Priority 5 to €71.47m.

Regarding achievement against Target Indicators under Priority 5 of the Programme for Indicator T15 'total investment for energy efficiency' a cumulative total of €14.30m was achieved by the end of 2020. For Indicator T18 'percentage of agri land under management contracts targeting reduction of GHG and / or ammonia emissions' achievement was 8.55% (121,812.49 absolute value) against a baseline of 1,423,910 UAA in Wales by the end of 2020. For Indicator T19 'percentage of agri and forest land under management contracts contributing to carbon sequestration and conservation' achievement by the end of 2020 was 0.12% (2077.44 absolute value) against a baseline of 1,734,960 total agri and forest land area in Wales.

Specific Measures programmed under Priority 5 include;

- Focus Area 5B: Measure 4.1 (investments in agricultural holdings) – *see Priority 2 section above for Measure 4.1,*
- Focus Area 5C: Measures 7.2 (investments of small scale infrastructure including renewable energy), 8.5 (improving resilience and environmental value of forest ecosystems), and 8.6 (investments for forest technologies), 16.6 and 16.8 (Support for drawing up of forest management plans or equivalent instruments)–*see Priority 4 section above for Measure 8.5 and 16.8*
- Focus Area 5D: Measures 4.1, 4.4 (non-productive investments linked to agri-environment-climate objectives), 10.1 (agri-environment-climate) – *See Priority 2 section for Measure 4.1, Priority 4 for Measure 4.4 and 10.1.*
- Focus Area 5E: Measures 4.4, 8.1 (support for afforestation / woodland creation), 8.2 (establishment / maintenance of agro-forestry systems), 8.3 (prevention of damage to forests), 8.4 (restoration of damage to forests), 8.4 (support for restoration of damage to forests from forest fires and natural disasters and catastrophic events), 8.5 (improving resilience and environmental value of forest

ecosystems), 10.1(agri-environment-climate) and 16.8 (Support for drawing up of forest management plans) – see *Priority 4 section above for Measures 4.4, 8.1, 8.2, 8.3, 8.4 ,8.5 and 16.8.*

FOCUS AREA 5b

Please see Priority 1 section above for information on Farming Connect delivery of Measures 1 (Knowledge Transfer) and 2 (Advisory Services) and also Measure 16.1 (EIP) during the reporting period. Under Focus Area 5b a total of €6.48m has been paid, of this €0.28m was during 2020. By the end of 2020 there was a cumulative total of €9.19m in committed funds, the majority of which was under Measure 4 (€7.92m).

Measure 4.1

The **Sustainable Production Grant (SPG)** under Measure 4.1 provides support to help farmers improve the economic and environmental performance of their agricultural holding in line with the WG's and agriculture industry in Wales' vision for more sustainable, profitable and resilient farm businesses. The **Farm Business Grant Scheme (FBG)** programmed under Measure 4.1 aims to help farmers in Wales to improve the economic and environmental performance of their agricultural holdings. In total, Measure 4.1 under Focus Area 5b had supported 762 holdings, with €5.70m cumulative expenditure incurred by the end of 2020. See Priority 2 section of this report for more information on Measure 4.1, also Focus Area 5d below.

FOCUS AREA 5C

Please see Priority 1 section above for information on Farming Connect delivery of Measures 1 (Knowledge Transfer) and 2 (Advisory Services) and also Measure 16.1 (EIP) during the reporting period. Under Focus Area 5c a total of €1.79m had been paid by end 2020, of which €0.70m was in 2020. Cumulative committed funds under FA5c by the end of 2020 was €3.22m.

Measure 4.3

Measure 4.3 was to have been delivered through the 'Farm and Forestry Infrastructure Scheme, however, this scheme was never launched. As such there was no activity or spend during 2020. The WG will continue to review this measure in preparation for the 5th modification.

Measure 7

Measure 7 was delivered via the WG operated grant scheme called the **Rural Community Development Fund (RCDF)**. Under RCDF the WG offered grants for eligible interventions designed to prevent and mitigate the impact of poverty in rural communities improving conditions which can lead to future jobs and growth. Measure 7 is delivered under three Focus Areas: 5c, 6b and 6c with the majority of the financial allocation for the Measure programmed under Focus Area 6b. See Focus Area 6b for Measure 7.1, 7.4, 7.5, 7.6 & 7.7. See Focus Area 6c for Measure 7.3 (broadband infrastructure). The three objectives of RCDF are to:

1. Promote social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas.
2. Help those most deprived in rural Wales and those that have limited scope to change their circumstances
3. Develop the resilience and capability of rural communities so that they are better able to cope with and adapt to change.

Applicants to RCDF were expected to discuss their proposals with their LEADER Local Action Groups (LAGs) before submitting their EOI(s) to the WG for appraisal. The LEADER LAGs were therefore a key part of the “pipeline” for EOIs to enter the RCDF Scheme. The work of the LAGs to engage stakeholders, animate the territory, build capacity, pilot potential solutions to barriers/ways to maximise opportunities would lead to the identification of project proposals which require investment funding. Once the idea has been sufficiently developed an EOI would be submitted to RCDF.

It became apparent, however, that the result of this Community-led Local Development (CLLD) approach reflects the experience under the LEADER Measure in that far fewer project proposals came forward naturally in relation to broadband or to energy saving and community-based renewable energy generation. The WG discussed with the CLLD Consultation Group the possibility of having EOI Rounds targeted only at Measure 7.2 (Renewable Energy and Energy Saving) and Measure 7.3 (Broadband Infrastructure). Subsequently an EOI Round was held in 2018 targeting these two Measures.

Since the start of the scheme in late 2015 there have been a total of seven RCDF EOI rounds. Please see Priority 6 section below for more information on Measure 7 and the Rural Community Development Fund. No Expression of Interest Rounds were held under the Rural Community Development Fund during 2020 and the WG does not anticipate running any further Expression of Interest Rounds.

In total, Measure 7 under Focus Area 5c had supported 4 operations with €200,294 cumulative expenditure incurred by the end of 2020

Measure 8.5

The **Glastir Woodland Management (GWM) Scheme** includes only legacy contracts from the previous 2007-2013 RDP and is paid through Measure 8.5 (support for investments improving resilience and environmental value of forest ecosystems) for capital payments and Measure 10.1 (agri-environment climate) for multi-annual, area-based payments. There were no operations, expenditure or land supported under FA 5c for this Measure during the reporting period, as the second Programme amendment approved during 2019 removed Measure 8.5 from Focus Area 5c. Please see Priority 4 & Focus Area 5e sections for further information on Measure 8.5.

Measure 8.6

Measure 8.6 is delivered under Focus Areas 5c and 6a of the Programme through the **Timber Business Investment Scheme (TBIS)**. TBIS provides funding for capital investments that add value to forests by enabling woodland management activities, timber harvesting and / or timber processing. The scheme is open to private forest owners, local authorities, certain other public sector forest owners and small / medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and community organisations or forestry contractors.

Prior to 2020 there had been four EOI windows, with a total of 89 EoIs invited to full application, of which 51 full applications had been received. By the end of December 2020 there was €0.83m cumulative expenditure for this measure against Focus area 5c, of which €0.40m occurred in 2020.

Measure 16.2, 16.6 & 16.9

Measure 16.2 (support for pilot projects and for the development of new products, practises, processes and technologies) Measure 16.6 (support for cooperation among supply chain actors for sustainable provision of biomass for use in food and energy production and industrial processes) are delivered as part of the **Co-operation and Supply Chain Development Scheme (C&SCD)** and are programmed under Focus Area

5c. Further information on Measure 16 C&SCD can be found in Priority 3, 5 and 6 of this report.

Measure 16.8

Measure 16.8 is delivered under Focus Areas 4a, 5c, 5e & 6a through the **Co-operative Forestry Planning Scheme (CFPS)**. The CFPS provides financial support for a range of activities to encourage planning for the creation of broadleaved and conifer woodland to improve the management of natural resources and contribute to the well-being of rural communities within Wales. Eligible activities under this Measure could include the development and co-ordination of collaborative groups, communication and dissemination activities, technical and feasibility studies or monitoring and evaluation activities.

There have been two EOI rounds to December 2020 with four applicants invited to full application. Three applications were received.

As at December 2020 a total of €0.05m has been paid to one project. The CFPS also delivers to Focus Areas 5c, 5e and 6a within the report

FOCUS AREA 5D

Please see Priority 1 section above for information on Farming Connect delivery of Measures 1 (Knowledge Transfer) and 2 (Advisory Services) and also Measure 16.1 (EIP) during the reporting period. Under Focus Area 5d, a total of €15.44m had been paid by end 2020, of which €3.22m was in 2020. There was €27.41m in cumulative committed expenditure of which the majority was under Measure 4 (€15.15m) and Measure 10.1 (€10.05m).

Measure 4.1

The **Sustainable Production Grant (SPG)** and the **Farm Business Grant Scheme (FBG)** are programmed under Measure 4.1 (support for investments in agricultural holdings) providing support to agricultural holding in line with the WG's and agriculture industry in Wales' vision for more sustainable, profitable and resilient farm businesses. There were 665 operations with €4.92m in cumulative expenditure incurred in respect of this Measure under Focus Area 5d, of which €1.11m was incurred during 2020. Please see Priority 2 section of this report for more information on Measure 4.1 delivery.

Measure 4.4

The capital works element of the **Glastir Advanced** scheme is delivered under Measure 4.4 (non-productive investments linked to agri-environment-climate objectives) alongside Measure 10.1 for Glastir Advanced. By end of December 2020, there was €1.04m in cumulative expenditure for 60 ongoing operations under Focus Area 5d. See Priority 4 section of this report for more information on Measure 4.4 and Glastir.

Measure 10.1

Delivery under Measure 10.1 (Agri-environment-Climate) includes the Glastir Entry, Advanced and Commons schemes. It also includes multi-annual, area-based payments for existing farm woodlands in Glastir Woodland Management. See Priority 4 section above for information on these Schemes. During the reporting period there were 526 contracts under Focus Area 5d for Measure 10.1.

By the end 2020, a total of €7.98m was paid under M10.1 FA 5d. See Priority 4 section of this report for

more information on Measure 10.1 and Glastir Schemes.

FOCUS AREA 5E

Please see Priority 1 section above for information on Farming Connect delivery of Measures 1 (Knowledge Transfer) and 2 (Advisory Services) and also Measure 16.1 (EIP) during the reporting period. Under Focus Area 5e a total of €12.57m (€1.29m during 2020) had been paid by end 2020. There was €31.65m in cumulative committed expenditure by the end of 2020, the highest commitments were under Measure 8 (€24.79m) and Measure 4 (€3.25m).

Measure 2.1

Under Measure 2.1 **Glastir** used advisory support to have water management plans carried out and woodland plans continue to be verified against the UK Forestry Standard by Natural Resources Wales (NRW). It also requires Wales' archaeological trusts to give advice on Glastir Woodland Creation projects, throughon suitable design. See Priority 4 section of this report for further information. In total, Measure 2.1 under Focus Area 5e had supported 48 operation, with €0.24m cumulative expenditure incurred by the end of 2020.

Measure 4.4

The capital works element of the **Glastir Advanced** scheme is delivered under Measure 4.4 (non-productive investments linked to agri-environment-climate objectives) alongside Measure 10.1 for Glastir Advanced. By end of December 2020, there was €2.48m in cumulative expenditure for 1,528 ongoing operations under Focus Area 5e. See Priority 4 section of this report for more information on Measure 4.4 and Glastir.

Measures 8.1 & 8.2

Schemes delivered under Measure 8.1 include legacy contracts under 2007-13 RDP Forestry schemes and also **Glastir Woodland Creation** under both Measures 8.1 (support for afforestation / creation of woodland) and 8.2 (support for establishment and maintenance of agro-forestry systems). See Priority 4 section above for further information on these Schemes. Total cumulative expenditure for Measure 8.1 under Focus Area 5e was €4.50m by the end of 2020. There has been no expenditure for Measure 8.2 during 2020 under this Focus Area. During the reporting period for Measure 8.1 - establishment, there were 60 holdings / beneficiaries supported with 250.14 ha total area supported. For Measure 8.1 - maintenance, for the 2020 calender year only there were 41 beneficiaries with 1154.87 ha area supported.

Measure 8.3

The **Forest Monitoring & Risk Management Scheme** is delivered under Measure 8.3 (prevention of damage to forests) by Natural Resources Wales (NRW). The objective of the Scheme is to support monitoring, mitigation and prevention of harmful results from current tree or woodland environment pest or disease outbreaks. The majority of the scheme's funding (75%) is linked to Focus Area 5e with the remaining funds programmed under Priority 4, Focus Area 4a.

The application from NRW was approved in December 2018. To date, NRW have claimed a cumulative total of €0.21m (£0.18m). The overall findings have shown a reduction in *Phytophthora ramorum* across Wales when compared to 2017 and 2018. NRW have met the target for both the Area of Woodlands

surveyed and the number of samples tested. NRW has carried out activities as required under this Measure since 1 April 2017. This has been through aerial and ground surveys. Aerial surveys have covered 112,000 ha in 2017 and 138,000 ha in 2018, and 84,000ha in 2019 with a cumulative total 259.000ha. Field surveys have covered 2,150 ha in 2017 and 1,200 ha in 2018 and 930 ha in 2019. The cumulative area surveyed is 4280 ha. This has resulted in a total of 793 Statutory Notices issued in 2019. NRW have carried out minor survey work for Chalara Dieback of ash. No activity has been recorded for the 2020 calendar year.

Description	Target	Current
Area of woodland protected from disease	306,000ha	306,000ha
Area of woodland surveyed for disease	50,000ha	75,217 ha
Samples tested for disease.	25	691

Measure 8.4

The **Glastir Woodland Restoration (GWR)** scheme under Measure 8.4 (support for restoration of damage to forests from forest fires and natural disasters and catastrophic events) supports the re-stocking of larch woodlands that have been infected or threatened by the fungal pathogen *Phytophthora ramorum*. There have been seven EOIs opened to date with one more to open with a total cumulative expenditure of €3.33m spent to the end of the reporting period.

By the end of December 2020, a total of 852.60ha of woodland has been restocked, with 130 beneficiaries supported.

Measure 8.5

The **Glastir Woodland Management (GWM)** Scheme includes only legacy contracts from the previous 2007-2013 RDP and is paid through Measure 8.5 (support for investments improving resilience and environmental value of forest ecosystems) for capital payments and Measure 10.1 (agri-environment climate) for multi-annual, area-based payments. By December 2020 there were 72 operations under Focus Area 5e for this Measure, covering 200.27 ha with €0.12m in cumulative expenditure paid. The majority of the allocation for this Measure is under Priority 4 with remainder programmed under Focus Areas 5e, 5c and 6a. Please see Priority 4 section above for further information on Measure 8.5.

Glastir Woodland Creation uses this measure to pay contract holders a €941.18 (£800.00) contribution towards Registered Glastir Woodland Planner's fees to develop a verified woodland creation plan. It is not reasonably possible to disaggregate payments for plans that supported focus area 4a and 5e elements in them. To date, €280,470 have been paid for plans, €17,882 in 2020.

Measure 10.1

Delivery under Measure 10.1 (Agri-environment-Climate) includes the Glastir Entry, Advanced and Commons schemes. It also includes multi-annual, area-based payments for existing farm woodlands in Glastir Woodland Management. See Priority 4 section above for information on these Schemes. During the reporting period there were 526 contracts covering 2,211.19 ha under FA5e for Measure 10.1. By the end of 2020 a total of €1.19m in cumulative expenditure had been paid under M10.1 Focus Area 5e. See Priority 4 section of this report for more information on Measure 10 and Glastir.

Measure 16.8

This Measure (support for drawing up of forest management plans or equivalent instruments) is delivered through the Co-operative Forestry Planning Scheme. To date, €0.05m has been paid to one project. See Priority 4 section above for further information on activity for this Measure.

PRIORITY 6

Measures 1, 2, 6, 7, 8, 16 and 19 are programmed under Priority 6. Please see Priority 1 section above for information on Measures 1 (Knowledge Transfer) and 2 (Advisory Services) Farming Connect delivery and also Measure 16.1 (EIP) during the reporting period. Also see Priority 3 and Priority 5 sections for information on Measure 16 (Co-operation), Priority 4 for Measure 8 activity also Priority 5 for Measure 7 (Basic Services and village renewal).

During the reporting period expenditure incurred under Priority 6 stood at €82.98m of which €30.36m was for activity undertaken during 2020. Committed expenditure under this priority totalled €191m during 2020, with the highest cumulative commitments under Measure 16 (€74.07m), Measure 19 (€61.02m), Measure 6 (€16.87m) and Measure 7 (€25.65m).

Regarding achievement against Target Indicators under Priority 6 of the Programme for Indicator T20 'jobs created in supported projects' a cumulative total of 12.20 was achieved against a target of 765 by the end of 2020. For Indicator T23 'jobs created in supported projects LEADER' achievement by the end of 2020 was 9 against a target of 100. For Indicator T22 'percentage of rural population benefitting from improved services / infrastructures' 3.24 % (98,320 absolute value) was achieved against a baseline of 3,034,975 net population by the end of 2020.

Measures programmed under Priority 6 include;

Focus Area 6a: Measures 6.4 (investments in creation / development of non-agricultural activities), 8.5 improving resilience and environmental value of forest ecosystems), 8.6 (investments in forest technologies and forest products), 16.8 (Support for drawing up of forest management plans) and 16.9 (support for diversification of farming activities into activities concerning health care, social integration, community-supported agriculture and education about the environment and food)– *see also Priority 4 section above for Measures 8.5, 8.6 and 16.8*

Focus Area 6b: Measures 7 (Basic Services and village renewal - excluding 7.3 broadband infrastructure), 16.2 (pilot projects, development new products, practices, processes and technologies), 16.3 (co-operator among small operators in joint work processes, sharing facilities and resources and for developing / marketing tourism) and 19 (support for LEADER local development) *see also Priority 5 section above for Measure 7.*

Focus Area 6c: Measure 7.3 (broadband infrastructure)

FOCUS AREA 6A

Please see Priority 1 section above for information on Measure 2 (Advisory Services) through Farming Connect during the reporting period. During the reporting period under Focus Area 6a a cumulative total of

€7.86m had been paid, of which €3.67m was for activity undertaken during 2020. There was €29.57m in cumulative committed expenditure by the end of 2020.

Measure 6.4

There are two Schemes delivered under Measure 6.4 (support for investments in creation and development of non-agricultural activities) one relates to the Food and Drink sector and one for the Tourism sector.

These were the main gaps identified in the original intervention logic in the Rural Development Programme 2014-2020.

The **Rural Business Investment Scheme - FOOD (RBISF)** was a capital investments scheme to support projects that offer clear and quantifiable benefits to the food and drink industry in Wales. The Scheme was opened to existing and start up micro & small food and drink processors and manufacturers throughout Wales. This was a capital investment Scheme for food and drink processing or manufacturing activities currently not eligible under the Food Business Investment Scheme. The maximum grant for an individual investment project is 40% of the total eligible cost with a maximum of €58k (£50k) for any individual investment project. Up to December 2020 €0.74m had been paid under this sub measure, of which €0.16m was paid in this calendar year.

During the Covid 19 pandemic it became clear that local supply chains had increased resilience both socially and economically in rural communities, it was decided to hold another round, inviting applications from Micro businesses with a focus in improving digital platforms and increasing efficiency. This programme has now closed for new applications during 2020. No further rounds will be held during the remainder of the programme for this scheme.

The second Scheme under Measure 6.4 is the **Micro Small Business Fund MSBF** delivered by Visit Wales (VW). This Scheme targets private sector businesses to support priority tourism products, including: high quality serviced, self catering, camping and caravan park accommodation products, destination restaurants, visitor attractions and activity products. The MSBF targets viable and sustainable private sector tourism capital projects that will: support the development of priority tourism products and create and safeguard jobs in rural areas. The Scheme opened mid 2017 and has to date approved 50 projects, totalling €5.53m (£4.7m). This scheme has now closed for applications and the scheme has been closed

To date €3.18m (£2.7m) has been submitted via four separate claims. The fifth claim of €1.76m (£1.5m) is currently in progress.

By the end of 2020 under Measure 6.4 as a whole a cumulative total of €2.98m in expenditure had been paid with two operations approved under Focus Area 6a of the Programme.

Measure 8.6

Measure 8.6 is delivered under Focus Areas 5c and 6a of the Programme through the **Timber Business Investment Scheme (TBIS)**. TBIS provides funding for capital investments that add value to forests by enabling woodland management activities, timber harvesting and / or timber processing. The Scheme is open to private forest owners, local authorities, certain other public sector forest owners and small / medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and community organisations or forestry contractors. Prior to 2019 there had been three EOI windows, with a total of 71 EOIs invited to full application, of which 45 full applications had been received. In 2019 the fourth EOI window ran from 1 February 2019 to 30 April 2019. A total of 18 EOIs were invited to submit full applications, and 10 have been received with a deadline of 28 February 2020. By the end of 2020 a cumulative total of €5.31m had been paid. A fifth window is planned

for early 2021.

Measure 16.8

Measure 16.8 is delivered under Focus Area 4a, 5c, 5e & 6a through the **Co-operative Forestry Planning Scheme (CFPS)**. To date, €0.05m has been paid to one project. See Priority 4 section above for further information on this Measure.

Measure 16.9

Measure 16.9 (support for diversification of farming activities into activities concerning health care, social integration, community-supported agriculture and education about the environment and food) is delivered as part of the **Co-operation and Supply Chain Development Scheme (C&SCD)**. There was no expenditure or cooperation operations supported by the end of 2020 under this Measure. For further information on M16 C&SCD scheme see Priority 3 and 5 sections of this report.

FOCUS AREA 6B

Under Focus Area 6b a cumulative total of €74.28m had been paid during the reporting period, of which €26.46m was for activity undertaken during 2020. There was €159.50m in cumulative committed expenditure during 2020 with the highest commitments under Measure 16 (€70.83m) and Measure 19 (€61.02m).

As part of the second programme amendment agreed during 2019 Measure 1 was introduced under FA6b. During 2020 was no new commitments of expenditure under focus area 6b against Measure 1 were made (cumulative commitment of €3.53m).

Measure 7

Measure 7 was delivered via a WG operated grant scheme called the **Rural Community Development Fund (RCDF)**. Under RCDF the WG offered grants for eligible interventions designed to prevent and mitigate the impact of poverty in rural communities improving conditions which can lead to future jobs and growth. Measure 7 is delivered under three Focus Areas: 5c, 6b and 6c with the majority of the financial allocation for the Measure programmed under Focus Area 6b. See Focus Area 6c for Measure 7.3 (broadband infrastructure) and Focus Area 5c for Measure 7.2 (investments of small scale infrastructure including renewable energy).

No EOI rounds were held under the Rural Community Development Fund during 2020 and the WG does not anticipate running any further Expression of Interest Rounds. Although closed these case studies highlights examples of the activity funded through this scheme;

<https://businesswales.gov.wales/walesruralnetwork/news-events-and-case-studies/news/pontypool-sisters-lisa-owen-and-cathy-pritchard-are-changing>

https://businesswales.gov.wales/walesruralnetwork/news-events-and-case-studies/case_study/rural-communities-co-operation

By the end of 2020 a cumulative total of €0.34m was paid under Measure 7.2; €8.72m under Measure 7.4; €1.27m under Measure 7.6 and €0.70m under Measure 7.7.

See Focus Area 6c for Measure 7.3 (broadband infrastructure) and Focus Area 5c for Measure 7.2 (investments of small scale infrastructure including renewable energy).

Measure 7.5

The capital support grant scheme ‘**Tourism Amenity Investment Support (TAIS) Scheme – Rural**’ is delivered by Visit Wales (VW) through Measure 7.5 (support for investments for public use in recreational infrastructure, tourist information and small scale tourism infrastructure) under Focus Area 6B of the Programme. The TAIS scheme offers small-scale investment to improve the signposting of touristic sites, to construct and modernise tourism information centres, to provide visitor information and guidance.

Funding is also provided for the support of the construction of shelters and safety facilities linked to soft-tourism and the establishment of e-booking systems for tourist services. Investments will be supported for the development of soft tourism (small scale, locally specific product, local ownership and labour, local business linkages, strong social-cultural affinities, limited negative environmental impact). This activity under Measure 7.5 complemented the tourism business development activity under Measure 6.4.

There has been a significant demand for continued funding via the Visit Wales TAIS programme. This has proved to be the most popular and oversubscribed fund being delivered by Visit Wales.

Welsh Government considered that additional funds would meet the demand and deliver and exceed the expected outputs associated with the programme. The third call was launched in Spring 2020, re-branded as the Brilliant Basics Fund. It had two elements (a) within eligible wards, and (b) open to pan Wales projects, the latter to be funded via VW core budget. Due to the Covid pandemic this scheme was however put on hold at the completed EOI stage.

The current figures provided below are the gross figures – representing the value of the grants, not expenditure.

Number of TAIS Projects approved	45
Total Offers committed	€4.94m (£4.2m)
Total paid to applicant to date	€3.65m (£3.1m)

Tourism Amenity Investment Support (TAIS) – examples and note:

- *Upgraded facilities and infrastructure for a vintage narrow gauge railway.*
- *Extended parking facilities, visitor toilets, and landscaping.*
- *TAIS Support in all cases up to a maximum £128,000.*

Measure 16

Measure 16.2

Measure 16.2 (support for pilot projects and for the development of new products, practises, processes and technologies) is delivered as part of the **Co-operation and Supply Chain Development Scheme (C&SCD)**.

Those projects approved prior to 2020 under the C&SCD have continued implementation. In September 2020 in direct response to the Coronavirus pandemic the Welsh Government held a series of Expression of Interest Windows relating to COVID-19 response and recovery. For the **C&SCD Scheme - COVID-19**

recovery Windows these were as follows, some opened during 2020 with further windows in 2021:

	EOI's	Invited to full submitted application
Window 8 - Pilot Actions for Community Cohesion and Green Recovery support (closed Oct 2020)	8	4
Window 9 - OCVO - Antimicrobial Resistance (closed Nov 2020)	4	1
Window 10 - Food Tourism (closed Dec 2020) This also aligns with Focus Area 3a	12	2
Window 11 - Innovative approaches to Collaborative Growing (closed Jan 2021)	8	5
Window 12 - Food Covid Recovery Plan (closed Feb 2021)	16	8
Window 13 - Pilot actions for green growth and the Circular Economy (closed Feb 2021)	20	7

The WG opened an additional grant Scheme under Measure 16.2(a) – support for pilot projects. It is called the **Enabling Natural Resources and Well-being (ENRaW)** grant Scheme and is designed to support businesses, organisations and communities to work together under the umbrella of the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act to increase their resilience by tackling issues such as:

- Poverty
- Financial sustainability
- Climate change
- Environment / local environment quality
- Social exclusion

All projects to be supported by ENRaW must fit with delivering national priorities as set out in the WG’s “Prosperity for All”, Natural Resources Policy and any relevant issue-specific plans such as the Nature Recovery Action Plan, the Action Plan for Pollinators and the Noise and Soundscape Action Plan, as well as local strategies and plans (e.g. local Green Infrastructure, Biodiversity and Air Quality Plans). The principles of Sustainable Management of Natural Resources (SMNR) must have been clearly used in planning the development and delivering of the proposed activity.

ENRaW predominantly support projects that make improvements in residential areas by delivering benefits for people, businesses and their communities. It focuses on pilot and demonstration projects at the right scale; promoting cooperation and collaboration to address the following three themes of action:

1. Developing, regenerating and broadening access to sustainable green infrastructure through nature based solutions;
2. Improving the quality of the urban and rural built environment; and
3. Developing resilient ecological networks and nature based solutions.

Two EOI windows have been opened 1 during 2019 and a second round closed March 2020. To date of the

two rounds five projects have been approved and 20 projects are in development. There is a €36.46m budget allocation for this scheme. As at the end of 2020, there was €0 commitment and €0 spend recorded. Appraisals are ongoing and it is anticipated that Welsh Government will be able to report on both commitment and spend in early 2021.

The CTA Community Transport Solution ('Connecting communities in Wales') under Measure 16.2 aims to develop pan-Wales, demand responsive community transport solutions in partnership. It seeks to develop sustainable Community Transport networks and build the resilience and capacity of the community transport sector in Wales, recognising that in doing so it can assist in tackling transport issues and challenges faced by rural communities. To the end of 2020 a total of €0.37m of grant has been paid against a total expected expenditure for the programme of €1.25m. There have been 15 cooperation operations supported by the end of 2020, with 145 participants in training, 288 stakeholders engaged and 12 feasibility studies.

Measure 16.3

Under Measure 16.3 (other co-operation among small operators in organising joint work processes and sharing facilities and resources, and for developing/marketing tourism) the **Regional Tourism Network and Marketing Support scheme** is delivered by Visit Wales (VW). The principal aim of the Scheme is to increase the profitability and resilience of the individual SME businesses engaged. This scheme consists of two separate projects providing two distinct types of activity:

1. The **Regional Tourism Engagement Fund (RTEF)** which aims to support increased marketing of Wales to a chosen audience to increase visitor numbers into rural areas;
2. The **Tourism Product Innovation Fund (TPIF)** which provides revenue support for collaborative projects to develop opportunities and products within tourism destinations.

The **Regional Tourism Engagement Fund (RTEF)** is revenue funding aimed at regional destination development while the **Tourism Product Innovation Fund (TPIF)** is aimed at working with private sector partnerships and networks to develop new innovative tourism products. Note TPIF is a de minimis grant and RTEF is no state aid.

The first of these, the **Regional Tourism Engagement Fund (RTEF)** is a revenue fund designed to:

- Meet the strategic objectives of the WG Tourism Strategy;
- Support destinations across Wales to promote and develop distinctive, high quality visitor destinations through the delivery of the destination management plans to extend the season and increase spend;
- Enable destinations to maximise the benefits of aligning with Year of Discovery 2019, future thematic years and the Wales Way;
- Reflect all or any of the three key themes for promoting tourism to Wales: Adventure, culture and landscape.

Visit Wales is boosting this regional tourism development via the Regional Tourism Engagement Fund (RTEF) and Tourism Product Innovation Fund (TPIF) following the approval of a €11.76m investment programme which is part funded via the Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 (RDP) to support proposals from October 2017 to March 2021.

The fund's beneficiaries include; tourism industry sectorial partnerships, groups and consortia, third sector and Local Authorities/National Park Authorities who are working in partnership or on behalf of the private

sectorial partnerships, groups and consortia, Local Authorities and National Park Authorities, also tourism Associations, third sector and private sector organizations working on behalf of Destination Management Partnerships.

Two rounds of funding for RTEF/TPIF have been launched under this scheme;

- 1st Round a total of 21 approved projects for 2018/2019 (11 RTEF at €1.14m / £0.97m and 10 TPIF at €1.79m / £1.52m), with a total value of €2.93m / £2.49m and budget contribution from Visit Wales core budget.
- 2nd Round a total of 22 approved projects for 2019/2021 (10 RTEF at €0.61m / £0.51m and 12 TPIF at €1.51m / £1.29m), with a total value of €2.12 / £1.80m and budget contribution from Visit Wales core budget.

The second is the **Tourism Product Innovation Fund (TPIF)**, this fund aims to work with tourism partners across Wales to delivery the 10% growth target set out in the tourism strategy by supporting activity which will:

- encourage closer joint working between trade partnerships to improve the product offer and help grow the tourism economy in Wales in a sustainable way;
- enable the private sector to maximise the benefits from aligning with the Year of Discovery 2019, future thematic years and The Wales Way;
- reflect all or any of the three key themes for promoting tourism to Wales of adventure, culture and landscape.

Marketing Networks

The **Regional Tourism Network and Marketing Support** project was awarded €3.53m

To date €10.5m (£8.9m) culmative spend has been achieved. This window is now closed.

The national marketing programme was awarded €8.24m, however due to the ongoing Covid -19, we were unable to promote Wales as a holiday destination. This has impacted on the ability to spend the whole allocation, resulting in a reduction in allocation to €6.12m.

In addition €8.24m was awarded for the delivery of a national marketing campaign to support the local and regional grant activity via RTEF/TPIF. To date €6.7m has been spent by the end of 2020

To date €4.94m has been summited via seven separate claims. The eighth claim for €0.60m is currently in progress and the Final claim is expected to be submitted in July 2021 for approx €2.71m.

There are currently a total of 21 approved projects for Round 1 (2018/2019), with 11 under RTEF at €1.14m and 10 under TPIF at €0.60m with a total value of €1.74m.

There are currently 22 approved projects for Round 2 (2019/2021), with 10 under RTEF approx. €0.71m (£0.6m) and 12 under TPIF at €1.41m (£1.2m), with a total value of €2.12m (£1.8m).

Under Measure 16 in total a cumulative total of €11.38m had paid during the reporting period through Focus Area 6b with 245 cooperation operations supported.

Measure 19

LEADER is a form of Territorial Development. Each Local Action Group (LAG) covers a geographical area and prepares a Local Development Strategy (LDS) which sets out a detailed explanation of the area; an analysis of that area through a SWOT assessment; a series of aims and objectives for the area and proposals for activities or initiatives that would achieve those aims and objectives. There are 18 LAGs covering eligible (non-urban) wards in 21 of the 22 Local Authority Areas in Wales.

Implementation is progressing and the Wales Rural Network Support Unit has loaded information on over 550 Local Action Group pilots from the 18 Local Action Groups onto their database, available on the WG's Business Wales website:

On 27th March 2020, the European Commission issued an information note on the use of the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) to help cope with the socio-economic impact of the corona virus outbreak in rural areas. The note outlined potential Measures which could be quickly mobilised to offer an immediate response to critical situations such as the COVID-19 crisis. With respect to LEADER, it is noted that LEADER Local Action Groups can support the development of basic services and health care facilities as part of their local development strategies, including the provision of care services.

Through their work to implement their Local Development Strategies, the LAGs are already connected in to local and regional networks and were already working with rural communities on the ground on issues such as improving local supply-chains and access to services. The LAGs, therefore, were ideally placed to play an active role in supporting their rural communities at this time of unprecedented challenge caused by the Coronavirus pandemic.

LEADER has proven itself to be is a useful socio-economic tool in the immediate response to the Covid-19 emergency, actions included:

- securing and distributing food and medical supplies to all, including the most rurally/socially isolated
- identifying local resources including co-ordinating volunteers and supporting short supply chains
- networking and collaborating to ensure an informed and appropriate approach to meet local needs

It was recognised that there is a need to work with rural communities as we move forward from response to recovery. Priorities include helping to address the socio-economic and other societal effects of the lockdown, such as: the economic impact on certain socio-economic groups of not being able to work; impacts on businesses of being closed or facing falling customer demand; psychological harms to the public of social distancing and many others.

The existing five Welsh Themes for the LEADER Scheme outlined below were still considered directly relevant in supporting the response to the COVID-19 immediate priorities, especially Themes 1-3:

- I. Adding value to local identity and natural and cultural resources
- II. Facilitating pre-commercial development, business partnerships and short supply chains
- III. Exploring new ways of providing non-statutory local services
- IV. Renewable energy at Community level
- V. Exploitation of digital technology

Therefore, the Welsh Government approved the repurposing of the LEADER Scheme to continue to support rural communities through the recovery process. In June 2020 Supplementary Guidance was issued to LEADER Local Action Groups: LEADER: coronavirus (COVID-19) guidance

All LAGs were instructed to consider the impacts of Covid-19 when updating their Local Development Strategies and provided with the opportunity to submit a re-evaluation request to Welsh Government to amend their delivery profiles to reflect their current and projected future needs.

Case studies and examples of funding can be found at;

<https://businesswales.gov.wales/walesruralnetwork/news-events-and-case-studies/news/wales-rural-network-covid-19-leader-activities-review>

There are also four Fisheries Local Action Groups (FLAGs) funded under the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) who employ the principles of Community-led Local Development to work with Welsh coastal communities. Although Wales does not have multi-funded Local Development Strategies there are nevertheless strong links between the LAGs and the FLAGs and it is recognised that there is a need for good communication throughout implementation to signpost projects to the appropriate fund and also to share best practice.

To date LEADER in Wales has achieved:

- 54 co-operation projects (47 inter-territorial and 7 trans-national);
- 28 jobs through supported projects;
- 25.5 jobs safeguarded;
- 9,586 stakeholders engaged;
- 31,428 participants supported;
- 106 feasibility studies;
- 109 networks established;
- 68 community hubs;
- 691 information dissemination actions;
- 825 promotional and/or marketing activities.

During the reporting period a cumulative total of €28.60m was paid under Measure 19, the majority of which was under Measures 19.2 (€18.84m) and 19.4 (€8.70m). All of the LEADER allocation under Measure 19 has been committed for the lifetime of the Programme.

FOCUS AREA 6C

Please see Priority 1 section above for information on Measure 1 (Knowledge Transfer) through Farming Connect during the reporting period. Under Focus Area 6c a cumulative total of €0.84m had been paid, of which €0.23m was for activity undertaken during 2020. There was €1.93m in cumulative committed expenditure by the end of 2020.

Measure 7.3

Measure 7 was delivered via a WG operated grant scheme called the **Rural Community Development Fund (RCDF)**. Under RCDF the WG offered grants for eligible interventions designed to prevent and mitigate the impact of poverty in rural communities improving conditions which can lead to future jobs and growth. Measure 7 is delivered under three Focus Areas: 5c, 6b and 6c with the majority of the financial allocation for the Measure programmed under Focus Area 6b. Since the start of the scheme in late 2015 there have been a total of seven RCDF EOI rounds. No Expression of Interest Rounds were held under the Rural Community Development Fund during 2020 and the Welsh Government does not anticipate running any further Expression of Interest Round. See Focus Area 5c for Measure 7.2 (investments of small scale

infrastructure including renewable energy). See Focus Area 6b for more information on the RCDF. To the end of 2020 Measure 7.3 under Focus Area 6c has supported 3 operations with €0.54m cumulative expenditure. An example of a project funded under Measure 7.3 (RCDF) can be found at; <https://businesswales.gov.wales/walesruralnetwork/news-events-and-case-studies/news/innovation-key-very-rural-broadband-deputy-minister-visits-rcdf>

European Commission Currency Converter – exchange rates 2020 monthly

MONTH	EUR/GBP
January 2020	0.85208
February 2020	0.84183
March 2020	0.84995
April 2020	0.889
May 2020	0.87378
June 2020	0.89728
July 2020	0.9154
August 2020	0.90268
September 2020	0.89468
October 2020	0.90963
November 2020	0.9043
December 2020	0.89442

The planning rate of €1 = £0.85 has been used for all commitments / allocation values within this Report.

1.d) Key information on achievements towards the milestones set in the performance Framework based on Table F

This section applies to AIR(s) 2016, 2017, 2018 only

1.e) Other RDP specific element [optional]

Not applicable.

1.f) Where appropriate, the contribution to macro-regional and sea basin strategies

As stipulated by the Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, article 27(3) on the "content of programmes", article 96(3)(e) on the "content, adoption and amendment of operational programmes under the Investment for growth and jobs goal", article 111(3), article 111(4)(d) on "implementation reports for the Investment for growth and jobs goal", and Annex 1, section 7.3 on "contribution of mainstream programmes to macro-regional and sea-basin strategies, this programme contributes to MRS(s) and/or SBS:

The WGRC-RDP2014-2020 has made a contribution to the Atlantic Sea Basin Strategy. It's aims are:

- To promote entrepreneurship and innovation;
- Protect secure and enhance the marine and coastal environment;
- Improve accessibility and connectivity;
- Create a social inclusive and sustainable model of regional develop

The coastal economy is highly relevant to Wales, with 60% of the population living on/near the coast. The support through the RDP contributes to the objectives. Innovation, a cross cutting priority of the programme, has various avenues that areas that affect the coastal economy; through farmer led innovations promoting sustainable practices that impact upon the coastal environment, food centres supporting businesses that contribute to the coastal economy, and local level innovation through LEADER. This activity was heightened during the peak of the Covid 19 pandemic, LEADER groups refreshed their Local Development strategies to support the repurposing of LEADER to ensure it has the tools to support rural and coastal communities to increase resilience and mobilise local supply chains.

Similarly the interface between land management practices, river water and coastal environments has been recognised as increasingly important. Many elements of the RDP support farmers and land managers to adopt environmentally friendly practices that will limit the environmental impact of farming on rivers and watercourses in Wales. These include: advice, training and knowledge transfer provision ; the Sustainable Production Grant provides capital grants to farm businesses to improve their environmental performance and window four, run in 2019, focused specifically on water quality; the Glastir suite of agri-environment schemes and the Sustainable Management Scheme. While the importance of the relationship between environmental land management practices delivered under the RDP and the coastal environment is recognised there is currently an absence of evidence on this relationship in Wales. The Environment and Rural Affairs Monitoring and Modelling Programme (ERAMMP), the successor to Glastir Monitoring & Evaluation Programme, is considering ways in which this interface can be better explored.

In terms of improving accessibility/connectivity and creating a socially inclusive and sustainable model of community development the Wales RDP has a number of schemes that contribute to rural and coastal

communities as well as businesses in those communities. LEADER is the main mechanisms in Wales and operates closely with the four Welsh FLAGs. With regards to accessibility/connectivity the CTA community transport solutions project under Measure 16.2 aims to develop sustainable community transport networks across Wales in recognition of the challenges faced in rural communities regarding transport and access. It is noted that tourism plays an increasing role in the Welsh coastal economy, the RDP provides substantial support to this sector through the Micro Small Business fund, the Tourism amenity investment support scheme and the Regional Tourism Engagement Fund. More information on the schemes are in Section 1c of this report.

- EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR)
- EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR)
- EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR)
- EU Strategy for the Alpine Region (EUSALP)
- Atlantic Sea Basin Strategy (ATLSBS)

1.g) Currency rate used for conversion AIR (non EUR countries)

The planning rate of €1 = £0.85 has been used for all commitments / allocation values within this Report.

2. THE PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTING THE EVALUATION PLAN.

2.a) Description of any modifications made to the evaluation plan in the RDP during the year, with their justification

- 1. Objectives and purpose:** The objectives and purpose of the Evaluation Plan both remain the same; no additional Programme-specific objectives have been added.
- 2. Governance and coordination:** There have been no changes to this part of the evaluation plan
- 3. Evaluation topics:** There have been no changes to this part of the evaluation plan. It is still the intention of the Research, Monitoring & Evaluation (RME) team to structure the evaluation activity in stages across the programme. The first stage, which will form the bulk of evaluation activity during the course of the programme, and the stage in which we are currently in, is setting up and delivering the evaluations of the various 'schemes' that are delivered as part of the Rural Development Programme. In a number of cases these scheme level evaluations are running concurrently alongside scheme delivery and final evaluations of these are not expected until late 2022 and 2023. These scheme level evaluations will form the primary evidence base that will be used to inform the subsequent programme evaluation stage which will include the thematic priority level evaluations and the ex post evaluation. The purpose of the thematic evaluations will be to consider the contribution of multiple schemes to the specific priority areas of the programme and to assess the complementarity of interventions, in recognition that schemes are not operating in isolation and that the RDP represents a complex area with multiple overlapping objectives and interventions. These thematic priority evaluations will further add to the evidence base for the final ex post evaluation. As highlighted, when it comes to the ex post evaluation the primary evidence base to inform that work should be in place, however flexibility will be built in to the ex post evaluation contract to allow any necessary primary fieldwork to collect data identified as a gap.
- 4. Evaluation activities:** As with the above on evaluation topics there have been no changes to this part of the evaluation plan and it is still the intention to prioritise scheme level evaluation work at this stage of the programme to develop the evidence base.
- 5. Data and information management:** As part of the third modification the methods for collecting and collating data through PPIMS and RPW online. Socio economic measures by SMU will mostly be collected through WEFO online and stored on PPIMS. Land based measures managed by RPW will be collected through the CAPIT system.
- 6. Timeline:** There have been no changes to this part of the evaluation plan.
- 7. Communication of evaluation results:** There have been no additional changes in the communication strategy beyond those made as part of the modification approved in 2019.
- 8. Resources:** There have been no substantial changes in the resources to implement the evaluation plan. The TA budget for evaluation has been reviewed to ensure it is sufficient to deliver the evaluation plan.

2.b) A description of the evaluation activities undertaken during the year (in relation to section 3 of the evaluation plan)

Describe activities/problems encountered/solutions in relation to:

1. Preparing and conducting the assessment of the contribution of the RDP to rural development priorities, of programme results and impacts, including a description of evaluation approach and methods chosen.

The RME team commissioned an evaluation of the **Knowledge Transfer, Innovation and Advisory Services Scheme, known otherwise as Farming Connect** in early 2018. The evaluation is employing a number of methods including a series of 13 longitudinal case studies of farming connect activities and four regional focus groups undertaken two times over the course of the evaluation. The longitudinal case studies are designed to look at the mechanisms through which Farming connect activities lead to changes on the farm level as well as offering insights in to the outcomes of farming connect interactions, The focus groups will then act as a way of verifying and validating the findings coming out of the case study work as well as facilitating collective discussion. The first phase of the evaluation took place over the course of 2018 and early 2019 and culminated in the publication of the interim report in March 2020.

The second stage of fieldwork was due to start in late 2019 however restrictions on research around the general election meant that this was delayed until early 2020. In the early part of the 2020 good progress was made in the second phase of case studies but the plans for the second round of focus groups were disrupted by the arrival of Covid-19 and the introduction of social distancing measures which necessitated some adaptations to the approach. This slightly delayed the second stage of fieldwork and the drafting of the final report was also slightly delayed by the necessary adaptations to working arrangements. A draft final report was received in late 2020 with further revisions received in early 2021 prior to publishing in March 2021.

It is important to note that this work was unable to provide a quantitative assessment of impact of the scheme as plans to incorporate questions into other planned survey work were disrupted with delays to that survey. Instead, the RME team are working with other colleagues within the Welsh Government to explore the possibility of linking FC data to administrative records to provide an opportunity for counterfactual analysis.

The **evaluation of the Sustainable Management Scheme** was awarded in late 2019. The evaluation is planned to run for the duration of the scheme until early 2023 but to ensure the availability of information on an ongoing basis interim annual reporting milestones have been built into the contract. In order to assess the environmental outcomes of the scheme, this evaluation will use secondary data analysis of project level monitoring and evaluation activity which will be focused on the environmental changes achieved as part of project activity. The evaluation will also seek to make use of the environmental data captured by the Environment and Rural Affairs Monitoring and Modelling Programme (ERAMMP) to assist in assessing the environmental contribution of the scheme. In addition to the assessment of environmental contributions the evaluation will seek to provide an assessment of the value of landscape scale collaborative approaches to land management in terms of improving the sustainability and effectiveness of land management and how working collaboratively may be able to leverage wider economic and social objectives through better collaboration. To do this the evaluation plans to employ a mixed methods approach including longitudinal case studies of project activity, surveys of actors involved in collaboration, and interviews with key individuals and stakeholders.

The evaluation commenced in January 2020 with an inception meeting that sought to agree the evaluation

framework, with fieldwork beginning soon after, starting with stakeholder interviews. In March 2021 the arrival of covid 19 led to a slight reconsideration of the fieldwork possibilities, in particular the role of the case studies at this stage. While the case studies were unable to move forward as planned, the surveys and interviews were able to go ahead through virtual means with minimal disruption. This first phase of fieldwork culminated in a draft report received in December 2020 which provided insights into the processes of the scheme although there was some early engaging with initial reported outcomes. Pending revisions, the first interim report is due to be published in March 2021 prior to the second stage of fieldwork beginning in Spring 2021.

The RME team have been working with policy colleagues to develop the specification for a **midterm evaluation of the tourism schemes** offered through the RDP which include the Micro Small Business Fund under measure 6.4, the Tourism Amenity Investment Scheme under measure 7.5, and the Regional Tourism Engagement Fund and the Tourism Product Innovation Fund both delivered under measure 16.3. The work was expected to be commissioned in Spring 2020 however following the arrival of Covid 19 the decision made to delay the procurement of this work due to the impact of the pandemic on the tourism sector in particular and questions around suitability of research work with those businesses whose livelihood and income were in question. It is intended that this work will be picked up again in mid 2021 and that the specification will be revised to ensure its relevance to current circumstances.

The RME team have developed and commissioned a piece of research looking at the Farm **Business Grant** which offers capital grants to farmers. The research aims to consider the reasons behind uptake or non-uptake of the grant, including using the attendance at workshops, as a mandatory condition to access the grant. In particular the research seeks to identify the reasons why some farmers do not choose to access the scheme and whether this reflects an issue with the design or implementation of the scheme, broader economic pressures, or whether the workshops are working to encourage farmers to consider whether a grant is the best option. In addition, the research will also seek to consider what the grants have enabled applicants to do and the effect on their business. The research was awarded until late 2019. The work consisted primarily of a quantitative survey of both applicants and non-applicants to the farm business grant which took place in late 2020, with 800 completed surveys. The surveys are being supplemented with qualitative work including interviews with farmers that are due to take place in early 2021. It is anticipated that the report detailing this work will be published in June 2021 following the Welsh Government Elections. The RME team have developed the **evaluation of LEADER**. Working with Welsh Government policy colleagues the specification has been developed looking to provide an interim assessment of the delivery of the LEADER approach in Wales in the current programme. In addition, to meet more immediate policy requirements for evidence to inform future CLLD work in Wales, the evaluation will look to assess the longer term contribution of LEADER by using case studies of LEADER projects from previous programmes. In framing the evaluation of LEADER, the RME team are following the guidance from the Evaluation helpdesk and will look to assess the value of LEADER in terms of its contribution to increasing social capital, improving local governance arrangements and its ability to leverage enhanced results and impacts through the projects it funds. The evaluation is adopting a theory of change approach principally drawing upon data collected through a mixed methods approach, employing interviews and surveys with Local Action Group members, LAG admin staff, beneficiaries of LEADER funding and broader stakeholders, observations of governance meetings and workshops with Local action group members. The evaluation was expected to begin in early 2020 but was somewhat delayed by Covid 19 and the redeployment of staff to support the Welsh Government response, and instead commenced in Summer 2020 with fieldwork beginning in September which involved interviews with LAG managers from all 18 LAGs in Wales. The next phase of the fieldwork is an online survey that is being distributed towards a wide range of LEADER stakeholders, including LAG chairs, LAG managers, beneficiaries and will use routing to guide the differing respondents through the different questions. It is hoped that the report will be available for

publication in late Summer 2021.

The field survey component of the Environmental And Rural Affairs monitoring and modelling programme (ERAMMP), which plans to revisit 130 1km squares to capture Glastir impacts from the original set of 300 1km baseline squares captured through GMEP, was due to take place in 2020 however this work has had to be pushed back to 2021 and 2022 as Covid 19 and the introduction of social distancing parameters meant that it was not possible to continue with the field survey as planned.

In summer 2020 the RME team began developing a specification for the evaluation of the European Innovation Partnership that is delivered in Wales under the Farming Connect framework. The specification was advertised in December 2020 and awarded in February 2021. In designing the evaluation a key consideration was the ability of the evaluation to account for variances in project activity and objectives which present challenges for assessments at a 'scheme' level and aggregations of project outcomes. In recognition of this the evaluation will focus on the common project outcome of 'innovation' it's value and the conditions that enable or disable it's realisation. Moreover the evaluation is concerned with how, or if, innovation in EIP projects is then disseminated and adopted more broadly within the sector again what are the factors that constrain or enable this. It is noted thought that the dissemination and adoption more broadly across the sector will be difficult to assess. Although to be agreed following the inception meeting in March 2021, it is anticipated that a mixed methods approach of surveys and interviews with the multiple actors involved in EIP delivery, including participating farms, academics, innovation brokers and broader stakeholders. It is hoped that the research will be able to speak to unsuccessful EIP applications to observe what was possible in the absence of support.

In recognition of the ongoing need for evidence to inform future programmes while current evaluation work is ongoing the RME team have also been working on producing summaries of evaluation work.

Acknowledging that in some activity there is a degree of consistency in scheme interventions across programmes these summaries will seek to bring together the initial and emerging evaluation evidence from this programme alongside summaries of evaluation activity from previous programmes where there is a logical continuation of scheme activity. The aim of this work is to identify where findings from previous evaluations may be used to support, or challenge if needed, the emerging findings from the current programme and also to make sure we are using the full suite of available evidence in decision making.

2. Preparing and conducting the evaluation of:

- thematic issues (including those addressed by sub-programmes).

Currently, the Evaluation Plan does not specify thematic issues. It continues to be the intention of the RME Team to liaise on an ongoing basis with Programme and scheme managers to identify relevant thematic issues to be captured by evaluations as they arise in the implementation and delivery of the Programme.

- cross-cutting issues (sustainable development, climate change and innovation).

Questions around the cross cutting issues of sustainable development, climate change and innovation are being built into all evaluation specifications to capture information across the breadth of programme activity. Similarly questions relating to the cross cutting themes of equal opportunities, tackling poverty and sustainable development are also built into all scheme level evaluations to capture their contribution against these areas. Moreover where elements of the programme are directly contributing to these areas, specific evaluation work is planned to capture the scale and nature of the contributions to these areas. For example, the work done through ERAMMP will provide evidence on the cross-cutting issues of sustainable development and climate change, and the evaluation of EIP, outlined above, will include specific questions

around the extent, nature and value of innovation activity.

- the National Rural Networks,

An evaluation of the Wales Rural Network was commissioned in late 2020 with fieldwork commencing in winter prior to reporting in early 2021. The evaluation included the development of a logic model and methods including a desk based review of relevant documentation, data, and interviews with a range of stakeholders, an online survey of the rural development community, workshops and interviews with administrators from other UK NRNs.

- the contribution of CLLD strategies to RDP objectives, the added value of LEADER, etc.

The RME Team continues to provide guidance and support to Local Action Groups on their monitoring and evaluation arrangements. This has included advice and comments on draft specifications sent to the RME team as well as meeting with LAG officials to discuss their plans.

As described above, the RME team has commissioned an evaluation of LEADER in Wales which commenced in 2020 and will be published in the summer of 2021. This work aims to assess the contribution of CLLD strategies to the objectives of the RDP in Wales and will seek to assess the impact of LEADER. To assist in capturing the longer term impact of LEADER that are likely to go beyond programme cycles the evaluation will look at LEADER projects that have been funded in previous programmes to assess the longer term legacy of the funding.

2.c) A description of activities undertaken in relation to the provision and management of data (in relation to section 4 of the evaluation plan)

Describe activities/problems encountered/solutions in relation to:

1. Preparing and running the operations database to collect data and information for evaluation,

There is a requirement within the current programme period to meet the eCohesion requirement (concerning electronic information exchange with beneficiaries). Work began during 2016 to adapt the Welsh European Funding Office (WEFO) IT based system used to manage Structural Funds entitled Programme and Project Monitoring Information System (PPIMS). PPIMS is a tried and tested system possessing features that captures the programme requirements of the Pillar 2 socio-economic programme and schemes. For the land based elements of the Programme data continues to be recorded using the CAPIT system that was used during the 2007-2013 Programme. Enhancements were been made to CAPIT in line with the operations data base requirements for the 2014-2020 Programme.

2. Screening data and information sources/providers to ensure the application of robust evaluation methods (including conducting the counterfactual analysis),

The RME Team has liaised with the WG's Agricultural Statistics team to undertake some pilot analysis, with a view to informing the development of more robust impact evaluation techniques in the WGRC-RDP 2014-2020. It is envisaged that impact evaluation work with non-farm business beneficiaries would utilise business datasets held by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). It is a requirement of the ONS that

access to their business datasets is restricted to approved researchers, so it is essential that the commissioning of this impact evaluation work stipulates that the project team must consist of researchers with these approvals in place from the ONS. It is also hoped that administrative records may be used to help assess the impact of agricultural support initiatives on farm turnover and employment and initial discussions have taken place with the WG's administrative data research unit to explore the feasibility of this. It is proposed that a theory-based approach would be taken in evaluating the impact of LEADER. The Strategy Team has continued to meet with LAGs to discuss evaluation approaches.

The RME Team is continuing to liaise with the ERAMMP project team to ensure the most effective approach to conducting Farm surveys that will meet the multiple requirements of different areas of evaluation. In recognition of this, and concerns around survey burden more broadly, the RME team are working with other teams in the Welsh Government to consider ways in which a more integrated approach to surveying across the RDP is achieved. It is hoped that this data collected as part of these surveys will be used to inform the evaluations of Glastir, Farming Connect and other interventions to farmers as well as supporting the modelling work delivered as part of ERAMMP.

3. Agreements with data providers and necessary arrangements/legal steps to include the identified providers' data in the databases used in the RDP evaluation,

The WEFO PPIMS system has been extended to allow reporting on the socio-economic aspects of the RDP. In order to be able to report on the information held within the PPIMS environment Business Objects software is used in conjunction with other IT solutions. Business Objects allows Programme wide reporting through the amalgamation of high level data held within other data bases, such as PPIMS.

The RME team is working to ensure that schemes include legally correct consent statements for beneficiaries so that where their consent is given their details can be used for monitoring and evaluation purposes. This would also include linking beneficiaries' details to wider datasets as part of a counterfactual evaluation design. The RME team has produced some guidance in relation GDPR that has been distributed through the Wales rural network and outlines the basis for data collection under the RDP.

4. Arrangements to fill data gaps and collect missing information.

The intention is that where data gaps exist, surveys would be used to collect missing information. Beneficiary surveys are included in the Evaluation Plan, as these provide information that complements the monitoring data – how these surveys will be delivered are under review. As discussed above, the RME team are currently working with other parts of the WG to approaches to surveying farm businesses to avoid survey fatigue. For non-agricultural businesses it is proposed that rather than doing a single survey of all businesses it is likely that survey work will be incorporated into scheme level evaluation activity to ensure the surveys are of most relevant to the businesses supported.

Where survey work is not possible it is the intention of the RME team to use more qualitative methods with relevant stakeholders to provide assessments of support offered through the RDP.

2.d) A list of completed evaluations, including references to where they have been published on-line

Publisher/Editor	Welsh Government
Author(s)	People and Work
Title	Refugees Employment and Skills Support Study
Abstract	The study looked at the employment ambitions and needs of refugees in Wales with a view to assessing the need for further support from the Rural Development Programme. It draws upon three key sources of data: a literature review; interviews with 54 stakeholders; and a survey of 257 refugees and 197 asylum seekers. The report found that most respondents want to work and want to find work that matched their interests, skills and experience. Education and language skills varied within the population, with some possessing university education and others with little or no formal education. In terms of barriers to work, a range of barriers were present including barriers linked to enforced migration and more circumstantial barriers such as transport or childcare although no unique barriers were presented by rurality. The research found that those resettled to rural Wales were already receiving additional support so the necessity for additional RDP provision was limited.
URL	https://gov.wales/refugees-employment-and-skills-support-study

Publisher/Editor	Welsh Government
Author(s)	SQW
Title	An evaluation of the Knowledge Transfer, Innovation and Advisory Services Scheme
Abstract	This largely qualitative evaluation involved reviewing programme documentation and monitoring data, in depth consultations with governance, management and delivery staff and wider stakeholders, regional focus groups and 13 in-depth case studies. The research found that the programme has performed well to date with good engagement from farmers and that the wide suite of activities on offer was positive and helped meet the varying needs of farmers in Wales. In considering the impact of farming connect, it is argued that the programme plays an important role in creating the foundations for change with substantial impact of personal outcomes for farmers. This was said to be leading to small scale incremental changes, reflecting the capacity and resource constraints of participating farms where change needs to be affordable and manageable. The marginal gains across many aspects of farm businesses are seen to be helping create more viable and sustainable enterprises in the longer term.

URL	https://gov.wales/evaluation-knowledge-transfer-innovation-and-advisory-services-programme#:~:text=Evaluation of the knowledge transfer, innovation and advisory,sector as part of the Farming Connect Service.

2.e) A summary of completed evaluations, focussing on evaluation findings

Please summarize the findings from evaluations completed in 2020, per CAP objective (or RDP priority, where appropriate).

Report on positive or negative effects/impacts (including the supporting evidence). Please don't forget to mention the source of the findings.

Evaluation of the Knowledge Transfer, Innovation and Advisory Services Programme

An evaluation of the Knowledge Transfer, Innovation and Advisory Services Programme, otherwise known as Farming Connect has finished its phase of fieldwork, the findings of which were reported in the first annual report which was completed in late 2019. This work was due to be published in late 2019 however limitations on publication due to the general election meant this has been delayed to early 2020.

Due to the methodology used it was not possible for the research to provide robust assessments of the impact of the programme, however the findings do help in assessing the engagement of farmers with the programme, what elements of the programme seem to be working well and where there are opportunities to modify programme delivery. The findings, as presented in the report, are provided below:

- The programme has performed well in terms of engagement and the longevity and continuity of Farming Connect has been important in it being seen as 'well known', 'trusted' and 'well respected' in the sector in Wales.
- Engagement across activities varied, although the majority of farmers did not take advantage of the full range of activities offered under Farming Connect suggesting that navigating the full Farming Connect offer was an issue for some farmers.
- The range of support offered through Farming Connect works well and the flexibility of the programme was seen as positive. The report has noted some delivery challenges including variability in the quality and consistency of facilitators, the capacity of development officers, and the managing the use of time limited support.
- The report found that Farming Connect plays a crucial role in creating the 'foundations for change' and has a substantial effect on personal outcomes for farmers in terms of their mind set, attitude, confidence and ambition as well as a positive impact on their mental health.
- In terms of impact, the findings suggest that the support is leading to small scale incremental changes over a period of time. In part, this reflects capacity and resource constraints in some farm businesses which mean that changes need to be affordable and manageable.
- The evaluators suggest that Farming Connect is delivering outcomes that would not have been achieved otherwise, would have taken longer, been lower quality or less sustainable in the absence of the programme.

Refugees Employment and Skills Support Study

The fieldwork for the Refugees Employment and Skills Support study was completed in early 2019 with the final report provided to the WG in late 2019. This work was due to be published in late 2019 however limitations on publication due to the general election meant this has been delayed to early 2020.

The findings of the work are as follows:

- In terms of work aspirations, around two thirds of those surveyed who had worked in their home county wanted to continue in the same occupation they held before seeking asylum however 80 of those spoken to were willing to consider alternatives.
- Skills and qualifications vary substantially reflecting diversity of the refugee and asylum seeker population. Findings suggest that levels of education tended to be lower amongst refugees resettled under the Syrian Vulnerable Person Resettlement Scheme. Participation in English language provision was high (65%) however participating in other types of training was more limited.
- With regards to experience of work, 40% of those interviewed who were interviewed were entitled to work. This figures does conceal differences in gender (men are more likely to be in work), skill level (those with higher skills are more likely to be in work), and length of time in the UK (those in the UK longer are more likely to be employed).
- In relation to barriers to employment, a key barrier was a misalignment between the labour aspirations and skills of refugees and the expectations of employers. Even where aspirations were aligned, barriers linked to enforced migration such as difficulties gaining recognising of qualifications, skills and experience gained overseas, reluctance among employers to employ refugee and poor mental health. There were also more generic barriers linked to transport, childcare and weakness of labour markets – these more generic barriers were seen to be more pervasive in rural areas.

2.f) A description of communication activities undertaken in relation to publicising evaluation findings (in relation to section 6 of the evaluation plan)

Reference shall be made to the evaluation plan, any difficulties encountered in implementation shall be described, together with solutions adopted or proposed.

Date / Period	05/03/2020
Title of communication activity/event & topic of evaluation findings discussed/ disseminated	Publication of the Full Farming Connect Evaluation and executive summaries on the Welsh Government Statistics and Research webpage and Wales Rural Network webpage
Overall organiser of activity/ event	The Research and Monitoring evaluation team worked with the Wales Rural network and other Welsh Government staff to publish the reports.
Information channels/ format used	The report were published on the Welsh Government Statistics and Research Webpage, and the Wales Rural Network website and alongside an accessible executive summary.
Type of target audience	It is the aim that the publication on the Welsh Governments Statistics and research webpage would reach other research and academic stakeholders while the Wales Rural Network webpage would allow better engagement with rural stakeholders.
Approximate number of stakeholders reached	0

URL	https://gov.wales/evaluation-knowledge-transfer-innovation-and-advisory-services-programme
------------	---

Date / Period	26/03/2020
Title of communication activity/event & topic of evaluation findings discussed/ disseminated	Publication of the Refugee Employment and Skills support study on the Welsh Government statistics and research webpage and Wales Rural Network webpage.
Overall organiser of activity/ event	The Research and Monitoring evaluation team worked with the Wales Rural network and other Welsh Government staff to publish the reports.
Information channels/ format used	The report were published on the Welsh Government statistics and Research Webpage, and the Wales rural network website and alongside an accessible executive summary.
Type of target audience	It is the aim that the publication on the Welsh Governments Statistics and Research webpage would help reach other research and academic stakeholders while the Wales Rural Network would allow better engagement with rural stakeholders.
Approximate number of stakeholders reached	0
URL	https://gov.wales/refugees-employment-and-skills-support-study

2.g) Description of the follow-up given to evaluation results (in relation to section 6 of the evaluation plan)

Reference shall be made to the evaluation plan, any difficulties encountered in implementation shall be described, together with solutions adopted or proposed.

<p>Evaluation result relevant for follow-up (Describe finding & mention source in brackets)</p>	<p>The majority of farmers were selective in the take up of the Farming Connect The flexibility of the programme was seen as positive but some delivery challenges were highlighted Scope to increase engagement with sector stakeholders to raise awareness of the scope on offer. Consideration needs to be given on service delivery, need to focus future provision on more intense support for farmers.</p>
<p>Follow-up carried out</p>	<p>Findings from the first phase of the Evaluation of the Knowledge Transfer, innovation and advisory services programme have informed the programme refresh of Farming Connect which addresses the recommendations made in the report. More details on this refresh can be found in the update under Priority 1 under section 1c of this report. Moreover findings from the evaluation are informing the development of future programmes and schemes for a more long term approach.</p>
<p>Responsible authority for follow-up</p>	<p>Other</p>

3. ISSUES WHICH AFFECT THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PROGRAMME AND THE MEASURES TAKEN

3.a) Description of steps taken to ensure quality and effectiveness of programme implementation

Programme Monitoring Committee (PMC)

The WG has established a single Programme Monitoring Committee (PMC) for Wales European Structural and Investment (ESI) Fund programmes. The All Wales ESI PMC was officially constituted on 5 December 2014 following approval of the Structural Funds programmes and was formally established for the WGRC-RDP 2014-2020 in May 2015 following EC approval of the Programme. During 2020 the PMC met virtually due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic twice in total; in September and November.

Modifications

There was no modification formally submitted during 2020, however, the Welsh Government began work on the fourth programme amendment and informally discussed proposals to amend allocations and introduce state aid under Measure 19 (LEADER) with the intention of submitting these changes early in 2021. The modification will reflect the recent challenges of Covid 19 and subsequent climactic events to reset priorities to ensure a successful delivery of the programme.

Covid

Covid 19 pandemic has presented many challenges in programme delivery leaving some schemes and projects with a delay in implementation and claims. Where it has been possible the WG have accommodated this by extending deadlines and working with the customer / community to support IT issues. Additional monitoring was put in place for the LEADER programme and the larger contracts to ensure a risk based approach was in place at the earliest opportunity. The WG farm advisory services and WRN moved to online webinar/teams workshops and increased presence through our online marketing and promotion channels such as Twitter, Face Book and Website, which have proved to be successful in promoting the programme best practice, activity and scheme information to rural communities and businesses.

The Welsh Government noted a delay in spend in the 2020 reporting year, due to Covid 19. This is due to a delay in implementation of the projects on the ground, especially in the socio economic measures, including tourism and cooperation related projects. This is likely to have a continued impact during 2021.

Error Rates

Error Rates (EAFRD IACS)

With regard to error rates for the Programme, the final figures for the analysis of the control statistics shows an increase in error in the random sample for area based measures at 2.03% (up from 1.86% in the previous year). The WG undertook a detailed analysis of the errors as follows:

Measure 08

There were 66 (€5,190.41) cases subject to reduction, of which 28 (€2691.25) was identified at inspection. The average reduction was for a value of €78. Reductions were all applied for simple over declaration.

Measure 10

There were 472 (€189,448) cases subject to reduction, of which 116 (€25,593) were identified at inspection. The average reduction was for a value of €1,633 and 99% of the reduction (€187,192) was due to beneficiaries not respecting their contractual commitments as opposed to over declaring areas.

There were 38 cases where the reduction was in excess of €1,000, 2 of which were identified at inspection. The most significant reduction (€12,587.56) was applied to a single beneficiary subject to a reoccurrence penalty identified by administrative checks. The Paying Agency are reviewing their treatment of recurrent breaches.

There was 1 case identified with a reduction in excess of €1,000 in the random population due to commitments not being respected. If the most significant cases was excluded (€4,205.37) the residual error rate for measure 10 would be 1.14%, below the 2% considered significant.

Measure 11

There were 66 (€5,190.41) cases subject to reduction, of which 28 (€2691.25) were identified at inspection. The average reduction was for a value of €78, and of the 66 cases, 14 were significant enough to result in an over-declaration penalty.

There were no cases where the reduction was in excess of €1,000. The most common cause of reduction was over declaration of land area (62 cases), with the remainder due to beneficiaries not respecting their contractual commitments. The most significant reduction (€457.4) was as a result of over declaration of land area.

Error Rates (EAFRD NIACS)

For EAFRD Non IACS 2020 there were 185 (€971,166.52) cases subject to reduction, of which 27 (€35,396.63) were identified at inspection. The average reduction was for a value of €5,249 and of the 185 cases, 2 were significant enough to result in an over-declaration penalty.

The most significant reduction (€522,783.02) occurred in the Technical Assistance measure.

The results show that a low rate of error in the EAFRD Non IACS population (1.14%) has continued in 2020. Error is mainly identified at inspection and the administrative error rate has increased due to completion of in-situ visits during 2018, as projects have reached closure.

Aid Recovered

New RDP Aid Recovered and reallocated during 2020 Calender Year

RDP 2014-2020 - Aid Recovered and Reallocated - 01 January 2020 to 31 December 2020

Sub Measure	Focus Area	Value (EUR)	Value (GBP)
4.1	2a	-23,050.25	-19,927.19
	5b	-1,802.82	-1,606.94
4.1 Total		-24,853.07	-21,534.13
4.2	3a	-247.41	-221.60
4.2 Total		-247.41	-221.60

4.4	5d	-6,410.64	-5,467.39
	5e	-2,994.35	-2,672.31
	P4	-172,149.57	-147,462.68
4.4 Total		-181,554.56	-155,602.38
7.4	6b	-12,648.54	-11,402.10
7.4 Total		-12,648.54	-11,402.10
8.1	5e	-7,176.61	-6,247.37
	P4	-15,842.97	-13,737.24
8.1 Total		-23,019.58	-19,984.61
8.5	P4	-5,157.00	-4,555.27
8.5 Total		-5,157.00	-4,555.27
8.6	6a	-27,191.55	-23,754.44
8.6 Total		-27,191.55	-23,754.44
10.1	5d	-17,626.51	-15,156.32
	5e	-7,887.81	-6,869.80
	P4	-339,311.10	-287,932.01
10.1 Total		-364,825.42	-309,958.13
11.1	P4	-7,423.40	-6,608.16
11.1 Total		-7,423.40	-6,608.16
11.2	P4	-46,917.45	-40,290.16
11.2 Total		-46,917.45	-40,290.16
16.2	6b	-7,434.19	-6,645.92
16.2 Total		-7,434.19	-6,645.92
16.5	P4	-16,090.36	-13,728.66
16.5 Total		-16,090.36	-13,728.66
19.2	6b	-2,752.91	-2,433.77
19.2 Total		-2,752.91	-2,433.77
19.3	6b	-10,420.17	-9,104.94
19.3 Total		-10,420.17	-9,104.94
19.4	6b	-1,910.71	-1,667.69
19.4 Total		-1,910.71	-1,667.69
Grand Total		-732,446.32	-627,491.96

To Note:

Total of New RD Plan (2014-2020) recovered debts only

All debt recoveries from 01/01/2020 to 31/12/2020)

3.b) Quality and efficient delivery mechanisms

Simplified Cost Options (SCOs) ¹, proxy automatically calculated

	Total RDP financial allocation [EAFRD]	[%] planned SCO coverage out of the total RDP allocation ²	[%] realised expenditure through SCO out of total RDP allocation (cumulative ³)
Fund specific methods CPR Article 67(5)(e)	651,590,163.00	36.03	25.25

¹ Simplified Cost Options shall be intended as unit cost/flat rates/lumps sums CPR Article 67(5) including the EAFRD specific methods under point (e) of that article such as business start-up lump sums, flat rate payments to producers organisations and area and animal related unit costs.

² Automatically calculated from programme version's measures 06, 09, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 18

³ Automatically calculated from declarations of expenditure's measures 06, 09, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 18

Simplified Cost Options (SCOs), based on specific detailed MS data [optional]

	Total RDP financial allocation [EAFRD]	[%] planned SCO coverage out of the total RDP allocation	[%] realised expenditure through SCO out of total RDP allocation (cumulative)
Total CPR Article 67(1)(b)(c)(d) + 67(5)(e)	651,590,163.00		
Fund specific methods CPR Article 67(5)(e)	651,590,163.00		

E-management for beneficiaries [optional]

	[%] EAFRD funding	[%] Operations concerned
Application for support		
Payment claims		
Controls and compliance		
Monitoring and reporting to the MA/PA		

Average time limits for beneficiaries to receive payments [optional]

[Days] Where applicable, MS deadline for payments to beneficiaries	[Days] Average time for payments to beneficiaries	Comments

4. STEPS TAKEN TO IMPLEMENT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND PROGRAMME PUBLICITY REQUIREMENTS

4.a) Action taken and state of play as regards the establishment of the NRN and the implementation of its action plan

4.a1) Actions taken and state of play as regards establishment of the NRN (governance structure and network support unit)

GOVERNANCE

The Wales Rural Network (WRN) is a partnership of organisations, enterprises, administrations, and individuals open to any stakeholder with an interest in rural development. Stakeholders are involved in the governance and activities of the WRN through the external Steering Group (see below).

WALES RURAL NETWORK SUPPORT UNIT (WRNSU)

The role of the WRNSU is to facilitate the networking process and the engagement of stakeholders by sharing information, best practice and expertise across Wales, UK and Europe. The WRNSU currently comprises of a Head of Wales Rural Network (0.5FTE) supported by three Rural Network Managers (2.5FTE), a Finance Manager (0.8FTE) and a Website Manager & Content Author (1FTE). The team works alongside RDP scheme managers and delivery bodies to identify networking opportunities and to support the wider WRN.

The WRNSU remit is to:

- Communicate, share and exchange information and news;
- Organise and promote free events and study visits encouraging co-operation and sharing of knowledge;
- Showcase funded project examples and case studies;
- Communicate and promote funding opportunities;
- Connect businesses, community groups, and others interested in Rural Development
- Share best practices and EU supporting information;
- Facilitate links within the UK and Europe.

The WRNSU's role has continued to evolve over the last 12 months, particularly with the launch of a new website. COVID-19 has changed the way the WRNSU works, with a greater focus on digital communications and sharing of best practice amongst stakeholders in response to the pandemic.

As the end of the programme period approaches, the WRNSU role has shifted, there is greater emphasis on learning from best practice and the promotion of the projects that have received RDP funding. Further information on our work can be found on the WRN web pages;

www.businesswales.gov.wales/walesruralnetwork

WALES RURAL NETWORK STEERING GROUP (WRNSG)

The WRNSG is specifically tasked with advising and assisting with the development of a work-plan for WRNSU, which involves stakeholders, improves the quality of RDP implementation, informs the broader public and potential beneficiaries about the RDP, and fosters innovation.

Brexit and COVID-19 restrictions meant there was a break in the regularity of the Steering Group (SG) Meetings during 2020. Meetings have now been reinstated and the Group met virtually on 23 September 2020. A full update of the work of WRNSU during 2020 was given and the group was advised about the new ways of working due to current restrictions such as virtual events and workshops. Questions around funding and promotion of Scheme Windows were tabled from the members and information was provided, including how SG members can assist in their promotion. WRNSU are exploring the suggestion of pinned posts (Social Media). The group will aim to meet again in the first quarter of 2021.

Further information on the Steering Group can be found at
<https://businesswales.gov.wales/walesruralnetwork/wrn-support-unit/steering-group>

4.a2) Actions taken and state of play as regards the implementation of the action plan

The WRN web pages continue to promote all the RDP socio – economic measure approved projects.

For a current list of all approved 2014-2020 RDP Socio-economic projects see:

https://businesswales.gov.wales/walesruralnetwork/projects?funding_source=All&year%5Bmin%5D=All&year%5Bmax%5D=&area=All&theme=All&measures=All

LEADER projects are available via an interactive map. All LEADER groups in Wales have been issued with a profile for the website and must upload the project details once it has been approved by the Local Action Group (LAG). The projects can be viewed by themes and/or areas. The projects also provide contact details, further information and a link to a case study if applicable.

<https://businesswales.gov.wales/walesruralnetwork/local-action-groups-and-projects>

All other RDP projects are also available on the website and appear on a separate interactive map. These projects can also be viewed online using the search box.

A total of 1,383 RDP funded projects are currently available to view.

A newsletter was produced by the WRNSU to highlight good examples of how LEADER Local Action Groups in Wales pro-actively supported their rural communities during the pandemic. The Wales Rural Network Covid-19 LEADER Activities Review can be found here.

<https://businesswales.gov.wales/walesruralnetwork/sites/walesruralnetwork/files/Wales%20Rural%20Network%20-%20COVID%20-%202019%20LEADER%20activities%20Review%202020%20-%20English.pdf>

The dedicated WRN Website Manager and Content Author regularly updates the website with news, events, publications and case studies concerning RDP. <https://businesswales.gov.wales/walesruralnetwork/news-events-and-case-studies>.

FACILITATION OF THEMATIC AND ANALYTICAL EXCHANGES (ART. 54 3B(II) OF REG. 1305/2013)

See section 4b for information on publications, website and social media strategy.

PROVISION OF TRAINING AND NETWORKING TO LAG (ART. 54 3B(III) OF REG.

1305/2013)

Wales Rural Network Managers each have responsibility for networking and communication across the Rural Development Programme. Responsibilities are split across schemes and LAG regional areas on a geographical basis. WRNSU have successfully organised a number of events to support and promote the RDP 2014-2020.

These have included:

- Feb 2020 - Rural Economy – Supply Chains – Physical Workshop - 21 Wool / Textile Stakeholders attended.

Since April 2020 and with the COVID-19 restrictions in place the WRNSU have arranged and managed virtual events through Microsoft Teams.

- Sept 2020 - National Forest Plan Workshop 2020 - Virtual Workshop - 51 Forestry Stakeholders attended.
- Sept 2020 - Rural Economy – Supply Chains - Virtual Workshop - 32 Wool / Textile Stakeholders attended.
- Oct 2020 - 2nd National Forest Plan Workshop 2020 - Virtual Workshop – 30 Forestry Stakeholders attended.
- Nov 2020 - SMS - Virtual Workshop – 91 Stakeholders attended.
- Nov 2020 - Rural Economy – Supply Chains Wool / Textiles - Virtual Workshop – 38 Wool / Textile Stakeholders attended.

The WRNSU have also had representation at the following:

- The WRN attended the International & Cross Border Sub-Group Meeting (January 2020).
- Restrictions have now been put in place by UK Government to cancel some EU activities between the UK and EU due to Brexit. Attending ENRD activities has fallen into this category.

PROVISION OF NETWORKING FOR ADVISERS AND INNOVATION SUPPORT

SERVICES (ART. 54 3B(IV) OF REG. 1305/2013)

WRNSU work closely with policy leads to promote and disseminate information to advisors. Lead officers within the WRNSU have been identified for RDP schemes. Dividing responsibility for networking and communications in this way improves the overall service provided to stakeholders as well as developing WRNSU managers' knowledge of the programme. This knowledge is built up by regular communications and attending meetings with the scheme leads.

SHARING AND DISSEMINATION OF M&E FINDINGS (ART. 54 3B(V) OF REG.

1305/2013)

WRNSU participate in regular UKNRN teleconference meetings (due to COVID-19 restrictions) and work closely with other NRNs to ensure agreed processes and sharing of information/best practice. This enhances cross working, identifying common challenges and barriers and therefore improving working practices. These meetings provide an excellent opportunity to discuss RDP stakeholder issues and agree

consistent responses to issues affecting the UK as a whole.

The first physical meeting of the UKNRNs for 2020 due to take place in Belfast had to be cancelled due to COVID-19.

The UKNRN is specifically tasked with working across the UK regional administrations to develop the following areas:

Stimulate closer NSU relations and increase understanding and awareness of activities occurring;

- Share best practice approaches to networking & communicating with stakeholders, this will include:
- The development of effective case studies;
- The use of digital communications including, i.e. producing short films, social media, etc.

Engage with stakeholders/beneficiaries through thematic events to enable:

- Stakeholders to influence the implementation of RDPs;
- Facilitate the sharing of good practice and innovation through use of workshops, conferences, open space groups, etc. to support the development and resilience of rural communities.

Facilitate the opportunities for networking and communications with stakeholders;

- Facilitating Cooperation & Innovation through the following:
- Share information regarding projects to enable innovation between regions;
- Hold regional cooperation events across UK NSUs with Operational Groups to encourage sharing of projects ideas;
- Share best practice concerning Finance & Audit / Monitoring and Evaluation

WRN Communications/Work Plan

WRN Website / IT Development

The Network's primary objectives are to:

- Bring together rural stakeholders with an interest in the development and delivery of the Rural Development Programme;
- Communicate the opportunities available within the Programme to the target audience.

Feedback from external evaluators, governing bodies and customers indicated that the lack of an easily accessible and media orientated website was affecting:-

- The visibility and potential of WRN
- How the importance of EU funding to the Welsh economy is perceived
- Wales' standing in comparison with other member states.

Following the Welsh Government decision to move all content to a black and white beta.gov website the WRN procured the build of a purpose built Network website on the Business Wales platform.

The WRNSU website includes:

- A dynamic home page with a headline slide show

- TAGs for Agriculture; Community; Food; Tourism; Environment & Forestry
- Case Study Videos
- An interactive map depicting all project locations across Wales
- All LAG Projects and contact pages
- All Socio-Economic Projects
- All Tourism and Agriculture Projects
- News pages – circa. 2 news stories a day are added; including information around scheme windows
- Case study pages – featuring a case study of the month
- Newsletter page where the previous 3 issues are hosted
- Social Media Feeds
- Events
- RDP Scheme window information

4.b) Steps taken to ensure that the programme is publicised (Article 13 of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 808/2014)

To ensure that the programme is promoting and sharing best practice from grassroots to European audiences the activity listed on 4.a) was instrumental in progressing this workstream. The current platform enables the WRNSU to continue to improve methods, practices and processes for external communication. Examples are listed below.

- WRNSU continue to work on improving the Website and external Local Action Groups now have publishing responsibilities for project examples.
- The new build consists of two interactive maps, visually promoting all funding awarded to date with details on the relevant projects.
- 416 new projects were published by WRNSU during 2020 (208 English / 208 Welsh)
- LAG upload new projects via their own access point
- The news section contains all EU funding, scheme opening dates and key supporting information.
- The web pages are linked to our social media channels supporting external communication via other channels.
- WRN procured ten short films, showcasing projects. These have been published on YouTube and promoted via the WRN Webpages.
- There are over 1300 projects (including LEADER) published on the new interactive Project pages, numerous now contain links to live web pages.
- At least 2 pieces of information are added to the website on a daily basis.
- There have been 148,684 website hits from Jan - December 2020.
- The Wales Rural Network Support Unit has developed a dedicated page for updates on RDP scheme guidance and FAQs in response to COVID-19.

Social Media

Promotional tweets, re-tweets with quotes and Facebook posts regarding scheme windows and RDP activities are posted daily.

- Twitter followers increased in 2020 by circa. 330 to 1,730.

- Facebook has also seen a steady increase to 339 followers in October.

WRN are exploring the possibility of setting up a dedicated YouTube channel and Instagram account.

- Regular tweets / Facebook posts; re-tweets with quotes and promotional tweets / Facebook posts regarding scheme windows scheduled on a regular basis while EOIs are open.

From the Website Analytics received, the number of website hits continues to grow month on month.

	2019	2020	Difference 2019-2020
No of Website Hits	105,248	148,684	43,436
No of Twitter Followers	1,617	1,755	138
Tweets	592	764	172
Twitter Engagement	735	952	217
No of Facebook Profile Likes	239	359	120
Facebook Posts	864	1,145	281
Facebook Engagement	720	1,161	441

- Social Media – Twitter followers increased in 2020 by 138 to 1,755; Facebook has increased by 120 to 359 followers. Regular tweets / Facebook posts; re-tweets with quotes and promotional tweets / Facebook posts regarding scheme windows scheduled on a regular basis while Expression Of Interest windows are open.
 - Business cases are being produced for a WRN Instagram account and a WRN YouTube channel
- Regular updates to the website of written case studies.
- Social Media 2020 – the WRN had a steady increase of followers for both Twitter and Facebook throughout the year. Even though the WRNSU had some technical issues with a Government wide ban of Social Media for three months, they have still had a great increase in engagements for both accounts.
- The website’s homepage has been updated so it is easier for users to navigate the website
- Due to COVID-19, the WRNSU had to pause the process of requesting to have a YouTube and Instagram account for the Network.

Links to social media platforms can be found here:-

<https://twitter.com/WalesRuralNet> and <https://www.facebook.com/walesruralnet>

5. ACTIONS TAKEN TO FULFIL EX ANTE CONDITIONALITIES

This section applies to AIR(s) 2015, 2016 only

6. DESCRIPTION OF IMPLEMENTATION OF SUB-PROGRAMMES

This section applies to AIR(s) 2016, 2018 only

7. ASSESSMENT OF THE INFORMATION AND PROGRESS TOWARDS ACHIEVING THE OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAMME

This section applies to AIR(s) 2016, 2018 only

8. IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTIONS TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE PRINCIPLES SET OUT IN ARTICLES 5, 7 AND 8 OF REGULATION (EU) No 1303/2013

This section applies to AIR(s) 2016, 2018 only

9. PROGRESS MADE IN ENSURING INTEGRATED APPROACH TO USE EAFRD AND OTHER UNION FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

This section applies to AIR(s) 2018 only

10. REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (ARTICLE 46 OF REGULATION (EU) No 1303/2013)

30A. Has the ex-ante assessment been started ?	No
30B. Has the ex-ante assessment been completed ?	No
30. Date of completion of ex-ante assessment	-
31.1. Has selection or designation process already been launched ?	No
13A. Has the funding agreement been signed ?	No
13. Date of signature of the funding agreement with the body implementing the financial instrument	-

11. ENCODING TABLES FOR COMMON AND PROGRAMME-SPECIFIC INDICATORS AND QUANTIFIED TARGET VALUES

See Monitoring Annex

Annex II

Detailed table showing implementation level by Focus areas including output indicators

Focus Area 1A							
FA/M	Target indicator name	Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2025
1A	T1: percentage of expenditure under Articles 14, 15 and 35 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 in relation to the total expenditure for the RDP (focus area 1A)	2014-2020			10.04	35.39	28.37
		2014-2019			6.74	23.76	
		2014-2018			3.76	13.25	
		2014-2017			1.19	4.19	
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					

Focus Area 1B							
FA/M	Target indicator name	Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2025
1B	T2: Total number of cooperation operations supported under the cooperation measure (Article 35 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013) (groups, networks/clusters, pilot projects...) (focus area 1B)	2014-2020			176.00	36.82	478.00
		2014-2019			86.00	17.99	
		2014-2018			60.00	12.55	
		2014-2017			2.00	0.42	
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					

Focus Area 1C							
FA/M	Target indicator name	Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2025
1C	T3: Total number of participants trained under Article 14 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 (focus area 1C)	2014-2020			57,944.50	166.91	34,716.00
		2014-2019			22,587.00	65.06	
		2014-2018			10,079.00	29.03	
		2014-2017			5,021.00	14.46	
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					

Focus Area 2A							
FA/M	Target indicator name	Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2025
2A	T4: percentage of agricultural holdings with RDP support for investments in restructuring or modernisation (focus area 2A)	2014-2020	10.18	101.00	10.18	101.00	10.08
		2014-2019	6.50	64.49	6.50	64.49	
		2014-2018	2.99	29.67	1.47	14.59	
		2014-2017	0.29	2.88	0.07	0.69	
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
FA/M	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
2A	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	70,956,234.39	66.61	50,514,849.45	47.42	106,518,333.17
M01	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	30,777,490.80	91.49	22,770,244.55	67.68	33,641,808.11
M01.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020			3,724,450.80	97.23	3,830,684.80
M01.1	O12 - Number of participants in trainings	2014-2020			12,868.24	128.55	10,010.00
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	5,576,550.01	86.15	4,245,600.83	65.59	6,473,423.63
M02.1	O13 - Number of beneficiaries advised	2014-2020			2,886.97	97.43	2,963.00
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	33,983,443.58	71.73	23,361,643.86	49.31	47,374,830.90
M04	O2 - Total investment	2014-2020			58,404,109.65	49.42	118,172,371.35
M04.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020			23,361,643.86	49.50	47,198,360.31
M04.1	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	2014-2020			2,455.00	100.99	2,431.00
M04.3	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020					176,470.59
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	618,750.00	3.25	137,360.21	0.72	19,028,270.53

Focus Area 3A							
FA/M	Target indicator name	Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2025
3A	T6: percentage of agricultural holdings receiving support for participating in quality schemes, local markets and short supply circuits, and producer groups/organisations (focus area 3A)	2014-2020	0.76	111.10	0.76	111.10	0.68
		2014-2019	0.70	102.33	0.70	102.33	
		2014-2018	2.11	308.44	0.41	59.93	
		2014-2017					
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
FA/M	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
3A	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	114,139,958.62	67.47	57,602,381.44	34.05	169,163,436.09
M01	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	53,169,047.69	85.19	19,215,180.98	30.79	62,413,793.70
M01.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020			17,978,441.12	29.73	60,478,006.48
M01.1	O12 - Number of participants in trainings	2014-2020			39,195.10	230.61	16,996.00
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	428,239.38	64.60	434,777.28	65.59	662,921.01
M02.1	O13 - Number of beneficiaries advised	2014-2020			297.44	98.17	303.00
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	56,860,305.23	94.90	35,059,923.43	58.51	59,917,712.73
M04	O2 - Total investment	2014-2020			109,467,443.99	73.08	149,794,281.83
M04.1 M04.2	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	2014-2020			80.00	66.67	120.00
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	3,682,366.32	7.98	2,892,499.75	6.27	46,169,008.65
M16.4	O9 - Number of holdings participating in supported schemes	2014-2020			184.00	111.52	165.00

Priority P4

FA/M	Target indicator name	Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2025	
P4	T13: percentage of forestry land under management contracts to improve soil management and/or prevent soil erosion (focus area 4C)	2014-2020					0.00	
		2014-2019						
		2014-2018						
		2014-2017						
		2014-2016						
		2014-2015						
	T11: percentage of forestry land under management contracts to improve water management (focus area 4B)	2014-2020						0.00
		2014-2019						
		2014-2018						
		2014-2017						
		2014-2016						
		2014-2015						
	T8: percentage of forest/other wooded area under management contracts supporting biodiversity (focus area 4A)	2014-2020				0.83	30.73	2.70
		2014-2019				0.77	28.51	
		2014-2018				0.75	27.77	
		2014-2017				0.23	8.52	
		2014-2016				0.20	7.41	
		2014-2015				0.01	0.37	
	T12: percentage of agricultural land under management contracts to improve soil management and/or prevent soil erosion (focus area 4C)	2014-2020				4.81	96.48	4.99
		2014-2019				4.75	95.28	
		2014-2018				4.46	89.46	
		2014-2017				4.46	89.46	
		2014-2016				4.36	87.45	
		2014-2015						
	T10: percentage of agricultural land under management contracts to improve water management (focus area 4B)	2014-2020				6.90	49.89	13.83
		2014-2019				6.62	47.86	
		2014-2018				6.22	44.97	
2014-2017					6.22	44.97		
2014-2016					3.14	22.70		
2014-2015								
T9: percentage of agricultural land under management contracts supporting biodiversity and/or landscapes (focus area 4A)	2014-2020				63.19	163.06	38.75	
	2014-2019				54.82	141.46		
	2014-2018				44.72	115.40		
	2014-2017				44.72	115.40		
	2014-2016				20.94	54.03		
	2014-2015				1.60	4.13		

FA/M	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
P4	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	405,586,642.75	95.23	248,409,901.36	58.33	425,898,054.96
M01	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	6,414,488.07	126.42	4,510,304.42	88.89	5,073,807.18
M01.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020			2,284,172.57	143.71	1,589,390.17
M01.1	O12 - Number of participants in trainings	2014-2020			3,843.08	232.91	1,650.00
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	2,436,972.29	79.70	1,629,103.38	53.28	3,057,577.92
M02.1	O13 - Number of beneficiaries advised	2014-2020			789.84	31.16	2,535.00
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	90,938,371.76	153.83	48,886,769.65	82.70	59,116,341.63
M04	O2 - Total investment	2014-2020			48,886,769.65	80.86	60,462,191.86
M04.4	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	2014-2020			6,806.00	61.21	11,120.00
M08	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	16,334,536.70	87.96	14,990,510.95	80.72	18,571,039.50
M08.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020			9,653,842.29	66.23	14,575,903.61
M08.1	O5 - Total area (ha)	2014-2020			1,032.61	41.34	2,498.00
M08.2	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020			2,041.98	20.42	10,000.00
M08.2	O5 - Total area (ha)	2014-2020			0.00	0.00	50.00
M08.3	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020			163,927.00	114.65	142,975.29
M08.3	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	2014-2020					1.00
M08.5	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020			5,170,699.68	134.58	3,842,160.60
M08.5	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	2014-2020			400.00	99.26	403.00
M08.5	O5 - Total area (ha)	2014-2020			2,586.96	30.80	8,400.00
M10	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	238,234,370.18	86.19	147,384,905.45	53.32	276,414,061.61
M10.1	O5 - Total area (ha)	2014-2020			282,828.30	44.51	635,399.00
M11	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	29,020,242.00	86.72	22,956,161.03	68.60	33,465,095.56
M11.1	O5 - Total area (ha)	2014-2020					11,153.00

M11.2	O5 - Total area (ha)	2014-2020			64,347.38	112.32	57,287.00
M15	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	0.00				
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	22,207,661.75	73.53	8,052,146.48	26.66	30,200,131.56

Focus Area 5B							
FA/M	Target indicator name	Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2025
5B	T15: Total investment for energy efficiency (€) (focus area 5B)	2014-2020	14,254,387.60	70.50	14,254,387.60	70.50	20,219,521.05
		2014-2019	13,996,168.15	69.22	13,996,168.15	69.22	
		2014-2018	11,587,950.75	57.31	9,380,795.88	46.39	
		2014-2017	1,586,895.45	7.85	1,586,895.45	7.85	
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
FA/M	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
5B	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	9,185,735.83	96.12	6,483,066.84	67.84	9,556,043.40
M01	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	799,415.35	91.49	593,067.94	67.87	873,813.20
M01.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020			98,371.99	98.87	99,498.31
M01.1	O12 - Number of participants in trainings	2014-2020			334.24	128.55	260.00
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	157,045.64	86.15	119,563.77	65.59	182,303.28
M02.1	O13 - Number of beneficiaries advised	2014-2020			83.25	100.30	83.00
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	7,919,899.84	96.46	5,701,755.04	69.45	8,210,187.71
M04	O2 - Total investment	2014-2020			14,254,387.60	70.50	20,219,521.05
M04.1 M04.2 M04.3	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	2014-2020			762.00	266.43	286.00
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	309,375.00	106.78	68,680.09	23.70	289,739.21

Focus Area 5C							
FA/M	Target indicator name	Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2025
5C	T16: Total investment in renewable energy production (€) (focus area 5C)	2014-2020	2,195,851.24	8.74	2,195,851.24	8.74	25,112,831.23
		2014-2019	979,025.41	3.90	979,025.41	3.90	
		2014-2018	1,633,794.74	6.51			
		2014-2017					
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
FA/M	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
5C	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	3,219,165.03	19.25	1,790,728.38	10.71	16,725,726.01
M01	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	799,415.35	91.49	593,067.81	67.87	873,813.20
M01.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020			98,371.95	98.87	99,498.31
M01.1	O12 - Number of participants in trainings	2014-2020			334.24	128.55	260.00
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	123,733.49	86.15	94,201.70	65.59	143,632.88
M02.1	O13 - Number of beneficiaries advised	2014-2020			66.01	100.02	66.00
M07	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	589,416.48	7.28	200,293.59	2.47	8,100,891.21
M07.2	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	2014-2020			4.00	2.03	197.00
M07.2 M07.3 M07.4 M07.5 M07.6 M07.7 M07.8	O2 - Total investment	2014-2020			504,567.72	5.19	9,721,069.45
M08	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	1,397,224.71	22.94	834,485.21	13.70	6,091,735.76
M08	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	2014-2020					100.00
M08.6	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020			834,485.21	13.70	6,091,735.76
M08.6	O2 - Total investment	2014-2020			1,943,567.38	12.63	15,391,761.78
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	309,375.00	20.41	68,680.07	4.53	1,515,652.96

Focus Area 5D							
FA/M	Target indicator name	Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2025
5D	T18: percentage of agricultural land under management contracts targeting reduction of GHG and/or ammonia emissions (focus area 5D)	2014-2020			8.33	198.32	4.20
		2014-2019			6.40	152.37	
		2014-2018			4.42	105.23	
		2014-2017			4.42	105.23	
		2014-2016			3.11	74.04	
		2014-2015					
FA/M	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
5D	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	27,413,403.28	111.59	15,530,725.44	63.22	24,566,863.86
M01	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	799,415.35	91.49	593,067.85	67.87	873,813.20
M01.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020			98,371.87	98.87	99,498.31
M01.1	O12 - Number of participants in trainings	2014-2020			334.24	128.55	260.00
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	1,105,983.46	86.15	842,018.84	65.59	1,283,857.02
M02.1	O13 - Number of beneficiaries advised	2014-2020			574.17	97.65	588.00
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	15,149,137.78	270.88	5,960,042.94	106.57	5,592,579.87
M04	O2 - Total investment	2014-2020			13,340,459.96	96.20	13,867,867.72
M04.1 M04.3 M04.4	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	2014-2020			991.00	20.25	4,893.00
M10	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	10,049,491.69	67.92	8,066,915.68	54.52	14,795,474.71
M10.1	O5 - Total area (ha)	2014-2020			90,278.34	150.95	59,807.08
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	309,375.00	15.31	68,680.13	3.40	2,021,139.06

Focus Area 5E							
FA/M	Target indicator name	Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2025
5E	T19: percentage of agricultural and forest land under management contracts contributing to carbon sequestration and conservation (focus area 5E)	2014-2020			0.18	80.00	0.22
		2014-2019			0.18	80.00	
		2014-2018			0.13	57.78	
		2014-2017			0.13	57.78	
		2014-2016			0.03	13.33	
		2014-2015					
FA/M	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
5E	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	31,747,814.96	161.85	14,248,671.88	72.64	19,615,162.64
M01	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	799,415.35	91.49	593,067.89	67.87	873,813.20
M01.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020			98,371.94	98.87	99,498.31
M01.1	O12 - Number of participants in trainings	2014-2020			334.24	128.55	260.00
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	617,291.70	110.03	246,177.61	43.88	561,028.93
M02.1	O13 - Number of beneficiaries advised	2014-2020			76.35	23.42	326.00
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	3,249,416.88	74.70	2,479,561.56	57.00	4,349,977.25
M04	O2 - Total investment	2014-2020			2,479,561.56	46.27	5,359,364.92
M04.4	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	2014-2020			1,528.00	19.45	7,857.00
M08	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	24,791,584.08	202.95	9,734,033.13	79.68	12,215,687.80
M08.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020			6,223,880.60	138.24	4,502,204.40
M08.1	O5 - Total area (ha)	2014-2020			250.28	30.08	832.00
M08.2	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020			0.00	0.00	7,000.00
M08.2	O5 - Total area (ha)	2014-2020					50.00
M08.3	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020			0.00	0.00	428,925.89
M08.4	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020			3,325,247.09	70.26	4,732,443.22
M08.5	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020			184,905.44	7.27	2,545,114.29
M08.5	O3 - Number of actions/operations	2014-2020			72.00	18.32	393.00

	supported						
M10	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	1,792,167.24	145.19	1,073,776.34	86.99	1,234,396.85
M10.1	O5 - Total area (ha)	2014-2020			1,982.23	65.60	3,021.60
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	497,939.71	130.95	122,055.35	32.10	380,258.61

Focus Area 6A							
FA/M	Target indicator name	Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2025
6A	T20: Jobs created in supported projects (focus area 6A)	2014-2020			12.20	1.59	765.00
		2014-2019			2.00	0.26	
		2014-2018			2.00	0.26	
		2014-2017					
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
FA/M	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
6A	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	29,476,481.24	191.17	7,452,801.57	48.34	15,419,040.45
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	220,810.79	60.02	241,301.41	65.59	367,921.16
M02.1	O13 - Number of beneficiaries advised	2014-2020			165.97	98.79	168.00
M06	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	16,867,573.90	124.65	2,983,335.71	22.05	13,531,661.22
M06	O2 - Total investment	2014-2020			3,658,918.89	6.88	53,177,039.05
M06.2 M06.4	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	2014-2020			2.00	0.59	340.00
M08	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	9,150,721.18	751.17	4,067,371.96	333.88	1,218,200.95
M08	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	2014-2020					20.00
M08.6	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020			4,067,371.96	333.88	1,218,200.95
M08.6	O2 - Total investment	2014-2020			11,492,810.37	377.37	3,045,502.38
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	3,237,375.37	1,074.62	160,792.49	53.37	301,257.12

Focus Area 6B								
FA/M	Target indicator name	Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2025	
6B	T23: Jobs created in supported projects (Leader) (focus area 6B)	2014-2020			9.00	9.00	100.00	
		2014-2019			4.00	4.00		
		2014-2018			12.00	12.00		
		2014-2017						
		2014-2016						
		2014-2015						
	T22: percentage of rural population benefiting from improved services/infrastructures (focus area 6B)	2014-2020				3.24	7.12	45.53
		2014-2019				0.67	1.47	
		2014-2018				1.93	4.24	
		2014-2017				45.53	100.01	
		2014-2016						
		2014-2015						
	T21: percentage of rural population covered by local development strategies (focus area 6B)	2014-2020				45.53	100.01	45.53
		2014-2019				45.53	100.01	
		2014-2018				45.53	100.01	
		2014-2017				45.53	100.01	
		2014-2016						
		2014-2015						
FA/M	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023	
6B	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	157,499,632.20	113.20	72,999,490.63	52.47	139,137,933.26	
M01	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	3,529,411.77	48.74	244,654.20	3.38	7,241,491.36	
M01.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020			244,654.20	6.93	3,529,411.76	
M01.1	O12 - Number of participants in trainings	2014-2020			534.00	10.92	4,890.00	
M07	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	22,845,174.42	94.55	16,140,402.62	66.80	24,163,254.89	
M07.1	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	2014-2020			10.00	55.56	18.00	
M07.1 M07.2 M07.4 M07.5 M07.6 M07.7 M07.8	O15 - Population benefiting of improved services/infrastructures (IT or others)	2014-2020			98,320.00	7.12	1,381,745.00	
M07.2	O3 - Number of actions/operations	2014-2020			2.00	3.57	56.00	

	supported						
M07.4	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	2014-2020			96.00	82.76	116.00
M07.5	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	2014-2020			33.00	22.00	150.00
M07.6	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	2014-2020			15.00	42.86	35.00
M07.7	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	2014-2020			7.00	28.00	25.00
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	70,104,059.48	133.94	29,287,343.47	55.96	52,339,864.54
M19	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	61,020,986.53	110.16	27,327,090.34	49.33	55,393,322.47
M19	O18 - Population covered by LAG	2014-2020			1,381,745.00	100.00	1,381,745.00
M19	O19 - Number of LAGs selected	2014-2020			18.00	100.00	18.00
M19.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020			58,171.37	116.68	49,853.99
M19.2	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020			17,884,306.62	46.37	38,564,831.11
M19.3	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020			941,172.87	24.34	3,866,453.91
M19.4	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020			8,443,439.48	65.39	12,912,183.46

Focus Area 6C

FA/M	Target indicator name	Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2025
6C	T24: percentage of rural population benefiting from new or improved services/infrastructures (ICT) (focus area 6C)	2014-2020			0.43	2.61	16.47
		2014-2019					
		2014-2018					
		2014-2017					
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
FA/M	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
6C	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	1,931,468.86	93.89	840,339.47	40.85	2,057,085.00
M01	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	399,707.68	91.49	296,533.89	67.87	436,906.60
M01.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020			49,185.87	98.87	49,749.15
M01.1	O12 - Number of participants in trainings	2014-2020			167.12	128.55	130.00
M07	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2020	1,531,761.18	94.54	543,805.58	33.56	1,620,178.40
M07.3	O15 - Population benefiting of improved services/infrastructures (IT or others)	2014-2020			13,000.00	2.60	500,000.00
M07.3	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	2014-2020			24.00	150.00	16.00

Documents

Document title	Document type	Document date	Local reference	Commission reference	Checksum	Files	Sent date	Sent By
AIR Financial Annex 2014UK06RDRP004	Financial annex (System)	24-01-2023		Ares(2023)2974765	3105181797	AIRfinancialAnnex2014UK06RDRP004_en.pdf	27-04-2023	nwillap

