



Establishing an active producer group
..to develop supply chains
..and mobilise timber

SIMWOOD Solutions for wood mobilisation in Europe
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Private forestry in Ireland...





- First generation forest owners
 - Lack of knowledge
 - Scattered sites, poor access
 - No coordination
 - Standing sales hide timber value
 - Lack of trust
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- Substantial shortfall in timber / biomass forecast





Survey of active and inactive forest owners, UCD

- Many sources of information
- Decision making

Challenges:

- Logistics of supply chains
- Challenge of smaller sites
- Optimum economic return to forest owner





Theory of change...





Local groups

- Discussion groups need to be proactive
- Seek professional advice
- Capacity building and peer learning
- Manage plantations sustainably
- Gain economy of scale
- Achieve true value for timber products for members
- Small scale





Regional context

Through SIMWOOD partner information exchange:

- Need greater cooperation, coordination between groups
- Larger membership
- Greater geographic area of remit
- Develop information tools
- Share resources, administration
- Gain economy of scale to secure contractors
- Direct timber and biomass sales





Measures

1. Knowledge transfer
2. Clustered forest activities
3. New markets

Evolution of existing groups needed to make wood mobilisation a long term, viable option for all private forestry in the region





Implementation...

... Knowledge Transfer





Project Inputs

Volunteer time

Staff time

Printing costs

Venue hire

Sponsorship

Resulting outputs

Collaboration

Events

Training courses

Publications

Templates

Insurance pilot

Testimonials





Development of a sustainable group

- Collaboration
- 5 meetings
- 4 groups
- New structure
- 55 to 750 members
- Agency support ended
- Large geographic remit





Development of a sustainable group

- Registered forestry company
- Employed 2 foresters
- Inventory database
- Standard operating procedures
- Insurance pilot
- Active forest management
- Not for profit
- Challenge to become sustainable
- Commercial viability within short timeframe





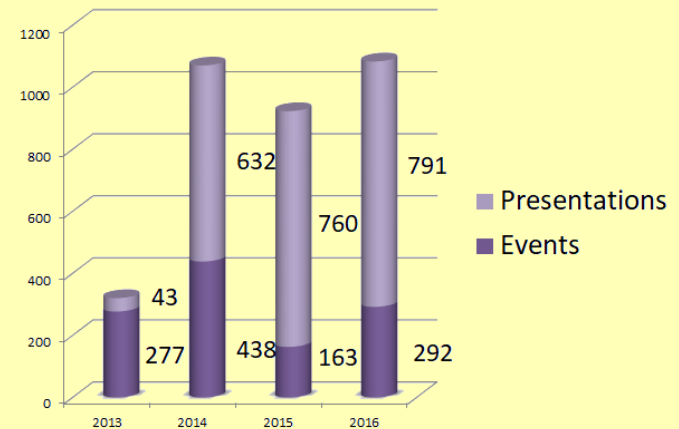
Events and field days

- 24 field events
 - 95 % started actively managing their sites
- Information meetings
- Safety workshops
- Chainsaw training
- Business development training





- Participant numbers at events...
- 22 third party events
 - Conferences
 - Information days
 - Agriculture shows / marts





Publications

- Newsletters, factsheets, posters, press features and online media
- Management plan, contract, and health and safety templates
 - Including High environmental quality tool developed by Phillippe
- Case studies, testimonials
- Filmed interviews with forest owners, contractors, customers





Implementation...

... Clustered Forest Activity





Project Inputs

Staff time to visit sites

Complete harvesting plans,
felling licences, roading grants,
woodland improvement grants

Tenders, meeting contractors,
draft contracts, complete safety
assessments

Resulting outputs

Alternative producer group

New relationship between forest
owners and contractors

New harvesting technique

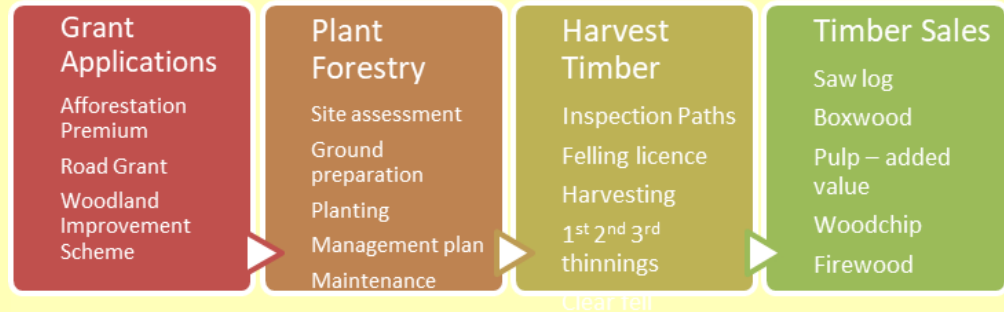
Clusters organised, 58,878 m³
harvested





Forest management

- Registered forestry company
- Full service delivery
- Timber product costing, harvesting plans
- Sustainable management
- Commercial timber and biomass production
- Transparency
- Chain of custody from forest to sawmill / boilers





Harvesting trial and error...

- Whole tree harvesting recommendations
- Negative impact on the forest ecosystem
- Increasing drying time
- Poor quality product

- Extract tops
- Brash retention on site
- Optimising the forest resource





Processing and delivering biomass from site

- Stacking options
- Additional infrastructural implications
- Access roads
- Logistics
- Depots





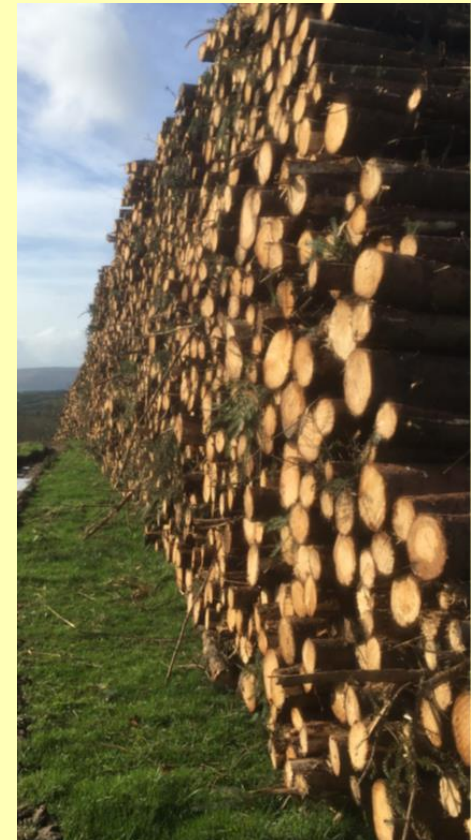
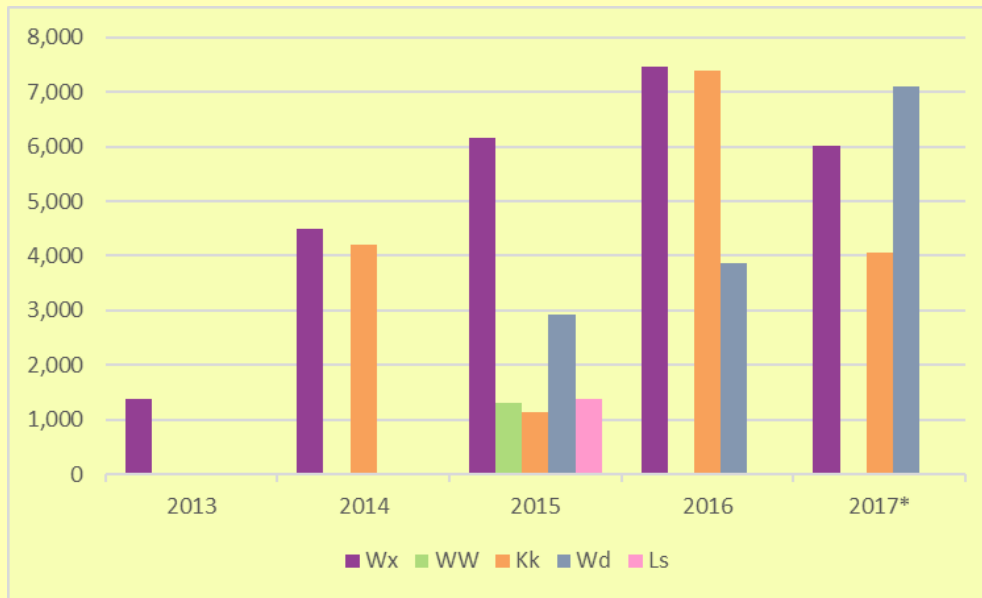
Commitment from forest owners

- Retention of pulpwood to increase timber value for biomass
- Investment to retain pulp (averaging at €8,000 per harvest)
- 12-month wait for a financial return, but even small sites profitable





➤ 58,878 m³ harvested





Implementation...

... New Markets





Project Inputs

Staff time

Clustered sales

Ongoing assessment of
pulpwood moisture content

Processing on site

Resulting outputs

New / improved site infrastructure

Direct timber / biomass sales

Increased timber prices

Added value biomass

Chain of custody

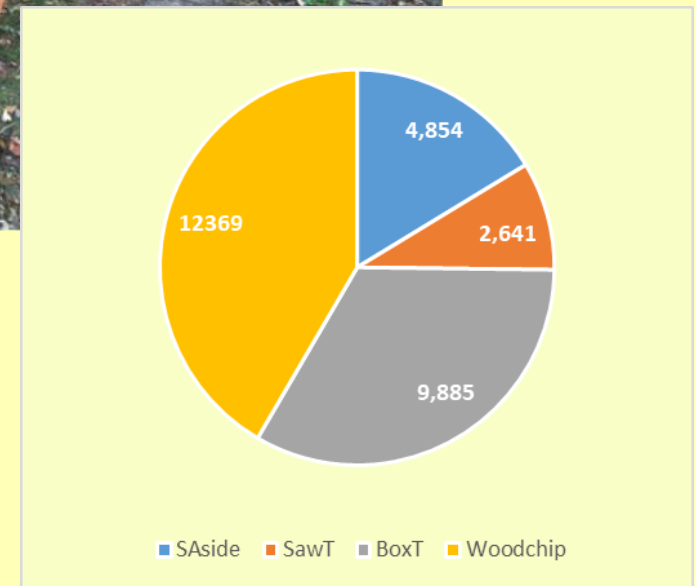
Unanticipated capital investment





Breakdown of sales

- Sawlog
- Boxwood
- Biomass
- (Retention)





Biomass sales...

- Danone Ecosystem project





Evaluation...





- Increasing farm family income
 - Direct sales giving confidence
 - For poorer sites, added value influencing decision to harvest
 - Previously inactive members are now managing their forestry sustainably
 - New members are considering planting further land
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- Alternative producer group
 - Filling a niche
 - Potential of forest owner networks





- 34 contractors employed full time
- Investment in new machinery as a direct result of the group's contracts
 - 1 new chipper
 - 2 new harvesters, 1 new forwarder
 - 2 new walking floor / biomass lorries





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