



AFBI Open Meeting

AFBI Board Chairman, Mr. Colm McKenna, welcomed delegates and introduced the event. He referred to the many opportunities presented to the local agri-food industry by the global food security challenge, increasing prosperity of populations in many developing countries and the adverse impact of climate change in many countries. Colm stated that these and other opportunities can only be successfully exploited if we grow the sector in a sustainable manner while increasing competitiveness and profitability. He said that sustainable expansion, as outlined in the Going for Growth strategy, requires applied research to drive innovation...

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AFBI Grass Varieties Reach New Heights

Seed sales of AFBI grass varieties, which are marketed exclusively through Barenbrug Ltd, have exceeded 3,000 tonnes per year in the UK and Irish markets for the first time. AFBI's grass breeding programme is jointly funded by DARD and Barenbrug Ltd. The use of AFBI varieties has increased annually as farmers appreciate the value and benefits of varieties which have been selected under local conditions and tested through the Recommended List process...

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Use of AFBI grass varieties continues to increase annually



AFBI Research Leads to New Understanding of Lake Ecosystems

A new understanding of Ireland's lake ecosystems was presented when the findings of the DOLMANT (Development of targeted ecological modelling tools for lake management) project were the focus of attention at the Lough Neagh Discovery Centre.

The research team involved in this three year project included staff from the project lead, the Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute, University of Ulster and Trinity College Dublin. The project was also supported by the Northern Ireland Environment Agency, Environmental Protection Agency and Inland Fisheries Ireland and was part funded through the EU's INTERREG IVA Cross-border Programme, managed by the Special EU Programmes Body...

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Findings from the DOLMANT project provide new insights on the complexity of our lakes



Dr Sinclair Mayne (R) pictured with US Consular, Mr Eugene Philhower (Centre) and Professor Seamus Kennedy at AFBI Newforge.

AFBI discuss agri-food research with US Counselor

Mr Eugene Philhower, Agricultural Counselor at the United States Embassy in London visited AFBI recently to discuss agri-food research with AFBI CEO, Professor Seamus Kennedy and Dr Sinclair Mayne, Director of AFBI's Sustainable Agri-Food Sciences Division.



Use of AFBI grass varieties continues to increase annually

AFBI winter barley variety harvest results point the way for 2014 planting

Results of the latest winter barley variety trials at the Agri Food and Biosciences Institute (AFBI), funded by DARD and the HGCA, have just been released. The average treated yield of all varieties across all three sites (Limavady, Hillsborough and Downpatrick) in 2014 was 9.3 t per ha, 0.5 t per ha higher than 2013, with the untreated yields averaging 7.0 t per ha, 0.7 t per ha higher than in 2013. Limavady was the highest yielding site with an average treated yield of 10.7 t per ha compared to 9.0 and 8.5 t per ha for Hillsborough and Downpatrick, respectively. Disease levels in the untreated trials were variable - the highest were recorded at Downpatrick where *Rhynchosporium*, *Ramularia* and mildew reached significant levels of infection in susceptible varieties. At Limavady levels of disease were relatively low with moderate levels at Hillsborough...

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Did you know?

A "Practical on-farm Renewable Energy" event, organised by DARD, CAFRE, AFBI and the UFU will be held at the CAFRE Greenmount Campus on 28th October 2014 from 11am to 8.30 pm. The event will provide practical information to the agricultural and rural sectors about available renewable energy options. Among the many seminars on renewable technologies, Chris Johnston and Alistair McCracken of AFBI will be giving an overview on biomass production in conjunction with using SRC willow as a sustainable treatment option for farms, agrifood and water utilities to manage their waste water."

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