



An Roinn Talmhaíochta,  
Bia agus Mara  
Department of Agriculture,  
Food and the Marine

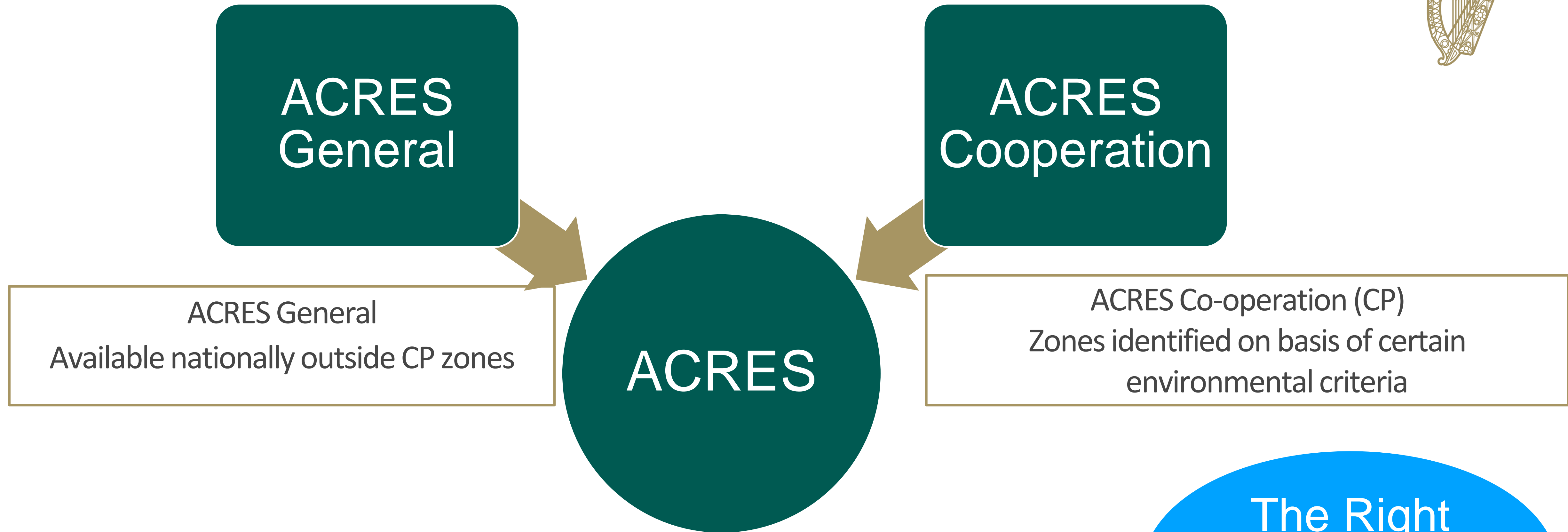
## AECM example Ireland

# Agri Climate Rural Environment Scheme (ACRES)

Jerome Walsh  
CSP Division Ireland

TG on Biodiversity - 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2024

# ACRES – Flagship €1.5bn Pillar 2 scheme



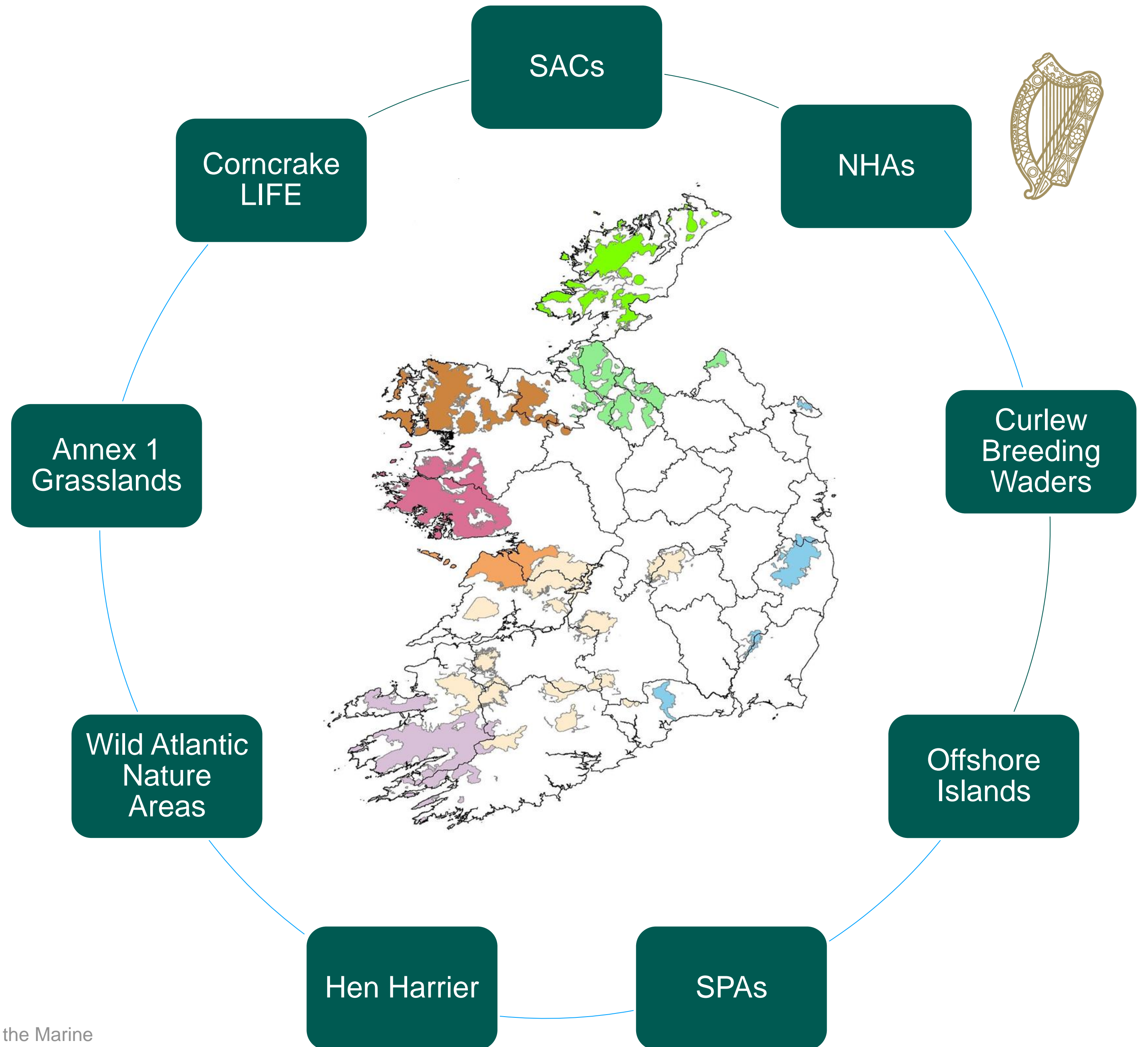
- 1. Prescription actions, where set payment was made for satisfactory completion of task(s).
  - 2. Results-based actions where rate of payment will depend on score achieved.
- Supports through Non-Productive Investments and Landscape Actions.

The Right Action in the Right Place

# The Cooperation Approach

8 CP Zones  
5 CP Teams

*These zones are recognised as having high-nature value; holding significant carbon stores; and as the location of "some of the most pristine waters in the country"*





# Role of the CP Teams

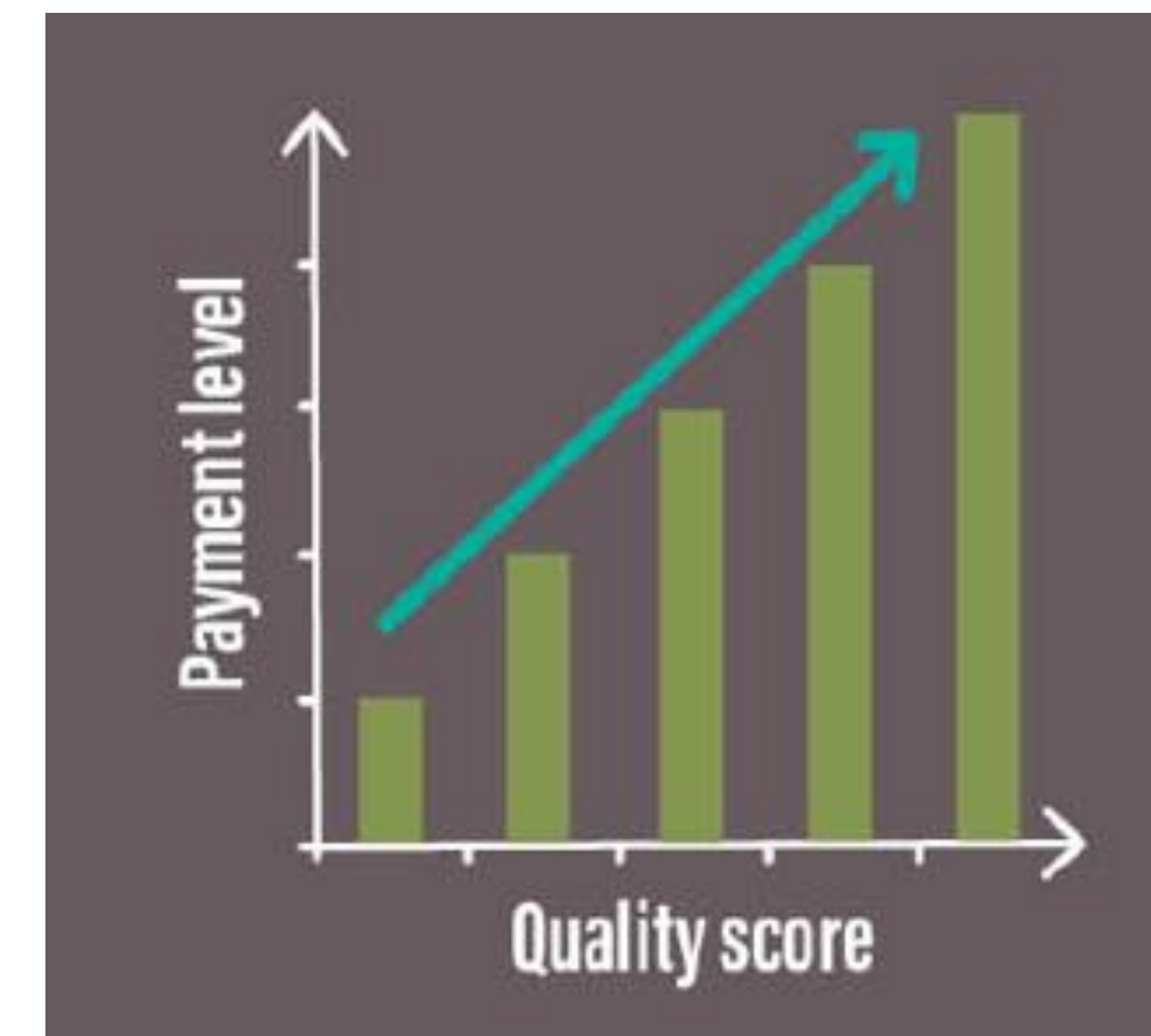


- Facilitate co-operation between farmers, advisors, state agencies and local government departments to implement actions to “improve the local environment and the viability of these high-priority rural areas.
- Are “multi-disciplinary” groups featuring ecologists, hydrologists, ornithologists and project managers.
- Engage with farmers with “advice and best practice” to maintain or improve the habitats on their holdings. They will also act as a conduit for the department in the administration of payments.
- Provide advisors and farmers with local, detailed, expert advice on how to maintain and improve habitats at farm and landscape level by way of Non-Productive Investments and Landscape Actions
- Screen NPI Annual Works Plan (AWP)
- Development/delivery of Local Action Plans – cumulative environmental benefits at scale

# ACRES actions: Quality/Results-Based Payment Approach

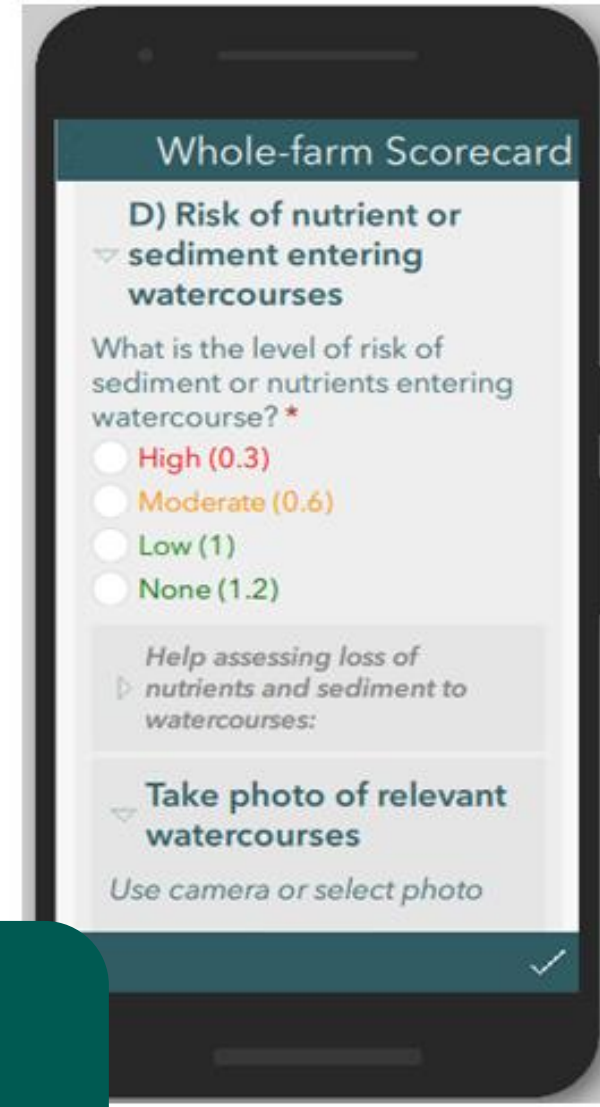
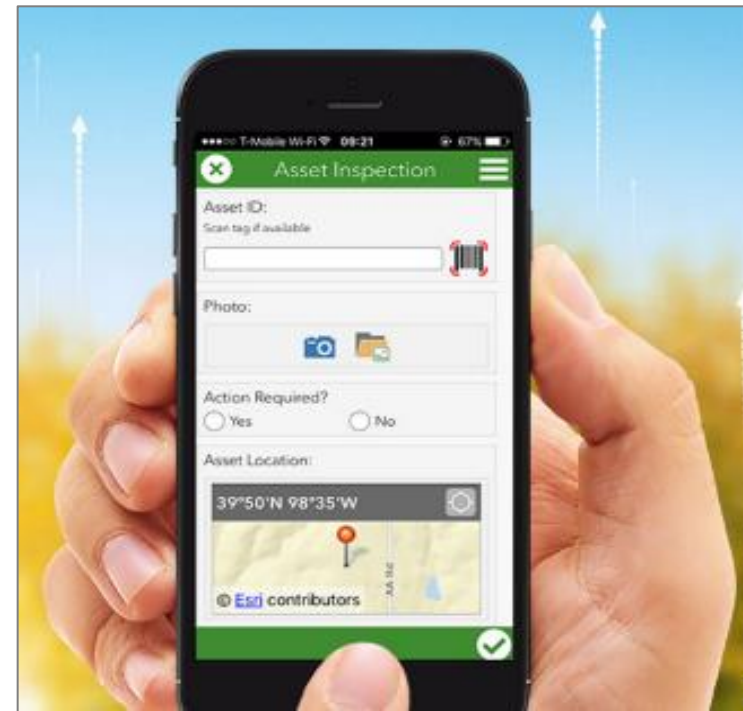
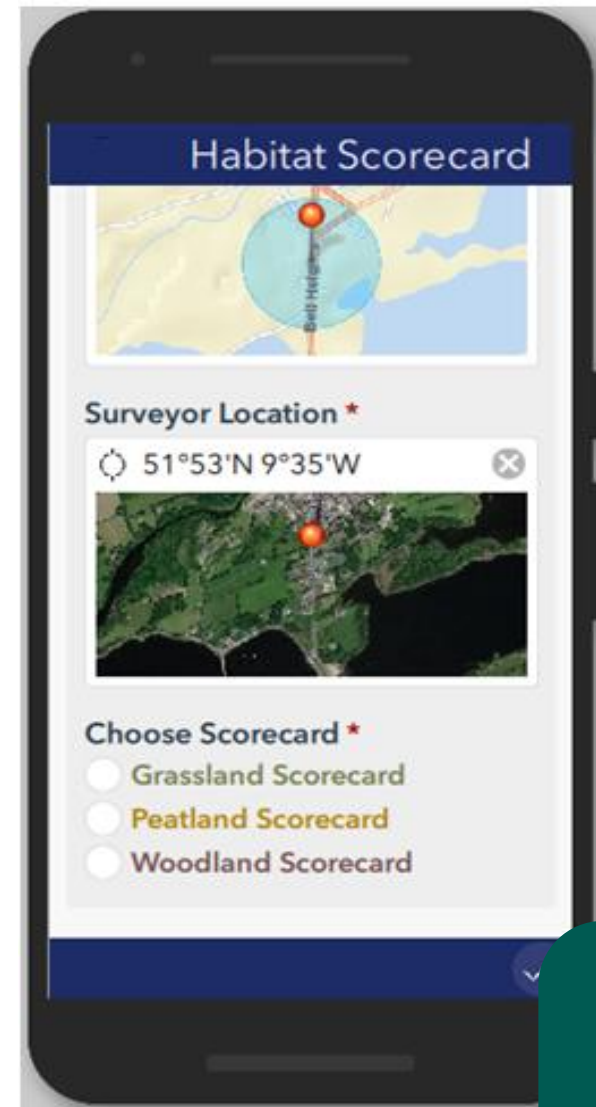


- Payments linked to biodiversity/habitat quality
- Higher quality = Higher Payment level
- Scorecards to assess ecological and hydrological integrity
- Supporting extensive livestock grazing systems

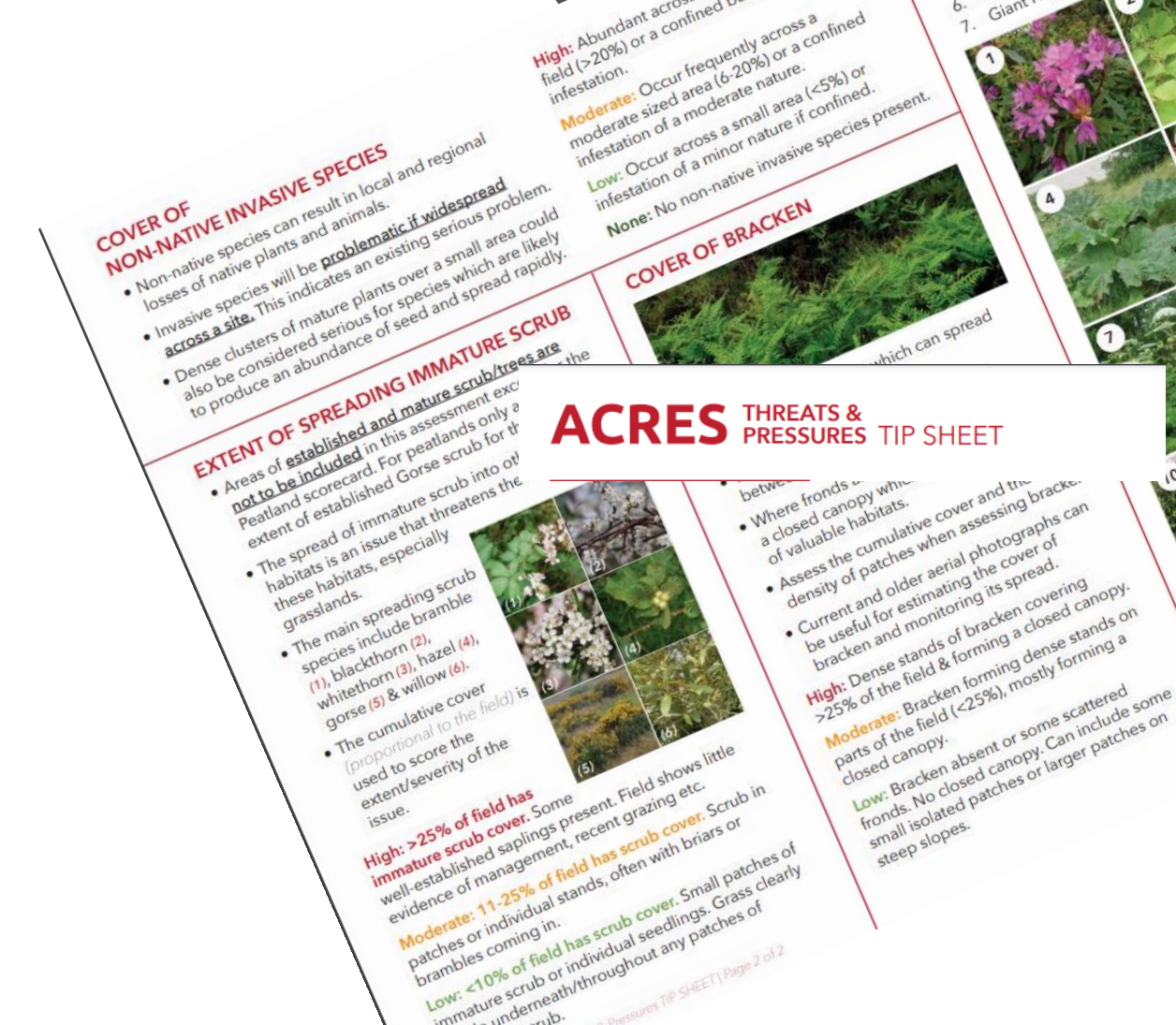
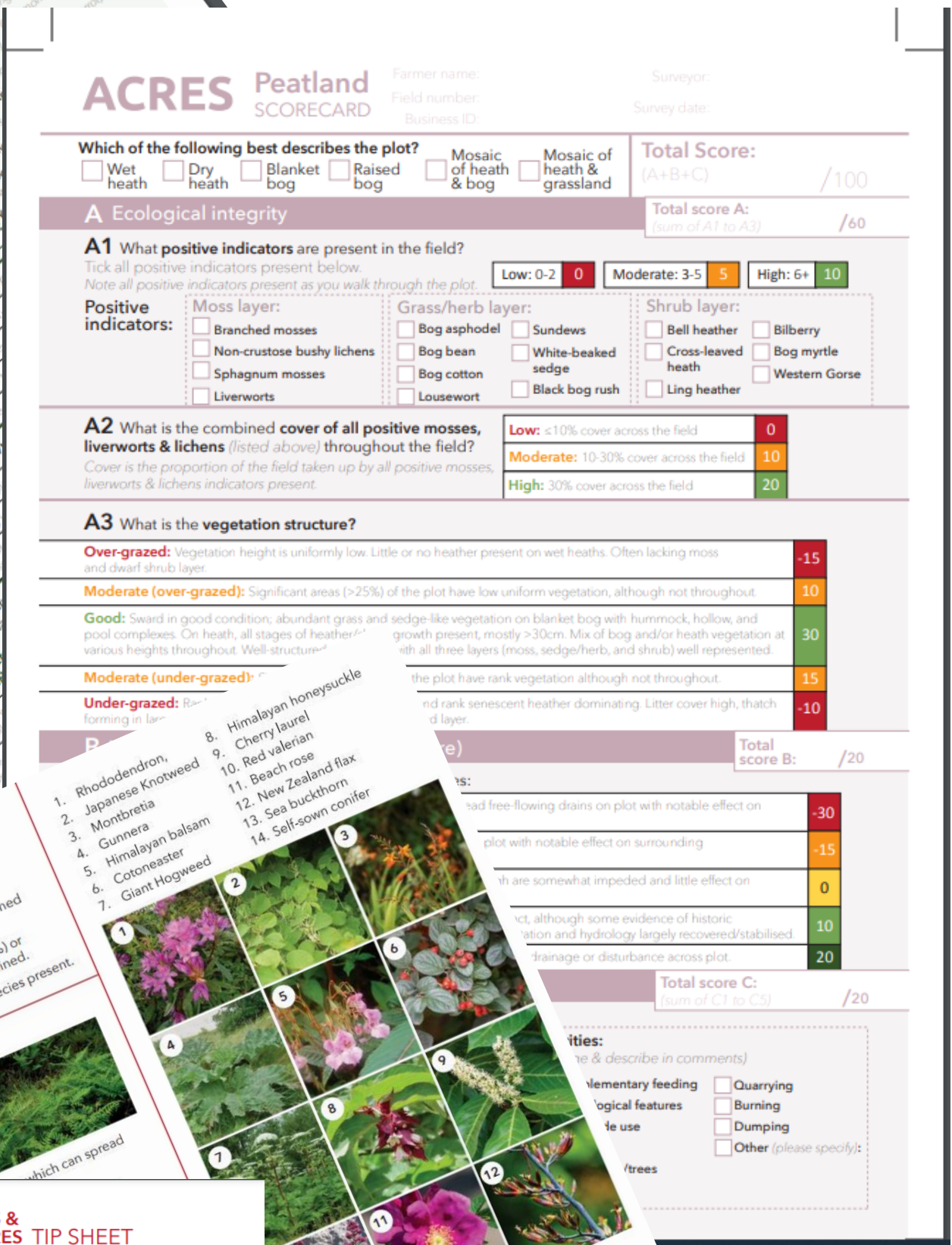




# Technology and Innovation

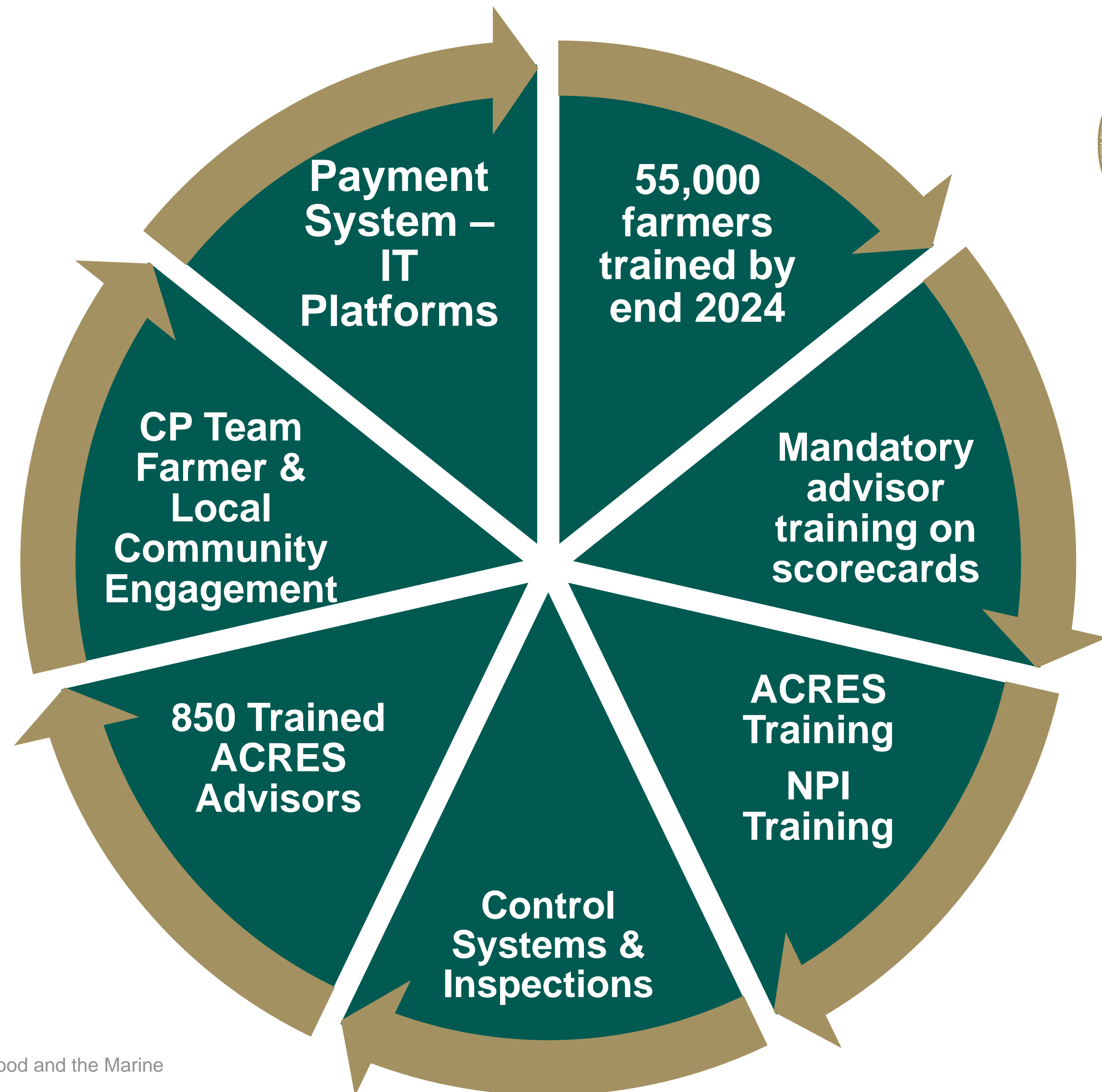


AGRI-Snap App





# Capacity and Capability



# Implementation challenges



- Scheme of many elements – complexity, number, level type of actions and payments (5 CSP interventions)
- Scaling-up: ↑ workload across various stakeholders
- Challenging cycle year 1 in particular!
- Training and Rollout
- IT systems
- Inspections/Audits
- Validations
- Payments



# It's a Journey.....



- Learnings from previous Schemes/projects
- Flexibility of new legal framework – welcome  
(but needed 5 intervention templates to complete)
- Dealing with/minimizing complexity / long-term certainty of actions
- Capacity building
- Communication key
- New Technologies essential
- Data collection – monitoring and evaluation
- Farmer and Local Engagement and Collaboration
- Role of Local Action Plans in delivering cumulative impacts





Thank You

[www.gov.ie/ACRES](http://www.gov.ie/ACRES)