Skills for Rural Futures

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Rural Restructuring

Fundamental change in rural areas driven by:

- Technological Innovation
- Social Modernisation
- Globalisation

Result:

- Economic Change: Agricultural restructuring; service industries; tourism; creative industries
- Social Change: Depopulation; counter-urbanisation; new rural dwellers; commuting; issues of access and mobility; isolation; deprivation; poor service provision; immigration; rural politics and conflicts
- Environment change: Agri-environmental policy; new rural land uses e.g. energy production

A NEW WAY OF THINKING

New Skills

TRAINING

EDUCATION REFORM
Addressing Change: Multifunctional Agriculture

- High Production Levels
- Environmental Issues
- Climate Change
- Farm Diversification

Issues

Approach

Knowledge-Based
Practice-Based
Innovative
Multi-Actor Approach
Gender Consideration

Education Provision
Schools – Universities – Agricultural Colleges – Extension Advisory Services

Future Skills Required

- Address Skills Gap
- Life-Long Learning Essential (Aging Farmer Population)
- Innovative Approach
- Entrepreneurial Skills and Training
- Environmental Skills
Two-Fold Rural

Agriculture/ Broader Rural

But

Rural Areas Are Not Homogeneous
Skills for Rural Futures: National Example

- **Funding**: National Training Fund Via Department Of Education And Skills.

- **Training And Up-skilling Both Agriculture And Broader Rural**

  Rural Enterprise Skillnet

- **Networks**: Agri Business; Rural Business Innovation And Opportunities

- **Training Needs**: Driven By Local Companies; Enterprises; Farm Bodies and Agricultural Communities
Skills for Rural Futures: Local Example

Example

- Project Based-Learning: 3rd Level Geography
- Project Title: Rural Volunteerism
- Rural Skills: Practice Based – Interactive
- Skills Development:
Thank You!!