

2021 KT Walsh Scholarship (MAIS) Project Summary

1. Project Title and Associated Programme

KT Programme	Forestry Development Department
Project title	Knowledge sharing of Continuous Cover Forestry (CCF) management systems through eLearning, interactive in-forest KT formats and new digital tools

2. Project background

This project will build on the progress of existing innovative KT initiatives within the FDD. It will aim to consolidate achievements and further expand resource capacity and know-how with regard to virtual and interactive learning and the use of smart-digital technology for data capture and communication. Recent relevant projects are:

- Smart-Forest. Strategic Communication funded project (2020) which led to the adoption of a new interactive and digital KT tool: a new tablet based app for use in special forest plots called “marteloscopes”. In partnership with Coillte, a number of marteloscope plots have been installed including in Oak Park, Carlow. New training programmes for forest owners and other user groups have been tested in 2020 and will be further developed for 2021.
- The FDD during 2020 rolled out new virtual and interactive training workshop on CCF systems linked to the marteloscope initiative followed in 2021 by further virtual workshop on forest establishment and management.
- RESONATE Horizon 2020: This EU project will run from 2021-2025 and it will give an overview of the impact of the main resilience challenges to forest outputs leading to innovative KT initiatives for a range of stakeholders. It will also involve surveying a number of case study forests using innovative design, and methodologies.
- TranSSFor – Teagasc funded project 2017– 2021 that has built upon the previous DAFM-funded (2010 – 2014) LISS project. TranSSFor included research on tree-marker training and provided dissemination of CCF knowledge.

3. Project aims and objectives

The project aims to develop specific expertise in :

- New effective virtual and interactive KT format using virtual classroom best practice and effective digital tools and platforms as part of the roll out of the marteloscope training plots network and stakeholder upskilling in CCF systems.
- To assist the FDD in the further developing and delivering those pilot programmes as part of the advisory service through a placement programme.

- To assist the development of innovative design, and methodologies for effective survey and data capture of private forests and relevant data communication to forest owners and stakeholders as part of the FDD advisory service.