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Data Article

A description of data sets to determine the innovative diversification capacity of farm households

Terence Mc Fadden

University College Dublin, Ireland

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ABSTRACT

This data represents research activities carried out in Co. Offaly and Co. Mayo, Ireland, to identify farm household innovative diversification behavior and policy/institutional actor capacity roles in support. The data sets are overlain with household and agency data from the two study areas to describe levels of innovative diversification capacity by individual socio-economic farm household profile. The data sets summarize the public policy discussions on rural innovation and diversification and policy actor response requirements, and incorporate both qualitative and quantitative data set combinations. The data are used to assess policy/institutional actors' roles and farm households' capacity for innovation at the farm household/institution interface in support of sustainable rural business innovations on-farm and diversification.

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Specifications Table

Subject area	Farm Household Innovative Capacity, Innovational behavior
More specific subject area	Policy strategy, business activity
Type of data	Tables, figure

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E-mail address: mcfadden288@gmail.com

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How data was acquired	Interviews, audio and visual recording, on-site repeat visits, written
Data format	Raw and analyzed
Experimental factors	Material and non-material evidence was recorded by repeated visits to farm households, by interview, farm walks, respondent/researcher interaction, observing and recording physical landscape features and behaviors, and reviewing household financial accounts. The observational/experiential research method from 2007–2016 was selected to identify innovation activity seasonally comparable annually.
Experimental features	The farm data are categorized by farm household numbers assigned to the farm households by postal survey (in [4]) entitled, 'Farm Household Profile Data'. This data presents a profile of each farm household researched including their involvements with development agencies, to figure out the innovative capacity of different socio-economic household profiles in two of Ireland's most distinct counties – midland county Offaly and coastal county Mayo.
Data source location	Co. Offaly and Co. Mayo, Ireland
Data accessibility	Data are included in this paper

Value of the data

- The data show overall differences in innovation activity encountered in Co. Offaly and Co. Mayo comparatively, including the characteristics present in the households being profiled in relation to the households' engagements with policy actors.
- The data derived from field work presents the methodology used in the interests of policy makers and researchers to evaluate innovative capacity in different institutional scales and policy jurisdictions applying these methods. The barriers to more widespread innovation were assessed using the methods at diverse geographical scales and institutional scales.
- The numerical and qualitative evidence of innovative and non-innovative categorization in each geography and by individual household, enabled comparisons at the micro and macro scales, and cross-disciplinary discussion on innovative capacity.
- The overall findings from both county jurisdictions are comparative. They are informing policy and rural development strategies for sustainable business promotion and the development supports necessary at international and European Union (EU) policy levels.
- The data was necessary to build up a profile of innovative, potential innovative, and non-innovative farm household diversifiers and determine the reasons for behavioral change over time.

1. Data

Table 1 (in [4]) provides an outline of the categories applied and the grading system applied; Supplementary Table 1a presents the households' profiled; Fig. 1 shows the research locations; Supplementary Table 2 presents the agency/extension and analytic procedure leading from the main topics to the specific research topic; Supplementary Table 3 'Category Index' presents a Summary of the policy issues in the appraisal of decision processes in relation to farm households' capacity for innovation; Supplementary Table 4 shows the analytic procedure leading from the main topic of the research (see [4]) to the specific questions; Supplementary Table 5 presents an overview of the farm households characteristics with emphasis on common characteristics.

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