



FOREST GENETIC RESOURCES TRUST

**Scientific and Annual General Meetings**  
**27 June 2022**

[www.fgrt.net](http://www.fgrt.net)

<https://www.charitiesregulator.ie/en/information-for-the-public/search-the-register-of-charities>

## **Forest Genetic Resources Trust (FGRT) background**

- Was part of Future Trees Trust (UK and Ireland) and the earlier BIHIT until 2018
- FTT confined activities to UK from 2018
- December 2019 FGRT established as a registered charity in Ireland following approval from Revenue and Charities Regulator
- Charity Number: CHY 16229, Charities Regulatory Authority Number: 20058043
- Close links with FTT including oak, sweet chestnut and sycamore selection, progeny testing and seed orchards

# FGRT Objectives

- Support and commission research into tree improvement, especially broadleaves, to promote economic value, genetic diversity and species resilience, producing trees with good vigour and timber quality, with the aim of deploying improved material for the conservation of forest genetic resources and forestry practice in the island of Ireland.
- Promote and support actions and studies to facilitate *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation of forest genetic resources and their use.
- To advance knowledge of the importance of forest genetic resources and the development of technologies to aid tree breeding and the rapid multiplication of improved material in the context of climate change and threats of pests and diseases affecting the sustainable management of forests.

## **FGRT Objectives ctd**

- To encourage collaboration in the island of Ireland and beyond for new research and better understanding of tree improvement and forest genetic resources to help documenting information on genetic diversity, reproductive material and its identification and utilisation.
- To promote the benefits and utilisation/of improved forest genetic resources among forestry stakeholders and public

# FGRT operation

## Trustees

Gerry Douglas

John Fennessy

Eugene Hendrick (Chairman)

Rodrigo Olave

## Role

- Develop and implement FGRT strategy in collaboration with species committees and members
- Fund raising and financial management
- Raise awareness of forest genetic resources and their importance among policy makers and public

## **FGRT species committees**

Alder and birch (*Betula pubescens and pendula*) – chair Oliver Sheridan

Ash and sycamore – chair Gerry Douglas

Beech – chair Niall Farrelly

Oak (*Quercus robur and petraea*) – chair Eugene Hendrick

Sweet chestnut – chair Charles Harper

Walnut and cherry (*Prunus avium*) – chair Rodrigo Olave

# FGRT species committees' work

- Develop costed working plans for committee over period 2022/2023 (ongoing)
- Work to complete ongoing and proposed seed orchards, clone banks and progeny trials in oak, sycamore and sweet chestnut
- Work with nursery sector and Forest Service to examine ways to increase supply of indigenous seed sources (especially oak)
- Encourage cooperation among FTT, Teagasc and academic institutions on ash, beech, birch, cherry, oak, sycamore, sweet chestnut and walnut as appropriate
- Archive and document existing FTT/FGRT genetic resources

## **FGRT membership**

- Open to all interested persons
- Opportunity to contribute to strategic direction and work of species committees



## **FGRT Sponsors 2022**

- Forest Service Department of Agriculture and the Marine
- Coillte Nature
- Irish Distillers Pernod Ricard

# FGRT site providers

- AgriFood and Biosciences Institute
- Coillte
- None-so-Hardy
- Manch Estate
- OPW JFK Park
- Thomas Pakenham
- Ellen Parkinson