

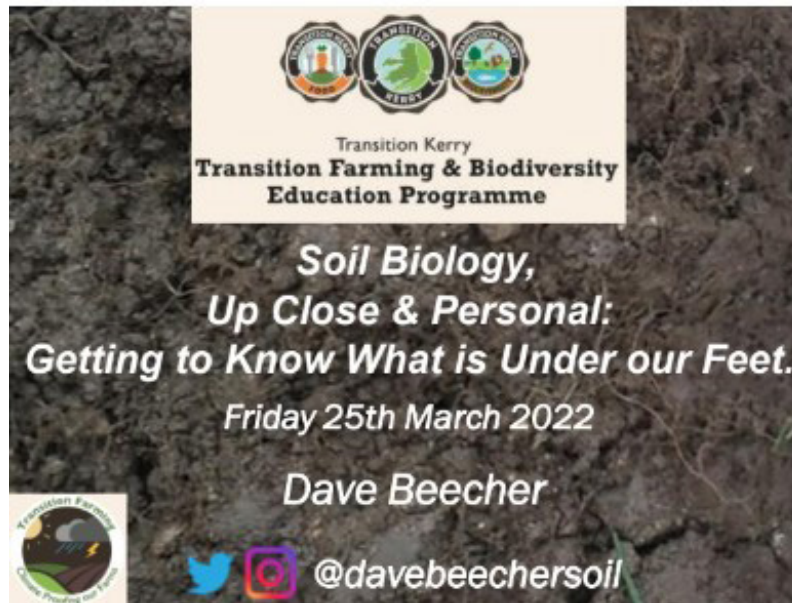


# Transition Farming & Biodiversity

*Soil  
Biology*



# Soil Biology



## During This Workshop Participants Were

- Introduced to the orchestra of life in our soils
- Helped get to know what is under our feet and the myriad benefits of healthy soil for people and planet
- Assisted in exploring soil biological life as Dave Beecher brought the soil micro-organisms to life through video and photos taken with a light microscope
- Learned what all the micro-organismes can do for us and all the ecosystems
- The workshop was both practical and theoretical using a head, heart and hands approach See presentation on Soil Biology by Dave Beecher <https://cdn.shopify.com/s/files/1/0686/7395/files/DaveBeecherFieldExchange.pdf?v=1668609158>

## Group Activity:

### Soil Sample Examination

- Using soil samples that participants brought from their gardens and farms participants delved into soil biological life. Dave Beecher facilitated participants in examining and becoming acquainted with our farm's invisible 'little helpers'.

### Impact of Conventional Agriculture

- Participants discussed how conventional agriculture is impacting our soils - how cultivation, fertilizers and chemical sprays impact soil biology human, animal, and plant health.
- Dave clearly illustrated how the nutritional quality of our food and therefore our health are affected by these inputs as well as the impact on the wider planet.
- While acknowledging the impact of our current commercially driven economic models participants focused on solutions to the many problems facing farming by highlighting positive examples that are happening in Ireland and around the world



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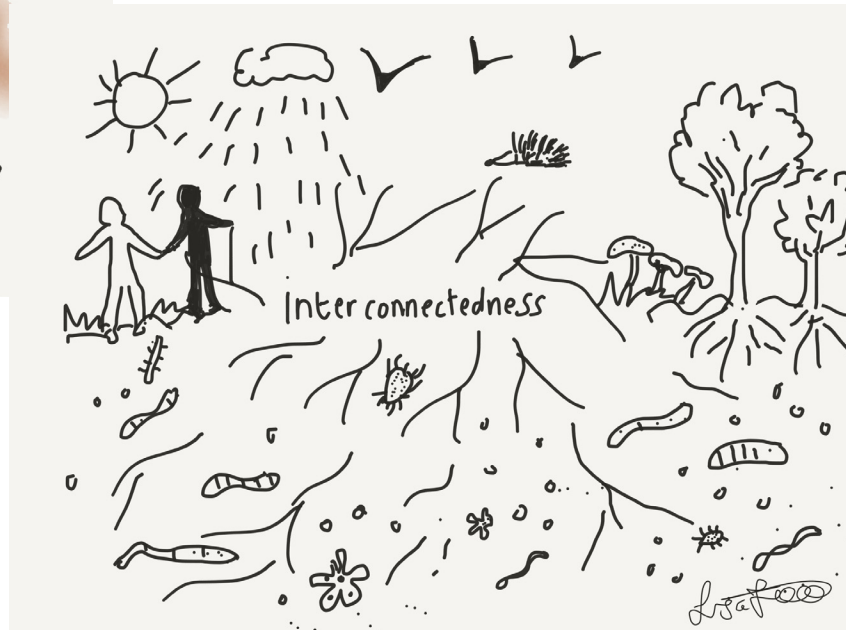
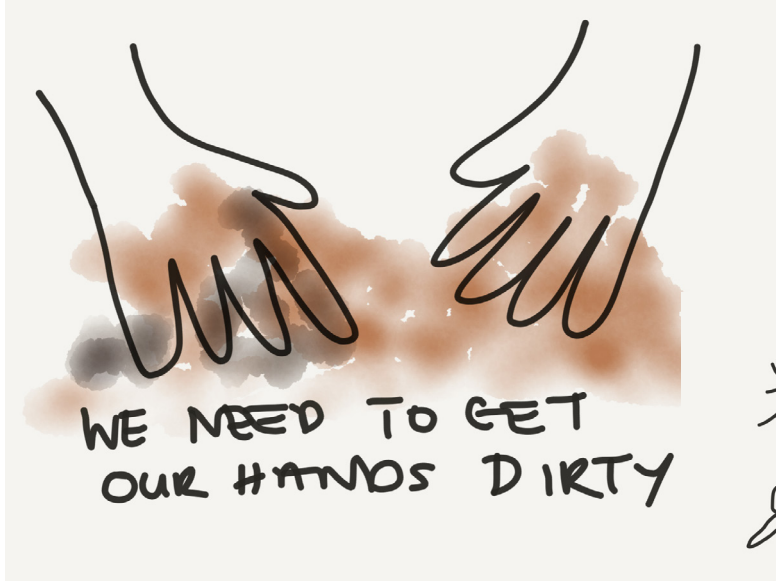
### The Soil Food Web

Participants explored using a microscope the micro-organisms, their roles and how they interact as a symbiotic community by providing many benefits including the creation of the vibrant material called humus

### About: Dave Beecher (Biological Soil and Farm Researcher):

Dave grew up on his grandmother's dairy farm in Co. Cork, Ireland. Dave has taught all over Ireland and with Regen. AG in the UK.

He is currently a member of the Danú Farming Group which has been awarded funding through the European Innovation Partnership programme and the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine in Ireland to carry out a 5-year Biological Farming Transition Programme.



### Resources:

- Talamh Beo: <https://talamhbeo.ie>
- Danú Farming Project: <https://nationalruralnetwork.ie/eip-agri/eip-agri-case-studies/danu-farming-group-project-plan-for-a-biological-farming-transition-programme/>
- River Bride Project: <https://www.thebrideproject.ie/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/BRIDE-Project-Farm-Habitat-Management-Guidelines.pdf>
- Soil Food Web - Elaine Ingham: <https://www.soilfoodweb.com/about/>
- Farming for Nature: <https://www.farmingfornature.ie>
- Link to presentation on soil Biology by Dave Beecher: <https://cdn.shopify.com/s/files/1/0686/7395/files/Dave-BeecherFieldExchange.pdf?v=1668609158>



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