



Department of
**Agriculture,
Food and the Marine**

An Roinn
**Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara**

T.P. Gill (1858–1931)

Sir Horace Plunkett (1854–1932)

2016-19

statement of strategy

Appendix - Programme for Government Commitments

Programme for Government commitments with DAFM lead

Statement of Strategy 2016-2019



Programme for Government Actions

Business Area

SOS Objective No.

Work with industry to implement the Food Wise (FW) 2025 strategy

Policy & Strategy

3.1

Ensure that the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) budget is protected

Policy & Strategy

3.3

Ensure fair distribution of €12.5bn over lifetime of CAP

Policy & Strategy

2.1/3.3

In context of mid-term review of CAP - Propose lowering of the cap on basic payments from €150k to €100k

Policy & Strategy

3.3

Maintain existing markets and prioritise development of new market outlets for live cattle exports with focus on developing markets in Turkey and Egypt

Policy & Strategy

3.2

Support development of Producer Organisations in Beef sector

Policy & Strategy

3.3

Explore potential development of all-island label for nomad cattle

Policy & Strategy

1.4/3.1

Provide investment in Bord Bia infrastructure at home and abroad with a view to developing new market opportunities for export of farm produce.

Policy & Strategy

3.2

Undertake ex-ante evaluation of a financial measure under the Rural Development Programme RDP to ascertain best approach for benefit of all farmers.

Policy & Strategy

3.4

Use the midterm review of RDP (in late 2016) to consider effectiveness and workability of schemes and to tailor programmes for 2nd half of RDP rollout.

Policy & Strategy

3.3/3.4

Ensure level of payments and eligibility reflect degree of disadvantage of individual farmers. Areas of Natural Constraint (ANC) funding increased by €25m in Budget 2018

Payments

2.1

Subject to EU approval, expand the Targeted Agricultural Modernisation Schemes (TAMS) scheme to include mats for slatted sheds and rainwater harvesting systems

Payments

2.1

Encourage profitability in the Beef Sector through greater efficiency

Policy & Strategy

3.5

Use Beef Forum (chaired by the Minister for Agriculture) to bring stakeholders together

Policy & Strategy

3.4/3.5

Invest €300m in the Beef Data Genomics Programme (BDGP) on modernising and improving efficiency in the beef herd as well as supporting farm incomes

Policy & Strategy

3.5

Engage in mid-term review of BDGP without delay and consider all aspects of the scheme

Policy & Strategy

3.4/3.5

Maintenance of a strong viable suckler herd as a key priority to be a focus of the work of the Beef Forum

Policy & Strategy

3.1/3.5

Programme for Government commitments with DAFM lead

Statement of Strategy 2016-2019



Programme for Government Actions

Business Area

SOS Objective No.

Introduce framework for Producer Organisations in the Beef Sector

Policy & Strategy

3.1

Develop live export markets and work with the EU Commission to examine best practice in Europe in terms of export credit insurance models

Policy and Strategy

3.2

Use Knowledge Transfer (KT) schemes in the Beef Sector to assist farmers increase efficiency and profitability

Policy & Strategy

3.5

Continue to support an all-island market for beef

Policy & Strategy

1.4 / 3.2

Support the Dairy Sector during market volatility

Policy & Strategy

3.3

Continue Dairy Forum

Policy & Strategy

3.4 / 3.5

Prioritise TAMs and KT schemes in the Dairy Sector

Payments

2.1 / 3.5

Examine development of futures market for dairy produce

Policy & Strategy

3.3

Encourage price stabilisation tools to combat volatility in the Dairy Sector

Policy & Strategy

3.3

Apply pressure at EU level to ensure EU responds effectively to the challenges facing dairy farmers

Policy & Strategy

3.3

Improve efficiency and profitability in the Sheep Sector through KT programme

Policy & Strategy

2.1 / 3.5

Introduce new sheep scheme under RDP with a budget of €25m provided for in Budget 2017

Policy & Strategy

2.1 / 3.1

Roll out scheme for investment in the Poultry Sector

Policy & Strategy

3.1

Support the Poultry Industry to address animal health issues

Policy & Strategy

1.1 / 3.1

Provide support for on-farm investment in the Pig Sector through TAMS II

Policy & Strategy

2.1

Work with the Pig Industry Stakeholder group.

Policy & Strategy

3.4 / 3.5

Focus on development of new and alternative markets for the Pig Sector

Policy & Strategy

3.2

Seek amendment to RDP to allow a greater payment per hectare for first ten hectares for organic producers

Payments

2.1 / 3.3

Programme for Government commitments with DAFM lead

Statement of Strategy 2016-2019



Programme for Government Actions

Business Area

SOS Objective No.

Prioritise capital investment in the Horticulture Sector to achieve actions under FW2025 and Bord Bia Making a world of Difference Strategy 2016-2018

Policy & Strategy

3.1

Develop new TAMs scheme aimed at tillage sector

Payments/Corporate Development

2.1 / 3.1

Implement Forestry Programme 2014-2020 commencing with 6,000 ha of new forest in year one increasing to 8,290 in 2020

Policy & Strategy

3.4

Review the Forestry Programme in 2017

Policy & Strategy

3.4

Invest €15m under RDP to assist island farming

Payments/Corporate Development

2.1

Give priority access for farmers in mountainous/disadvantaged areas to Green, Low Carbon, Agri-Environmental Schemes (GLAS) and roll out Locally Led Agri-Environmental Schemes (LLAES)

Payments

2.1

Prioritise strategic investment, support and modernisation of Horse & Greyhound sector. e.g. progress: new Curragh racecourse project; implement recommendations of Indecon Report in greyhound sector; 10 year strategy for horse sport sector

Policy & Strategy

3.1

State enterprise boards to examine any substantial business plans for revival of sugar industry with a view to State supports

Policy & Strategy

3.1

Deliver on agreed targets in Farmers' Charter

Corporate Development

2.1

Simplify inspection system and table amendments at EU level on yellow-card system

Payments/Corporate Development

2.1

Adopt new system to streamline payment system (e.g. preliminary checks)

Payments and Policy & Strategy

2.1

Pursue further measures at EU level to simplify BPS with view to reducing error rate in applications

Payments and Policy & Strategy Corporate Development

2.1

Hold annual Information meetings between DAFM inspectors and farmers following completion of inspection process, to highlight common errors and avoid repetition in following year.

Payments

2.1

Indicate date on which Satellite image was taken on BPS map.

Payments/Corporate Development

2.1 / 5.2

Review Agriculture Appeals Act 2001 to ensure independence and efficiency of office

Corporate Development

5.1

Prioritise roll-out of Young Farmer Scheme, Young Farmer Capital Investment Scheme (YFCIS)

Payments

2.1

Prioritise Young Farmer and new entrants under the National Reserve.

Payments

2.1

Programme for Government commitments with DAFM lead

Statement of Strategy 2016-2019



Programme for Government Actions

Business Area

SOS Objective No.

Seek recognition from the EC for “forgotten farmers” (to include farmers under 40 who do not meet 5 year rule and did not receive Young Farmer Installation Aid) under National Reserve (similar to “old Young Farmer”).

Payments and
Policy & Strategy

3.3

Review Green Cert to ensure it is fit for purpose.

Policy & Strategy

3.5

Ensure Teagasc adequately resources courses for students from within overall resource allocation

Policy & Strategy

3.5

Use RDP to support farm safety - possibility of including measure on clearing drains in the farm safety schemes under TAMS.

Payments and Policy

3.5

Implement new EU pesticide regulations

FSA&PH&W

1.2 / 3.5

Ensure implementation of Sustainable Use Directive (Pesticides) (SUD) in terms of training and upskilling is done in a way that is cost effective and convenient as possible

FSA&PH&W

1.2

Commit to designing and delivering a very ambitious climate change mitigation and adaptation strategy for Irish agriculture and the broader food industry

Policy & Strategy

3.4

Continue to use the RDP and Origin Green (OG) to focus on climate change strategies

Policy & Strategy

3.4

Commit to being the first country to adopt a sustainability audit system and continue to develop this system through OG programmes, underpinned by RDP measures, climate change policy and FW 2025

Policy & Strategy

3.4

Balance the need to control emissions with the economic and social objective in promoting the sustainable development of a rural economy

Policy & Strategy

3.4

Improve the environmental impact of agriculture through measures in the RDP, improving the uptake of mitigation practices by farmers, increasing the level of forest cover and continuing to undertake relevant research

Policy & Strategy

3.4 / 3.5

Further enhance OG programme

Policy & Strategy

3.3 / 3.4

Continue to measure environmental sustainability credentials , ensuring they are underpinned by best scientific practice

Policy & Strategy

3.4

Implement environmental elements of RDP

Policy & Strategy

3.4

Prioritise research funding for sustainable food production

Policy & Strategy

3.5

Departments of Agriculture and Energy will explore with Bord na Móna the potential of energy crops which can be grown in the vicinity of Bord na Móna plants through a national bio-energy strategy recognising Bord na Móna's strategy of moving away from peat

Policy & Strategy

2.1 / 3.4

Programme for Government commitments with DAFM lead

Statement of Strategy 2016-2019



Programme for Government Actions

Business Area

SOS Objective No.

Undertake active afforestation programme with significant carbon sink value.

Policy & Strategy

3.4

Target to include annual increase in planting over lifetime of programme, commencing with 6,000 ha of new forests in Y1 increasing to 8,290ha in 2020.

Policy & Strategy

3.4

Ensure principle of equivalence is maintained in negotiations

Policy & Strategy

3.2 / 3.3

Explore benefits of better land use and crop management including use of forestry, to prevent flooding.

Policy & Strategy

3.4

Develop a range of programmes to improve animal health outcomes and quality across all sectors

Food Safety, Animal and Plant Health, Animal Welfare

1.1 / 1.2 / 1.3

Publish Animal Health Strategy from all-island perspective

Food Safety, Animal and Plant Health, Animal Welfare

1.1

Address TB blackspots

Food Safety, Animal and Plant Health, Animal Welfare

1.1 / 1.2

Strengthen and enforce the Animal Health and Welfare Act 2013

Food Safety, Animal and Plant Health, Animal Welfare

1.1 / 1.2 / 1.3

Strengthen and maintain high standards of farm to fork quality

Food Safety, Animal and Plant Health, Animal Welfare

1.1/1.2/1.3/1.4

Implement Harnessing our Ocean Wealth

Seafood

4.1 / 4.2 / 4.3

Deliver 29,000 additional jobs across various maritime sectors

Seafood

4.1 / 4.2 / 4.3

Implement the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), including landing obligations

Seafood

4.1 / 4.2 / 4.3

Promote growth of seafood sector through Seafood Development Programme (SDP)

Seafood

4.1 / 4.2 / 4.3

Promote significant seafood exports as highlighted in FW2025

Seafood

4.1 / 4.2 / 4.3

Invest in KT, engine replacement, change management, new entrants, selective gear development, decommissioning, fleet improvement, mutual funds and storage aid

Seafood

4.1 / 4.2 / 4.3

Develop inshore fisheries sector, support national Inshore Fisheries Forum and regional for a structures

Seafood

4.1 / 4.2 / 4.3

Ensure smaller boats are given new opportunities for commercial fishing

Seafood

4.1 / 4.2 / 4.3

Explore potential for development of onshore close containment fish farming as an emerging technology

Seafood

4.1 / 4.2 / 4.3

Programme for Government commitments with DAFM contribution

Statement of Strategy 2016-2019



Programme for Government commitments with DAFM contribution

Lead Department

Linked SOS Objective No.

Implement regulations to tackle unfairness in grocery trade

DJEI

3.1

Support action at EU level to deliver greater transparency and fairness in the food supply chain.

DJEI

3.1

Safeguard Ireland's defensive and offensive interests

DJEI

3.2 / 3.3

Ensure national interests are protected in any future trade discussions, with a focus on beef and food safety standards. 200,000 additional jobs by 2020

DJEI

3.2 / 3.3

Implement Regional Action Plan for Jobs

DJEI

3.1

Work with banks (home and abroad) with view to achieving affordable banking for farmers - similar to Milk Flex Fund.

DoF

3.1

Encourage continued availability of favourable terms for investment in primary agriculture, processing and marketing under Strategic Banking Corporation of Ireland (SBCI)

DoF

3.1

Develop further land-leasing, partnership and mobility measures to ensure next generation farmers are supported and the sector is developed strategically for future growth.

DoF

3.1 / 3.3

Investigate taxation measures to support farmers through periods of volatility

DoF

3.1 / 3.3

Conduct review of Farm Assist Scheme

DSF

3.1

Review Fish Assist Scheme

DSP

4.1 / 4.2 / 4.3

Issue information to Local Authorities (LAs) re hedge cutting regulations and exemptions for road safety reasons to ensure consistency in the application of procedures across all local authorities

D/AHRRGA

3.5

New Minister for Regional Development and Rural Affairs will take charge of implementing Commission for the Economic Development of Rural Ireland (CEDRA) Report

D/AHRRGA

3.3

Publish the first National Mitigation Plan within six months of the new Government

DCCAE

3.4 / 3.5

Programme for Government commitments with DA FM contribution

Statement of Strategy 2016-2019



Programme for Government commitments with DA FM contribution

Lead Department

Linked SOS Objective No.

Make more capital funding available to allow LEADER groups bid for additional resources for projects that best support rural economic development

DCCAE

3.1

Finalise payments under fodder aid scheme and hardship scheme without undue delay.

OPW

3.1

Set up a new national flood forecasting system to provide regular, detailed and localised information on flood forecasting; Review flood response protocols; The Office of Emergency Planning will examine the potential for a rapid response unit led by the Department of Environment which could be deployed when necessary to coordinate offers of help and assistance to those experiencing hardship following a severe weather event

OPW

3.4

Raise the restriction on hauling cattle without tachographs from 50 to 100 kilometres

DTTS

1.3

Amend Penalty Points Statutory Instrument (subject to legal advice)

AG

4.1 / 4.2 / 4.3

Introduce a health levy on sugar-sweetened drinks

DoH

3.1

Continue to make progress towards achieving the UN target of 0.7% of gross national product of Official development Assistance (ODA)

DFA

3.1

Implement the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

DFA

3.1

Ensure robust oversight of Ireland's ODA budget

DFA

3.1

AG	Attorney General
DCCAE	Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment
DFA	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
DJEI	Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation
DoF	Department of Finance
DoH	Department of Health
DSP	Department of Social Protection
DTTS	Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport

2016-19

statement of strategy

DAFM Agencies



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