Ag Climatise Roadmap consultation summary

A public consultation on the development of the Ag-Climatise roadmap closed in early January. 108 written submissions were received, of which, 6 were received very shortly after the deadline. DAFM considered all submissions received when drafting the Ag Climatise roadmap over the course of 2020. In addition, the Department received approximately 500 responses to this consultation process through the form of a questionnaire survey and submissions of separate written responses. A stakeholder conference took place in February to discuss the outcomes of the consultation and to gather greater feedback on ways to translate the overall sectoral ambitions into more precise actions and targets. The conference involved approximately 170 representatives across industry, government, advisory, farmers etc. and provided an opportunity for each to discuss the relevant actions associated with them.

9 themes emerged during the consultation process, and these broad theme areas included submissions on the following broad areas:

1. **Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems (AKIS):** AKIS were a strong theme throughout. It was the most frequently occurring theme from the written submissions and featured heavily in what survey respondents thought were important action areas, particularly through the Teagasc MACC and signpost farms.

2. **Developing an inclusive advisory strategy:** Survey respondents stating this as the most important action for transitioning to a more sustainable food production system.

3. **Soils/land use:** Ultimately many of the suggestions revolved around reducing chemical N use by encouraging greater soil health and fertility (soil testing and liming), better use of nutrient management planning (NMP) and peatland management.

4. **Policy:** Public see the reform of CAP as an opportunity for enhancing environmental action.

5. **Research:** Protected urea. Protein crops for human and animal use. Reduced management of peatland soils – defining a peat soil, address gaps around blanket bogs. MRV – importance to measure benefits to farmer and for inventory account.

6. **Cropping & Horticulture:** Leadership. Primary producers' position. Native feeds. Protein crops research. Carbon Pricing.

7. **Incentives:** Forestry planting and renewable energy were strong themes. Beef, key metrics, and data collection. Cropping, native food and feed, protein crops, cover crops. Horticulture, energy investment. The incentives were inclusive of CAP, recognising the public good for consumers. Barriers to adoption assessed in detail.

8. **Carbon Trading:** Risks, Sustainability bonus, public value, carbon credits, trading between farm systems, credit for cover crops and protected N, carbon footprint labelling of products.

9. **Breeding:** Genomic testing, AI, EBI, DBI, BDGP – carbon efficiency and profitability, Genotyping, slaughter age, Sexed semen.