

CAP Strategic Plan Consultation,
CAP Rural Development Division,
Agriculture House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
D02 WK12
By email

Irish Bioenergy Association (IrBEA)

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[REDACTED]
To: CAPStrategicPlan@agriculture.gov.ie

02nd September 2021

RE: IrBEA Response to CAP Strategic Plan Consultation

Dear Sir / Madam,

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this CAP Strategic Plan consultation on behalf of our members. IrBEA is the representative organisation for the bioenergy sector on the island of Ireland. Our remit covers the bioenergy sectors of Biomass, Biogas, Biofuels, Biochar, Energy Crops and Wood fuels. We are working with members, which includes farmers and foresters, to grow develop and mobilise all aspects the bioenergy sector. The new Rural Development Programme can assist us in this effort.

The Bioenergy sector has a significant role to play in addressing some of the key challenges and opportunities that agriculture, farmers and foresters face including: emissions reduction through development and mobilisation of energy crop, biomass and biogas industries, improvement in water quality through the use of biochar, displacing chemical fertiliser with digestate from biogas and wood fuels providing a market for thinning material as part of sustainable forest management to name but a few. The Rural Development Programme should facilitate the development of various aspects of Bioenergy to address some of the items mentioned above. This can be done through the following measures:

European Innovation Partnership (EIP-AGRI) Operational Groups

- Enhance, develop and increase the budgetary allocation from the current provision for the further growth of the European Innovation Partnership Project model. IrBEA is the lead partner on a current EIP project called the “Small Biogas Demonstration Programme” which is investigating the deployment of small scale biogas facilities on farms. This form of research and development is important to bring together a range of interested parties including farmers, foresters and researchers to find innovative and practical solutions to common issues at farm level.

Knowledge Transfer Programme

- IrBEA would like to see flexibility within the design of the proposed Knowledge Transfer Programme to accommodate Bioenergy focused Knowledge Transfer groups. These groups could comprise of farmers, foresters and technical advisors covering such topics as energy crops, wood fuels, biogas development and forestry etc.

On-farm Capital Investment Scheme

- Consider broadening the proposed Capital Investment Scheme to potentially facilitate Forester, Farmers and Small and Medium Enterprises (SME’S) who would like to develop infrastructure such as drying sheds, chipping equipment and weighing equipment to process and mobilise wood fuels, biomass crops and energy crops.

We look forward to engaging with the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine to discuss the role of bioenergy in delivering on the CAP Strategic Plan objectives. Thank you.

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