

Report of the 2nd Meeting of Food Vision 2030

High Level Implementation Committee

Thursday 3rd March 2022

Attendance:

Minister Charlie McConalogue

Agencies by WebEx: Tara McCarthy, Bord Bia, Professor Frank O'Mara, Teagasc, Pamela Byrne FSAI

Agencies in person: Jim O'Toole, BIM, Mark Christal, EI,

Other Government Departments by webex: Jasmina Behan, DPER, Pauline Mulligan, DETE

DAFM in person: Brendan Gleeson, Secretary General, Sinéad McPhillips, Bill Callanan, Paul Savage, Cecil Beamish, Colm Hayes (part), Jonathan Dunne, Lu Black

DAFM by WebEx: Cecil Beamish, John Clarke, Mary Callan, Adam Houlihan

Secretariat: Seán Bell, Wila Bruce

Apologies: Brian Carroll, DECC

1. Introduction

Minister McConalogue began by welcoming everyone to the second meeting of the Food Vision High Level Implementation Committee and particularly Dr Pamela Byrne of the Food Safety Authority of Ireland as a permanent member of the Committee. This reflects the emphasis on safe & healthy food in the new strategy and the Minister said he looked forward to working with FSAI and the Department of Health on these important issues. The Minister welcomed Mark Christal from Enterprise Ireland and Pauline Mulligan from the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment and thanked Declan Hughes for his contribution to the process over the last few years. The Minister also welcomed Jasmina Behan, who has recently been appointed with responsibility for the Agriculture Vote in the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform.

The minutes were agreed from the 1st Meeting on 24 November 2021.

The Minister updated the Committee on some recent events since the last meeting including:

- The Minister attended the Berlin Agriculture Ministers' Conference during the Global Forum for Food and Agriculture, where the theme of this year's event was sustainable land use, with a focus on food security and the soil.

- The Minister led a major Irish agri-food trade mission to the Gulf Region encompassing Gulfood 2022 in Dubai, one of the world's largest food fairs; a two-day trade mission to Saudi Arabia; and concluding with participation in the Food, Agriculture and Livelihoods week at EXPO 2020 in Dubai.
- The Minister met with representatives of the fishing industry to brief them on a number of important policy developments and to engage directly with them on priorities for 2022.
- The Minister announced that the Unfair Trading Practices Enforcement Authority has launched an online survey to allow primary producers inform them about any UTP-related issues they face within the food supply chain. The survey will explore whether buyers are treating producers fairly and lawfully in compliance with the UTP Regulations.
- The Minister was pleased to welcome Stop Food Waste Day. Food Vision 2030, in line with the Climate Action Plan and SDG 15, aims to reduce food waste by 50% by 2030.

The Minister said that the Department is monitoring developments in relation to the Ukraine crisis and that there are immediate humanitarian, political and economic consequences arising from Russia's illegal invasion of Ukraine. The Department is contributing to the whole of Government contingency planning response.

2. Food Vision Environmental Working Sub-Group (EWSG) Update

Mission 1: A Climate Smart, Environmentally Sustainable Sector

Maria Talbot, Climate Change Division made a presentation on the Food Vision Environmental Working Sub-Group (EWSG) which included the following

- Role of the EWSG
- SEA Monitoring Requirements
- Monitoring Arrangements
- Data Gathering
- Food Vision High-Level Environmental Indicators
- EWSG Work to date

Bill Callanan said there are significant environmental ambitions in Food Vision 2030, and it is the EWSG's job to monitor and report on these indicators. The purpose of the SEA is to assess the impact of the Strategy and to screen for potential environmental impacts, scope them out and create a monitoring process. The EWSG will be responsible for this monitoring and ensure it is appropriate to the SEA with an Annual Report to the HLIC in Q3/Q4 2022.

A discussion on the work of the EWSG followed.

3. Food Vision Dairy & Beef/Sheep Meat Groups

Mission 2: Goal 3: Increase Primary Producer System Diversification

Sinéad McPhillips said that following the 1st meeting of the HLIC in November, the Food Vision 2030 Dairy Group was established with a priority to produce a detailed plan by Q2 2022 to manage the sustainable environmental footprint of the dairy sector. The Group consists of key stakeholders from the dairy sector and is chaired by Professor Gerry Boyle and has met twice to date. Given the importance of providing certainty for the sector, the Group has been tasked to provide an initial report to the Minister by end March setting out how emissions associated with the dairy sector can be stabilised, and then reduced, with a final plan to be submitted by the end of quarter two 2022. The Food Vision Beef and Sheep Meat Group will be established in April.

4. Organic Farming & Food

(Mission 2, Goal 3 – Increase Primary Producer System Diversification).

Jack Nolan presented an Overview of the Organic Sector which included the following

- Actions
 - Cross-Sectoral Target Areas
 - Sub-Sectoral Objectives
- Reform of the Strategy Group
- Current Situation
- CAP 2023-2027
- OFS Payment Rates
- Ongoing Actions

A discussion on Organic farming and food followed.

5. New Forestry Strategy

(Mission 2, Goal 3 – Increase Primary Producer System Diversification also Mission 1- Develop Diverse, Multi-functional Forests).

Barry Delany, Director of Forestry gave a presentation on the Irish Forestry Strategy and next Forestry Programme 2023-2027 which included the following:

- Bilateral Engagement

- Project Woodland and Developing a new Forest Strategy - What's happened to date
- Forest Strategy and Next Forestry Programme 2023-2027 Development

A discussion on the Forestry Sector followed.

6. Food Vision 2030 Implementation Plan - Priorities

The Minister said the Food Vision Implementation plan is agreed, and the Secretariat will advise the Committee when it is available on the website.

Tara McCarthy, Frank O'Mara, Jim O'Toole, Mark Christal, Laura Burke and Pamela Byrne updated the Committee on the State Agency Food Vision priorities.

March 2022