

Food Vision 2030

Environmental Working Sub-Group Meeting (through VC)

Wednesday 23 February 2022

Attendees:

Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine: Bill Callanan (Chair), Deirdre Fay, Dale Crammond, Shane Flanagan, Corina Roe, Ted Massey, Pamela Boyle, Brian Kennedy, John Clarke, Jonathan Dunne, Avril Rothwell

Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications: Rob Barnes, Irene Cadogan

Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage: Colin Byrne

EPA: Brian Donlon

Bord Iascaigh Mhara: Rory Campbell

Independent: Michael Hamell

Secretariat: Maria Talbot, Damien Wyse

Apologies: Bernard Harris, Jack Nolan, Wila Bruce, Niall Ryan, Niall McLoughlin, Andy Bleasdale, John Spink, Deirdre Ryan

Bill Callanan, Chair opened the meeting and welcomed members to the group while reiterating the importance that the SEA monitoring process for Food Vision (FV) is open and transparent with clear, understandable messaging. The Chair encouraged all members to contribute in this regard.

The minutes of the previous meeting of 23 February were proposed and adopted.

Terms of Reference

The updated Terms of Reference were proposed and agreed.

Monitoring Report Discussion

The group was informed that the EWSG is required to give an update at the next meeting of the HLIC scheduled for 3 March. The group was then given a short presentation setting out the EWSG SEA monitoring requirements which set the scene for the discussion on the draft monitoring report discussion paper that had been circulated.

A detailed discussion took place regarding the level of aggregation of data with regard to certain indicators. It was agreed that in some instances national level data may be sufficient while other

indicators may require more focussed, regional data e.g. water. Regarding reports to the HLIC, this approach would allow for national level reporting on individual indicators with an element of regional commentary. It was agreed that the annual report to the HLIC needs to be clear and should identify trends towards FV targets to enable the HLIC address any issues arising. The EWSG will be crucial in identifying data sources to allow the indicators to be meaningful.

The Group considered each of the FV high-level environmental indicators set out in the table in the discussion document:

- Biogenic methane – national level data sufficient
- Chemical fertiliser – national level currently as regional not available. The forthcoming chemical fertiliser register will provide more accurate data
- Nutrient losses from agriculture to water – national level data may not show where specific issues are, the EPA reports highlighting catchments will be an important data source.
- Biodiversity – national level data may not show where specific issues are however it was noted that DAFM has data over a number of years from Agri Environment Schemes which should be able to identify trends
- Ammonia – data available from the EPA. Additionally, eco-systems monitoring is required under the NECC directive so additional data will be available in the future.
- Forestry – national level data available to show direction of travel, species breakdown also available. Proposal to cross reference afforestation rates with intensive agriculture areas to show the benefits of uptake in pressure areas.
- Biomass – Forestry to examine and revert to secretariat with data source
- Organic farming – data regarding area and number of participants available and Organics to examine to see if breakdown by participant and enterprise type is also available
- Food waste – annual data available from EPA
- Origin Green – CSP data will be available regarding this indicator but important to raise with Bord Bia also
- Seafood – Data available but challenging due to issues such as no current definition of MPAs

It was clarified that the 2018 baseline aligns with FV and Climate Action Plan baseline.

Further consideration will be given to the possibility of engaging consultants to prepare the Annual Report on behalf of the EWSG.

Actions:

Members to provide any additional feedback as soon as possible and in particular to identify available datasets.

Agreed that the presentation given to the EWSG will also be given to the HLIC at the next meeting of that committee.

Presentation on CAP Strategic Plan: overview of measures to deliver on the actions in the Food Vision strategy

The group were given a presentation on the CAP Strategic Plan (CSP) with a focus on how the CSP aligns with FV. Links between each of the CSP objectives and FV missions were identified and the interventions that are contributing to delivery of FV missions outlined, primarily focussed on Mission 1. While the CSP will contribute to delivery of FV actions there are limitations and other levers must play a role including, industry, regulation, new technologies etc. A discussion took place regarding industry interventions and the importance of these aligning with the work of DAFM and supporting farmers.

Actions: Secretariat to circulate presentations

AOB/Date of next meeting

Proposed date for next meeting on 18 May.

ENDS