

Food Vision 2030

Environmental Working Sub-Group Meeting (through Webex)

Thursday 19th May 2022 at 2pm

Attendees:

Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine: Bill Callanan (Chair), Edwina Love, Maria Dunne, Shane Flanagan, Corina Roe, Pamela Boyle, John Clarke, Gary Daly, Ian Fox, Bernard Harris, Wila Bruce, Carol Forrest, Niall Ryan

Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications: Kelli Howard

Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage: Colin Byrne, Andy Bleasdale

EPA: Brian Donlon

Bord Iascaigh Mhara: Rory Campbell

Bord Bia: Deirdre Ryan

Teagasc: David Wall, Giulia Bondi

Secretariat: Maria Talbot, Emma Guerin

Apologies: Jack Nolan, Niall McLoughlin, John Spink, Michael Hamell, Ted Massey, Marc Kierans

Bill Callanan, Chair opened the meeting and welcomed members to the group. The Chair encouraged all members of the group to engage on the monitoring and focus on SEA and legal compliance.

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

Update on Food Vision Dairy Group Action

The group was given an update on the Food Vision Dairy Group Action. An overview was given on the structure of the group and its work to date.

The speaker discussed that there will be 17 recommendations from the group split into two categories: direct impacts which are reflected in the inventory; and enabling actions that support the uptake of measures. Notwithstanding the report being leaked to the media, details regarding the group's findings were not discussed as the final report has not yet been published. (publication expected July 2022).

Presentation on DAFM's Pilot Soil Sampling and Analysis Programme

The group were given a presentation on the Pilot Soil Sampling and Analysis Programme which detailed its objective to create a national farm level baseline database for soil. Over 63,000 samples taken to date and over 4,900 preliminary reports issued.

Bord Bia advised that as part of their Farm Feedback reports to farmers (~30,000 pa), they are working with the EPA to provide information on water quality and queried if consideration could be given to integrate the soil sample data into BB's reports.

Actions: DAFM and Bord Bia to consider whether there is an opportunity to include soil analysis feedback report as part of BB farmer reports.

Presentation on Teagasc Soils, Nutrients and Fertiliser Campaign

Giulia Bondi, of Teagasc gave a presentation outlining the Signpost Program, detailing how farm soil is being tested to determine baseline data for levels of carbon stored in the soil, and further information in terms of nutrient status across Irish Farms. When selecting sites, soil type; climate/land use and management practices are considered. Results and updated maps are sent to farmers/advisors. Site targeting will take place for in-depth carbon stock testing.

David Wall of Teagasc discussed the Soils, Nutrient and Fertiliser campaign, launched by the Minister. The campaign includes 20 fact sheets to help farmers deal with the challenges they are facing today, and what might arise in the future, for example, fodder issues.

The Group was advised that a webinar regarding the EJP Soil Project will be held on 31/5/22. The CION Director Generals of Climate and Agriculture will speak to how CAP payment for Carbon farming will work as opposed to the market.

Further points discussed were:

- The importance of promoting soil health and biodiversity
- DNA profiling of soil and the need to link to function.

Actions: David Wall to send Emma Guerin the link to EJP Soil Project Webinar.

Monitoring Report Discussion

As a result of feedback received from the last meeting of the EWSG, the monitoring table was updated. The table includes both 1) FV Indicators which are the high-level indicators from Mission 1, and the 2) SEA Indicators identified by the SEA Statement.

Discussion followed regarding targets in the monitoring table, and the difficulties in providing the data required to measure progress for all indicators.

It is acknowledged that some information to measure the targets is not available, or in other cases the data collected does not match the indicator. The identification of data gaps is part of the process.

The EWSG Annual Report (due Q3/Q4 2022) will be an opportunity to address issues that are arising including identification of any data gaps, highlight the positive developments and point to areas of challenge in the year since Food Vision was launched. The EWSG role is to alert the HLIC of any issues arising, it is the HLIC that will decide on any necessary remedial action.

It was discussed that the monitoring process must be legally and procedurally correct and that input from members of the group will be required to identify these gaps as they are experts in their field.

Actions: The Secretariat will commence the development of the outline of the first annual report

AOB/Date of next meeting

Proposed date for next meeting on 14 September.

ENDS