

## **Food Vision 2030**

### **Environmental Working Sub-Group Meeting (through Webex)**

**Wednesday 23 November 2022 at 10am**

#### **Attendees:**

**Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine:** Bill Callanan (Chair), Edwina Love, John Clarke, Ian Fox, Wila Bruce, Pamela Boyle, Shane Flanagan, Dale Crammond, Julie-Marie Houlihan, Jerome Walsh

**Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage:** Andy Bleasdale

**Bord Iascaigh Mhara:** Rory Campbell

**EPA:** Brian Donlon

**Teagasc:** Karl Richards

**Secretariat:** Maria Talbot, Emma Guerin

#### **Apologies:**

**Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine:** Jack Nolan, Niall Ryan, Ted Massey, Corina Roe, Bernard Harris, Oisín O'Kelly

**Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage:** Colin Byrne

**Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications:** Niall McLoughlin, Marc Kierans

**Bord Bia:** Deirdre Ryan

**Teagasc:** John Spink

**Independent:** Michael Hamell

Maria Talbot, Secretariat opened the meeting and welcomed members.

The minutes of the previous meeting of 14 September were proposed and adopted.

#### **First Annual Report to the HLIC**

The group discussed feedback received from HLIC regarding the draft Annual Report.

The Chair welcomed input from all members of the Group to the monitoring report and reiterated that the focus is on monitoring the SEA indicators. A discussion followed and the report updated to take comments on board.

Looking towards the work programme for next year the Chair noted that there are a number of initiatives which this group will have an interest in such as, the Nature Restoration Law, and LULUCF developments.

**Action: Any final comments on the Annual Report to be submitted to secretariat by end of the day with a view to submitting the report to the HLIC.**

#### **Presentation on National Fertiliser Database**

The group were given a presentation on the National Fertiliser Database.

Members were advised that plans to develop the new database required primary legislation and therefore, would be subject to the timelines in accordance with that process.

The database will track fertiliser sales and movement throughout the supply chain. It will include details of all fertiliser types on farm and include on-farm opening and closing stock.

In response to questions from the Group it was noted that the database, will initially monitor the fertiliser that is delivered to a farm, but not where or how on the farm it is spread. Future iterations of the database may include this information if the technology becomes available.

Farmers will be able to download information from the database with the possibility of integrating this information with other data sources and making available easy to use apps in the future.

By Q3 2023, all manufacturers and blenders should be captured on the system. Initially the database will not be able to provide an 'all island' picture of fertiliser however, the future plan is to have 'all island' data which will include data regarding fertiliser brought in, and out, and in stock.

#### **Presentation on Soil Analysis Results**

The group were given a presentation on the Soil Analysis Results from Teagasc.

The results show that Ireland's soil fertility levels have disimproved in recent years. half of our soils need lime. Where soil ph is improved this has benefits for nutrient use efficiency. The group discussed the results and noted that the reduction of P+K seems to be a reactive rather than a planned reduction.

#### **AOB**

- **Proposal to engage consultants to draft future Annual Reports to HLIC**

As part of this year's report to HLIC, the group has recommended the use of consultants in future reports. The group discussed what was required from the consultants including, reviewing EPA reports with a view to synthesising when reports are available and how these can be used to inform EWSG reporting, identify gaps in existing data needed for FV SEA monitoring and propose how these gaps can be filled.

**Action: Secretariat will circulate information regarding the requirements of the consultants for the groups' consideration**

**Date of next meeting**

All meeting dates for 2023 will be circulated once HLIC meeting dates have been confirmed.