

Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

Action Plan 2023



An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara
Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine

Ministers' Forewords

I am pleased to welcome this latest *Action Plan for 2023*, the third under my Department's *Statement of Strategy 2021-2024*. My focus remains on delivering strong sustainable livelihoods for our farm families, fishers and food producers who are the bedrock of the sector.

Building on the work delivered in the last two Action Plans, my Department has identified this plan for the priority actions to be delivered this year, including the implementation of the new CAP Strategic Plan; progressing further the actions set out in *Food Vision 2030*; and developing a range of actions in support of the Climate Act. My Department continues to deliver on a range of actions to promote and safeguard public, animal and plant health and animal welfare as part of our commitments to "One Health, One Welfare". We have a number of key strategies to deliver, including for Biodiversity, the Bioeconomy and Horticulture.

The implementation of actions to mitigate the climate and biodiversity crises in our sectors and the challenges for our sector arising from the ongoing war in Ukraine and the cost-of-living crisis will be features of our activity in 2023, while still aiming to deliver on all the plans set out in our last *Statement of Strategy*.

Along with my Ministerial colleagues, I look forward to progressing these actions with my Department, to serve our sector and support our rural communities.

Charlie McConalogue, T.D.,
Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine

I welcome this *Action Plan for 2023* and the ambitious targets for the year in the areas of Climate Change, Organics, Forestry and Land Use which are of particular importance to me in my role as Minister of State.

Senator Pippa Hackett,
Minister of State for Land Use and Biodiversity

I am particularly pleased that this *Action Plan for 2023* on the area of farm safety includes Farm Safety, Health & Wellbeing. I welcome the significant research call and the opportunity to develop new markets for our sectors.

Martin Heydon T.D.,
Minister of State for Research and Development, Farm Safety and New Market Development

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Secretary General's Foreword

The Department and its staff continue to face a range of challenges arising from Brexit, the COVID-19 Pandemic, the war in Ukraine and the ensuing cost-of-living crisis which have all impacted significantly on our sectors. We commit to working tirelessly with our sectors to achieve the ambitious targets set out for us in our *Statement of Strategy 2021-2024*.

We will continue to build on the achievements of the last two years to ensure that we deliver on our objectives, even in these challenging circumstances. As always, when we set out a *Statement of Strategy*, we try to foresee what is ahead of us in the coming years. In recent times, this exercise is becoming more and more difficult with new and emerging risks requiring an immediate response. We will develop a new *Statement of Strategy* in 2023, in line with our obligations under the Public Service Management Act which will take account of these changes in our environment.

Fortunately, the staff of the Department continue to demonstrate great levels of flexibility, so that we can deliver these actions effectively. We continue to progress our mission to “lead, enable and regulate the sector in a way that optimises its contribution to social, economic and environmental sustainability” and these guiding principles are at the heart of our *Food Vision 2030* Strategy.

Brendan Gleeson,
Secretary General

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One Health, One Welfare Pillar

Goal 1: To promote and safeguard public, animal and plant health and animal welfare for the benefit of consumers, producers, the economy and wider society

No.	Action	Quarter	Statement of Strategy reference
1.	Lead the development of interdepartmental plan and implement actions relating to the Control of Dogs	Q1 - Q4	1.3
2.	In the context of Brexit, prepare for new UK import and certification controls to apply from 1 st January 2024	Q1 - Q4	1.4, 3.9
3.	TB Eradication Programme: Optimise the wildlife control programme and develop a pilot TB Free project proposal	Q1 - Q4	1.1
4.	Achieve parameters that enables application to EU for BVD Free Status	Q1 - Q4	1.1
5.	Support industry in delivering a solution to Meat and Bone Meal disposal from 1 st January 2024 when export to UK will no longer be permitted	Q1 - Q4	1.4
6.	Develop enhanced equine traceability system	Q1 - Q4	1.3
7.	Develop new sheep health programme	Q1 - Q4	1.1
8.	Progress the implementation of the Food Safety and Food Authenticity Strategy , based on the EU Commission/DG REFORM Technical Support Instrument project recommendations	Q1 - Q4	1.2
9.	Implement the recommendations of the Review of the One Health, One Welfare Operational Business areas	Q1 - Q4	5.1

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No.	Action	Quarter	Statement of Strategy reference
10.	Progress the Regional Laboratory Redevelopment Programme and the Strategic Development of the Backweston Campus	Q1-Q4	1.1
11.	Enhance North-South inter-laboratory collaboration	Q1-Q4	1.2

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Farm Supports Pillar

Goal 2: Provide income and targeted supports to farmers and others in the agri-food sector to underpin the rural economy and optimise environmental sustainability

No.	Action	Quarter	Statement of Strategy reference
12.	Implement and make payments under the new CAP Strategic Plan and Nationally/BAR-funded Farm Schemes : including Pillar I Payments, ACRES, Organics, TAMS, EIPs, Beef, Sheep, Welfare, Tillage Incentive and other schemes	Q1-Q4	2.1, 2.2.1, 3.8
13.	Roll out of the new delivery model for the new CAP Schemes to facilitate monitoring, reporting and accountability to the EU	Q1-Q4	2.1, 3.8
14.	Obtain State aid approval for new National Forestry Programme	Q1-Q2	2.3.1
15.	Implement the schemes under the new National Forestry Programme	Q2-4	2.3.1
16.	Continue with the development of the organic sector including the implementation of the work of the Organic Forum	Q1-4	2.2.1
17.	Progress development, implementation and financing of Climate Action Plan measures not already included in CAP and Forestry Programme (such as the use of genotyping for climate efficiency)	Q1-Q4	2.2.1, 3.3.2

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Policy Coordination and Strategy Pillar

Goal 3: Provide the optimum policy framework for the sustainable development of the agri-food sector

No.	Action	Quarter	Statement of Strategy reference
18.	Food Vision 2030: ensure implementation of key actions through High Level Implementation Committees, including progressing the measures identified in the Food Vision Dairy and Beef reports.	Q1 - Q4	3.2.1
19.	Host a National Dialogue on Women in Agriculture .	Q1	3.2.1
20.	Deliver a New Horticulture Strategy .	Q2	3.4
21.	Develop implementation pathway for measures to implement the Climate Action Plan , including through the implementation of measures and schemes set out above in the Farm Supports Pillar	Q1-Q4	2.2.1 3.3.2
22.	Progress phase 2 of the Land Use Review (in tandem with the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications)	Q4	3.3.3
23.	Progress a model for Carbon Farming in Ireland, working with other Member States and the European Commission to consider the development of a regulatory system for carbon farming.	Q4	3.3
24.	Deliver a Biomethane Strategy co-led by DAFM and DECC.	Q3	3.3
	Implement an ambitious legislative programme including:		
25.	Agri-Food Regulator: Steer the Bill through the Oireachtas process; recruit the Board; manage the handover to the CEO-designate and establish the new office	Q1 - Q4	3.4.4
26.	Steer Veterinary Medicines Bill/Fertiliser database through the Oireachtas	Q1	1.2, 3.3

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No.	Action	Quarter	Statement of Strategy reference
27.	Review EIA (agri) Regulation in accordance with the commitment in the Programme for Government	Q2-Q4	3.3
28.	Develop new farm safety, health and wellbeing initiatives	Q1-Q4	3.4.5
29.	Develop a new Agri-Food Research & Innovation Strategy , with a significant emphasis on climate and the environment	Q1-Q4	3.5
30.	Launch a major thematic Research Call	Q1	3.5
31.	International Trade Development : maintain and build market access for key product categories to priority international markets, through a programme of Government-to-Government meetings, trade missions and technical discussions	Q1 - Q4	3.6.1
32.	Publish a new Bioeconomy Action Plan 2023-2025	Q1	3.5
33.	Operationalise the National Fertiliser Database	Q1-Q4	1.2, 3.3
34.	Contribute to development of an EU Regulation on the Sustainable Use of Pesticides .	Q1-Q4	1.1

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Seafood Pillar

Goal 4: Deliver a sustainable, competitive and innovative seafood sector, driven by a skilled workforce, delivering value added products in line with consumer demand

No.	Action	Quarter	Statement of Strategy reference
35.	Implement Seafood Taskforce -BAR Funded Schemes: In combination, these provide for up to €265m of expenditure under the BAR in the Fisheries/ Processing/ Aquaculture /marine Infrastructure areas.	Q1-Q4	4.2
36.	Implement the new €258m EMFAF Seafood Operational Programme: New Schemes to be developed, approved and rolled out through 2023, dovetailing with completion of BAR funded schemes which are already being implemented. Implementation of the new National Strategic Plan for the Sustainable Development of Aquaculture will also need to be commenced.	Q1-Q4	4.2
37.	Effectively contribute to Key Fisheries International Negotiations of importance to Ireland: These include Coastal States Negotiations on the international sharing of the Mackerel stock, the long running dispute on allocation of the unallocated Norwegian Sea/Danish Mackerel Quota and the publication by the EU Commission of its Report on the Review of the Common Fisheries Policy.	Q1-Q4	4.2
38.	Contribute to policy development and implementation of the Climate Action Plan 2023, Offshore Renewable Energy development and legislation on Marine Protected Areas	Q1-Q4	4.2

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Corporate Development Pillar

Goal 5: Maintain and develop strategic, operational, regulatory and technical capacity and capability to deliver excellent services to our customers

No.	Action	Quarter	Statement of Strategy reference
39.	Conclude negotiations on a new Farmers' Charter of Rights for the new CAP Strategic Plan	Q2	5.1.7
40.	Commence Organisation Capability Review of the Department in 2023, taking account of the Forestry Review, developments on the Food Safety and Food Authenticity Strategy and the Review of Veterinary Operations	Q1 - Q4	5.1.3
41.	Review the operation of Blended Working Arrangements in the Department	Q2	5.1.1
42.	Review and update the Department's HR Strategy supported by a new HR Operating Model	Q1 - Q4	5.1.1
43.	Publish a new Statement of Strategy 2023-2026 in accordance with the Public Service Management Act	Q2	5.1
44.	Modernise Information Technology and re-design digital services through the upgrade of strategic digital platforms	Q1 - Q4	5.2.4
45.	Enhance IT Security and upskill staff	Q1 - Q4	5.2
46.	Support enhanced governance of the State Bodies under our aegis	Q1 - Q4	5.1
47.	Support the Monitoring and Evaluation of CAP Strategic Plan and EU Financial Reporting	Q1 - Q4	5.1.11
48.	Publish the new Corporate Governance Framework 2023 and review the Delegation of Functions under the Public Services Management Act	Q1	5.1