

Report of the 6th Meeting of Food Vision 2030

High Level Implementation Committee

Wednesday 8th February 2023

Attendance:

Minister Charlie McConalogue

State Agencies: Professor Frank O'Mara, Teagasc; Jim O'Toole, Bord Bia, Caroline Bocquel, BIM; Laura Burke EPA; Dr Pamela Byrne, FSAI; Mark Christal, EI.

Other Government Departments: John Conlon, DPER; Marc Kierans, DECC; Phyllis Kelly, DETE

DAFM: Sinéad McPhillips, Assistant Secretary; Bill Callanan, Chief Inspector; Paul Savage, Assistant Secretary; Cecil Beamish, Assistant Secretary, Patrick Donohoe, Minister's Advisor; John Clarke, Ian Fox, Adam Houlihan Economics and Planning Division.

Secretariat: Seán Bell and Wila Bruce, Economics and Planning Division

Item 1: Introduction

The minutes from the fifth meeting on 30 November 2022 were agreed.

The Minister wished Caroline Bocquel well in her new role as CEO of BIM.

The Minister updated the Committee on recent events and of note in terms of Food Vision goals since the last meeting on 30 November including:

- The Minister outlined the need for ongoing support for the Ukrainian agriculture sector at the recent Agriculture Ministers' Meeting, as well as for continued close monitoring of the impacts of the Russian invasion on European markets and supply chains.
- The Minister announced, with the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment, and the Minister for Finance, that Bank of Ireland is the first lender to the market for the Ukraine Credit Guarantee Scheme
- The Women in Agriculture Conference was held on 1 February.

- A call for proposals for Food Waste Reduction Initiatives under the 2023 Rural Innovation and Development Fund was called. Tackling food waste is one of the most effective solutions in tackling our global climate targets. This call for proposals relates to the provision of services for the support of food waste reduction projects which are designed to reduce food waste generated by primary producers and food businesses in rural areas.
- The Department published the report from the Organic Strategy Forum which highlighted market development, support for new and existing farmers and increasing participation levels as priorities for 2023.
- The Agricultural and Food Supply Chain Bill was advanced to second stage of the legislative process in the Dáil.
- The Minister announced the resumption of Irish beef exports to China with Minister Heydon. This decision is a great vote of confidence in our beef sector and our committed suckler and beef farmers who produce a world class product.
- The Minister welcomed publication of the Climate Action Plan 2023, and said that the actions for agriculture will provide a viable pathway to achieve a 25% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions for agriculture by 2030.
- The Department announced over €3.6 million for climate-related research projects in a joint collaboration with New Zealand.
- The Minister welcomed the EU Commission decision to adopt the €258 million European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF) Programme 2021-27 for Ireland which envisages significant funding in our seafood sector and our coastal communities.

Item 2: Food Vision Environmental Working Sub-Group Update

The Food Vision Environmental Working Sub-Group is a standing item on the HLIC agenda.

The monitoring and implementation process of Food Vision is key to ensuring delivery of the strategy and a key part of implementation of mission 1 is the work of this Group.

Bill Callanan updated the Committee on the work of the EWSG.

Item 3: Climate Action Plan 2023 and EU developments, next steps on Food Vision Dairy and Beef and Sheep Reports

Bill Callanan, Chief Inspector presented on EU Developments as follows:

EU Developments

- Nitrates – New Requirements
 - 2023 - New Requirements
 - Interim Review 2023 – Key Steps and Timelines
 - 2024 and 2025 - New Requirements
 - Measures outside Regulation
- Air Quality – Ammonia
- Nature Restoration Law
- Revision of the Industrial Emissions Directive

Sinead McPhillips, Assistant Secretary presented on the Food Vision Dairy and Beef and Sheep Reports as follows:

Food Vision Dairy and Beef and Sheep Reports Update

- Direct measures
- Enabling Measures
- Next Steps

Bill Callanan, Chief inspector presented on the Climate Action Plan 2023 as follows:

Climate Action Plan 2023

- Climate Action Plan 2023
- Sectoral Emission Ceilings
- LULUCF target – deferred to end 2023
- Carbon Budget – Agriculture
- Key Targets to Deliver Abatement
- Emission Reduction Trajectory
- Next Steps

A discussion followed.

Item 4: National Strategy for Horticulture

(Minister Pippa Hackett, Jack O'Donnell, Deirdre Fay and Tamsen Harward Horticulture Division attended)

The Minister welcomed Minister Hackett who has responsibility for the Horticulture Sector to attend for this item.

Deirdre Fay, Head of Horticulture and Plant Health presented on the National Strategy for Horticulture as follows:

- National Strategy for Horticulture
- Action 32 – Develop a strategy to set out the road map for the horticulture industry to 2030
- Ambition: to grow a more profitable value-added sector driven by sustainability and innovation
- National Strategy for Horticulture – development to date
- Deep dive into 13 key cross cutting areas

A discussion followed.

Item 5: National Dialogue on Women in Agriculture

(Minister Pippa Hackett, Jack O'Donnell and Sharon Boylan, Economics and Planning Division attended.)

Minister McConalogue said that the National Dialogue on Women in Agriculture took place on 1 February, St Brigid's Day, in Portlaoise. The dialogue was led by former Tánaiste and Minister for Agriculture Mary Coughlan, and featured panel discussions and workshops, as well as speakers including the former German Minister for Agriculture, Julia Klöckner. The Minister attended with Ministers of State Pippa Hackett and Martin Heydon. The objective of the dialogue is to gather views to feed into future national policy on the issue of greater gender equality in agriculture.

The Minister thanked the Committee members who were able to attend and thanked Teagasc for their involvement in running the workshops, and Bord Bia and BIM for their participation on the panels.

Sharon Boylan, Economics and Planning Division gave a short presentation outlining the event as follows:

- Event Speakers
- Panel Discussion 1 – Role of Women in Agriculture
- Panel Discussion 2 – Women in Farming Opportunities and Challenges
- Workshops
 - Leadership and Visibility
 - Education and Awareness
 - Financial and Legal
 - Sustainability
- Workshop Reports
- Media and Social Media Coverage
- Attendance
- Next Steps

A discussion followed.

Item 6: Food Vision Annual Report 2022

John Clarke, Economics and Planning Division gave a short update on the first Food Vision Annual Report as follows:

- Food Vision Annual Report 2022 - Outline
- Overview of Progress

Item 7: AOB

The Minister concluded by thanking Cecil Beamish for his commitment to the work of the marine sector and HLIC and wished him well for the future.

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 10 May 2023.

Food Vision 2030 Secretariat

February 2023

