



Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland

# Annual Report 2022

## Food Vision 2030

A World Leader in  
Sustainable Food Systems



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# Foreword



**Minister for  
Agriculture, Food  
and the Marine**

**I am pleased to introduce the first annual report for Food Vision 2030. Food Vision 2030 is our shared strategy for the continuing development of the agri-food sector in Ireland, developed for the sector, by the sector. Food Vision 2030 is a landmark for the Irish agri-food sector with the potential to transform our agriculture, food, forestry and marine sectors in the period to 2030, with sustainability at its core, environmental, economic and social.**

It is honest and upfront about the challenges ahead but, importantly, it proposes solutions and charts a pathway to sustainability in all its dimensions. Ireland has a reputation for producing safe, high-quality food and drink, with record exports of some €18.8 billion in 2022. That reputation needs to be safeguarded by improving sustainability in all its forms, particularly for our farmers and fishers, who are the bedrock of our sector, in cooperation with agri-food businesses and rural and coastal communities.

The Irish agri-food industry has faced challenges over the past number of years but has shown that it can be agile and responsive when change is required. Food Vision 2030 is an important element of this transition. Since its launch in August 2021, the agri-food landscape has changed. The ongoing illegal war in Ukraine and the current cost of living crisis has put an extra spotlight on both food availability and food security. Our climate ambitions continue to be a major challenge for all.

The global food security situation is concerning, especially the impacts on developing countries. Ireland continues to support the EU Global Food Security Response, boosting sustainable production, resilience and food systems transformation. At the UN Food Systems Summit in 2021, Ireland committed to sharing its own journey in food systems transformation, its plans for the future, and to assist developing countries on their own journeys.

I am committed to leading the implementation of Food Vision 2030 as I know that its success will depend on effective implementation and oversight. I have established a High Level Implementation Committee and have already chaired five meetings in 2022. I am pleased to say that implementation of Food Vision 2030 is already under way, with many of its actions commenced, including important work on environmental sustainability in the dairy and beef sectors, which are being progressed through specific stakeholder groups.



It is only by working together as a sector, with all of the stakeholders having a voice and playing a role, that we can progress and meet our challenges and make the most of our opportunities.

I believe Food Vision 2030 provides a vision for a dynamic, sustainable and innovative agri-food sector ready to adapt and to embrace change for a more sustainable future. I am confident that, with Food Vision 2030 as a strategic framework, Ireland's agri-food sector will achieve its ambition to become a world leader in sustainable food systems and will continue to contribute to national, EU and global food security.



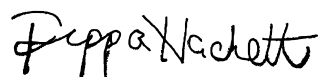
**Charlie McConalogue TD**

Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine



**Minister of State  
for Land Use and  
Biodiversity**

Food Vision aims for a climate-smart, environmentally sustainable agri-food sector. In the coming years to 2030, Ireland will work towards a climate-neutral food system encompassing emissions reductions; carbon sequestration; and improved biodiversity, water quality and air quality. We will continue to help farmers to play their part in this transition in a way that can bolster their financial and economic sustainability. Together we can achieve better ways of working, by embracing new, diversified systems of agriculture, including forestry and organics, meeting standards required for greater premiumisation that can offer higher market returns and rewarding farmers for the delivery of a range of eco-system services.



**Senator Pippa Hackett**

Minister of State at the Department of  
Agriculture, Food and the Marine



**Minister of State  
for Research and  
Development, Farm  
Safety, and New Market  
Development**

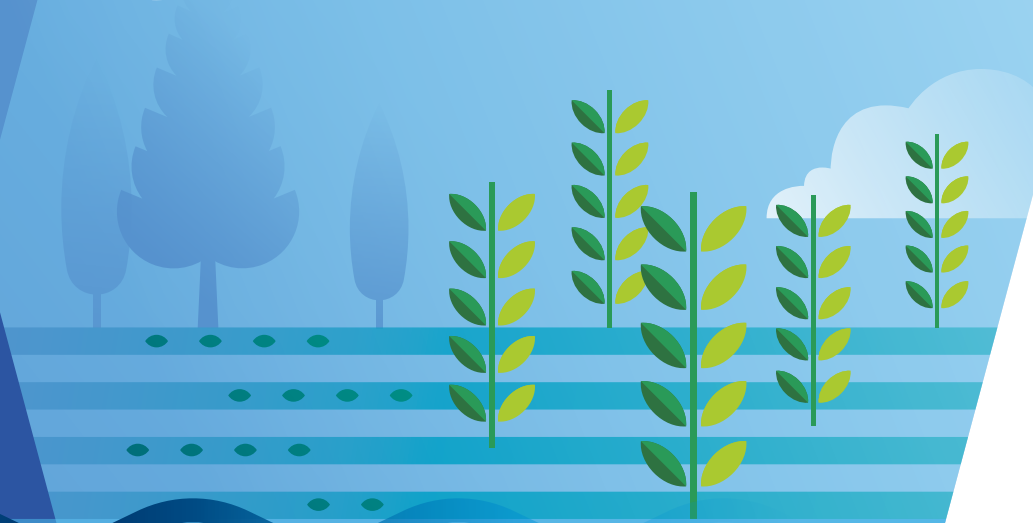
Food Vision 2030 sets out an ambitious vision for the decade ahead. Adopting an integrated food systems approach will not only deliver safe, nutritious, and high-value food but also significant benefits for the Irish agri-food sector. Along with resilient primary producers, Food Vision 2030's third mission is the bedrock on which the agri-food sector is built. By prioritising coherent food and health policies we can develop market and trade opportunities both at home and abroad. This will be to the benefit of primary producers, the rural communities in which they live, and the wider industry. Our goal of continued improvement and development in agriculture will be enabled through Food Vision's fourth mission focussed on the people who make up our sector, research, innovation, and technology.



**Martin Heydon TD**

Minister of State at the Department of  
Agriculture, Food and the Marine

# Chapter 1: Introduction and Background



# Introduction

**The overall aim of Food Vision 2030 is for Ireland to become a “World Leader in Sustainable Food Systems” over the next decade, delivering significant benefits for the Irish agri-food sector, for Irish society and the environment. To meet the ambitious objectives set out in Food Vision 2030, the sector, along with the relevant public bodies and society generally, will have to make significant changes and overcome significant challenges.**

Launched in August 2021, implementation of Food Vision 2030 is well underway and important work has commenced on many of its actions. While the detailed actions are important, just as importantly, Food Vision 2030 provides a framework of four missions and 22 goals, within which the sector can progress towards better economic, environmental and social sustainability. The aim of this Annual Report is to give an overview of progress to date and highlight some of the key achievements within each of the four missions.

A more detailed report, describing progress on each of the 218 actions contained within Food Vision 2030, was submitted to the High-Level Implementation Committee (HLIC) in November 2022, and is published on [gov.ie - Food Vision 2030 – A World Leader in Sustainable Food Systems \(www.gov.ie\)](https://www.gov.ie/publications-and-resources/publication/food-vision-2030-a-world-leader-in-sustainable-food-systems).

This Annual Report also provides an update on the implementation and monitoring framework, including the work of the HLIC and the work of the Environmental Working Sub-Group (EWSG). The significant environmental challenges facing the sector are highlighted by the EWSG and the Environmental Protection Agency.

Finally, this report provides some of the many examples of how Food Vision 2030 was the focus of international engagements since its launch. Many of the challenges that we face are not unique to Ireland, and we must learn from others where we can. It is only by working together as a sector, networking with international partners, and utilising the knowledge and collective power of our stakeholders, that we will overcome our challenges and make the most of our opportunities.



## Background

**In late 2019, a Committee with 32 members representative of the Irish agri-food sector, and chaired by Tom Arnold, was established and tasked with developing the agri-food strategy to 2030. Their terms of reference were to outline the vision and key objectives, with associated actions, required to ensure the economic, environmental and social sustainability of the agri-food sector in the decade ahead. The committee held thirteen meetings and a final strategy was agreed and published by the Irish Government in August 2021.**

Food Vision 2030 is a ten-year stakeholder-led strategy for the Irish agri-food sector (taken to include primary agriculture, horticulture, food and drink processing and manufacturing, fisheries, aquaculture and fish processing, forestry and forestry processing and the equine sector).

## The Vision

Ireland will become a world leader in Sustainable Food Systems (SFS) over the next decade. This will deliver significant benefits for the Irish agri-food sector itself, for Irish society and the environment.

In demonstrating the Irish agri-food sector meets the highest standards of sustainability – economic, environmental, and social – this will also provide the basis for the future competitive advantage of the sector.

By adopting an integrated food systems approach, Ireland will seek to become a global leader of innovation for sustainable food and agriculture systems, producing safe, nutritious, and high-value food that tastes great, while protecting and enhancing our natural and cultural resources and contributing to vibrant rural and coastal communities and the national economy.

## Missions

To realise this vision, Food Vision 2030 has adopted four high level missions and 22 goals for the agri-food sector to work towards in the period to 2030.





# Chapter 2:

## Progress to Date and Key Achievements



**To meet the ambitious objectives set out in Food Vision 2030, Ireland's agri-food sector, along with Government and society, will have to make significant changes.**

There are seven Goals in Mission 1 that aim to deliver a climate-neutral food system by 2050, with verifiable progress achieved by 2030 (as set in environmental legislation), encompassing emissions reductions, carbon sequestration, improvements in air quality, restoration and enhancement of biodiversity, improvements in water quality, development of diverse forests, enhanced seafood sustainability, exploring the bioeconomy and strengthening Origin Green. Food Vision 2030 acknowledges that in general, future environmental targets are likely to be set by legislation and commits to participating in the various target-setting processes with a view to the ultimate commitment to be climate neutral by 2050.

There are four Goals in Mission 2, which involve improving the competitiveness and productivity of primary producers, increasing the creation of value and distributing it fairly, introducing greater diversification

in production systems and incomes, and improving the social sustainability of primary producers across areas such as generational renewal, gender balance, health and safety, mental health and wellbeing and rural development.

There are four Goals in Mission 3 that aim to prioritise coherent food and health policies for better health outcomes, enhance consumer trust in our food system, create value add through insight, innovation and product differentiation, and to develop market and trade opportunities both at home and abroad.

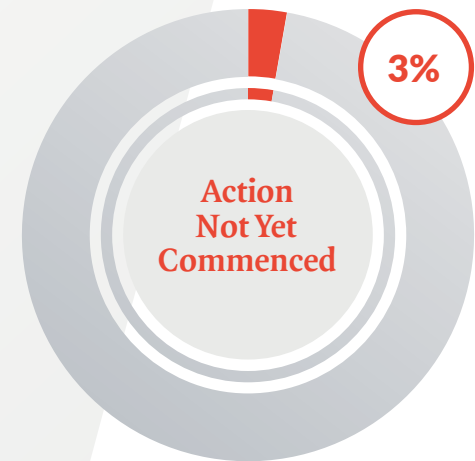
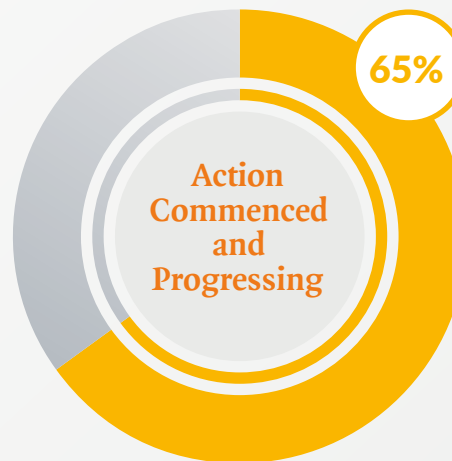
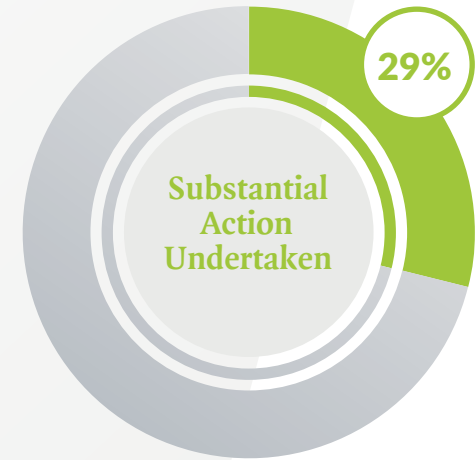
There are seven Goals in Mission 4, which are relevant to all other Missions and will act as key enablers. They include moving to a challenge-focused innovation system, having a strategic approach to funding R&D, developing dynamic knowledge exchange practices, enhancing the use of technology and data, improving competitiveness and resilience, attracting and nurturing diverse and inclusive talent, and improving policy coherence in Sustainable Food Systems between Ireland's domestic policy and its development cooperation and foreign policy.



## Overview of Progress

Food Vision 2030 was launched in August 2021 and contains four missions, 22 goals and 218 actions for the agri-food sector to work towards in the period to 2030.

To the end of 2022, six actions are now complete, and the targets have been achieved, 64 actions have substantial action undertaken, 142 actions have commenced and are progressing, and six actions have not yet commenced.







# Mission 1

## A Climate Smart, Environmentally Sustainable Agri-Food Sector



Target  
Achieved



Substantial Action  
Undertaken



Action Commenced  
and Progressing



Action Not Yet  
Commenced



# Key Achievements

## Agri-Climate Rural Environment Scheme (ACRES)

**Mission 1, Goal 2, Action 2:**  
*Put in place more targeted agri-environmental schemes under the next Rural Development Programme (RDP) to protect and enhance Ireland's habitats and species.*



**Agri-Climate Rural Environment Scheme (ACRES) is Ireland's new agri-environment climate scheme which forms part of Ireland's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) Strategic Plan for the period 2023-2027.**

This new €1.5 billion flagship scheme, which is the largest amount ever committed to an agri-environment scheme, is farmer-friendly aiming to help address biodiversity decline while delivering an income support for farm families in Ireland.

The intake into the Scheme will be phased, with at least two tranches. Tranche 1 of ACRES opened for applications on the 17<sup>th</sup> October 2022.

The scheme has two approaches, ACRES General and ACRES Co-operation. ACRES General is available nationally to those outside of high priority geographical areas and offers a range of measures (both prescription and result-based). ACRES Co-operation is available to farmers in defined high priority geographical areas. There are eight ACRES Co-operation Project ('CP') zones.

The scheme has been designed to contribute significantly to achieving improved biodiversity, climate, air and water quality outcomes, through both multi-functional prescription and results-based actions. An underlying principle of ACRES is the location of the right action in the right place to maximise and enhance the contribution of actions to these objectives.

# Origin Green Gold Membership

**Mission 1, Goal 7, Action 1:**  
*Promote and encourage participation in the new Origin Green Gold Membership, thus working towards higher levels of ambition.*



The third year of the annual Origin Green Gold Member event was held in 2022. Gold Memberships

were awarded to 59 companies recognising the exceptional annual performance achieved on their sustainability targets in areas such as raw material sourcing; water and energy efficiency; waste reduction; packaging; and social sustainability based on the assessment of its independent verification authority, Mabbett.

Since the establishment of the awards in 2020, over 130 Irish food and drink companies have been awarded Gold Membership. The number of awardees has increased year on year, highlighting the meaningful focus that companies are giving to their sustainability efforts in response to the urgency of climate change and the need for sustainable food production. In 2022, three companies celebrated being recognised for their third consecutive year of Origin Green Gold Membership - Butler's Chocolates in Dublin, Norfish in Co Donegal, and Slaney Foods in Wexford.

The aim of Origin Green and its members is to inspire the entire Irish food and drink industry towards sustainable production. Awardees of Gold Membership came from a wide range of areas of the industry. The assessment of Gold Membership allows smaller companies to be recognised alongside large organisations for the strength of their sustainability achievements.

Since the inception of the Gold Membership in 2020, it has strengthened the ambition of members and encouraged Irish food and drink companies to increase their sustainability



efforts in order to differentiate themselves from the competition in the marketplace.

Case studies of all Gold members are published on the [Origin Green website](#) to recognise their efforts. Members are also equipped with a Gold Member plaque and Gold Member logo to showcase their company's achievements to customers and stakeholders through their websites, social media and tradeshow. Bord Bia promotes Gold Members through a variety of ways including the award ceremony and press releases – national and regional, adverts and social media content.



## Green Transition Fund

**Mission 1, Goal 7, Action 10:**  
*Increase focus on awareness  
building of sustainability  
supports among Enterprise  
Ireland's Food & Drinks clients.*

**The transition to a low carbon economy and achievement of a 51% reduction in emissions by 2030 across all sectors of the economy represents a whole-of-society challenge.**



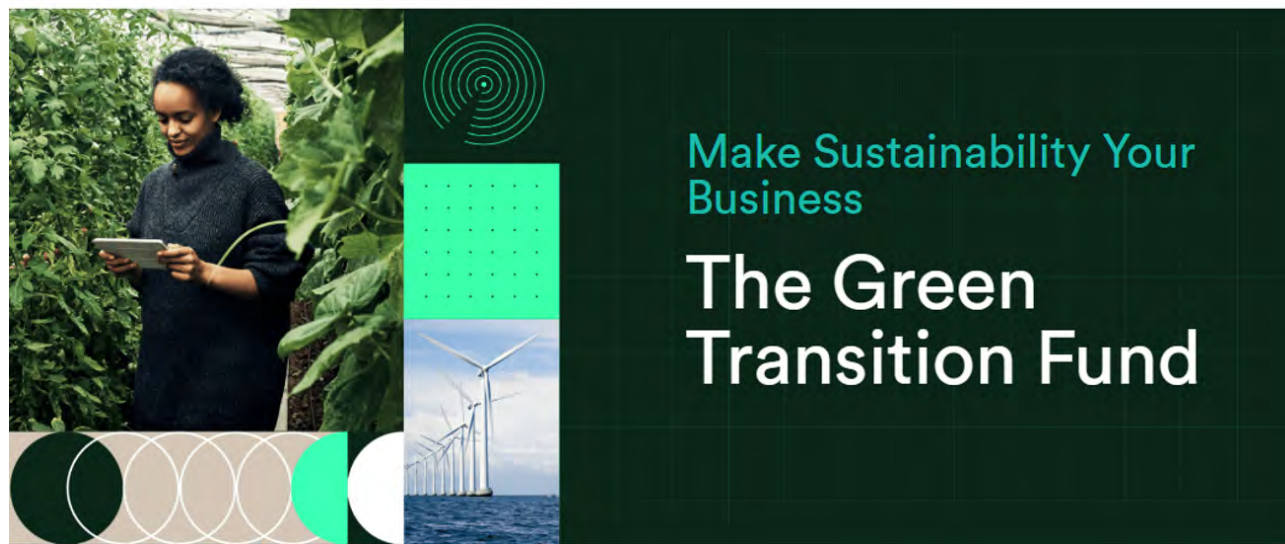
Enterprise, along with all other sectors, must fundamentally change to adapt to this challenge and to realise the many opportunities that this transformation represents.

As part of Ireland's National Recovery and Resilience Plan funded by the European Union, the Green Transition Fund is supporting the decarbonisation of Irish enterprises.

The Green Transition Fund supports companies across each of the different aspects of their decarbonisation journey – from initial planning and capability building to investment, research and innovation. It is designed to support companies, whether starting out or already on the journey, to take action now and get ready for the low carbon, more resource efficient economy of the future.

The fund is comprised of two separate streams, The Climate Planning Fund for Business and The Enterprise Emissions Reduction Investment Fund.

Since the fund was launched in June 2022, 85 companies have been supported up to the end of 2022. Enterprise Ireland Sustainability & Climate Team presented to external and internal stakeholders such as, Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) Dairy & Nutrition SWG, Origin Green members, DPTC, SOLAS, e Heat conference, Local Enterprise Offices events, and to Enterprise Ireland Food Division Development Advisors, Local Enterprise Office & Údarás staff to create greater awareness of the supports. Individual meetings were held with client companies in the Food and Beverage sector (and wider) on their sustainability plans and advised on Green Transition Fund supports.



# Irish Whiskey Sustainable Together Roadmap

## **Mission 1, Goal 1, Action 8:**

*The food and beverage industry will continue to drive down GHG emissions and develop zero waste approaches.*

**In May 2022, the Irish Whiskey Association published a roadmap to make Irish distilleries the most sustainable in the world.**



The roadmap was supported by enterprise agencies both North and South of the island.

The Irish whiskey industry will lead the way in making Ireland the home of the world's most sustainable distilleries and whiskey brands. The roadmap sets out how the industry will reduce its environmental and carbon impact, strengthen its role in the regenerative and circular economy, and deliver a positive impact for communities.

Some of the measures outlined in the roadmap include:

- Reducing water usage – The roadmap supports the principle of 'less-water-in, less-effluent-out' and sets a target of reducing the volumes of water used per litre of whiskey distilled.
- Supporting Irish farming – The Irish whiskey industry purchases over 100,000 tonnes of Irish barley and malt annually and the roadmap commits to buying even more from Irish farmers.

- Supporting the circular economy – Every year, over 350,000 tonnes of co-products from Irish whiskey production (spent grain/pot ale) are reused to become high-quality animal feed and the roadmap commits to strengthening our place in the circular economy.
- Energy efficiency – The roadmap proposes a signature project to support innovation on energy efficiency within the industry. This will involve members sharing best practice on energy efficiency; and it will include state agencies and key stakeholders to support implementation.
- Tree planting - The Association has nominated Trees on the Land as their all-island tree-planting partner, allowing members to fund tree-planting – which will be comprised of at least 50% oak trees – through a consistent expert programme.
- All-Ireland Pollinator Plan – The Association has signed up to support the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan (AIPP) and will be working with the AIPP to support members to implement actions on distillery and maturation sites.



# All-Ireland Pollinator Plan for 2021-2025

## **Mission 1, Goal 2, Action 7:**

*Ensure the necessary actions for agriculture are included in the new All-Ireland Pollinator Plan and that they are disseminated to farmers. Appropriate land management practices are essential to conserve pollinators in Ireland.*

**The All-Ireland Pollinator Plan for 2021-2025 is a new five-year road map that aims to help bees, other pollinating insects and our wider biodiversity.**

The new Plan is more ambitious than the first (2015-2020) with more partners coming together to deliver more actions. It is about encouraging a better way of managing the whole landscape to permanently support struggling biodiversity.



The Plan has 186 actions spread across six objectives. It was developed by a 16-member steering group who provide oversight, with implementation coordinated by the National Biodiversity Data Centre.

Responsibility for delivering the actions contained in the Plan is shared between the main partner organisations. The Plan does not have a project budget. Instead, those organisations who have committed to taking action, agree to fund those actions themselves. The All-Ireland Pollinator Plan is voluntary.

The six objectives of the plan are summarised below.

- 1 Making farmland pollinator friendly
- 2 Making public land pollinator friendly
- 3 Making private land pollinator friendly
- 4 All-Ireland Honeybee Strategy
- 5 Conserving rare pollinators
- 6 Strategic coordination of the Plan

## Mission 2

### Viable & Resilient Primary Producers with Enhanced Wellbeing



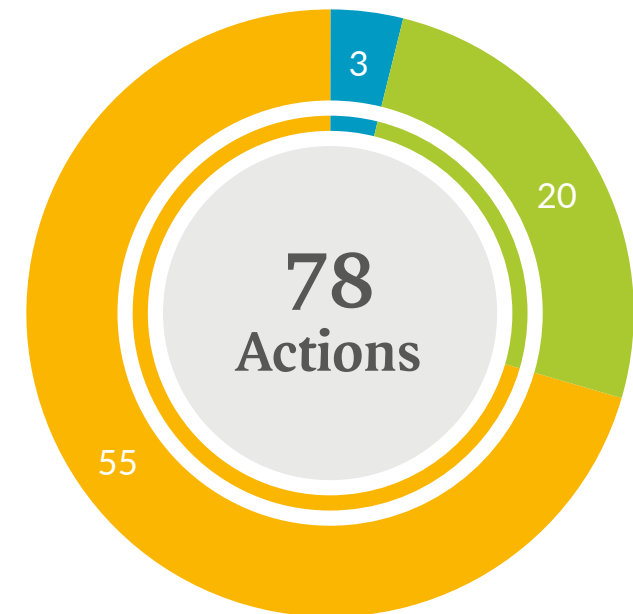
Target  
Achieved



Substantial  
Action  
Undertaken



Action  
Commenced  
and Progressing



# Key Achievements

## Seafood Taskforce Report

**Mission 2, Goal 1, Action 34:**  
*The Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine has set up a Seafood Sector Taskforce involving seafood industry representatives and other stakeholders to provide recommendations on the appropriate measures that will best support the sector and the local coastal communities.*

The report, “Navigating Change – The way forward for our Seafood Sector in the wake of the EU/UK Trade & Cooperation Agreement” was published in October 2021.

The departure of the United Kingdom from the European Union and the Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA) required a collective response from the seafood businesses and coastal communities that are impacted and the full range of State bodies with a role to play in the response.

The Seafood Taskforce, established by the Minister for Agriculture Food and the Marine, examined the impacts on the fishing sector and coastal communities of the TCA between the European Union and the United Kingdom. Membership of the Task Force included the representatives of the fishing sector (Producer organisations, Cooperatives, Inshore, Aquaculture and Processing) as well as key State Agencies (Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM), Bord Iascaigh Mhara (BIM), Údarás na Gaeltachta, Enterprise Ireland, Bord Bia, Tourism Ireland), local development groups and the City & County Managers Association.

Prior to publication, the Task Force met on fourteen occasions and received over 72 submissions and communications from its members, as well as a further 27 submissions through public consultation.

The report contains recommendations that will be examined with particular regard to available funds and to the eligibility of the recommended measures for funding under the Brexit Adjustment Reserve, the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund and with other relevant funding sources and with regard to State Aid rules and the Public Spending Code.





# Food Vision Dairy Group Report

**Mission 2, Goal 1, Action 3:**  
*Under the auspices of the 2030 process, produce a detailed plan by Q2 2022 to manage the sustainable environmental footprint of the dairy sector.*



**The Food Vision Dairy Group was established in late January 2022 and tasked with producing a detailed plan to manage the sustainable environmental footprint of the dairy sector.**

The Final Report was submitted to the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine on the 25<sup>th</sup> of October 2022 and sets out a list of 19 recommended actions for the dairy sector. In considering climate-positive measures it is necessary to distinguish between direct impact measures on Greenhouse Gases (GHGs) which can be counted in the national agriculture inventory and enabling actions which, while outside the inventory, support and enable the adoption of the direct measures.

Direct impact measures recommended include reducing chemical nitrogen usage, replacing CAN fertiliser with protected urea, developing methane mitigating feed technologies, developing methane mitigating breeding strategies, a voluntary exit/reduction scheme and adopting a common co-op charter on sustainable milk production.

Enabling measures identified include establishing robust methodologies for measuring and monitoring GHG emissions and removals at farm level; commissioning a study on a carbon farming framework; increasing investment in climate change research and knowledge transfer and establishing an Agriculture and Climate Change Research Liaison Group; designing a climate action communications strategy; increasing adoption of low emissions slurry spreading; improving nitrogen use efficiency; encouraging clover and multi-species sward adoption; milk recording; developing energy diversification opportunities; strengthening co-op sustainability programmes; introducing animal health measures listed in the Climate Action Plan; enhanced integration of the dairy and beef sectors and supporting the role of young farmers and women in agriculture.

The report is being considered by the Minister and many of the actions have already been folded into the Climate Action Plan 2023 implementation process. The Group will now move on to progressing the other important actions for the dairy sector set out in Food Vision 2030.

# Food Vision Beef and Sheep Group Report

**Mission 2, Goal 1, Action 14:**  
*Under the auspices of the 2030 process, produce a detailed plan by Q2 2022 to manage the sustainable environmental footprint of the beef sector.*

**The Food Vision Beef and Sheep Group was established in June 2022 and tasked with producing a detailed plan to manage the sustainable environmental footprint of the sector.**

The Final Report was submitted to the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine on the 30th of November 2022 and sets out a list of 21 recommended actions for the sector. Similar to the Food Vision Dairy Group report, both direct impact measures and enabling actions were recommended.



Direct impact measures include improving liveweight performance for beef cattle, reducing the age of first calving of suckler beef cows, developing methane mitigating feed technologies, replacing CAN fertiliser with protected urea, reducing chemical nitrogen usage, increasing the area under organic beef production, developing methane mitigating breeding strategies, a voluntary diversification scheme and a voluntary extensification scheme.

Enabling measures include developing a package of supports to incentivise the implementation of measures in the reports; establishing robust methodologies for measuring and monitoring GHG emissions and removals at farm level; commissioning a study on a carbon farming framework; improving nitrogen use efficiency; encouraging clover

and multi-species swards adoption; increasing adoption of low emission slurry spreading; introducing animal health measures listed in the Climate Action Plan; developing energy diversification opportunities; designing a climate action communications strategy; increasing investment in climate change research and knowledge transfer; establishing an Agriculture and Climate Change Research Liaison Group; enhanced integration of the dairy and beef sectors and supporting the role of young farmers and women in agriculture.

The report is being considered by the Minister and many of the actions have already been folded into the Climate Action Plan 2023 implementation process. The Group will now move on to progressing the other important actions for the drystock sector set out in Food Vision 2030.

# Teagasc Sustainability Reporting

## **Mission 2, Goal 4, Action 1:**

*Teagasc Sustainability Reporting should broaden to incorporate issues such as: generational renewal and collaborative farming models; gender balance; diversity and inclusion; education and training; and health and safety (including incidence of farm accidents, stress and rates of isolation). The new 'Whole Farm Sustainability Planning Service' to be offered by Teagasc should include social sustainability measures.*

## **Work on the development of sustainability metrics through the Teagasc National Farm Survey (NFS) continues. There are three main strands to the work.**

Firstly, the number of farms surveyed was increased for the year 2022, with the once-off inclusion of about 200 small farms and about 50 organic farms to the sample. This will allow the derivation of economic, environmental and social metrics for small farms and organic farms, to complement the sustainability metrics already produced in the annual National Farm Survey. Metrics for 2022 will be available later in 2023. Consideration will need to be given to how and when further small farm and organic farm surveys would take place.

Secondly, methodological updates are being made, particularly with respect to existing environmental farm level metrics, to ensure that their derivation in the Sustainability Report remains consistent with the approach that is used to calculate emissions at a national inventory level.

Thirdly, the range of social sustainability metrics considered within the NFS are currently under review. Although data has been collected on a broad range of these issues on an ad-hoc basis, there may now be a requirement to include some of these metrics on a more frequent basis. Relevant thematic areas identified within Food Vision 2030 are generational renewal, gender balance, education and training, health and safety, mental health and wellbeing and broader rural development. The feasibility of collecting such data more routinely is being investigated at present.



# Supporting Farmer Wellbeing

**Mission 2, Goal 4, Action 19:**  
*Continued roll-out of actions in the Teagasc/Mental Health Ireland manual 'Coping with The Pressures of Farming' by both public and private advisory service, and the National LGBTI+ Inclusion Strategy and the National Wellbeing Framework and engage with the Roadmap for Social Inclusion.*

Teagasc undertook a range of knowledge transfer and research activities during 2022 that support farmers to build resilience and thereby protect wellbeing and mental health.

Key activities included the distribution of the 'Coping with the Pressures of Farming' booklet both online and in print.

Health messages were promoted in print and on social media and at events. A mental health and wellbeing seminar was held as part of the DAFM-funded BeSafe project. This event brought together Irish and UK based researchers, policy makers, EIP Agri groups and community organisations, to present the results of ongoing studies in this area and discuss practical initiatives.

A farmer mental health booklet and video was prepared by the Farm Safety Partnership to the Health and Safety Authority and was launched and promoted at the Teagasc National Beef Event.

Teagasc research publications established that 13% of farmers experience 'poor' wellbeing (Van Doorn *et al.*, 2022), whilst the most common stressors include weather, workload and finance issue (Brennan *et al.*, 2022).

Other research found that farmers welcome support for wellbeing issues from farm advisors, but that advisors require additional training to deal with these issues (Hammersley *et al.*, 2021 & 2022).

Finally, Teagasc successfully bid to lead a multi-actor EU Horizon Europe consortium that will undertake research into farmer health and wellbeing over the next four years.





## Mission 3

Food which is Safe,  
Nutritious and Appealing,  
Trusted and Valued at  
Home and Abroad



Substantial  
Action  
Undertaken



Action  
Commenced  
and Progressing



Action  
Not Yet  
Commenced



## Key Achievements

### Capital Investment Scheme

#### ***Mission 3, Goal 4, Action 7:***

*Tailor new product development to the needs of trade customers and consumers, particularly those in high value markets and market segments, having regard for new consumer buying habits such as online shopping and home delivery.*

**On the 28<sup>th</sup> December 2020, the €100 million Capital Investment Scheme for the Processing and Marketing of Agricultural Products was announced.**

This is a tripartite initiative between the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment, DAFM, and Enterprise Ireland. The fund, which will be administered by Enterprise Ireland, will provide support for value-add projects with Annex I status as verified by DAFM.

The aim of this fund is to advance product and/or market diversification among primary food processing companies and strengthen the resilience of companies vulnerable to the external trading environment. The investment will help the industry to move up the value chain and to gain access to new markets. It will benefit farmers and the wider industry. Expanding current markets and increasing sales of higher value-add products in the global marketplace will help Ireland become a world leader in sustainable food systems.

In November 2021, €70 million was announced in the first call of this scheme to support 22 strategic projects in the meat and dairy sectors across the country. The funding received will enable these companies to focus on sustainability, competitiveness and innovation to grow existing and new markets.

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2022, the second call for applications under the Government's €100m Scheme for the agri-food sector was launched. Up to €30m is available under this second call, which is being administered by Enterprise Ireland. It is open to large, medium and small enterprises, engaged in the processing and marketing of primary meat and dairy products.



## Domestic and Local Market Supports

**Mission 3, Goal 4, Action 11:**  
*Promote short, efficient routes to market that connect small food producers to the consumer and provide advisory, investment and marketing support for those who wish to diversify into new products.*

### Supports for Local, Small and Micro Food Businesses/Producers

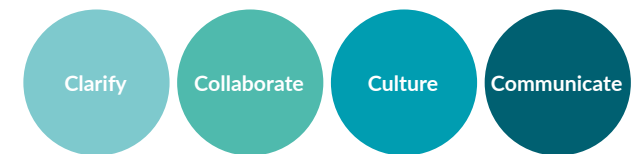
**In October 2022, DAFM in conjunction with Bord Bia, co-hosted a webinar on Supports for Local, Small and Micro Food Businesses/Producers.**

The webinar included a presentation on a report commissioned by Bord Bia which examined how other countries have been successful in developing routes to market for family farm producers, as well as arrangements in Ireland.

The webinar gave state bodies the opportunity to promote the services they provide. Local small food producers and businesses, with plans to set up or diversify their farm business, were given the opportunity to hear about the supports available to them.

The webinar demonstrated a cross government/agency approach to positive cooperation in the delivery of supports for local food producers/businesses.

### Guiding Success for Family Farm Producers



The findings of the Bord Bia report will be examined by DAFM, who will consult with other Departments and Agencies, with a view to assessing how any improvements in delivering supports can be achieved.

The webinar, including the findings from the Bord Bia commissioned report, is available to view at the below link.

[gov.ie](http://www.gov.ie) - Presentations from webinar on Supports for Local, Small and Micro Food Businesses/Producers ([www.gov.ie](http://www.gov.ie))

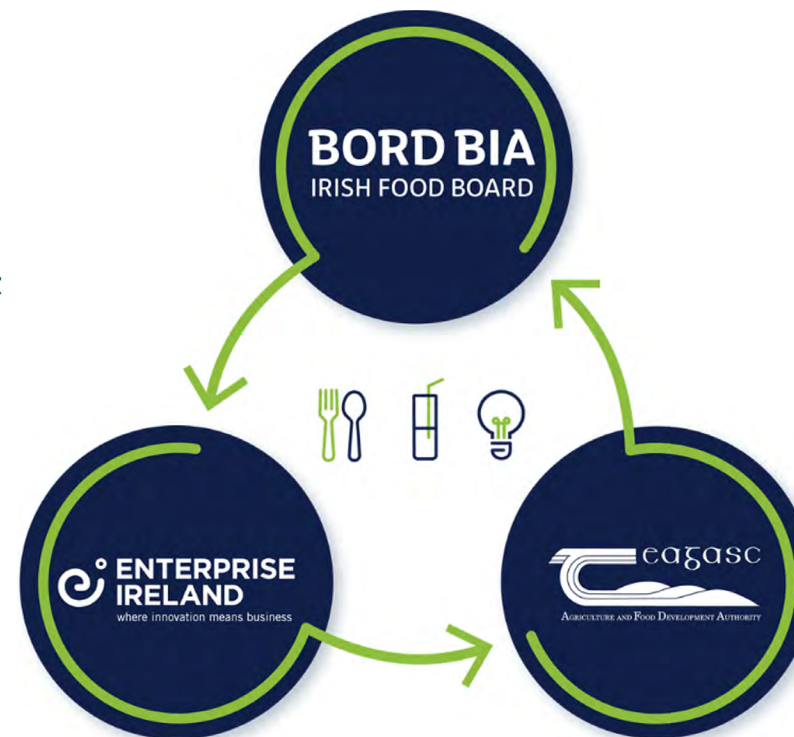


**Mission 3, Goal 4, Action 13:**  
*Support small and artisan food producers to develop, market and sell their products into the local and wider domestic markets.*

## Food Works

**Food Works is an accelerator programme for high potential, ambitious food and drink start-ups. The mission is to support the growth and development of the next generation of scalable, export driven Irish food and drink businesses.**

The Food Works programme is a collaborative initiative run by three state agencies. The programme is designed to feed ambition and drive innovation in the Irish food and drink sector.



Food Works facilitates up to 10 companies each year. In 2022, 9 companies participated in the programme. In 2023, Bord Bia will host an event at its global hub, for Food Works participants and for buyers from both retail and foodservice sectors.

Bord Bia, Enterprise Ireland and Teagasc have been supporting the rapid scaling and growth of innovative Irish food and drink start-ups through Food Works since 2012. Food Works combines the resources and expertise of each agency. This unique opportunity provides Irish food and drink start-ups with the comprehensive support they need to grow their business.

## Bord Bia Programmes



**Food Academy** collaborates with small businesses on their journey from the start-up phase right through to getting products on SuperValu shelves. There are over 300 Food Academy producers in SuperValu stores. Through workshops, mentoring and the opportunity to pitch to SuperValu store owners this is a unique opportunity. Bord Bia, SuperValu and the Local Enterprise Office collaborate to ensure every opportunity is available to grow businesses.



**Kick Start** is a supplier development programme run by Lidl in conjunction with Bord Bia. The aim of the initiative is to give small Irish food and drink suppliers the chance to promote products and to grow their business through Lidl stores across the country. Successful suppliers can secure a listing in their twice-yearly events. Suppliers gain invaluable experience through this program on the Lidl ways of working. Producers on the programme will participate in a tailored workshop to support them in having the tools to have a successful product launch. In 2020, the programme saw over €1 million worth of Irish products from over 60 producers on shelf.



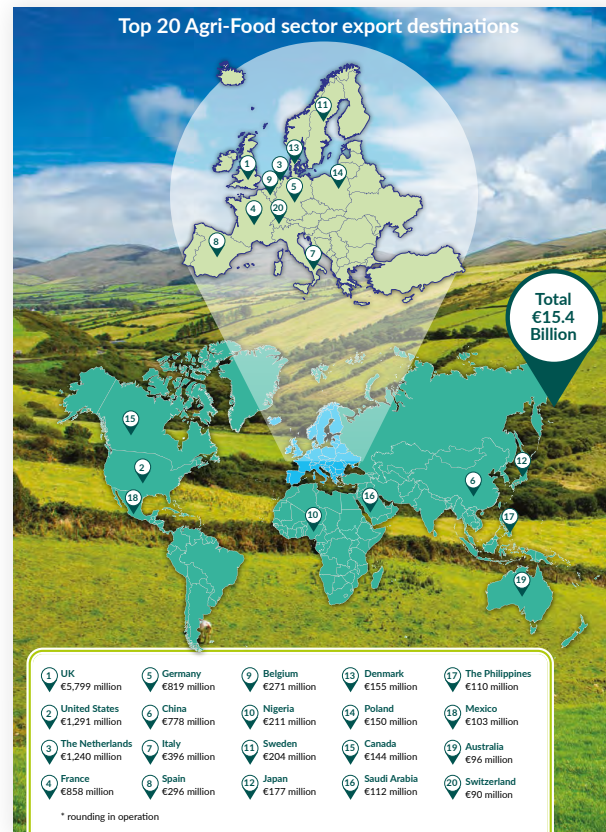
**Grow with Aldi** is a supplier development programme to help the very best small to medium sized Irish suppliers in building their brand. The mentor scheme is undertaken in conjunction with Bord Bia. Altogether, 196 Irish suppliers have taken part in the Grow with Aldi programme since it began in 2018. This year, 69 suppliers will launch 135 products in all 145 Aldi stores nationwide as part of the special buy promotion and of these, five suppliers will win a core listing for a 12-month period and two further participants are picked for a seasonal launch in October. These artisan Irish suppliers have been sourced across chill, ambient and freezer categories. Those suppliers who were chosen for a core range listing will receive mentoring and development through a number of workshops, such as commercial management and social media marketing followed by a number of individual mentoring sessions.

## Market Access and Development

**Mission 3, Goal 4, Action 4:**  
*Intensify the programme of Ministerial trade missions to priority international markets.*

Trade missions play a crucial role in market development, not just in terms of the valuable opportunity that they provide for businesses to make contacts and develop relationships, but also in terms of their usefulness in developing political and official contacts, which are often just as important in facilitating business development and resolving market access issues.

Trade Missions are an essential component of the suite of measures that are deployed in efforts to develop more opportunities for Irish agri-food exporters.



### Agri-Food Exports 2021

#### Annual Review and Outlook for Agriculture, Food and the Marine

[gov.ie - Annual Review and Outlook for Agriculture, Food and the Marine 2022 \(www.gov.ie\)](https://www.gov.ie/publications-and-resources/publication/annual-review-and-outlook-for-agriculture-food-and-the-marine-2022)

Food Vision 2030 and the promotion of sustainable food systems is an important component of these visits. The trade missions programme intensified in 2022 to advance the key priority of accessing, growing, and developing new and existing international markets for Ireland's quality food products.

### United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia (February 2022)

The United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia trade mission focused in Dubai on Expo2020 and GulFood, one of the world's largest food fairs. Also included was a two-day trade mission to Saudi Arabia. The visit by Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Charlie McConalogue TD coincided with the commencement of the Food, Agriculture and Livelihoods week at EXPO 2020 in Dubai. The delegation, led by Minister McConalogue, held several Government-to-Government meetings in both countries as well as a wide range of trade promotion and commercial engagements with Irish suppliers and their customers.

## USA and Mexico (April 2022)

Minister McConalogue led a major agri-food trade mission to the United States of America (Chicago, Columbus, Ohio, and Washington D.C.) and Minister of State at the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Martin Heydon TD, led engagements in San Antonio, Texas and Mexico City.

Minister McConalogue and Tom Arnold, the Irish Government's Special Envoy for Food Systems, were keynote speakers in Washington D.C at a World Bank/Government of Ireland organised seminar on "Sustainable Food Systems: Nourishing the global population, meeting climate targets, and responding to the new context arising from the Ukraine crisis".

Minister Heydon visited Texas and Mexico with a key focus on consolidating and expanding our growing markets in the southwest US. The emphasis was to underline the strong credentials of Irish agri-food exports. Mexico is a potentially important export market for Irish pigmeat. Minister Heydon met with key stakeholders from the Mexican Government, retail, and hospitality sectors to help maximise

this opportunity for the Irish pig sector. Minister Heydon also launched an FAO project funded by his Department to support rural female entrepreneurs in the State of Jalisco in Mexico.

## Germany (July 2022)

Minister of State at the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Senator Pippa Hackett led a trade mission to Germany in July 2022 to promote the sale of Irish Organic Foods. The visit coincided with BIOFACH, the world's leading trade fair for organic produce, where Bord Bia hosted the Origin Green Ireland stand.

During the trade mission, the Minister supported Irish organic food companies as they met with international buyers. The Minister highlighted the export opportunities that exist for organic beef and lamb, but also noted that organic seafood exports from Ireland were valued at €98m in 2021 and provided an excellent example of the potential for developing a market for a quality organic product.

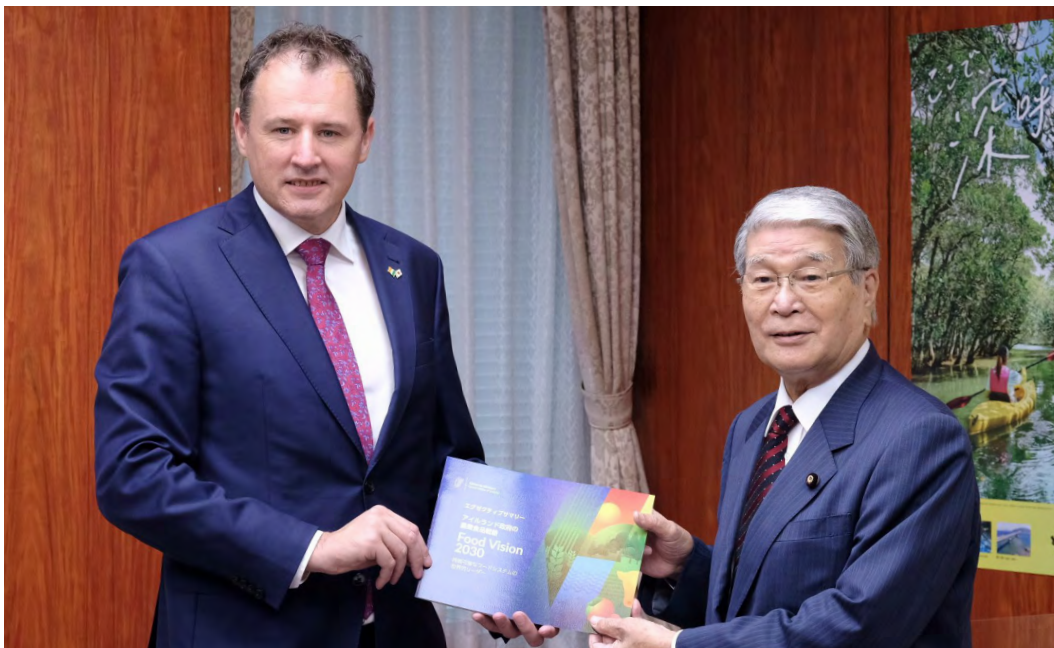
In addition to the BIOFACH exhibition, the Minister visited an organic farm with representatives of the Bavarian Government before travelling to Munich for meetings with retailers, processors, and the food service industry representatives to promote Irish organic food.

## Japan (August and September 2022)

Minister McConalogue led a trade mission to Japan in August/September 2022, which represented an opportunity to further promote Ireland's high quality, safe and sustainably produced food and drink products in Japan, Singapore, and the wider Southeast Asian premium markets.

While in Japan, Minister McConalogue held Government-to-Government meetings with his counterparts in Tokyo - Mr Tetsuro Nomura, Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and separately with Mr Katsunobu Kato, Minister of Health, Labour, and Welfare, to discuss a range of issues of mutual concern, as well as opportunities for further cooperation.





*Minister  
McConologue  
and Mr Tetsuro  
Nomura, Minister  
for Agriculture,  
Forestry and  
Fisheries, Japan*

A core objective of the trade mission was to enhance the awareness and reputation of Ireland in the region. To this end, the trade mission received coverage in over 150 media pieces with an advertising value equivalent of €4 million.

The trade mission also involved engagements with key stakeholders and important commercial partners in the Japanese food industry as well as a series of technical seminars to explain Ireland's quality, Origin Green-verified, food and drink offering.

## Singapore (August and September 2022)

Singapore is a critical regional hub in Southeast Asia for supply chains and a very important trading partner for Irish agri-food, with access to the Singaporean market granted for all meats. It is also an important growth market for the future of Irish spirit drink exports and for Irish Whiskey and Irish Cream Liqueur with total beverage exports to Singapore valued at €4.46m in 2021 (up 16% from €3.84m in 2020).

During the trade mission to Singapore, Minister McConologue launched the Irish participation in the Food Hotel Asia trade fair, the largest food and hospitality trade event of its kind in the region, attracting 80,000 visitors. The Minister held several high-level engagements with key trade customers of Irish food and drink in the region.

The Singapore leg of the trade mission concluded with Minister McConologue speaking at the celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Kerry Group, whose regional technology and innovation centre in Singapore represents a clear example of Ireland's role in leading the world on food innovation.

## Vietnam (August and September 2022)

The trade mission to Southeast Asia continued with a delegation to Vietnam, led by Minister Heydon. As with Japan and South Korea, a bilateral trade agreement is in place between the EU and Vietnam since entering into force on the 1<sup>st</sup> August 2020.

While there, Minister Heydon met with Vietnamese counterparts to progress Ireland's market access applications for beef.

Bord Bia officially launched the Vietnamese leg of its EU co-funded campaign promoting European dairy from Ireland. This saw the first trade seminar of the new 'European Dairy - Ireland, working with nature'

campaign in Hanoi, which introduced European dairy products from Ireland to Vietnamese distributors, importers and media representatives.



*From left to right - Mr Giovanni Pilato, The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), H.E John McCullagh, Ireland's Ambassador to Vietnam, Minister Martin Heydon TD, Minister of State at the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Remí Nono Womdim, FAO, David Butler, Sustainable Food Systems Ireland and Nguyen Song Ha, FAO*

The trade mission also saw the announcement that DAFM, Sustainable Food Systems Ireland (SFSI) and Vietnamese agri-food authorities will be embarking on a new phase of co-operation in agri-food from 2023. Minister Heydon announced that Ireland will work with Vietnamese and international counterparts to support Vietnam's journey in transforming its food system. The co-operation programme, funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs, will involve a series of relationships between Irish and Vietnamese partners, including State agencies, universities, and private sector over a five-year period. The objective is to support the country's food system transformation journey through joint research, capability-building, training, and educational linkages.

Additionally, the Department will provide funding support, through its support to the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the UN, for a pilot project on resilient livelihoods for rural women in the Northern Mountainous Region of Vietnam. This project will contribute to increasing access to resilient and sustainable agriculture value chains for ethnic minority women.

# The Roadmap for Food Reformulation in Ireland

**Mission 3, Goal 1, Action 4:**  
*Agree a stakeholder Roadmap for Food Product Reformulation.*

**The Reformulation Roadmap is a core element of Ireland's Obesity Policy and Action Plan setting targets for the reduction of the levels of calories, saturated fats, sugar, and salt in commonly eaten processed foods.**

The Food Reformulation Task Force is a strategic partnership between The Food Safety Authority of Ireland and Healthy Ireland at the Department of Health. The purpose of the Task Force is to implement the Roadmap for Food Product Reformulation in Ireland. It will help drive progress towards the targets to reduce calories, saturated fat, salt and sugar in everyday processed foods and drinks by working with industry and stakeholders.

Food companies who manufacture and supply foods that make the biggest contribution to the intake of target nutrients in the Irish population will be identified and food brands which are purchased in the largest volume will also be pinpointed. These companies will have the greatest impact on the success of reformulation in Ireland. Progress towards meeting the targets will be tracked from a baseline in 2015 and published in Task Force progress reports.

The Task Force has communicated targets and key food categories to retailers, manufacturers and catering food service industries. It has organised a Collaboration Workshop for food businesses on reformulating foods and drinks that contain less sugar, salt, saturated fat and calories. It has organised a social media and email awareness campaign on food reformulation to improve knowledge. A research paper library on food reformulation from across the Globe has also been created.

In terms of research, the sodium levels of snack foods have been analysed and this is published. In addition, the Task Force has



accessed and is currently analysing trends in the consumption of branded foods from the 40 priority food categories from 2017-2019, mapping how the levels of sugar, saturated fat, salt and energy (kcal) have changed over this time. Food label and nutrition composition information for 3,471 food products across five food categories (breakfast cereals, bread products, delicatessen meats and similar, fresh dairy products/deserts, soft drinks) was collected in the retail setting and is currently being organised into a summary report by the Task Force.



# Food Safety and Food Authenticity (FSFA) Strategy

**Mission 3, Goal 2, Action 1:**  
*Implement the 'Food Safety and Food Authenticity Strategy' action plan.*

**The Food Safety and Food Authenticity (FSFA) Strategy sets out a pathway to build on Ireland's excellent reputation as a producer of safe and authentic food.**

The central aim of the strategy is to harmonise controls within the agri-food sector. This in turn will facilitate deeper collaboration across Government and industry to enhance the safety of consumers both domestically and internationally.

To further progress the implementation of the FSFA strategy, the Technical Support Instrument (TSI) independent review is in the final stages of delivering a roadmap and digitalisation plan called "Implementation and Embedding of a Reform Programme for the Better Regulation of Food in Ireland". This project is supported under the Multiple Framework Contract for Structural Reforms in EU Member States and supported by the European Commission DG REFORM. The focus of this TSI project is DAFM, its internal structures and procedures, and its interactions with other organisations, entities, and agencies which also participate in Ireland's food safety and food authenticity system.

The implementation of the Food Safety and Food Authenticity Strategy action plan will continue throughout 2023. In completing the final three deliverables for this project, namely a Change Management Plan; a To-Be Framework; and a Digitalisation Plan, a roadmap will be presented to achieve a more coordinated approach to FSFA activities and to better understand internal and external stakeholders.



These deliverables, through robust key performance indicators (KPIs) and metrics will enhance consumer trust in our food system at home and abroad. The outputs will be published in Q1 2023 and the implementation roadmap will continue throughout 2023.



# Ireland's Second One Health National Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance 2021-2025 (iNAP2)

**Mission 3, Goal 2, Action 4:**  
*Publish a new National Action Plan for Antimicrobial Resistance (iNAP), co-sponsored by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine and the Department of Health, to replace the current plan which expired in 2020.*

**Ireland's Second One Health National Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance 2021-2025 (iNAP2)** provides a strategic roadmap for continued action to address the serious global public health challenge presented by antimicrobial resistance (AMR).

Given that AMR is a One Health issue that impacts human health, animal health and welfare and also our shared environment, this new plan continues the multi-stakeholder collaborative process across the three sectors. Preventing AMR is central to ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being at all ages. AMR has implications for global health, food sustainability and security, environmental wellbeing, socio-economic development whilst also representing a significant financial burden.

iNAP2 strengthens Ireland's commitment to the international One Health approach for AMR and provides an ambitious framework for action to 2025 to drive change for citizens.



The 'One Health One Welfare' concept promotes a "whole of society" approach which recognises that the health and well-being of people is connected to the health and welfare of animals, biodiversity, and the environment.

The goal of the 'One Health One Welfare' concept is to encourage multidisciplinary collaborative efforts across different sectors such as health, agriculture and the environment to achieve the best health outcomes for people and animals.

## Mission 4

An Innovative, Competitive  
& Resilient Agri-Food  
Sector, Driven by  
Technology and Talent



Target  
Achieved



Substantial Action  
Undertaken



Action Commenced  
and Progressing



Action Not Yet  
Commenced



## Key Achievements

### UN Food Systems Summit 2021



**United Nations**



**Food Systems Summit 2021**

**Mission 4, Goal 7, Action 5:**  
*Ireland will play a leadership role at the Food Systems Summit in September 2021.*

**A Food Systems Summit (FSS) was convened in New York in September 2021 to raise global awareness and to land global commitments and actions that transform food systems to resolve not only hunger, but to reduce diet-related disease and heal the planet.**

This Summit was a key part of the Decade of Action to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Ireland had been actively engaged in the preparations for the Summit. As part of those preparations DAFM convened a series of four National Dialogues on Ireland's Food System. Ireland played a central leadership role in the preparation for the UN FSS at the pre-summit in July 2021, and Minister McConalogue, delivered Ireland's National Statement, "The UN Food Systems Summit provides us with a unique opportunity to come together, to share our experiences, listen and learn from each other, and champion new solutions and build shared pathways towards more sustainable food systems. Ireland believes that sustainable food systems are crucial to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030; and therefore, has been strongly supportive of the Summit objectives".



*Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Charlie McConalogue TD, speaking at the UN FSS Pre-Summit*

The Minister added that Ireland is responding to the food systems challenge: "Over the past two years, stakeholders in our agri-food sector have worked together on a national agri-food strategy," he continued, "Food Vision 2030 – A World Leader in Sustainable Food Systems envisages a transformational pathway to a position of world leadership by dealing with the three pillars of sustainability: economic, environmental and social".





*The President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins, delivering Ireland's National Statement to the Summit*

The President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins, delivered Ireland's National Statement at the Summit itself, stating "Ireland's experience of inclusive, multi-stakeholder dialogue has shown that systemic change, while challenging, is possible but that it requires the willingness of all stakeholders to engage

and cooperate, and at times to accept difficult compromises. Ireland stands ready to work with all stakeholders to accelerate the global transformation to a more equitable, inclusive, resilient and sustainable food system".

## Teagasc Climate Action Strategy (2022-2030)

**Mission 4, Goal 3, Action 3:**  
*Strengthen primary producer advisory and extension services to cover environmental and climate performance, innovation and digitalisation, as well as agronomic, animal health and welfare, technical and financial aspects.*

**Teagasc is significantly increasing its resources devoted to climate related research and knowledge transfer in recognition of the urgency and scale of the climate challenge facing Irish Agriculture and the Food System.**

A Climate Action Strategy (2022 to 2030) was published by Teagasc on the 1<sup>st</sup> December 2022. There are three key pillars of action set out in the new Climate Action Strategy:



## 3 Key Pillars of Climate Action

1

### Signpost Advisory Programme



Available to all farmers



Enhanced advisory & training support



Engage with 50,000



“Know my Number - Make my Plan” supported by the Sustainability Digital Platform

The new Signpost Advisory Programme will be accessible to all farmers to support accelerated climate action on farm. It will inform farmers around their current levels of emissions and sequestration, and support them in planning and implementing improvements, as well as tracking progress. A team of 30 advisors will commence the programme in 2023 and Teagasc plan to increase this significantly in subsequent years as well as supplementing the in-house team with outsourced resources.

2

### Sustainability Digital Platform



New Secure Online platform



Facilitating Whole Farm sustainability assessment



Farmer & Advisor Understand emissions profile

The Sustainability Digital Platform is a major digital resource to be developed over the next number of years. Over time, it will become a central connected system for farmers and advisors involved in all aspects of farm sustainability assessment and planning. The immediate focus will be to enable farmers understand the carbon emissions and sequestration profile of their individual enterprises and farms. Users will also have access to decision support tools to develop tailored sustainability plans and track subsequent progress. This platform will be developed in partnership with Bord Bia and the Irish Cattle Breeding Federation (ICBF).

3

### National Centre for Agri-food Climate Research & Innovation



New Virtual Centre



Accelerate & co-ordinate Climate Research & Innovation Programmes



Providing leadership, nationally & internationally

The virtual National Centre for Agri-food Climate Research and Innovation will accelerate the development of new technologies by co-ordinating and accelerating research and innovation programmes across Teagasc as well with other institutes both in Ireland and internationally. Twenty-four new scientific staff will be added to the centre in the current phase of recruitment, and additional staff, facilities and equipment are planned.

# The Signpost Programme

**Mission 4, Goal 3, Action 3:**  
*Strengthen primary producer advisory and extension services to cover environmental and climate performance, innovation and digitalisation, as well as agronomic, animal health and welfare, technical and financial aspects.*



**The Signpost Programme is a Teagasc-led, whole of industry partnership to support and enable farmers in climate action. A network of 127 demonstration farmers has been established, and these are central to the delivery of the Signpost Farms component of the overall programme.**

A significant achievement during 2022 was the establishment of baseline sustainability measurements for all Signpost Farmers (for the 2021 production year), employing the methodology and approach of the National Farm Survey (NFS) for data recording and analysis. During 2022, a further 20 of the Signpost Farms were surveyed using LiDAR technology, bringing to 27 farms in total measured. The data captured is being used to generate an estimate of above ground biomass, and subsequently carbon, contained in hedgerows, treelines and other landscape features.

The programme team have published a range of booklets, leaflets, and checklists to promote programme messages and share stories from Signpost Farmers.

The work of the Signpost Programme team and its collaborators, ICOS Skillnet, ICOS and Dairygold Co-op, was recognised by the Pearse Walsh Award at the annual Irish Institute of Training and Development (IITD) Awards. The team were also shortlisted for an Irish Times Innovation Award.

Members of the Signpost Programme team are lead partners in two EU Horizon Europe projects which were approved during 2022: ClimateSmartDemo and ClimateSmartAdvisers.

## AgriDISCRETE project

### **Mission 4, Goal 4, Action 4:**

*Undertake research and increase engagement with initiatives to address the socio-economic impact of agri-digitalisation with a particular focus on data governance issues. This should build on the findings from an ongoing Irish research project, 'Agri-Discrete'.*

**The AgriDISCRETE project was a 2 year project that explored good data governance practices in agriculture and forestry in Ireland. It addressed current challenges presented by data use and data sharing where digital technologies are employed in agriculture and forestry. The project considered current technical and business-oriented challenges as well as reflected on socio-economic and ethical issues that arise.**

AgriDISCRETE looked at the multifaceted challenges related to data use, data security, data sharing and data ownership in the application of digital technologies in agricultural and forestry sectors in Ireland.

Embedding a multi-actor approach, AgriDISCRETE informs good data governance practices within Irish agriculture and forestry so that the benefits of digitalisation for agriculture and forestry in Ireland can be realised in a trajectory which is responsible and societally acceptable.

The Agri-Discrete project is now complete and has produced a roadmap to inform actions on Agri-Digitalisation including on data governance. This roadmap is being used to inform the Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine' Digital Strategy as well as a Competitive Research Call in 2023.

### AgriDISCRETE Project

Digitalisation in Agriculture and Forestry through Data Security



# Chapter 3:

## Monitoring and Implementation





## Implementation Actions

22%

Substantial Action  
Undertaken

78%

Action Commenced  
and Progressing



## Key Achievements

### Teagasc engagement with children and students

**Implementation Action 8:**  
*The agri-food sector needs to engage with children and students.*



#### BT Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition

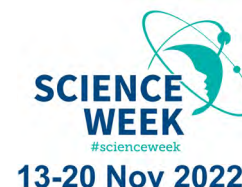
The BT Young Scientist and Technology

Exhibition (BTYSTE) is a competitive science exhibition for second-level students and attracts over 40,000 visitors each January to the RDS. Teagasc is a partner of the event and the Teagasc stand demonstrates a range of relevant displays covering agriculture and food topics.

The Teagasc special award at BTYSTE is presented to the project that best demonstrates a thorough understanding of the science of agricultural or food production, or the use of science to improve technologies available to agricultural or food production. The 2022 event was run online, with 226,000 virtual visitors from 68 countries. The winner of the 2022 Teagasc Special Prize was Johannah Pigott. Her project looked at the potential of nematodes to replace chemical pesticides.

#### ESB Science Blast

The ESB Science Blast is a free, non-competitive educational programme for primary schools (3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> class), that involves the whole class investigating the science behind a simple question and then showcasing their work at one of three national events. In 2022, the event was run online and 11 Teagasc staff took part as judges. ESB Science Blast is Ireland's largest STEM-based educational programme for primary school children.



#### Science Week

Teagasc, in association with Science Foundation Ireland ran the 'Festival of Farming and Food'.

Over 17,700 attended the events online and in person. 'The Women in STEM – How can your career help the planet', was watched by over 1,600 second-level students. While 'Kids' Corner: Say Cheese', was watched by over 16,000 primary-level students. There were also in-person visits for second-level students to Teagasc research centres and experimental packs were sent to primary level students. Over 650 students were visited as part of the 'Meet a Scientist' visits to classrooms.



# Implementation Plan

**A key element of successfully delivering Food Vision 2030 is a clearly defined implementation plan. This plan sets out the assignment of responsibility for the actions contained in the strategy, the key deliverables for those actions and the timeframe for their implementation.**

Additionally, the plan includes alignment of the actions with the most relevant Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target(s).

A detailed implementation plan was published in May 2022. The plan along with detailed progress on all of the actions is available on the Food Vision 2030 website at:

[gov.ie - Food Vision 2030 – A World Leader in Sustainable Food Systems \(www.gov.ie\)](https://www.gov.ie/en/food-vision-2030/)



A dashboard, to include relevant indicators, is being developed. International discussions on sustainable food systems and food systems transformation, including relevant indicators, continue to develop internationally.







# High Level Implementation Committee

**Implementation of Food Vision 2030 is overseen by a High Level Implementation Committee (HLIC), chaired by the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine and includes Senior Management from DAFM, Senior Officials from Other Government Departments (Department of Environment, Climate and Communications, Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment and Department of Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery and Reform) and the CEOs of the relevant State Agencies (Bord Bia, Teagasc, Bord Iascaigh Mhara, Enterprise Ireland, Environmental Protection Agency and the Food Safety Authority of Ireland).**

The HLIC's main focus is to: progress the delivery of the four missions; consider each Mission at least once annually and focus on particular issues or priorities in the agri-food sector; review the annual report of the Environmental Working Sub-Group; engage with all the key stakeholders on a regular, planned basis, including through stakeholder dialogues and engagement with the sectoral stakeholder groups; communicate the work of the HLIC in progressing implementation, including the publication of an annual review.

The Food Vision 2030 HLIC met five times up to the end of 2022. The work of the Environmental Working Sub-Group is a standing item on the agenda and the Annual Report of this Group was presented and discussed by the Committee. The Committee has also examined the Food Vision Implementation Plan and priorities.

The Committee has discussed delivery of each of the four Missions over the last five meetings including: the Food Vision Dairy Group Report; the Food Vision Beef and Sheep Group Report; Organic Farming and Food; the new Forestry Strategy; ensuring fair trading in the agri-food supply chain; developing market opportunities and trade missions; the Teagasc National Farm Survey Sustainability Report; and the National Dialogue on Women in Agriculture.

All minutes from the HLIC meetings are available on the Food Vision website at:

[gov.ie - Food Vision 2030 – A World Leader in Sustainable Food Systems \(www.gov.ie\)](https://www.gov.ie/en/publications-and-resources/documents/food-vision-2030-a-world-leader-in-sustainable-food-systems/)

# Environmental Monitoring and Reporting

## **An Environmental Working Sub-Group (EWSG) was established to oversee monitoring, review and reporting on environmental issues.**

This group is responsible for:

- Assessing and monitoring the SEA indicators to identify any significant environmental effects of implementation of Food Vision 2030.
- Reviewing progress towards achieving the Food Vision 2030 high-level environmental goals and actions set out in Mission 1.
- Overseeing and contributing to the preparation of an annual report to the HLIC.
- Collectively proposing potential remedial measures to the HLIC should negative environmental trends be identified as a direct result of implementation of Food Vision 2030.

The EWSG will meet regularly and is responsible for producing an annual report to the HLIC. This annual report should review progress towards achieving the Food Vision 2030's high-level environmental goals and actions, considering any significant environmental effects arising, including Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) monitoring of Food Vision 2030, and proposing potential remedial measures which will be put in place should negative environmental trends be identified as a direct result of implementation of Food Vision 2030.

The group held its first meeting in December 2021 and has met on a quarterly basis since then. The EWSG is chaired by Chief Inspector, Mr. Bill Callanan (DAFM) and includes representatives from DAFM; the Departments of Environment, Climate and Communications; Housing, Local Government and Heritage; State Agency representatives from Teagasc, Bord Bia, Bord Iascaigh Mhara and the Environmental Protection Agency; and an external independent representative.

The Group formally submitted its first annual report to the HLIC in November 2022. In that report it highlighted the main environmental issues arising including those related to water quality, methane, nitrous oxide and ammonia emissions and pressures on biodiversity. The Group also highlighted the importance of the role of industry in supporting farmers in their climate action journey along with a need for data access and sharing to enhance future reporting.

The full report is available on the Food Vision 2030 website at:

[gov.ie - Food Vision 2030 – A World Leader in Sustainable Food Systems \(www.gov.ie\)](https://www.gov.ie/en/publications-and-resources/publication/food-vision-2030-a-world-leader-in-sustainable-food-systems/)

## Key conclusions from the EWSG

- Water quality is a concern and has been declining over recent years. Agriculture is the most significant pressure impacting over 1,000 water bodies - 63% of impacted water bodies are affected by agriculture. Additional actions relating to water quality have been included in the nitrates action programme and additional measures proposed under the CAP Strategic Plan (CSP).
- Methane levels are showing an increasing trend in recent years. It is critical that there be a relentless focus to reduce these. This is a key focus area within the Food Vision Dairy and Beef and Sheep groups.
- Nitrous oxide is the other primary GHG attributed to the sector. Chemical nitrogen applications are down well in 2022 and the uptake rates of protected urea are increasing albeit slowly from 2% in 2019 to 5% in 2021 across all farms.
- Agriculture is one of the main pressures on Ireland's protected habitats. The appropriateness of using Article 17 reporting on the status of habitats and species, as identified in the SEA, needs further consideration as this reporting occurs on six-year cycles. It is recommended that Article 17 reporting should be supported by other monitoring including CSP measures and pilot programmes carried out as part of the transitional arrangements. Monitoring of farmland biodiversity must be advanced.
- Ammonia emissions have been non-compliant with National Emission Reduction Commitments for eight of the past nine years including in 2020 driven by emissions from manure and fertiliser use in the agriculture sector. However, it is noted that since 2018 emissions have trended downward in 2019 and 2020 in response to the adoption of abatement measures such as low emission slurry spreading techniques and the use of inhibited urea fertiliser products. Maintaining a downward trend is dependent on the continued adoption of all emission abatement measures.
- The CSP will contribute to the delivery of Food Vision 2030 actions but there are limitations and other levers must play a role including industry, regulation and new technologies. The establishment of the Food Vision Dairy and Beef and Sheep Groups is a worthy example of how industry and government can work together.
- Establishing the impact of Food Vision 2030 on the environment is challenging. The impact of some measures can take a number of years before enhanced environmental benefits start to show in the indicators. There is potential difficulty with disentangling drivers and pressures and the ability to infer whether no impact/impacts are arising solely from the implementation of Food Vision 2030 where there are multiple drivers operating at landscape scale, including from climate change.
- Indicators will be further refined and appropriate data sources will be identified to enable reporting across environmental indicators. Additional indicators will be included as appropriate. Data sharing is a key issue to be resolved.

## Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

**The EPA, which participates in both the HLIC and the EWSG, has stated regarding the potential of Food Vision 2030 that there is a need to have an agri-food system in Ireland that is demonstrably sustainable from an environmental, economic and social perspective.**

The EPA has emphasised the following priorities with regard to Food Vision 2030:

- There must be compliance with environmental standards and EPA licensing: the Food & Drink sector must improve its performance.
- Greenhouse Gas Inventories: EPA published the 2021 Greenhouse Gas Inventories in July 2022 and agriculture emissions increased by 3% in 2021 compared to 2020.
- Greenhouse Gas Projections: The EPA has highlighted that the sector must clearly set out how methane emissions reductions will

be achieved to deliver the sectoral target of a 25% reduction in CO2 equivalent emissions by 2030.

- Ammonia: The EPA air pollutant report published in 2022 showed that although ammonia emissions decreased slightly in 2020, they remained non-compliant with the National Emissions Reduction Commitment (ERC). The agriculture sector accounts for virtually all (99%) of ammonia emissions in Ireland.
- Water Quality: The EPA published the Water Quality Report in October 2022, which highlighted that water quality in Ireland has further declined and that pressures from agriculture are increasing.

The EPA makes an important contribution to the Food Vision 2030 implementation process, advocating for improved environmental performance on a range of indicators based on scientific expertise.



## Food Vision 2030 Event 13th October 2022

An event was held at The Printworks, Dublin Castle on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2022 to discuss Food Vision 2030, the shared strategy for the sustainable development of the Irish agri-food sector, with its stated ambition to be a 'World Leader in Sustainable Food Systems'.

The well-attended event in Dublin Castle heard from guest speakers who provided an international perspective, and from a number of panels exploring the development and implementation of Food Vision 2030 through its four key missions.

Announcing prior to the event the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Charlie McConalogue, T.D., said:

**“Ireland’s agri-food sector’s ambition is to be a World Leader in Sustainable Food Systems, as expressed in Food Vision 2030, a ten-year strategy developed by the sector itself and launched last year.**

**I believe that the detailed missions set out in Food Vision have the potential to transform our agriculture, food, forestry and marine sector in the period to 2030, with sustainability in all its dimensions, environmental, economic and social, at its core”.**



*Minister of State Martin Heydon TD, Taoiseach Micheál Martin, TD and Minister of State Senator Pippa Hackett at the Food Vision 2030 launch event in Dublin Castle*

Food Vision 2030

Martin, TD



Opening the Food Vision 2030 Event, Taoiseach Micheál Martin, TD said:

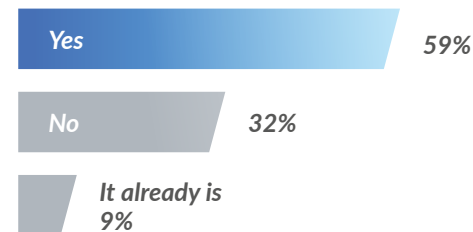
**“It is a strategy for the sector produced by the sector. The approach to developing this strategy is important, as it provides space for frank discussion around the future of the sector. I welcome that today gives us another opportunity to continue these conversations”.**

Guest speakers included Dr Lawrence Haddad, Executive Director, Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) and Tassos Haniotis, Retired Director, DG AGRI Strategy and Policy Analysis who provided an international perspective on Sustainable Food Systems.

The panellists included national representatives from the research, knowledge transfer, health, environment, farmer representative organisations and food industry who explored the national development and implementation of Food Vision 2030 through its four key missions. The event was of particular interest to those in the agri-food sector, but also wider society interested in Sustainable Food Systems with 260 delegates in attendance on the day.

A number of Slido polls were held during the event. Some of the results of these can be seen below.

*Do you think the Irish agri-food sector can achieve its ambition to become a world leader in Sustainable Food Systems in the next 10 years?*



*Implementation of Food Vision 2030 is the responsibility of?*



Speaking during the closing remarks of the event, Secretary General of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Brendan Gleeson, said:

**“The Food Vision committee... developed for themselves a very positive vision for the sector... it’s that Ireland should become a world leader in sustainable food systems... a short and simple statement but it captures many of the great challenges facing humanity at present. The world has to produce enough high-quality safe nutrition to feed a growing population and as a world class producer of sustainable food, Ireland is really well placed to make a positive contribution to that endeavour... The Food Systems approach articulated in Food Vision 2030 attempts to reconcile the tensions between the various objectives spoken about but also to exploit the synergies between them... Food Vision commits to real and challenging actions, working in a spirit of partnership between Government, state agencies, and stakeholder representatives”.**



## Engagement

Food Vision 2030 has been presented and discussed with a wide variety of groups and delegations over the last year, both at home and internationally. Food Vision 2030, and its food systems approach, has been used as the theme of Ireland's engagement on food systems internationally.



*Amina Mohammed, UN Deputy Secretary General, discussing Ireland's leadership role in global Food Systems Transformation with Minister McConalogue*



*From left to right- Will McIntee, Senior Advisor Public Engagement, The White House; Tom Arnold, the Irish Government's Special Envoy for Food Systems; Alexander Cox, Deputy Director Economic Mobility, Domestic Policy Council, The White House; Charlie McConalogue, TD, Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine; Kelliann Blazek, Special Assistant to the President for Agriculture and Rural Policy at the Domestic Policy Council, The White House; Sinéad McPhillips, Assistant Secretary General, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine and Dr. Finbar Brown, Agriculture and Food Attaché at the Embassy of Ireland Washington DC, at the White House during a major agri-food trade mission to the United States of America*

## Notes











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