



## **PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON THE SWOT ANALYSIS FOR THE CAP STRATEGIC PLAN – RESPONSE FORM**

### **Consultation Questionnaire**

The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine seeks the views of the public on the SWOT analysis for the CAP Strategic Plan. This form should be used when submitted a response.

### **Terms and Conditions**

All submissions, including the name of the person making the submission, will be published on the Department's website.

### *Freedom of Information*

In the interest of transparency, DAFM intends to publish all submissions received in response to this consultation and the identity of the party making the submission, including their affiliation on the DAFM website. Any submission containing confidential, private or commercially sensitive information or material should therefore be clearly identified and specify the reasons for its sensitivity. All submissions received will be subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2014 and may be released or published on foot of third party applications or otherwise.

By responding to the consultation, respondents consent to their name and affiliation being published online with the submission. The Department will redact all other personal data prior to publication.

### *Data Protection*

Please note that if you make a submission you are agreeing for it to be published in accordance with the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR EU 2016/679), the Data Protection Acts 1988-2018, the Freedom of Information Act 2014 and the DPER Consultation Principles and Guidance.

### *Privacy Statement*

The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine is committed to protecting and respecting your privacy and employs appropriate technical and organisational measures to protect your information from unauthorised access. The Department will not process your personal data for any purpose other than that for which they were collected. Personal data may be exchanged with other Government Departments, local authorities, agencies under the aegis of the Department, or other public bodies, in certain circumstances where this is provided for by law.

The Department will only retain your personal data for as long as it is necessary for the purposes for which they were collected and subsequently processed. When the business need to retain this information has expired, it will be examined with a view to destroying the personal data as soon as possible, and in line with Department policy. Further information on Data Protection can be found on our website [here](#).

### **RESPONSE FORM**

#### **Details:**

Full Name: **Breian Carroll General Secretary ACA**  
Organisation where applicable: Agricultural Consultants Association (Forestry Section)

Please tick one of the following options that best describes you;

Farmer (full-time)  Farmer (part-time)  Farm family member   
Member of the public  Other

#### **Are you involved in;**

Agriculture  Forestry  Farm Organisation   
Rural Development  Food industry  Environment   
Community Sector  Research  Civil Society / NGO

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Nine specific objectives of the Common Agriculture Policy post 2020**

1. support viable farm income and resilience across the Union to enhance food security;
2. enhance market orientation and increase competitiveness, including greater focus on research, technology and digitalisation;
3. improve the farmers' position in the value chain;
4. contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation, as well as sustainable energy;
5. foster sustainable development and efficient management of natural resources such as water, soil and air;
6. contribute to the protection of biodiversity, enhance ecosystem services and preserve habitats and landscapes;
7. attract young farmers and facilitate business development in rural areas;
8. promote employment, growth, social inclusion and local development in rural areas, including bio-economy and sustainable forestry;

9. improve the response of EU agriculture to societal demands on food and health, including safe, nutritious and sustainable food, food waste, as well as animal welfare.

Those objectives shall be complemented by the cross-cutting objective of modernising the sector by fostering and sharing of knowledge, innovation and digitalisation in agriculture and rural areas.

### SWOT template

<b>Objective - 1 support viable farm income and resilience across the Union to enhance food security;</b>	
<p><b>Strength</b></p> <p>S1 Temperate climate, best for growing trees in Europe</p> <p>S2 Huge potential to sequester carbon in Irish forests</p>	<p><b>Weakness</b></p> <p>W1 Forest industry dependent primarily on one tree species – Sitka Spruce</p> <p>W2 Poor communication between DAFM and private Forestry sector.</p>
<p><b>Opportunity</b></p> <p>O1 Increased need for timber and non-timber forest based products</p> <p>O2 Forestry has huge potential to offset agricultural GHG emissions</p>	<p><b>Threat</b></p> <p>T1 Disease/Pests e.g. Spruce Bark Beetle, prevalent in Europe could devastate our sawmilling sector</p> <p>BREXIT 80% of forest products are exported</p>

Please use a separate template for each objective

<b>Objective 2 - enhance market orientation and increase competitiveness, including greater focus on research, technology and digitalisation;</b>	
<p><b>Strength</b></p> <p>S1 Irish sawmills have a proven track record in developing markets for Irish grown timber products abroad</p>	<p><b>Weakness</b></p> <p>W1 Forestry operations - Difficult to achieve required economies of scale at farm level</p> <p>W2 Over reliance on sawmilling sector and on one species of timber (Sitka Spruce)</p> <p>W3 Environmental capital does not accrue to the private grower at farm level</p>

<p><b>Opportunity</b></p> <p>O1 Potential to produce and market NEW forest products, both timber and non-timber products</p> <p>O2 Environmental benefits of trees have huge potential to mitigate negative effects of other enterprises</p>	<p><b>Threat</b></p> <p>T1 Poor quality of 'objective / independent' research</p> <p>T2 Poor communication between Forest Service and the forestry sector</p> <p>T3 Environmental benefits from Farm Forestry, such as carbon credits taken by the state</p>
--	--

<p><b>Objective - 3 improve the farmers' position in the value chain;</b></p>	
<p><b>Strength</b></p> <p>S1 Almost half of all the land planted with trees in Ireland is in private hands, predominantly owned by Farmers and generally speaking this is on better land with greater productivity (Yield Class).</p>	<p><b>Weakness</b></p> <p>W1: Fragmented holdings and poor economies of scale and lack of knowledge relating to forestry and timber.</p> <p>W2: Poor timber sale system for private growers in comparison with sophisticated system used by Coillte.</p> <p>W3: Absence of a workable, easy to use forest certification scheme for private growers.</p>
<p><b>Opportunity</b></p> <p>O1 Develop facilities closer to the farm gate for timber products such as sawn timber &amp; firewood as well as non-timber benefits such as amenity forestry, Agro forestry etc..</p> <p>O2: Societal demand for environmental benefits of forestry</p> <p>O3: Opportunity for private forest growers to piggyback on Coillte sale system.</p>	<p><b>Threat</b></p> <p>T1: Forestry Funds buying up smaller forestry holdings.</p> <p>T2: Dominance of Coillte in the market place.</p> <p>T3: Carbon credits property of the state not the forest grower</p>

<p>O4: Develop system for Carbon Credits from Forestry to accrue to the land from which they are derived.</p>	
---	--

<p><b>Objective 4 - contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation, as well as sustainable energy;</b></p>	
<p><b>Strength</b></p> <p>S1: Forestry has huge contribution to make in achieving a carbon neutral agriculture.</p> <p>S2: Unlike many other fuels, energy released from wood fuels is renewable in our lifetimes.</p>	<p><b>Weakness</b></p> <p>W1 No recognised methodology to count contribution of carbon from forests at different stages of growth and for different species and management approaches.</p> <p>W2: Declining Afforestation rates in recent years.</p> <p>W3: Conventional Irish forest management systems involves clear-felling which massively reduces the total carbon sequestration when compared to other close to nature forest management systems.</p>
<p><b>Opportunity</b></p> <p>O1: Forestry management systems which avoid clear-felling will contribute substantially more to carbon sequestration.</p> <p>O2 : Potential to use forests as long term carbon stores in return for payments.</p>	<p><b>Threat</b></p> <p>T1: Competing land uses such as Hen Harrier Areas reduces potential for planting more forestry.</p>

**Objective 5 foster sustainable development and efficient management of natural resources such as water, soil and air;**

<p><b>Strength</b></p> <p>S1 Forests have the capacity to protect and enhance our waterways.</p> <p>S2 Forests help to retain soils and to improve soil composition &amp; recycling of nutrients.</p> <p>S3 Forests contribute to the improvement of air quality.</p>	<p><b>Weakness</b></p> <p>W1 Low levels of Afforestation in recent years.</p> <p>W2 Insufficient supports for multifunctional woodland management</p> <p>W3 Lack of current and objective scientific research on the impact of Forestry on the surrounding environment.</p>
<p><b>Opportunity</b></p> <p>O1: Planting more riparian woodlands has the potential to reduce soil erosion and to protect our vulnerable watercourses.</p>	<p><b>Threat</b></p> <p>T1 Clear-felling large areas of Forestry can lead to run-off and soil deterioration.</p>

**Objective 6 - contribute to the protection of biodiversity, enhance ecosystem services and preserve habitats and landscapes**

<p><b>Strength</b></p> <p>S1 Ireland has a network of Natura 2000 sites including woodland areas.</p> <p>S2 Significant cover of interconnecting hedge rows, trees and scrub.</p> <p>S3 Strong policy framework to protect &amp; enhance biodiversity</p>	<p><b>Weakness</b></p> <p>W1 Over reliance on conifer species in forestry in the past.</p> <p>W2 Inadequate supports for foresters operating in the private sector.</p> <p>W3 Ever increasing restrictions in delivering environmental schemes can potentially lead to conflicts with landowners. While there a societal expectation that such benefits will be delivered to the country as a whole, it often comes at a cost to the landowner.</p>
<p><b>Opportunity</b></p> <p>O1 Support forest advisors in the provision of ecosystem services.</p> <p>O2 Appropriate management of forests and increased planting of mixed species forests.</p>	<p><b>Threat</b></p> <p>T1 Climate change.</p>

<p>03 Recognise (&amp; monetise) the delivery of non-timber benefits and the natural capital of Forestry that society increasingly demands.</p>	
<p><b>Objective 7 attract young farmers and facilitate business development in rural areas</b></p>	
<p><b>Strength</b></p> <p>S1 Forestry has the potential to contribute to farm income and for business development through primary processing &amp; eco-tourism.</p> <p>S2 Monetise the non timber benefits of Forestry to provide opportunities for landowners, foresters and ecologists.</p>	<p><b>Weakness</b></p> <p>W1 Shrinking afforestation programme reducing job opportunity (and sustainability for existing jobs).</p> <p>W2 Increased regulation and bureaucracy for forestry operations.</p> <p>W3 Environmental awareness training in land management not always part of schemes.</p>
<p><b>Opportunity</b></p> <p>O1 Develop career paths in farm forestry particularly in areas of environmental enhancement.</p>	<p><b>Threat</b></p> <p>T1 Income volatility in forestry due to stop start nature of the Government Forestry Programme.</p>

<p><b>Objective 8 - promote employment, growth, social inclusion and local development in rural areas, including bio-economy and sustainable forestry;</b></p>	
<p><b>Strength</b></p> <p>S1 Downstream multiplier effect on employment in the Forestry sector.</p>	<p><b>Weakness</b></p> <p>W1 Reduced activity and job opportunity as a result of failing Afforestation programme.</p> <p>Fragmented nature of the forestry sector.</p>

<p><b>Opportunity</b></p> <p>O1 Increased market opportunities for wood in the energy and construction sectors.</p>	<p><b>Threat</b></p> <p>T1 Emerging pests &amp; diseases in forestry as a result of climate change.</p>
---	---

<p><b>Objective 9 - improve the response of EU agriculture to societal demands on food and health, including safe, nutritious and sustainable food, food waste, as well as animal welfare.</b></p>	
<p><b>Strength</b></p> <p>S1 Good supply chains exist for the delivery of safe, nutritious and sustainable food and timber products.</p> <p>S2 Generally well educated farm work force.</p>	<p><b>Weakness</b></p> <p>Farmer’s position in the supply chain has been weakened by the concentration of power with those who control the supply chain.</p> <p>Lack of continuous professional development in upskilling in environmental and basic land management for forest owners.</p>
<p><b>Opportunity</b></p> <p>Improve the transparency in the share of value along the supply chain.</p> <p>Recognise the part played by forestry in the ‘Whole Farm Approach’ in the delivery of quality environmentally sustainable products and service to the wider society.</p> <p>Monetise the delivery of non-timber benefits of forestry and the protection and management of the natural capital values.</p>	<p><b>Threat</b></p> <p>Forest certification for small growers not feasible in Irish context.</p>