



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

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.

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RESPONSE FORM

Details:

Full Name: Seán Carolan

Organisation where applicable: The Old Irish Goat Society

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

Farmer (full-time)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Farmer (part-time)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Farm family member	<input type="checkbox"/>
Member of the public	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Are you involved in;

Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/>	Forestry	<input type="checkbox"/>	Farm Organisation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rural Development	<input type="checkbox"/>	Food industry	<input type="checkbox"/>	Environment	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community Sector	<input type="checkbox"/>	Research	<input type="checkbox"/>	Civil Society / NGO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Other: _____

Nine specific objectives of the Common Agriculture Policy post 2020

- (a) support viable farm income and resilience across the Union to enhance food security;
- (b) enhance market orientation and increase competitiveness, including greater focus on research, technology and digitalisation;
- (c) improve the farmers' position in the value chain;
- (d) contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation, as well as sustainable energy;
- (e) foster sustainable development and efficient management of natural resources such as water, soil and air;
- (f) contribute to the protection of biodiversity, enhance ecosystem services and preserve habitats and landscapes;
- (g) attract young farmers and facilitate business development in rural areas;
- (h) promote employment, growth, social inclusion and local development in rural areas, including bio-economy and sustainable forestry;
- (i) 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

Objective - (A) support viable farm income and resilience across the Union to enhance food security	
<p>Strength</p> <p>Animal Genetic Resources and Genetic Resources Generally which underpin food security (without genetic resources, soil and water can't make food).</p> <p>AGR and GR are a food security, environmental, economic, cultural and social asset.</p>	<p>Weakness</p> <p>Loss of genetic resources, lack of awareness and visibility of these losses: Genetic Resources underpin Food Security, but, "Agricultural intensification with its focus on high yielding breeds... has led to almost 50% of all European livestock breeds being extinct or having an endangered or critical status", FAO 2010</p> <p>The current Irish National Genetic Conservation Strategy, published in 2013, remains unimplemented. The commitment to implement the Plan, by 2020, two months from now, under the National Biodiversity Plan Target 4.1.7, is unattainable.</p> <p>The current National Genetic Conservation Strategy does not acknowledge Ireland's obscure breeds, the Old Irish Goat, the Cladoir, Irish Fowl, the Bó Riabhach, the Bó Finne, which merit research and conservation under the Precautionary Principle of the Convention on Biological Diversity.</p> <p>No AGR group presence in the Irish Environmental Network / the Stop Climate Chaos Coalition</p>
<p>Opportunity</p> <p>CAP champion Genetic Recourses as a core asset.</p> <p>Knowledge Transfer: Network the diverse stakeholders in Genetic Resources, develop a new ambitious national strategy for AGR and GR supported by a small dedicated multidisciplinary team of professionals.</p> <p>Knowledge transfer programs dedicated to genetic resource utility / low input / small holder farming and their specific abilities to create diverse habitats / reduce fire risks from under-grazed landscapes.</p>	<p>Threat</p> <p>The biggest threat to animal genetic resources (AGR) and genetic resources in general is their systemic sidelining in policy, particularly CAP. As in, while AGR and GR are recognised as crucial to food security, they do not specifically feature in the CAP Objectives.</p> <p>Nor do they benefit from EU Directive which drives member state priorities.</p> <p>CAP should be outstanding the champion of AGR and GR, but CAP fails to identify / highlight / promote AGR and GR as a core pillar to food security.</p> <p>This sends a clear signal to policy makers that AGR/GR is not important.</p> <p>This leads to unaccounted, irreversible loss of AGR/GR in Ireland, i.e. extinctions.</p>

Objective - (B) enhance market orientation and increase competitiveness, including greater focus on research, technology and digitalisation;	
<p>Strength</p> <p>A growing interest in the origin of foods and authenticity generally</p>	Weakness
<p>Opportunity</p> <p>In terms of market orientation of native breeds, there are various excellent examples of marketing rare breed products in Ireland and abroad. Is there an opportunity to emulate the renaissance in Irish Whiskey, for native Irish breeds, based on a high quality product, taste and a strong cultural identity / brand association with Ireland?</p> <p>Knowledge Transfer leverage UNESCO Sustainability Models: Native livestock breeds offer cultural connections to regions and potential to enhance UNESCO biospheres both in terms of conservation and function. UNESCO attaches high value to Genetic Resources from the perspective of biodiversity and culture. The cultural value of native livestock offers opportunity to attract or enhance tourism revenue and Ireland brand value abroad.</p>	Threat

Objective - (D) contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation, as well as sustainable energy;	
<p>Strength</p> <p>Growing awareness and active citizenship in the field of climate actions</p>	<p>Weakness</p> <p>A general lack of appreciation of the functional capacity of landrace breeds to help in climate adaption despite this important facet of climate mitigation being promoted by the United Nations under their Sustainable Development Goals</p>
<p>Opportunity</p> <p>Knowledge Transfer: Develop untapped opportunity embedded in native landrace breed capacity to revitalise under-grazed areas and reduce fire hazards in uplands.</p> <p>There is an opportunity to utilise the cultural value of indigenous livestock and their connection with rural communities to deliver broader environmental and climate mitigation benefits.</p>	<p>Threat</p> <p>Climate change /apathy</p>

Objective - (E) foster sustainable development and efficient management of natural resources such as water, soil and air;;

Strength

Native livestock breeds as a positive modifier to native habitats, biodiversity and ecological integrity.

Weakness

AGR and GR generally not factored as significant natural resource, that needs to be conserved in the same way and to the same standards as habitats, birds, soil and water.

As in, without Genetic Resources, soil and water cannot create.... food!

No legal protection for AGR/ GR in Ireland despite their huge cultural and food security significance.

Opportunity

Bespoke project to promote native livestock breeds as a positive modifier to native habitats, biodiversity and ecological integrity.

Threats

Indigenous breed extinctions driven by introduced exotic breeds.

Objective - (F) contribute to the protection of biodiversity, enhance ecosystem services and preserve habitats and landscapes;

Strength

Native livestock breeds as a positive modifier to native habitats, biodiversity and ecological integrity.

Native breeds have particular traits with significant potential to control weeds and invasive species, i.e Gunnera in inaccessible locations.

Weakness

A dearth of native breeds / projects in the current round of DAFM funded European Innovation Partnerships / Irish High Nature Value Farmland models.

AGR / GR not recognised as part of our biodiversity with no legal protection or Directives

Opportunity

Implement the current EU Global action plan for Genetic Resources / EIP-AGRI Focus Group Genetic Resources Cooperation Models Final Report 2014:

“1. The genetic resources of locally adapted breeds are well recognised as important to agriculture because of their unique genetic profile and their potential to provide useful traits to benefit farming systems in the future.

2. These breeds often make use of marginal land that cannot be used for other forms of agriculture. Through their adaptation to harsh environments, such breeds may contribute to food security and generate value from land otherwise unusable to farming. Frequently, these breeds thrive in low-input, extensive farming systems, without the need for additional feeding or management.

3. As agricultural land becomes ever more limited and the costs of animal feed, supplements and energy increase, the genetic resources of locally adapted breeds offer an opportunity to achieve sustainable productivity in farming across the EU.

4. The value of these genetic resources must be recognised and protected. The only successful means of sustainable conservation is to identify and/or create markets for the local breeds and their products through the development of new holistic cooperation models.

5. Inter-multidisciplinary approaches involving economic, social, cultural, and nutritional aspects, tourism, and genetic resources, are needed to enlarge crops and breeds used in agriculture. Activities can be linked to the territory and should be driven by a business model.

Threat

Indigenous breed extinctions driven by introduced exotic breeds.

“It is also important that local breeds are used in the environment to which they are adapted. Often, “fashionable” exogenous breeds, such as Highland cattle or Hebridean sheep, are preferred over the use of better adapted local breeds of a region”. The UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) guidelines (2010)

Objective - (H) promote employment, growth, social inclusion and local development in rural areas, including bio-economy and sustainable forestry;

Strength

Citizen, special interest / Community Group interest in the landscape, Food, Climate, Social / Cooperative Enterprise

Weakness

State resource allocations tend to follow repeatable patterns of distribution.

Opportunity

There is an opportunity to reconfigure supports to target these fledgling groups that take a collective approach to EU Rural Development priorities to help outsource administration, improve communication and accelerate innovation.

Knowledge Transfer: There is an opportunity for Industrial Operational Excellence methods and communication means to be adapted and adopted to maintain and monitor rural sustainability metrics. These sustainability metrics should be defined based on citizens / citizens assembly input, with regional and local orientation and professional guidance.

Threat

Conventional wisdoms which embed minimal investment into Irish genetic resources, limit research and conservation and effectively deter ambition for Irish breeds and genetic resources generally.

A continuance of the business as usual approach to genetic resource conservation in Ireland and the lack of clarity on the conservation status of native breeds, their genetic signatures and genetic diversity.

Objective - (I) 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.

Strength

Animal genetics expertise in Ireland

Weakness

Opportunity

Knowledge Transfer: Design and develop a genetic based program of research and conservation tailored to native breed traits, which support clarity on the conservation status of native breeds, their genetic signatures and genetic diversity.

Conserve native breeds. Relating to nutritious and sustainable food, for example there is a view that fatty meats offer health and balanced nutritional benefits. If we are to provide choice and future options we need to preserve breeds.

Threat