

ASSAP and Sustainability Options and Approaches

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Sustainability Ireland Working Group



Overview

- Agri – economy policies and performance,
- Sustainability – Calls to Action,
- Dairy Sustainability Ireland,
- ASSAP,
- Sustainability – options and possibilities,
- NESC on dairy structures – climate change, and
- What does success look like.



Agri-Economy - Economic Crash 2008/2009 and Route to Recovery

Route to **Economic Recovery** - particular focus on **Agriculture and Tourism**.

Food Harvest 2020 - July 2010 – aim to increase the value of primary output of the Agri, fisheries and forestry sector by €1.5bn – a 33% increase on 2007-2009 average.

Food Wise 2025 - 2015 - aim:-

- 85% increase in exports to €19 billion;
- 70% increase in value added to €13 billion;
- 65% increase in primary production to €10 billion and
- The creation of 23,000 additional jobs all along the supply chain from producer level to high end value added product development.

Major public policy success – great credit due to policy makers, farmers, state agencies and industry – **template for major change re sustainability** – with new major policy due in coming months -

Bord Bia Origin Green Promise – Market Growth

- Verified Commitment to Sustainability all along the supply chain
- The only sustainability programme in the world uniting all sectors to achieve measurable sustainability targets – reducing environmental impact, serving communities and protecting rich natural resource
- The Green Charter – development of more stringent ways of working where 100% of Irelands exporters on the road to sustainability in 2016
- Proven and independently verified commitment to sustainability across all raw natural sources, manufacturing processes and social sustainability – five year plan for sustainability improvements
- Origin Green a major international marketing success, business impact and growth, evolution and further development



SUSTAINABILITY
REPORT 2015



2017
2018

Export Performance & Prospects

Irish Food, Drink
& Horticulture

Bord Bia
Irish Food Board



€4bn

↑19%

The value of dairy products & ingredients, an increase of 19 percent



↑44%

Exports to EU26 markets have expanded by 44 percent to €1.2bn

↑19%

Exports have increased by 19 percent since 2016



€850m

↑20%

Cheese export rose to almost 20 percent to over €850m



↑60%

Butter reached a remarkable growth rate of 60 percent in 2017



€730m

↑10%

Dairy based enriched powders export rose 10 percent to some €730m

The top 5 markets

are the UK, China, the Netherlands, Germany & the United States





Industry Employment in RoI Dairy:

- 18,322 active Dairy Herd Numbers each with at least 1 full time worker.
- 11,000 in Irish Dairy processors & Milk Collecting Co-ops.
- 3,000 in 7 Specialised Nutrition Factories who buy from primary industry.
- 24,000 employed by the industry outside of Ireland.

Total: Approx. 32,000 in Ireland & 24,000 abroad.

This in turn Brings in **€4.7 billion of Dairy export revenue** according to Bord Bia's 2017/18 Export performance report- our best performing sector across food and drink.

Indirect jobs-

- Services to the industry like vets, advisors, contractors, dairy equipment sellers, CIT economic studies would say that **another 30,000** people dependent on Irish dairy.
- **Vast bulk of this employment in rural Counties**



**At least €2.6 billion yearly direct
Milk Cheque payments
To Farmers in the 26 Counties by DII
members in 2019.
(Figure in NI under study)**

Five Sustainability Pillars – Calls to Action

Calls to Action – Significant Challenges:-

- Water Quality,
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions,
- Ammonia,
- Bio-Diversity,
- Soil Productivity-Farm incomes

Five Sustainability Pillars – Calls to Action

- Inter-dependencies,
- Commonalities,
- Co-benefits,
- Emerging views re a more joined up on–farm sustainability approach re water, climate, ammonia, bio-diversity, and soil productivity
- Benefits for the environment, for farmers, for business and for the economy if we can get it right.

New Strategic Calls to Action

- 1. Programme for Govt,**
- 2. EU Green Deal,**
- 3. Farm to Fork,**
- 4. CAP reform,**
- 5. EU Green Recovery**
- 6. Derogation review**
- 7. Very significant asks for agri, systemic responses needed to overcome these challenges**

Dairy Sustainability Ireland 2016 to Date

1

- Recognizing that environmental sustainability and economic sustainability are complementary – same

2

- First Industry sustainability initiative involving Whole of Government and Whole of Sector

3

- Address: Water, Soil & Air quality, Climate change targets on a multi annual basis to achieve Food Wise Sustainability objectives

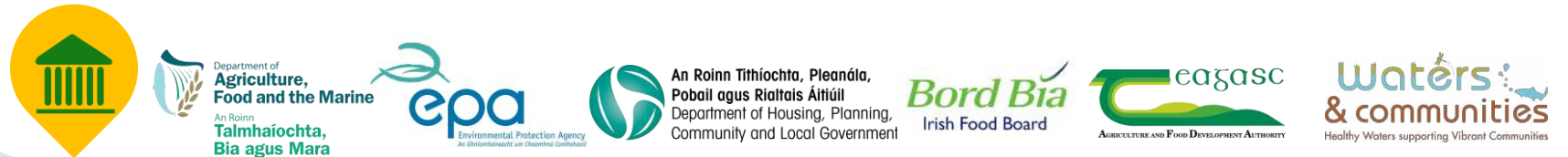
Dairy Sustainability Ireland



Companies



Associations



Governmental Agencies

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Dairy Sustainability Ireland

Whole of sector
/Whole of
government-
Collaborative
Agreement of a
common plan of
objectives



Forum for discussion
of new ideas and
issues- Drive Win
Wins



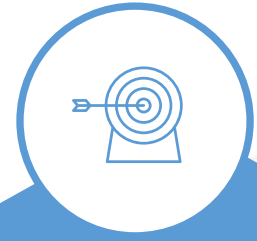
Stakeholders
consultation

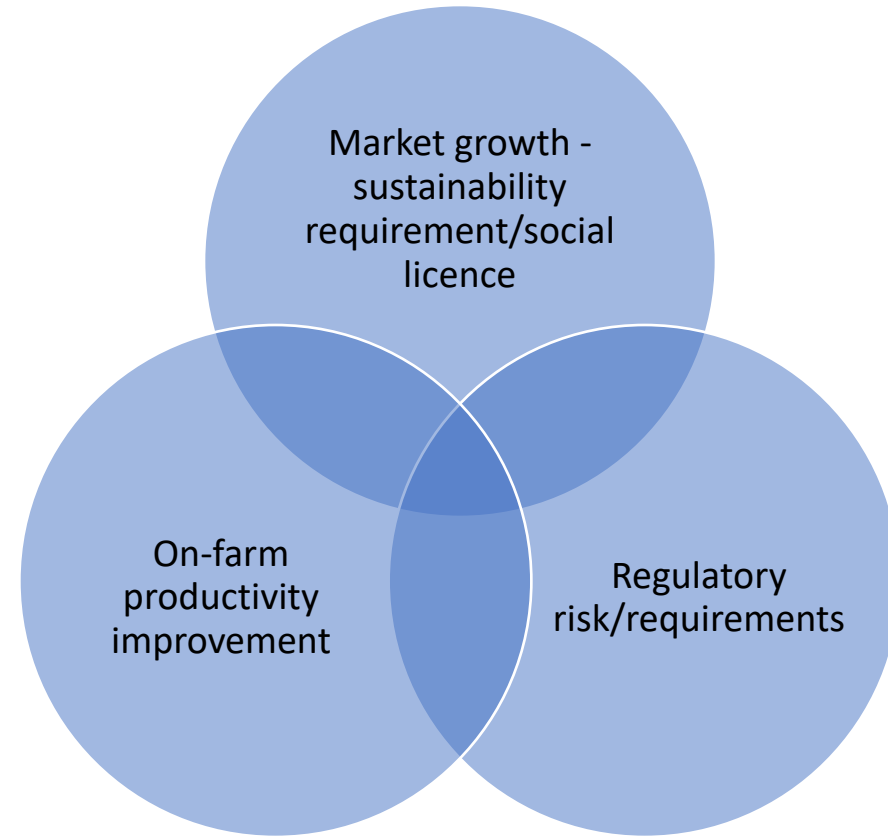


Bringing in outside
experts to inform DSI
members of
developments



Consistent,
results based
implementation







Agricultural Sustainability Support and Advisory Programme - ASSAP

- Dairy Processing Co-ops part of Teagasc/DSI ASSAP programme,
- Focus is water quality improvement – over 800 water bodies affected by diffuse ag pollution - largest sectoral pollution impact,
- 30 Sustainability Advisors – 20 Teagasc – 10 Processing Co-ops,
- 35 Scientists – LAWPRO providing science data - 12 Community advisors,
- All trained together to same standard by the EPA,
- Commitments being delivered with good progress and good buy-in farmers/suppliers and other stakeholders,
- Unique public sector/industry sustainability initiative



ASSAP Interim Report

- Teagasc and Dairy Sustainability Ireland recently published the first ASSAP Report 2018 - 2019.
- The ASSAP programme is a key part of a wider government and community effort to improve water quality in 190 selected water bodies around the country by reducing agricultural and non-agricultural pressures, with LAWPRO,
- The ASSAP advisory programme is part of Ireland's 2nd River Basin Management Plan (RBMP),
- Three core principles - collaborative, voluntary, no connection to compliance,
- Great credit due to DAFM, DHPLG, Processing Co-ops, Teagasc, Lawpro, Farm Bodies, Farmers and also to Bord Bia and the EPA - strong support. Noel Meehan Teagasc, Carol McCarthy Lawpro

ASSAP Interim Report

- ASSAP has adopted a changed philosophy from the regulatory 'one size fits all' approach towards a new engagement based approach with farmers.
- ASSAP is tasked with working on a voluntary basis with farmers and identifying and implementing the 'right measure in the right place' on farms located in Priority Areas for Action (PAA's).
- This is the first such approach adopted in Ireland and it provides an alternative to enforcement by working with the agricultural sector in order to make improvements in water quality to achieve Water Framework Directive (WFD) targets.
- A free and confidential farm visit from an ASSAP advisor – to date 1,652 farmers, with 1,168 farm assessments completed by 31st December 2019.

Sustainability – possible Options and Approaches responding to Calls for Action

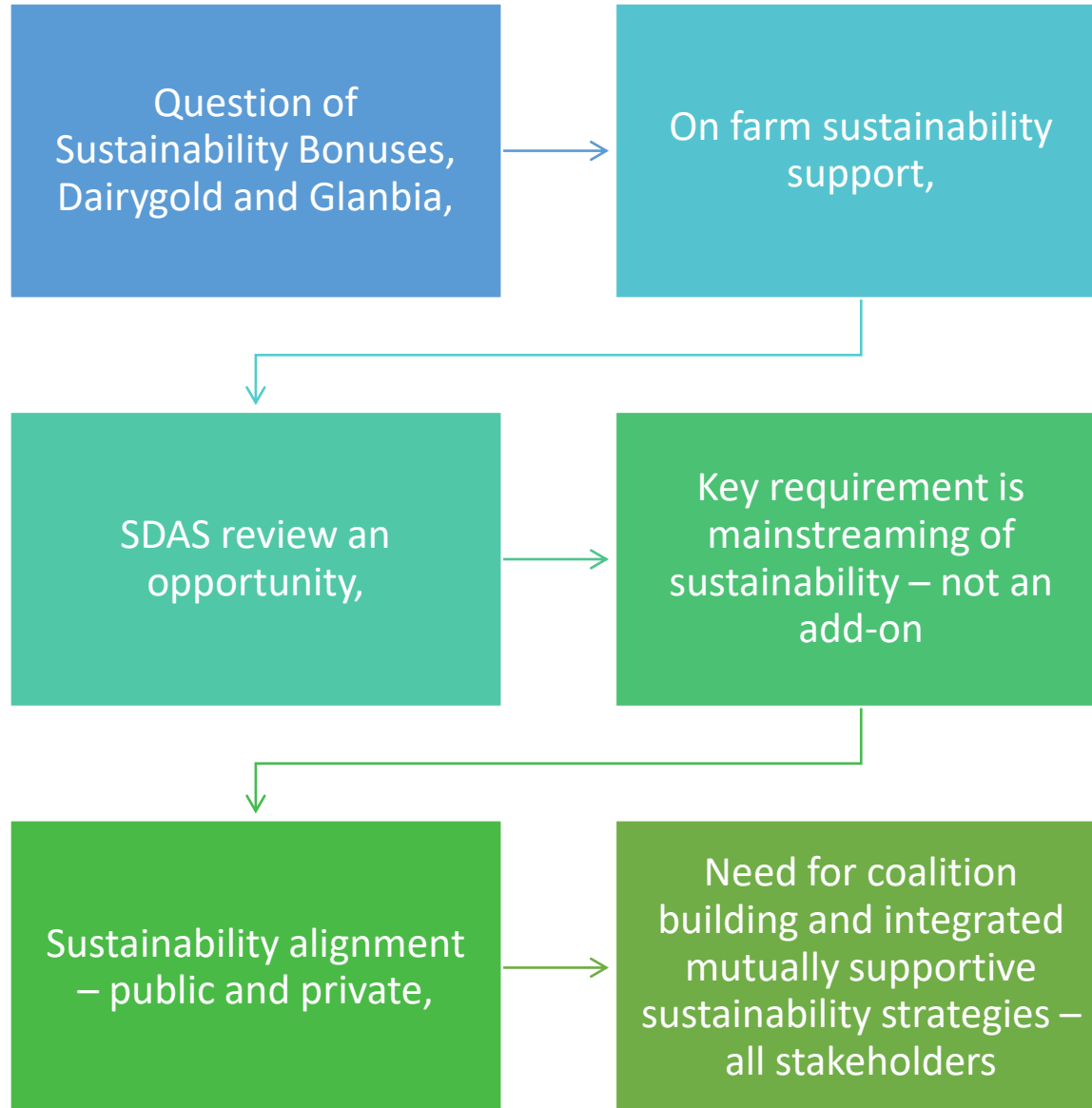
To meet sustainability calls to action in PFG, EU Green Deal, Farm to Fork, EU Green Recovery and CAP reform to **scientific standards**

- **Whole of Govt – whole of Agri Sector** - strategies and mechanisms to be developed on a collaborative basis all stakeholders – joined up policies, grants, programmes, **public and private**
- Joined up/integrated and agreed strategies,
- Joined up/integrated and agreed messaging/communications/knowledge transfer,
- Developmental, positive and progressive – build on ASSAP principles/programmes
- Same developmental approach/processes/resources/ structures as Food Harvest and Food Wise,

Sustainability - Options and Possibilities

Core possibilities:-

- An ag wide general **promotion and mitigation strategy** based on N reductions on farm, Nutrient Mgt Planning, widespread use of clover, LESS, EBI – breeding, additions/amendments to slurry (acidification), change of fertiliser type from CAN to protected UREA (once clarified), reduced protein in feed, etc.
- Co-ops developing a first phase of such a programme with DAFM and Teagasc – **5 Switches**.
- **Sustainability advisory/knowledge transfer** – public and private,
- On **farm/rural woodland** planting programme– non commercial – carbon, bio-diversity, and water benefits,
- Rethink/repositioning of **commercial forestry** to achieve national targets – new approaches needed,
- **Energy reductions** programme on farm - use of on farm renewables **solar**, and energy reductions Dairymaster etc, battery technologies, Anaerobic Digestion to produce **renewable gas**
- Bio-economy – 10BN EU programme,
- Precision/Smart agriculture,
- Targeting water quality, GHGs, ammonia, bio-diversity and soil productivity (incomes improvement)



Sustainability Options and Possibilities

A greater role for producers, farm advisors and processors – Extract from Ag-climate

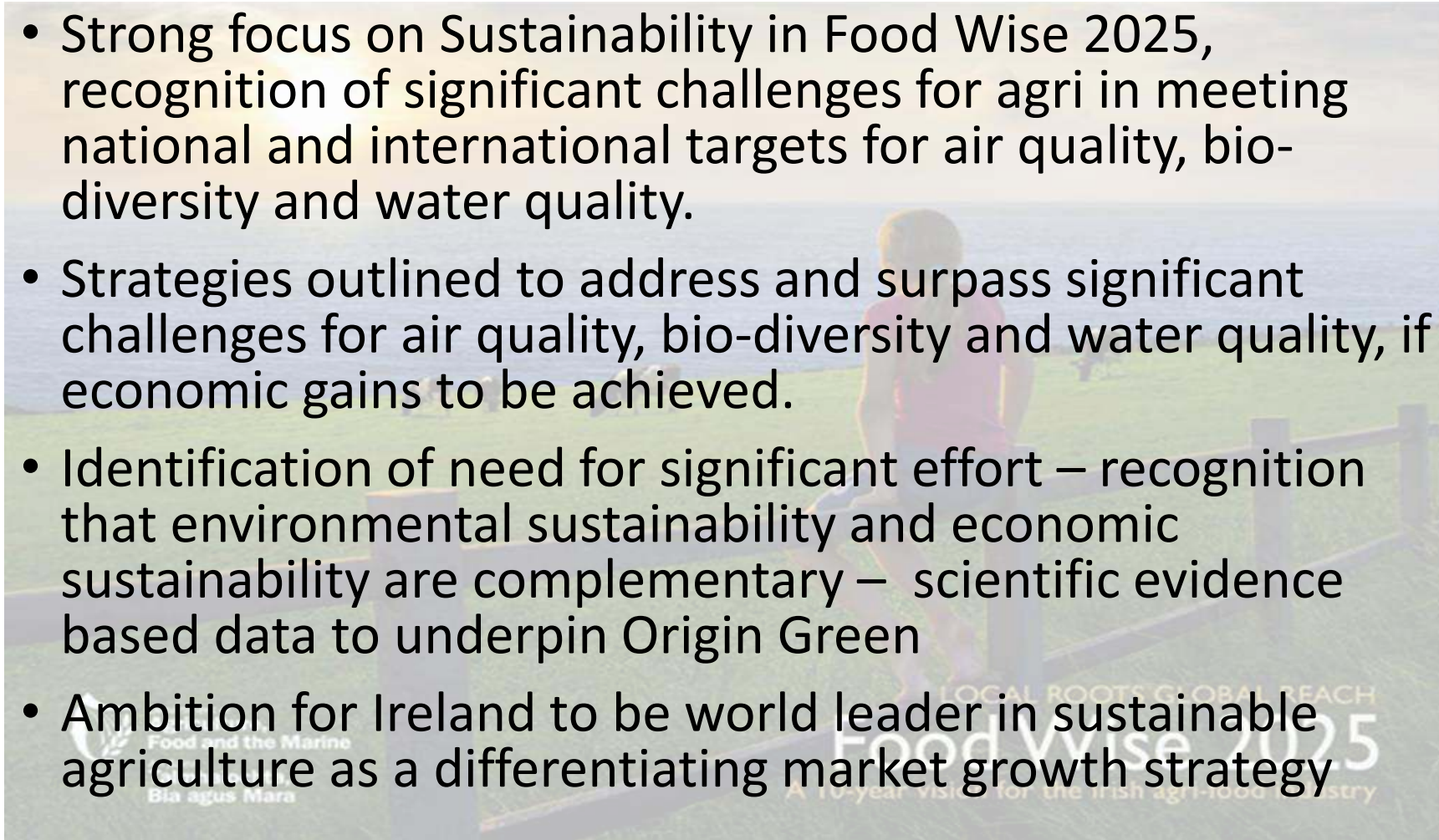
- **New partnerships**, at both a technical and financial level, between producers and processors and processors and customers, with state involvement where necessary, will be required.
- Recent initiatives such as the **Dairygold** Milk Supplier Sustainability Bonus, or the **Glanbia Ireland-Kepak** Calf to Beef Club which includes a requirement for a reduction in the average carbon footprint of participating farms (among other things) are commendable.
- There is an **urgent need for similar** type programmes and schemes to be developed. This would further demonstrate to customers and markets of Irish food the seriousness with which it takes the climate and air challenge and its willingness to be proactive in pursuing a transition to an even more sustainable system of food production.
- **Use current partnerships** in the livestock breeding domain e.g. ICBF to discuss the future-proofing of the environmental aspects of breeding policy and suggest ways of ensuring these indexes are used by all farmers. These discussions will inform farm advisory programmes in that regard.

Self Organization under Deliberate Direction - Irish Dairy and the Possibilities of a New Climate Change Regime – NESC Paper 2019

- Charles Sabel Professor, Columbia Law School, Rory O'Donnell Director, National Economic and Social Council, Senior Economist, National Economic and Social Council.
- Reviewed Teagasc programmes inc MACC, Bord Bia Origin Green, SDAS, Catchment Management/ EPA/DAFM/ASSAP/Dairy Sustainability Initiative/Smart Farming.
- “In this essay we use the example of the Irish dairy industry to show how, even in the absence of any overarching design, mutually reinforcing developments in methods of regulation and production can generate expansive regimes that **encourage efficient production of higher quality and safer goods while improving protection of the environment.**
- Shaped by political will—the determination to protect the environment—yet formed in detail by prudent responses to a thousand constraints, without plan or master builder, its very existence invites us to consider an **improbably hopeful possibility:**
- **Might it be that, in the moment of our need, we happened to create the novel organizational resources with which to learn, by deliberate self organization, to solve the environmental problems we face?”**

Success – Sustainability to Scientific Standards

- Strong focus on Sustainability in Food Wise 2025, recognition of significant challenges for agri in meeting national and international targets for air quality, bio-diversity and water quality.
- Strategies outlined to address and surpass significant challenges for air quality, bio-diversity and water quality, if economic gains to be achieved.
- Identification of need for significant effort – recognition that environmental sustainability and economic sustainability are complementary – scientific evidence based data to underpin Origin Green
- Ambition for Ireland to be world leader in sustainable agriculture as a differentiating market growth strategy





Great credit is due to
farmers/suppliers and to
all the supporting
Depts/agencies, farm
bodies and companies.

Thank you.

Dairy 
Sustainability
Ireland