

Public Consultation on the National Strategy and National Environmental Framework for Sustainable Operational Programmes for Producer Organisations in the Fruit and Vegetable Sector

The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine is inviting submissions from stakeholders and interested parties on a new **National Strategy for sustainable Operational Programmes** for Producer Organisations in the fruit and vegetable sector. Part of the necessity for the development of this new National Strategy is to meet obligations under Article 36(2) of Regulation (EU) No. 1308/2013.

The overall objective of the National Strategy is to establish the priorities through which improving the competitiveness of the fruit and vegetable sector and increasing the sustainability of production can be achieved. The National Strategy will also set down the menu of objectives for operational programmes prepared by Producer Organisations participating in the Producer Organisation Scheme, and detail the framework which these operational programmes must comply with.

An essential part of the National Strategy is the **National Environmental Framework**. This is a non-exhaustive list of environmental actions and the conditions thereof applicable in Ireland for the purposes of Article 36(1) of Regulation (EU) No. 1308/2013. Each operational programme must include at least two environmental actions. The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine is therefore also inviting submissions from interested parties on possible options towards implementation of a new National Environmental Framework. The environmental actions will be targeted towards meeting Ireland's commitments under climate change, nature biodiversity and waste. All environmental actions proposed under the National Environmental Framework will be screened to assess the need for a Strategic Environmental Assessment.

Written submissions in response to this public consultation can be made up to 5pm on 10th May 2017. Submissions received after the closing date will not be considered.

You can make a submission:

1. By email to the following email address only: **POScheme@agriculture.gov.ie**

Email submissions must include the following words in the subject heading: "**National Strategy**"

Or

2. By writing to the following address:

**Producer Organisation Scheme,
Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine,
Administration Building,
Backweston Campus,
Celbridge,
Co Kildare,
W23 X3PH**