

Food Wise 2025 Year 1 Summary Report

Food Wise 2025 actions

Lead Ownership

Total Actions in Year 1: 330

A: Target Achieved: 6 (2%) (2, 23, 54, 144, 316 & 360)
B: Substantial action undertaken and ongoing: 86 (26%)
C: Action commenced and progressing: 221 (67%)
D: Action at commencement stage: 6 (2%) (43, 157, 218, 268, 342 & 381)
E: Action not yet commenced: 11 (3%) (417, 82, 94, 187, 258, 272, 276, 303, 304, 340 & 351)

- 1 **DAFM to finalise a sectoral plan for agriculture and forestry to inform the National Mitigation Plan under the National Climate Action and Low-Carbon Development Bill.** DAFM

Action commenced and progressing.

Draft sectoral mitigation plan was submitted to DECLG .

Meeting on alternative mitigation measures for the sector held with consultants carrying out SEA/AA on Draft National Mitigation Plan.

DAFM continues to engage in the process through the NMP Steering Group.
- 2 **At EU level continue to promote and seek agreement on an Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use (AFOLU) approach to the treatment of the land sector in UN climate change negotiations and continue to support discussions on agriculture under the Convention's Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA).** DAFM

Target achieved (2015)

Agreement reached at COP 21 that acknowledges food security and role of forestry in supporting a sustainable development pathway. Discussions under SBSTA took place and work programme for June 2016 session agreed. Ireland supported the French initiative called '4 per 1000' which promotes good soil management to retain and enhance soil carbon. Discussions on agriculture under SBSTA continued at June 2016 session. DAFM Participated in UNFCCC SBSTA workshops relating to agriculture at the Bonn Climate Change Conference through the EU AFOLU group.
- 3 **DAFM to continue active participation in multi-stakeholder 'Global Alliance for Climate Smart Agriculture' which is promoting the application of climate smart approaches to agriculture production systems.** DAFM

Action commenced and progressing.

DAFM represented at the GACSA Annual Forum on 13/14 October 2015. At COP21, Ireland participated at US side event to promote the GASCA. CSA questionnaire submitted to GACSA Member Engagement Team highlighting the broad range of CSA activities being carried out by Ireland. Irish case study on Policies, Practices and Strategies for Climate Smart Agriculture presented as part of GACSA webinar series - Irish case study was also presented at the GACSA Annual Forum in June 2016. Other case studies presented by Costa Rica, France, Malawi, Tanzania and Vietnam.

- 4 **DAFM to continue to work closely with DCENR, as part of National Bioenergy Plan discussions, to assess supply side issues related to the potential of bioenergy from the agriculture and forestry sectors and develop farm-scale renewables. DAFM will continue to support afforestation and mobilisation measures under the Forestry Programme 2014-2020 and encourage the innovative use of animal by-products (ABP) for energy production.** DAFM

Action commenced and progressing.

DAFM attended Bioenergy Steering Group meetings and attended/chaired working group meetings and participated in Bioenergy Plan Scoping Workshop in October 2015. Completion of review of Actions in the Draft Bioenergy Plan related to supply. Completion of SEAI process on the updating of resource availability curves. Stakeholder engagement phase completed in respect of Working Group 3 (Biomass Supply) and revised draft supply side actions submitted to DCENR on 11 March. DAFM met with representatives of IrBEA to discuss potential of anaerobic digestion for the agri sector.

- 5 **As part of EU Climate and Energy Framework (CEF) 2030 negotiations DAFM will continue to seek acknowledgment of realistic ambition for agriculture and clarity on the role of other land uses as a mitigation tool in Ireland and in particular its role in contributing to the achievement of overall emissions targets to 2030.** DAFM

Substantial action undertaken and ongoing.

Negotiations and discussions continued at national and EU level. Ministerial meeting with EU Commissioner for Climate and Energy took place.

- 6 **DAFM in conjunction with other agencies should maximise their use of scientific expertise to actively engage in international networks and research groups to find new ways to account for and reduce emissions.** DAFM

Action commenced and progressing.

The European Research Area Network (ERA-NET) Co-fund for Monitoring & Mitigation of Greenhouse gases from Agri- and Silvi-culture – ERA-GAS was opened for applications in March 2016. Irish funding partners DAFM and Teagasc played key roles in bringing transnational support for the Call through the Joint Programming Initiative on Agriculture, Food Security and Climate Change (FACCE-JPI). The recent European Research Area Network (ERA-NET) Co-fund Call for Monitoring & Mitigation of Greenhouse gases from Agri- and Silvi-culture received a number of proposals for new research in this area – these proposals have now commenced an expert review evaluation process which is being coordinated and managed by DAFM.

- 401 **When the National Mitigation Plan is finalised ensure that sectoral mitigation measures are developed based on requirements in National Plan** DAFM
- Action commenced and progressing.
- Meeting on alternative mitigation measures for the sector held with consultants carrying out SEA/AA on Draft National Mitigation Plan. Agriculture and Forest Sector material for inclusion in National Mitigation Plan updated for resubmission to DCCCNR.
- 402 **Adaptation and Resilience of Agri-food sector to future climate effects should be considered in policy development.** DAFM
- Action commenced and progressing.
- Work continued on the Agriculture, Forest and Marine sectoral plans under the National Climate Change Adaptation Framework. An assessment of the current vulnerabilities of the agriculture and forest sector was carried out and is being used as a basis to identify potential adaptation options.
- 7 **Continued updating on an annual basis of Teagasc National Farm Survey sustainability indicators, including further development of a wider spectrum of appropriate indicators and activity data to more accurately measure environmental sustainability and contribute to development and enhancement of GHG and ammonia inventories.** Teagasc
- Substantial action undertaken and ongoing.
- 2015 NFS data will be available in July and a more up to date set of indicators can be produced. Updated indicators will be presented at a public event later this year.
- 8 **Review and update key agri-environmental indicators, the accuracy of which are crucial to a) understanding trends in how nutrient losses to water and to air are partitioned, and, b) to assisting the cost-effective targeting of mitigation measures.** DAFM
- Action commenced and progressing.
- In November 2015, the Annual Gross Nitrogen Budget for Ireland, Gross Phosphorus Budget for Ireland and Nitrogen and Phosphorus Fertiliser Use records for Ireland were transmitted on deadline to Eurostat from where they are available to OECD. This is progressing through Agri-I project, ACP and through the various national and international Green House Gas related research initiatives. The AGRI I end of project workshop was held in June.

- 9 **Update Teagasc's Marginal Abatement Cost Curve for Irish agriculture on a more frequent basis to ensure the latest technological developments help inform an assessment of a wider range of GHG mitigation measures that could be rolled out at farm level.** Teagasc
- Action commenced and progressing.
- The abatement totals for agriculture and LULUCF have been modelled directly from the National Inventories in order to more accurately reflect mitigation. The costings will be finalised in Q3.
- 10 **Continue to enhance and roll out at farm level the Carbon Navigator Initiative which provides online software to assist farmers in understanding how their farms produce GHG emissions, identify mitigation capacity and to set targets and a pathway to reduce emissions. Teagasc in conjunction with other stakeholders to examine whether the navigator tool could be used to measure other important environmental parameters such as biodiversity.** Teagasc
- Substantial action undertaken and ongoing.
- The Carbon Navigator was upgraded ahead of rollout in BDGP and Dairy KT to improve client management facilities and to incorporate an advice sheet. 640 Advisers were trained in the use of the carbon navigator up to 15 March 2016. Further training of approximately 100 advisers will be delivered in June and July 2016 to complete the training task. The carbon navigator has been incorporated into the Dairy KT Scheme. Work will be commencing in July 2016 on the Sheep carbon navigator for delivery as part of Sheep KT Scheme.
- 11 **Bord Bia to further develop the range and depth of sustainability information collected for beef, dairy and other primary agricultural sectors using its auditing infrastructure** Bord Bia
- Substantial Action Undertaken and ongoing.
- The revision of the BLQAS to include sustainability measures is progressing with sign off by the Technical Advisory Committee envisaged in the next quarter. The Sustainable Dairy Assurance Scheme has a certified membership of more than 12,000. Activity in other sectors while at an early stage is satisfactory.

- 12 **Seafood sector to adapt and enhance the existing independent third party verified standards such as BIM's Quality Assurance Programmes, Marine Stewardship Council (MSC), Aquaculture Stewardship Council (ASC), organic certification and green manufacturing to facilitate measurement of its environmental credentials.** BIM

Action commenced and progressing.

BIM continues to develop and maintain the necessary suite of accredited standards required for premium market access and to demonstrate a high level of environmental sustainability within the operations of the Irish seafood sector. In particular, using BIM's EcoPact (a unique aquaculture environmental management system) has proven to be an efficient means of bringing aquaculture producers into Origin Green.

Aquaculture: BIM will conduct a surveillance audit in Q4 2016 following the remedial actions which will be taken over the course of Q2 and Q3 to maintain the accreditation. The importance of Stewardship standard and their value to the sector will be critically evaluated and discussed at the National Seafood Conference on 30 June 2016 to gauge their continuing importance for this industry. All other aquaculture projects are progressing.

Fisheries: BIM's internal review of the Responsibly Sourced Standard (RSS) has been completed. This incorporates changes arising from:

- the impact of the landing obligation and other changes arising from the CFP,
- changes in working conditions specific to all crew, including migrant workers and
- includes linkages to sustainability initiatives in line with Origin Green.

Discussions with key stakeholders on this revised draft will be completed in Q2. A meeting of the Technical Advisory Council - set up to oversee the development for the RSS - will be convened in early Q3 2016, to agree on the revised RSS. This will then be sent to the Irish National Accreditation Board (INAB) for ratification.

- 403 **Further research and analysis of the potential sustainable production output levels associated with the Sustainable Growth scenario proposed by Food Wise 2025** DAFM

Action commenced and progressing.

Action is progressing through sustainability group and ongoing research calls. Teagasc presented the Sustainable Growth Scenario (SGS) to the Environmental Sustainability Committee in April 2016.

- 404 **Monitor trends in water quality, in biodiversity and climate related parameters (GHG, ammonia, nitrous oxides etc.). DAFM and its agencies will work with responsible monitoring authorities in the development of indicators for environmental sustainability.** DAFM

Action commenced and progressing.

Action progressing through discussions in the Environmental Sustainability Group. Use of existing indicator data and trends where possible, with other options also being considered.

- 13 **DAFM to work with Bord Bia and other stakeholders on the future evolution of the Origin Green Programme and to further develop and enhance its effectiveness as watermark brand and key marketing tool of the Irish Agri-food sector's environmental sustainability credentials based on a suite of quantitative measures. Investment in science and technology must continue to support the ambition of the Origin Green Programme to ensure it remains underpinned by a strong scientific evidence base.** Bord Bia
- Substantial Action Undertaken and ongoing.
- The incorporation of sustainability measures into farm assurance programmes continues as does various collaboration initiatives with Teagasc, EPA and other institutions as well as DAFM itself to further develop the technical and scientific foundation of Origin Green.
- 15 **Improve knowledge transfer and exchange to farmers by developing a network across all State agencies and relevant advisory bodies to deliver clear, coordinated science-based advice on how farmers can adopt sustainable practices that deliver both environmental and economic benefits.** Teagasc
- Action commenced and progressing.
- Teagasc launched the ConnectEd Programme in 2015, which is designed to create stronger linkages (Connect) between Teagasc and businesses that support the agri-food sector. The programme seeks to develop networking opportunities for different professions, while at the same time providing high quality professional development opportunities.
- ConnectEd will offer a structured platform for member interaction, including:
- ConnectEd eZine
 - Periodic local and national networking events
 - Regional seminars
 - Social media group communication.
- Teagasc are continuing to work closely with other organisations, public bodies and advisers to provide consistent and clear messages to farmers and other end users. This involves training and support services, joint programmes, joint events and promotion of participation in RDP schemes. A good example is the way the NMP on line is now being used by different advisers to produce plans for GLAS applicants.
- 16 **Ensure ongoing funding is made available through national programmes to assist in securing farmer engagement with sustainable practices. This should build on RDP schemes such as Beef Data Genomics and Knowledge Transfer Groups.** DAFM
- Substantial action undertaken and ongoing.
- €6million in 2016 Estimates for Beef/Lamb QA. As of 23 May 2016; 42,205 herds/flocks were certified under the Bord Bia Beef & Lamb Quality assurance Scheme. On-farm inspections on an 18 monthly basis include carbon measurement, which assists producers to reduce emissions and production costs, so improving farm profitability. The Department provided funding of €2.7m in Q1-Q2 towards inspection costs.

- 18 **Prioritise the process of bringing fishermen into the Origin Green programme using BIM's responsible fishing standards and other environmental programme as an entry point.** BIM
- Action commenced and progressing.
- BIM met with Bord Bia on 12 February to discuss the Bord Bia/BIM/Origin Green initiative. In addition, the inaugural meeting of the Market Advisory Committee (MAC) took place on 15 March to oversee the process of bringing fishermen under 'Origin Green'. The MAC included fishermen's representatives, fishermen's co-ops, processors and exporters. A communication strategy on developing the linkages between the Responsibly Sourced Standard (RSS) and Origin Green prepared by BIM with Bord Bia, was rolled out to key stakeholders during June 2016. To accompany this strategy, a stakeholder mapping exercise has been completed to identify the "early movers" among key stakeholders (e.g. catching sector, co-operatives and primary processors) who are best placed to engage with the RSS and Origin Green. During Q3 2016 it is planned that up to 30 vessels will be certified under the RSS comprising vessels from Castletownbere, Greencastle, Galway and Aran and Clogherhead co-ops. This is a mixture of new entrants and vessels being re-certified having fallen out for certification.
- 19 **Highlight farm profitability measures that can be achieved from participation in Origin Green programme.** Bord Bia
- Substantial action undertaken and Ongoing.
- Extensive training has been undertaken by Teagasc and support provided by Bord Bia to facilitate the adoption of the Carbon Navigator as part of the Knowledge Transfer Programme.
- 20 **Continue to develop and enhance the quality assurance standards required for Origin Green.** Bord Bia
- Substantial action undertaken and ongoing.
- The roll out of the Sustainable Dairy Assurance Standard is progressing well (over 12,000 certified members) and the revision of the BLQAS is at an advanced stage with sign-off by the Technical Advisory Committee envisaged in the next quarter. Accreditation of the Feed QAS by INAB is anticipated in Q3.
- 21 **Leverage Origin Green to drive real efficiencies/improvements in respect of energy usage, waste water and food and packaging waste.** Bord Bia
- Substantial Action Undertaken and Ongoing.
- The second Sustainability Report scheduled for publication in Q4 2016 will provide further quantification of the improvements achieved. Currently 144 companies have submitted Sustainability Plans and 180 companies are Verified Members.

- 22 **Increase direct engagement and support offered to companies developing their sustainability plans in order to achieve the target of 450 verified members. Recruit additional Origin Green advisors to ensure the required level of engagement is delivered.** Bord Bia
- Substantial Action Undertaken and Ongoing.
- Sanction was sought and given to recruit expertise to provide engagement and support to companies. Two Origin Green Development Managers commenced in Q2. Currently 144 companies have submitted Sustainability Plans and 180 companies are Verified Members.
- 23 **Continue to build on the corporate social responsibility on the sustainability elements of Origin Green with particular focus on health and wellness.** Bord Bia
- Target Achieved (2015).
- Changes to Charter implemented and highlighted in Origin Green Sustainability report, which was launched as part of the Global Sustainability Forum in November.
- 24 **Play its part in delivering appropriate messaging and promotion of Origin Green to producers and suppliers.** Industry
- Action commenced and progressing.
- Number of companies now stands at 508 with consequent increase of awareness and understanding likely amongst the supply base, including producers.
- 405 **Maximise participation in Origin Green Programme by producers and processors to ensure an enhanced level of environmental performance is delivered by all actors in the sector.** Bord Bia
- Substantial Action Undertaken and Ongoing.
- Currently 508 companies are registered to participate in Origin Green. Certified membership of QAS programmes also continues to grow.

- 25 **Sustained and intensive monitoring of the interface between agri-economic growth and agri-environmental sustainability through continuation and enhancement of the DAFM-funded Teagasc Agricultural Catchments Programme.** DAFM

Action commenced and progressing.

Phase 2 ended 31 December 2015. Phase 3 of the Agricultural Catchments Programme will run from 2016 to 2019 and will include enhanced tasks such as modelling of trends and future scenarios, particularly in the areas of expansion, to assist in assessing the potential impacts of FW2025; and collaborating with Knowledge Transfer professionals to disseminate findings to influence the uptake of best management practices by farmers. Enhancement of the ACP programme is being progressed through a collaborative industry proposal to improve water quality.

- 26 **DAFM to work closely with all stakeholders to ensure that the scientific findings from the Agricultural Catchments Programme are integrated fully and appropriately into agri-environmental policies.** DAFM

Action commenced and progressing.

The inaugural 'Catchment Science into Policy' event held by the ACP in 2015 is to become an annual event from 2016. In addition, the DAFM is working closely with the DECLG and the EPA to ensure that the scientific findings of the ACP are integrated fully into WFD implementation policy. Using the findings of the ACP to enhance water protection on farms has been included as a topic in the Continuous Professional Development programme for discussion group facilitators in the RDP Knowledge Transfer Programmes.

DAFM held an Internal Water Forum on 8 October 2015 the purpose of which was to showcase the range of water related policy and operational activities DAFM is involved in, including the ACP, which contribute to achieving the twin goals of improving productivity while simultaneously improving and protecting water quality.

DAFM and ACP/Teagasc working closely with EPA on 'WFD Agricultural Management Strategies Working Group', at present to assess mitigation measures for inclusion in River Basin Management Plans under the WFD.

Phase 2 report of ACP is expected by end of Q2.

- 28 **Teagasc to develop and rollout a Nutrient Management software tool to enhance cost-effective use of feed, fertiliser and slurry to minimise nitrogen (nitrate, ammonia and nitrous oxide) and phosphorus losses.** Teagasc

Substantial action undertaken and ongoing.

NMP online available to users with approximately 300 users trained.

- 29 **Introduce knowledge transfer programmes to improve and broaden awareness levels on the efficient use of nutrients on farms, thereby reducing losses of valuable and costly nutrients to water and to air, so providing for economic and environmental sustainability goals.** Teagasc

Action commenced and progressing.

The rollout of NMP online is being supported with comprehensive training and support for Teagasc and private advisers on best practice in nutrient management planning. There is a key focus in public events and media contributions on the increased use of lime to boost soil fertility and nutrient efficiency and on the use of urea and enhanced urea to reduce GHG emissions.

- 30 **The feasibility of mainstreaming environmental resource efficiency into a mandatory component of minimum agriculture qualifications to be examined.** Teagasc

Action commenced and progressing.

As part of the review proposals for the QQI award review a mandatory module on sustainable and environmentally friendly farming will be added to the Level 6 Specific Purpose Certificate in Farm Administration award (Green Cert) subject to final approval by QQI. This will substantially strengthen the environment and sustainable farming content of the 'Green Cert'.

- 31 **Teagasc to develop soil specific advice for both organic and inorganic manure use to take account of mineralisation across soils to help inform optimal fertiliser application rates and timing.** Teagasc

Action commenced and progressing.

The revision of the Teagasc fertilizer recommendation (green book) is underway and progressing as planned.

- 32 **Teagasc to carry out a soil nutrient census to track soil fertility trends.** Teagasc

Action commenced and progressing.

A summary of the soil fertility trends for 2015 was presented in Q1. There are two ongoing activities related to this action. NMP online has been launched and this will provide the mechanism for evaluating soil fertility trends. The national fertilizer use survey has also begun and is on target to be completed in the autumn of 2016. This will establish changes to soil fertility management nationally.

- 33 **DAFM to work closely with responsible agencies to monitor potential localised/regionalised impacts of dairy herd expansion on water quality and to develop mitigation measures, in conjunction with the scientific findings from the Agricultural Catchments Programme.** DAFM

Action commenced and progressing.

The Water Policy Regulations 2014 made by the Minister for Environment established a tiered governance structure to assist implementation of the Water Framework Directive in Ireland. Nitrates, Biodiversity and Engineering (NBE) Division is participating in various Working Groups set up under this structure as follows:

- a) WFD Tier 2 EPA led 'Agricultural Management Strategies' Working Group, which held its first meeting on 4th September 2015.
- b) WFD Tier 2 EPA led 'National Implementation' Group, which met on 17th September 2015.
- c) WFD Tier 1 DECLG led 'Water Statistics' Working Group which met on 5th October 2015.
- d) WFD Tier 3 Local Authority led 'Agriculture and Water Quality' Working Group which met on 9th October 2015.

Phase 3 of the Agricultural Catchments Programme, which will run from 2016 to 2019, will establish an Integrated Environmental-Economic Modelling work package to specifically address the challenges inherent in meeting the production and environmental targets set out for Irish agriculture. This work package will model the efficacy of mitigation measures from farm scale up to national scale and will link up with the EPA's Catchment Unit approach to River Basin Management Planning under the WFD.

DAFM and ACP/Teagasc working closely with EPA on 'WFD Agricultural Management Strategies Working Group', at present to assess mitigation measures for inclusion in River Basin Management Plans under the WFD by end 2016.

- 34 **Teagasc to enhance PastureBase Ireland tool as a resource to help improve grassland and nitrogen management and increase grass utilisation.** Teagasc

Action commenced and progressing.

The redevelopment of Pasturebase Ireland is progressing well and more farmers have joined the system in 2016. There are now over 1400 users logged onto the system. Web service to the Grasshopper is now in operation, this means that data can be transferred directly from the Grasshopper to the PBI system.

- 35 **Following on from engagement and adoption of the Origin Green programme at farm level, participants in the Bord Bia Quality Assurance Schemes to work to deliver improvements in their carbon footprint, added to the subsequent calculation of improvement on these farms at a macro national level.** Bord Bia

Substantial action undertaken and ongoing

Significant preparatory work has been undertaken by Teagasc and supported by Bord Bia to support the imminent roll out of the Knowledge Transfer programmes that will result in widespread adoption of the Carbon Navigator tool. An Origin Green Producer Awards programme is planned for Q3 with a farming media partner to highlight the improvement potential to the wider farming community.

- 36 **Seafood Development Programme 2014-2020 (SDP) to provide a framework to take action against the decline of fish stocks through improved fisheries management and the focused implementation of landings obligation requirements.** DAFM

Action commenced and progressing.

EMFF OP Sustainable Fisheries Scheme launched on 14 January 2016 and immediately opened to applications by BIM. The Scheme provides a suite of supports to the fishing sector to adapt to and implement the landing obligation. All CFP stocks are managed within MSY framework in accordance with CFP and MSFD 2015 and 2020 targets. MI worked with ICES provides a framework for stock status classification relative to MSY proxies for stocks in category 3. For stocks fished in Irish EEZ, long term management plans and recovery plans are in place for a number of stocks. Data collection increased for data limited stocks of commercial importance, including dedicated surveys for Monkfish and Megrin, to provide input data for stock assessment.

Six projects are progressing under the BIM's Sustainable Fisheries Scheme. MI continue to work with ICES on a framework for stock status classification relative to MSY proxies for stocks in category 3. For many stocks fished in Irish EEZ, long term management plans and recovery plans are in place. The 2015 data collection for Ireland increased the focus on data limited stocks of commercial importance. Two dedicated surveys for Monkfish and Megrin were completed during Q2, in co-operation with the UK, to provide input data for stock assessment. MI continued work on the sampling of discards and in investigating new stocks that might be added to the LO species.

- 37 **DAFM, SFPA and Industry to develop a suite of measures to promote changed behaviour which will minimise juvenile catch and protect vulnerable stocks.** DAFM

Action commenced and progressing.

Refer to Action 36. Sustainable Fisheries Scheme will support fishermen to develop Change Management Plans to assist them in avoiding unwanted catch of juvenile and depleted stocks. The Scheme will also support the development and dissemination of more selective fishing gear and methods.

A BIM project proposal to instigate a change management programme has been submitted to DAFM to be funded under Sustainable Fisheries Scheme. This project focuses on the creation of industry discussion groups as well as the establishment of three pilot Fishery Improvement Projects for Nephrops, whitefish and crab. BIM plan to roll-out the discussion groups and Fishery Improvement Projects during Q3 and Q4 of 2016.

- 38 **BIM, with support from MI and in collaboration with the SFPA, to intensify its programme of gear selectivity and technical conservation measures, particularly to fulfil landing obligation requirements.** BIM

Action commenced and progressing.

Trials aimed at improving selectivity of Nephrops: In May 2016 BIM produced a report on the trial (undertaken in February 2016) to investigate the potential use of square mesh codends to improve the selectivity for Nephrops.

Trials aimed at improving selectivity for whiting: In March 2016 BIM conducted a trial to test T90 cod-ends as a means of improving selectivity for whiting on vessels targeting that species. In the T90 test the mesh is turned 90 degrees to improve mesh opening. Preliminary results were very encouraging with the T90 80mm cod-end catching substantially less small whiting and substantially more large whiting compared with a traditional 80mm diamond mesh cod-end. BIM will issue a full on this study in due course.

40 **Take actions under the SDP to improve the environmental sustainability of the inshore fisheries sector.** BIM

Action commenced and progressing.

(i) A meeting of the National Inshore Fisheries Forum (NIFF) was facilitated by BIM on 18 January 2016 and discussed a range of procedural and administrative issues in respect of the operation of the NIFF and associated RIFFs. There was also discussion on a large number of inshore fisheries management issues including management of razorfish fisheries, impact of seals on inshore fisheries and quota management issues. An outcome of the work carried out by the Inshore Fisheries Forums in 2015 was the adoption in January 2016 of SI (31 of 2016) on non-commercial pot fishing (lobster and crab). This introduces a number of issues to regulate non-commercial pot fishing for lobster and crab by fishing vessels within the internal waters or territorial seas of the State.

(ii) Inshore Fisheries Conservation Schemes under the EMFF has been agreed with OPCM. The Inshore Fisheries Conservation Scheme allocates grant aid for funding to further improve the sustainability of Ireland's lobster stocks. The scheme is open to Owners/Operator of Irish registered fishing vessels less than 15 metres in length. The lobster v-notching component of the scheme provides for grant aid to approved groups (and in exceptional cases individuals) to implement local lobster v-notching programmes.

During the period 12 February to 11 March there were 18 applications for this scheme representing a potential investment of €245,760 with a potential grant value of €180,952 if approved.

(iii) A meeting of the NIFF with Minister Coveney scheduled for the 26 April was postponed due to the Ministers central involvement in the talks on Government formation. It is anticipated that a revised date will be scheduled in the by end of Q2 2016.

(iv) During the period 11 March to 19 May there were a further 21 applications approved under the BIM's Lobster V-Notching Support bringing total grants approved to €320,000.

(v) A draft final report on the impacts of shrimp potting on mackerel and eelgrass in Roaringwater Bay has been completed by BIM. A meeting with the MI and the consultants involved will be held in May to finalise the report prior to publication. Results of the Investigation on the effect of lobster potting on kelp reef habitats will be published separately.

The investigation of fishing activity on the vicinity of seal haul-out sites continues and will conclude in Q2 with a report completed by the end of August 2016.

406 **Where additional biodiversity threats are identified, such as decline in farmland birds, develop new or amend existing measures to mitigate such threats.** DAFM

Action commenced and progressing.

Ongoing interaction with NPWS on agri-environment measures under the RDP, as well as consideration of potential environmental issues arising under Pillar I measures. Discussions continuing on the framework and structure of agri-environment measures under the locally-led schemes i.e. Fresh Water Pearl Mussel and hen harrier.

- 42 **EU Environmental Aid Scheme 2014-2020 to be targeted at supporting Agri-food companies to invest in initiatives which aim to deliver improved environmental and energy efficiency, increase their uptake of renewable energy technologies and environmental protection systems and research alternative possibilities in relation to energy efficiencies and technologies.** Enterprise Ireland
- Substantial action taken and undertaken.
- Three projects in 2015 and five projects approved as of 1 June 2016.
- 43 **As part of the Europe 2020 strategy, BIM will introduce schemes in compliance with the EMFF to support investments in equipment or in fishing or aquaculture vessels aimed at reducing the emission of pollutants or GHG and/or increasing energy efficiency. This may include support for the modernisation and replacement of fleet engines.** BIM
- Action at commencement stage.
- At commencement stage. A grant aid scheme, aimed at providing support for fishing or aquaculture vessels to reduce CO2 emissions and increase fuel efficiency, is in preparation and will be launched later in 2016, pending agreement with DAFM of allowable elements.
- 44 **At SME level increase the level of environmental awareness relating to regulatory compliance and development of basic management systems related to environmental performance through EI GreenStart programme.** Enterprise Ireland
- Action commenced and progressing.
- 11 projects approved in 2015 and action commenced and progressing in 2016.
- 45 **Enterprise Ireland will develop the capability of food company managers to drive environmental efficiencies and achieve improved sustainability, through customised management development programmes and through the Green Plus element of Enterprise Ireland Business Process Improvement Grants.** Enterprise Ireland
- Action commenced and progressing.
- Action commenced and progressing in 2016.
- 46 **Enterprise Ireland to invest in in-company innovation processes, R&D and NPD development programmes, and to support the human and capital infrastructure requirements of that absorptive capacity.** Enterprise Ireland
- Action commenced and progressing.
- 15 proposals approved in 2015 and 14 projects approved to date in 2016 and a strong project pipeline established. In addition, the official launch of the Meat Technology Centre is now anticipated for Q4, 2016.

47 **Policies and measures to support the mitigation benefits of forest-based biomass and wood products should be established by relevant Departments and agencies.** DAFM

Action commenced and progressing.

The following measures have been put in place to support the production and supply of forest-based biomass and wood products:

- An Afforestation Scheme that aims to promote the establishment of 44,000 hectares of new forests over the next 6 years which will produce material not just for the timber processing sector but also for energy. This Scheme includes a planting category especially for fast growing trees such as Eucalyptus and Poplar.
- Funding for almost 700km of new forests roads is being provided under the Forestry Programme 2014-2020 which will help mobilise timber and biomass. Forest Road building is, however, almost 20% behind. This is due principally to issues concerning planning permission for the construction of new forestry entrances, the cost of building forest roads on deep peats and the percentage of forests which are being left unthinned and consequently not requiring forest road.
- The Woodland Improvement scheme incentivises forest growers to thin their broadleaf plantations, thereby increasing the volume of biomass which can be brought to market from these sources.

Forest roads, thinning and tending of broadleaves schemes, and the afforestation scheme which includes forestry for fibre and agro forestry have all been established during 2015. Work has started on a pilot project for forest certification for forest owners as part of knowledge transfer groups. A successful pilot project leading to a national scheme for KTG's will ensure access to markets for private timber.

Forest Road scheme has been amended to provide additional funding for forest entrances. Scheme is being monitored closely to see the impacts of this change. Forestry for Fibre leaflets are printed.

- 48 **Demand side and supply chain mechanisms should be developed to ensure biomass crops including forest and wood products are brought to market and full market returns realised however demand side measures must not over incentivise particular end users as it may distort market competition.** DAFM

Action commenced and progressing.

Development of Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) demand side measure part of remit of working groups 1 & 3 under Bioenergy Plan Steering Group. Taxation treatment of forest income in Budget 2016 an incentive to harvesting of forest crops.

The draft Bioenergy Plan “proposes to introduce an Exchequer-funded Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) in 2016 subject to State Aid approval from the European Commission and further Government approval for the scheme. The scheme will be aimed at larger commercial and industrial installations outside of the Emissions Trading System to adopt renewable heating solutions”.

DAFM participates in in Bioenergy Plan WG1 (demand side measures) in January 2016.

Work continued in working groups - RFT issued for an economic analysis of RHI. A new biomass supply curve was presented to Working Group 3.

- 49 **Horizon 2020 is a key source of vital funding and scientific benchmarking for Irish researchers and companies. EI with DAFM to increase the level of participation of Irish companies in the programme.** Enterprise Ireland

Action commenced and progressing.

Enterprise Ireland has nominated a technical champion from it's Food Business Unit to work with it's H2020 team to generate the pipeline and integrate project outcomes into core business. Enterprise Ireland's Technical Champion is appointed and attended the first meeting of group in February 2016. This action is progressing.

- 50 **Uptake of GLAS should be maximised to help enhance the natural environment through, inter alia, retaining carbon stocks in the soil, margins/habitat preservation and improving water quality to ensure compliance with the Water Framework Directive. Uptake on other RDP initiatives such as, organic farming, priority freshwater pearl mussel catchment sites and the Burren farming for conservation project should also be maximised as separate key RDP enabling instruments to achieve environmental objectives.** DAFM

Substantial action undertaken and ongoing.

GLAS is a much more targeted scheme than previous agri environmental schemes with targeted environmental benefits. A total of 38,000 participants have been achieved under the first two tranches with an objective of maximising participation at 50,000. All RDP targets of Organics in terms of both area and participation have been met, following two tranches of intake. New Burren scheme has been rolled out and first intake of 200 approved. Plan is to double this over the next two years. Negotiations continue with Commission on format for establishing other locally-led schemes, including FWPM.

Work is ongoing on the development of proposals for GLAS Tranche 3 to be launched later this year. In relation to Organics, remaining applications for participation in the scheme are being processed. Negotiations continue on the structure of the new Locally-led Measure with the EU Commission, with agreement on the Burren Programme virtually secured.

In April 2016, locally-led Freshwater Pearl Mussel (FPM) RDP scheme progressed in-house and is ongoing. In May 2016, EU Kerry LIFE project management group meeting was held. The learnings from this project will inform, in part, the development and establishment of the FPM RDP scheme.

- 51 **Invest in evidence-based monitoring and research of agri-environment measures to demonstrate the environmental outputs and identify areas for improvement and/or additional measures.** DAFM

Action commenced and progressing.

A GLAS evaluation contract commenced in September 2015 and a project inception meeting was held in October 2015 to discuss contract deliverables and proposed methodology. There is ongoing engagement with the contractor to enable it deliver outputs for the 2016 work programme.

There are three components to the GLAS contract, the most important of which is the longitudinal (5-year) field survey. The baseline element of the survey on 300 farms is due to commence this summer based on a dataset of all approved GLAS applications and a sampling strategy approved by DAFM. Other contract elements currently finalised or close to finalisation include the literature review, monitoring protocols for field surveyors, a farmer attitudinal survey and contract invoicing. Arrangements for the provision of the raw data required for the modelling component of the evaluation are still under discussion internally and with relevant third parties.

- 52 **Ongoing research, development and validation of green technologies by research bodies to deliver practical solutions to improve water quality.** DAFM
- Action commenced and progressing.
- Evaluation process of proposals to DAFM' 2015 Research Call completed; including proposals that included within their scope green technology solutions to water quality. The outcome of this competitive award process is expected to be published in Q3/4 2016.
- 53 **Promote widespread uptake of on-farm capital investment grants as part of RDP 2014-2020 especially for low emission slurry spreading equipment, farm nutrient storage and animal housing which will help lower emissions and improve water quality.** DAFM
- Substantial action undertaken and ongoing.
- 2,000 applications received under Tranche III which together with over 2,200 applications received under Tranche II and 3,000 applications under Tranche I represents a significant level of uptake under these schemes.
- 54 **Aim to maximise the number of suckler farmers participating in the Beef Data and Genomics Programme which will help raise awareness of and mitigate GHG emissions from the sector, improve production efficiency and herd quality for suckler sector which will deliver climate change benefits as well as productivity and competitiveness gains.** DAFM
- Target achieved.
- Information meetings and workshops were held across the country in conjunction with ICBF, and Teagasc for scheme participants. DAFM also hosted the first meeting of the Stakeholder Group to review implementation of the BDGP in Q4 and a second meeting took place in Q1 2016.
- 55 **Maximise uptake of allocated funding for the Forestry 2014-2020 Programme to help increase afforestation levels to capture carbon, and sustain the production of forest-based biomass to meet renewable energy targets.** DAFM
- Action commenced and progressing.
- Afforestation levels are up year on year. Brochures for the Forestry for Fibre scheme were printed to help promote this afforestation scheme category. The COFORD Afforestation promotion group is looking at the implementation of recommendations set out in the COFORD Council Land Availability Working Group (CCLAWG) report.

- 56 **With appropriate wider stakeholder involvement, identify any critical gaps in current funding programmes that are blockages to the achievement of key environmental objectives to help optimise the structure of future alternative funding programmes.** DAFM

Action commenced and progressing.

Ongoing Monitoring and Evaluation is built into the RDP as part of the annual reporting process. The RDP Evaluation plan provides for a number of studies to be carried out over the lifetime of the programme.

A meeting of the RPD Monitoring and Evaluation Steering Group was held on 18 May. Members were briefed on progress regarding the GLAS and ex-post evaluations. Also discussed were future evaluation and reporting requirements in relation to: the completion of the 2017 & 2019 Enhanced Annual Implementation Reports for the EU Commission; a Value for Money Review; BDGP evaluation; and an Exchequer Affordability Review of the current RDP. It was agreed to further consider options for the VFM and the BDGP evaluation and to seek further information on the Exchequer Review before convening another meeting of the group at which it is expected that planned topics and timescales will be decided.

The contract for an Ex-Post Evaluation of Ireland's 2007 -2013 RDP was awarded to Indecon on 29 April, 2015. This study will aim to show programme achievements with the funds spent, justify the programme budget and enhance the transparency and accountability of EU rural policy to stakeholders and taxpayers. It must be completed and provided to the Commission by end December, 2016.

- 57 **In relation to the LIFE programme, DAFM will maintain close contact with DECLG, DAHG and other relevant stakeholders to ensure that any biodiversity, climate or water quality actions are appropriately targeted and implemented** DAFM

Action commenced and progressing.

DAFM is an associated beneficiary in the Kerry LIFE project (2014-2019) which is concerned with conservation of the Freshwater Pearl Mussel endangered species and the outputs from this project will inform the development of the locally-led measure for freshwater pearl mussel under the Rural Development Programme. Similarly, DAFM's interaction and involvement with the AranLIFE project, due for completion in 2017, will inform the development of future agri-environment measures in high nature value farming systems.

Bord Bia and Teagasc are involved in the Life Beef Carbon Initiative - Towards Low Carbon Beef Farming.

58	Agri-food research funding to prioritise research which:	DAFM
	Action commenced and progressing.	
	Evaluation process of proposals to DAFM' 2015 Research Call completed including proposals that included within their scope many of the priority areas outlined in Action 58. The outcome of this competitive award process is expected to be published in Q3/4 2016.	
58 A	Ø Provides evidence base to quantify the economic, social and environmental sustainability of Irish food production systems and to assess the vulnerability of these systems to climate change.	DAFM
58 B	Ø Support strategies and technologies to reduce the impact of food production on water quality.	DAFM
58 C	Ø Identifies and evaluates tailored measures which impact positively on biodiversity.	DAFM
58 D	Ø Develops and assesses existing and emerging technologies for reducing ammonia and GHG emissions and carbon sequestration in Ireland's soils, biomass and agricultural systems.	DAFM
58 E	Ø Informs a policy review to be initiated on the effects of ammonia restrictions on future increases in livestock numbers and on the demography within the national herd.	DAFM
58 F	Ø Develops a holistic approach to data capture, modelling and sustainability assessment of Irish farming and aquaculture systems, including the provision, utilisation and exploitation of verifiable data on the environmental impact and sustainability of grass-based food production and aquaculture in Ireland.	DAFM

- 58 G Ø Supports the health and nutrition benefits of seafood and grass-based food production. DAFM
- 58 H Ø Provides scientific advice and strengthens coherence between public programmes and to inform policy decisions on the benefits of bio-economy solutions. DAFM
- 58 I Ø Strengthens environmental measurement and monitoring capacity in particular the potential for sensor and other new emerging technologies. DAFM
- 58 J Ø Investigates the ability of a wide range of land use options to sequester carbon. DAFM
- 58 K Ø Develops sectoral farm management tools and management systems that optimise on-farm resource use efficiency. These should be aimed at translating the principles of sustainable intensification into tangible practices and at providing the knowledge base for many of the aforementioned recommendations on “Improvement of environmental footprint of the sector”. DAFM
- 59 As part of the 2025 implementation phase DAFM will work closely with relevant agencies to ensure appropriate monitoring across all sectors of the agri-food industry on the environmental impacts of 2025 strategy including possible impacts at regional level. This implementation process will include evaluation and assessment of the delivery of sustainability and mitigation actions set out in the strategy report. DAFM

Substantial action undertaken and ongoing.

An Environmental Sustainability sub group was established to monitor and drive the implementation of sustainability actions. It will report to the High Level Implementation Committee (HLIC). The group has met twice and at the second meeting presentations on biodiversity indicators and the Sustainable Growth Scenario were given.

- 60 **DAFM and all state agencies involved in the Agri-food sector will enhance their collective coherence with wider Government policy in respect of implementation of measures, such as RDP measures and Origin Green, to address environmental and sustainability issues.** DAFM
- Action commenced and progressing.
- Refer to Action 59. The Environmental Sustainability sub group includes representatives from key Government Departments and agencies.
- 407 **As part of the 2025 implementation phase DAFM will work closely with relevant agencies to ensure appropriate monitoring across all sectors of the agri-food industry on the environmental impacts of 2025 strategy including possible impacts at regional level. This implementation process will include evaluation and assessment of the delivery of sustainability and mitigation actions set out in the strategy report.** DAFM
- Substantial action undertaken and ongoing.
- Refer also to Action 59. GLAS evaluation (field study) commenced under contract to ADAS/Scott Cawley.
- The Environmental Sustainability sub group has met twice and at the second meeting presentations on biodiversity indicators and the Sustainable Growth Scenario were given.
- 408 **Generate an annual report analysing performance and uptake of Origin Green programme.** Bord Bia
- Substantial action undertaken and ongoing.
- The 2015 report was issued in November a similar timeframe is envisaged for the 2016 report.
- 409 **Undertake an annual review of EPA water quality monitoring results to identify trends in nutrient loading and biological water status with regard status required under WFD in following sectors Dairy, Beef, Sheep, PCF, Forestry and Seafood. DAFM will work with EPA to monitor and identify trends at regional level, interpreting as much as feasible, sectoral impacts.** DAFM
- Action commenced and progressing.
- Fully abreast of water quality information included in EPA 'Water Quality in Ireland 2010-2012' report published in 2015. Also water quality information, data and trends included in nitrates derogation report. DAFM are contributing to EPA report on Article 10 of Nitrates Directive which is due with EC by end June 2016.

- 410 **Introduce catchment/regional monitoring where increased livestock numbers are anticipated by working with EPA, to ensure appropriate monitoring in areas of potential livestock increases through on-site monitoring, modelling etc.** DAFM
- Action commenced and progressing.
- Action linked to Action 33. Ongoing as part of preparation and support of draft River Basin Management Planning for WFD by end 2016.
- 411 **Carry out a review of EPA/Teagasc agricultural catchment assessments to monitor changes in nutrient loading.** DAFM
- Action commenced and progressing.
- Phase 3 of the Programme commenced in January 2016. The monitoring parameters will be considered for any emerging trends, as they become available.
- 412 **Generate an annual report detailing the results of analysis of GHG emissions arising from agriculture, including sectoral emissions and identification of trends.** DAFM
- Action commenced and progressing.
- EPA GHG projections update to 2020 released in Q1 2016. DAFM, including the Forest Service have ongoing engagement with the EPA to discuss and understand trends in GHG emissions.
- 413 **Annual report on disposal of animal carcasses and identify any capacity issues in waste facilities.** DAFM
- Action commenced and progressing.
- The Department has evaluated the position and is satisfied that there are no capacity issues at present in relation to disposal of sheep carcass by-products.
- 414 **Annual report on changes in cropping pattern and permanent pastures to monitor trends.** DAFM
- Action commenced and progressing.
- The Department prepares a report for the Commission on changes in cropping patterns and permanent pastures. This will be available at year end.

- 415 **Organise an annual workshop of relevant state agencies and stakeholders to discuss any impacts arising from intensification/expansion of agricultural activities and development of mitigation measures.** DAFM
- Action commenced and progressing.
- Workshop is planned for Q4 2016.
- 416 **Review of landscape character on a five year basis which should include a review of LCAs undertaken by local authorities.** DAFM
- Action commenced and progressing.
- The Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht launched a 10-year National Landscape Strategy for Ireland 2015, and one of the main objectives (in years 1-5) is to deliver a national Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) as part of this strategy. The DAHG is planning to convene a working group in Q3 of 2016 to facilitate this objective.
- The Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and the Gaeltacht is planning to convene a working group in Q3 2016 to facilitate this objective.
- 417 **Annual assessment of wood processing facilities industrial emissions licences to identify impacts and recommend improvements where required.** DAFM
- Action not yet commenced
- DAFM are liaising with EPA on this Action.
- 418 **DAFM in consultation with other relevant government departments and state agencies to consider any emerging impacts/trends on Natura 2000 sites impacted by changes in agricultural practices.** DAFM
- Action commenced and progressing.
- Discussions ongoing with NPWS in relation to development and design of agri-environment measures including issues related to the Prioritised Action Framework for Natura lands and other relevant issues in the wider countryside, for example to mitigate agricultural pressures where relevant.
- 419 **DAFM to develop suitable monitoring programme in line with proposals under RDP 2014-2020 (GLAS) to monitor and report on the impact of RDP measures on biodiversity, Climate and water quality.** DAFM
- Action commenced and progressing.
- DAFM provided feedback on the draft literature review and finalisation is anticipated soon. DAFM is working with the contractors to finalise the farm sample (approx. 300 farms) with initial field assessments are due to commence shortly thereafter.

- 61 **A review of existing level 5 and 6 further education awards and curricula in agriculture and associated curricula should be undertaken. Teagasc will undertake this review under the auspices of Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI), in consultation with a wide body of stakeholders to ensure that they are both fit-for-purpose and to future proof them in terms of emerging industry needs.** Teagasc
- Substantial action undertaken and ongoing.
- In Q2, QQI will put forward the proposals of the Standards Review Group that conducted the QQI Level 5 and level 6 agriculture award review for public consultation and will organise a stakeholder consultation workshop. Teagasc has led the review process under the remit of QQI.
- 62 **This review should identify for each career step the essential skill sets for different roles and produce a competency matrix which identifies the skillsets and the education and training requirements to reach them.** Teagasc
- Substantial action undertaken and ongoing.
- The QQI L5 and L6 Standards Review Group, led by Teagasc, has completed its deliberations and award revisions are being finalised in Q1. QQI will the put the revised award proposals out for public consultation for a number of weeks prior to QQI final approval. The review considered skills sets and competency requirements in regard to mainstream farming and also in regard to specialised sectors (pigs and poultry).
- 63 **Teagasc to seek delegated authority to make education awards as part of new Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) structure. This would allow more flexible and responsive development of future agricultural education programmes.** Teagasc
- Action commenced and progressing.
- It is expected that QQI will by Q4 have published revised policy guidelines in regard to delegation of awarding authority for the further education sector. Currently there is no policy in place allowing delegation of awarding authority in further education. Teagasc intends to pursue awarding powers once the QQI policy is finalised.
- 64 **Review and further develop eligibility criteria for agricultural education programmes to allow for more flexible access for young non-agricultural graduates to agriculture education programmes.** Teagasc
- Substantial action undertaken and ongoing.
- Teagasc initiated in 2016 a longer-term strategic review of its Education Programme to determine how it can best meet future needs of the land-based sector. Initial scoping work for this review commenced in Q1. A high level steering group with international representation has been established to oversee the Teagasc Education Strategic Vision project. An initial meeting of this steering group took place in Q2. An extensive stakeholder consultation process will also commence in Q2 as part of the Teagasc strategic vision process.

- 65 **Teagasc to continue to calibrate its education function to match the needs of industry, for example through the development and introduction of customised short training programmes along the lines of the recently introduced milking skills training for operatives.** Teagasc

Action commenced and progressing.

Teagasc is actively engaged with stakeholders from the pig sector in regards to its future education and training needs. Teagasc is also liaising with UCD in Q2 in regard to the establishment of a Professional Diploma in Pig Herd Management.

- 66 **Continued Professional Development of Professional Agricultural Advisors to ensure that the most up to date environmental and sustainability science-based knowledge and best practice underlies the operation of Schemes.** Teagasc

Action commenced and progressing.

Training in NMP, Carbon Navigator and in delivery of GLAS environmental courses well progressed and delivery to clients in these areas commenced through various RDP and other programmes.

- 67 **Continued Professional Development for Agricultural Advisors to include knowledge transfer, specific to water quality protection and improvement, from the Agricultural Catchments Programme** Teagasc

Action commenced and progressing.

Training in NMP, carbon navigator and in delivery of GLAS environmental courses well progressed and delivery to clients in these areas commencing.

- 68 **Consideration of innovative methods for agricultural education delivery, such as using participatory training methods such as on-farm placement modules, e-learning and other best practice as part of the entrant and adult programmes.** Teagasc

Action commenced and progressing.

This forms part of the terms of reference for the Teagasc Education Strategic vision project that has now commenced (refer to Action 64).

- 69 **Increase enrolments in Level 6 Advanced Dairy Programme and Professional Diploma in Dairy Farm Management and seek to fast track entry to the latter in association with UCD.** Teagasc

Substantial action undertaken and ongoing.

Applications for enrolment in the 2016 intakes for the both the Teagasc Advanced Dairy programme and the Teagasc Professional Diploma in Dairy Herd Management took place in Q2. The Professional Diploma is being actively promoted at both a national level and at individual agricultural college level.

- 70 **Explore the possibility of developing an applied leaving certificate course in agriculture.** Dept of Education and Skills
- Action commenced and progressing.
- A draft agricultural science course for the Leaving Cert was open for public consultation with a closing date of the 1 April. The syllabus is 40 years old as it currently stands. The new syllabus is planned to be deliverable in September 2017. An applied certificate course in agriculture may be developed after the new syllabus is in place.
- 71 **Certification system to be introduced to cover crew training and qualification on board fishing vessels** BIM
- Action commenced and progressing.
- BIM met with the MSO/DTTAS on 13 April to explore common ground in certification system to be introduced to cover crew training and qualification on board fishing vessels. This is part of BIM's ongoing work with the MSO/DTTAS to assist with the introduction of Mandatory Certificates of Competency/Proficiency and the development of appropriate courses.
- 72 **Maintain an effective, independent, national advisory service providing a locally-based contact point for all farmers through farmer education, consultation and a wide range of communication and influencing activities, using appropriate mechanisms to optimize service delivery to farmers.** Teagasc
- Action commenced and progressing.
- Teagasc has made widespread use of external service providers this Spring to process various schemes to allow advisors concentrate on technology transfer. Discussion groups are being set up/prepared for the new discussion group incentive scheme which is likely to be launched in June. Teagasc has recently been approved as a CECRA (Certificate for European Consultants in Rural Areas) awarding body by EUFRAS (The European Forum for Agricultural and Rural Advisory Services) and will, from the end of June, commence the roll out of this new advisory methodology training to advisers within and outside of Teagasc. This initiative will be supported through the Teagasc ConnectEd programme.
- 73 **Full implementation of Knowledge Transfer measures of RDP 2014-2020 to up skill producers and agricultural advisors including:** DAFM
- Action commenced and progressing.
- 73 A **Ø Development of Knowledge Transfer Groups to optimise producer productivity and profitability in the beef, dairy, equine, poultry, sheep and tillage sectors;** DAFM
- Training for KT facilitators commenced in Q1.

- 73 B **Ø Support for European Innovation Partnership Operational Groups to strengthen linkages between the results of research and innovation and their implementation at farm level;** DAFM
- Agreement secured from Commission to deliver EIP in tandem with Locally Led Ag-Environment schemes. The process to commence in Q3 at the National Rural Network's national conference where the process will be outlined to stakeholders.
- 73 C **Ø Supports for Continuous Professional Development of professional advisors on an ongoing basis to further develop their knowledge base;** DAFM
- CPD training in Carbon Navigator continues in Q2 2016 with training in meeting facilitation skills also initiated in Q2.
- 73 D **Ø Targeted On-Farm Advisory Service to deliver specific advice to farmers on important animal health and welfare issues; and** DAFM
- Action not yet commenced/at commencement stage.
- 73 E **Ø Provide specific advice on environmental, bio-diversity and climate change issues to help contribute to the development of a more sustainable agri-sector.** DAFM
- In February and March 2016, FAS/GLAS advisory training included training from the EPA Water Catchments Unit on water management in the context of WFD and River Basin Management Planning. In June 2016 a further FAS/GLAS advisor training days will take place which will include input training from the EPA Water Catchments Unit on water management in the context of WFD and River Basin Management Planning.
- 74 **Teagasc to prioritise the development of a new Dairy Expansion Service to deliver one to one services to support dairy farm businesses in planning and monitoring their dairy expansion operations.** Teagasc
- Action commenced and progressing.
- Almost 100 dairy farmers have now engaged with the Dairy Grow one-to-one farm planning aspect of the Teagasc Dairy Expansion Service. Delivery of the Dairy Start-up training course continues and development of the Dairy Step-up training course for delivery later in 2016 is ongoing.

- 75 **Expansion of the current discussion group model to provide access to up to date research and information, in the areas of grassland and soil management; genetics and breeding; financial management/business planning and price volatility management; animal health and welfare; environment and farm safety. This should be backed by a number of commercially operated beef demonstration farms.** Teagasc
- Action commenced and progressing.
- New KT groups as part of RDP are to start in June 2016. In the meantime, Teagasc advisors are working with existing discussion groups on an ongoing basis.
- 76 **Implement a third phase of the Teagasc/Farmers Journal BETTER Farm Beef Programme with an emphasis on transferring best practice in management and breeding to the maximum number of farms.** Teagasc
- Action commenced and progressing.
- Teagasc/Farmers Journal BETTER Farm Beef Programme National Conference took place on 19 April, 2016. The format for Phase III of the programme has been agreed. Awaiting on confirmation of funding from the programme stakeholders to commence the process to recruit contract advisers to the programme and begin selecting farms for the third phase.
- 77 **Develop specialised Knowledge Transfer programmes to upskill farmers who are employing extra labour units in areas such as improving current farm practices; employing staff; responsibilities as an employer.** Teagasc
- Action commenced and progressing.
- Working group established to develop resource materials; first meeting held in May 2016 with objective of having resource materials – workbook, training resources – available by autumn 2016
- 78 **Develop targeted extension campaigns on financial fitness dealing with volatility management, business planning and investment planning.** Teagasc
- Action commenced and progressing.
- Dairy forum meeting and Get Farm Financially Fit meeting held with the relevant stakeholders to progress this initiative - planned cash flow support material to go to all dairy farmers via co-ops. 12 cash flow focused farm walks planned for June across the country. Module being prepared for delivering a cash flow message by all stakeholders at their various meetings.

- 79 **Further development of simple software tools to support financial and business planning at farm level to encourage uptake in usage of these tools which support budgeting, viability and financial decision making at farm level.** Teagasc
- Action commenced and progressing
- '5 Minute Cash Flow' and 'debt schedule' incorporated in a document to go to all dairy farmers via co-ops (20,000 of these to be produced and are a key tool at Get Farm Financially Fit farm walks in June).
- 80 **Teagasc to continue to develop its 'Options Plus' programme for improving off-farm income generation of farmers and to link farm families with the variety of learning opportunities provided by other agencies including the ETBs, LEOs, LDCs, third level institutions and Social Welfare including the development of a communication tool which contains a calendar of skills training opportunities on a regional basis.** Teagasc
- Action commenced and progressing.
- Opt-In software finalised and being operationalized with stakeholders in pilot regions.
- 81 **Teagasc to establish a pig farm manager course.** Teagasc
- Action commenced and progressing.
- Draft curriculum modules developed and currently being discussed. Meeting held with UCD with regards to accreditation. Hoping to commence course in Autumn 2016 (subject to demand).
- 82 **Consider the development of a Poultry advisory and research service, in partnership with industry to support poultry farm management.** Teagasc
- Action not yet commenced.
- 83 **Enhance hill farming systems by promoting greater integration with lowlands sheep producers through the formation of joint hill/lowland knowledge transfer groups.** DAFM
- Action commenced and progressing.
- Knowledge transfer schemes launched. While the measure is targeted at the broad Sheep sector, it is expected that some facilitators will avail of the opportunity to form Knowledge Transfer Groups which combine both hill and low land sheep producers, thereby promoting integration within the sector.

- 84 **Launch a knowledge transfer measure with an emphasis on promoting and developing the use of Integrated Pest Management principles in the tillage and horticultural sectors** DAFM
- Substantial action undertaken and ongoing
- Roll out of KT Tillage groups which includes IPM in Q2.
- 85 **Establish knowledge transfer groups for malting barley growers** DAFM
- Substantial action undertaken and ongoing
- Roll out of KT groups in all 6 sectors including Tillage in Q2.
- 86 **Teagasc to develop a Technology Outreach Service to support rural-based agri-professionals in delivering services to farmers.** Teagasc
- Action commenced and progressing.
- Teagasc ConnectEd Programme is fully operational and providing training and knowledge services to the agri-food sector. Over 100 companies have joined the ConnectEd Programme.
- 87 **Request the Expert Group on Future Skills for Industry update the report on Future Skills Needs in the Food and Drinks sector at management, financial, innovation and operational levels.** DJEI
- Action commenced and progressing.
- The request from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine for a review of the future skills needs of the Food and Drinks Industry was noted by the Expert Group on Future Skills Needs at its meeting on 6 April. The Expert Group has a full work programme for the first half of 2016, but will consider again the request from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine in the second half of the year.
- 88 **DAFM, through its research funding programmes (Stimulus, FIRM and CoFoRD), to continue to support the development of the new thought and technology leaders for the agri-food sector through supporting agri-food Masters and PhD students on suitable scientific and impactful research projects.** DAFM
- Action commenced and progressing.
- The successful applicants to DAFM's 2015 Research Call, the evaluation process of which is now completed, will provide significant funding opportunities to support the development of new thought and technology leaders for the agri-food sector. The outcome of this competitive award process is expected to be published in Q3/4 2016.

- 89 **The DAFM funded Agri-Food Graduate Development Programme to be used as a platform to develop a model to deliver continuous professional development to graduates in agri-food companies through short themed modular courses and work placed Masters and PhD programmes.** DAFM
- Action commenced and progressing.
- Following successful completion of the first CPD programme for Dawn Meats by the AFGDP consortium a proposal has been submitted to Dawn Meats for a second iteration of a CPD programme to begin Q3 2016.
- 90 **To ensure food clients have the essential capabilities and capacity in place to support ambitious international growth strategies Enterprise Ireland will continue to develop customised management programmes around key themes of Leadership and Management Development, Operational and Manufacturing development capacity, International Sales and Marketing, Innovation and Entrepreneur Development, to inspire ambitious business leaders and equip them with the tools and techniques to grow their businesses. These programmes include Leadership for Growth, Innovation for Growth, Platform for Growth, Business Processing Offer, Foodworks and Competitiveness Improvement Programme.** Enterprise Ireland
- Action commenced and progressing.
- Foodworks, 16 projects approved in 2015.
- L4G Programme 2017 (Leadership for growth):
- LG programme commenced in Q2 2016.
 - Up to 40 multi sectorial companies will be selected to participate on the I4G programme.
- I4G Programme (Innovation for growth):
- 2016 Programme was launched in January 2016. 4 Food Companies will participate on the 2016 programme (Phase 1)
- Three companies on I4G (Innovation 4 Growth) Phase 1 as at 1 June 2016.

- 91 **Enterprise Ireland to develop a portfolio of business-focused executive development programmes in partnership with the third level sector which include a focus on building specialist business and leadership capability at middle-management level in order to support the development and retention of future leaders within the agri-food sector.** Enterprise Ireland
- Action commenced and progressing.
- Examples of some Programmes include:
- Leadership for Growth
 - Platform for Growth
 - Innovation for Growth
 - Manufacturing for Growth
 - Lean
- 92 **Enterprise Ireland to develop Leadership for Growth (L4G) Alumni Master Classes that are tailored to address the need of clients.** Enterprise Ireland
- Action commenced and progressing.
- Programme Provider is to propose an Alumni event for our L4G/Strategic Leadership 4 Chief Financial Officers alumni and it will involve a one week programme in their Institute potentially in November 2016.
- 93 **Enterprise Ireland will promote and develop Gradhub's Graduate Business Growth Initiative (Graduate Placement) to assist indigenous food and drink SMEs to scale and grow their businesses through the introduction of graduate talent.** Enterprise Ireland
- Action commenced and progressing.
- Five projects approved in 2015 and one Graduate placement in Q2.
- 94 **To increase innovation capability and absorption capacity across the sector Enterprise Ireland, in association with the relevant research institutions will design and develop a Food Innovation Fellowship programme to increase and embed technical capability within food companies.** Enterprise Ireland
- Action not yet commenced.
- This Action will commence in Q4.

- 95 **Enterprise Ireland's Innovation 4 Growth programme will support companies to implement innovation practices, processes and culture with a focus on market led innovation.** Enterprise Ireland
- Action commenced and progressing.
- L4G Growth Programme launched in January 2016, applications for participation closing date is 7 March 2016. Target is to have 40 cross sectoral companies including 5-10 food companies participating.
- Three companies on I4G Phase 1 as at 1 June 2016.
- 96 **Expansion of the competency and professional development of small businesses through the evolution and strengthening of structured platforms such as Food Academy, Food Works, Vantage.** Enterprise Ireland
- Action commenced and progressing.
- Foodworks 16 projects approved in 2015. 18 Companies participated in a 2 day boot camp on 26 -27 May. Nine of these companies will be invited to participate on the next Foodworks programme.
- 97 **Teagasc will develop an industry-based Walsh Fellowship Postgraduate scheme to enhance the scientific absorption capacity of the food SME sector.** Teagasc
- Action commenced and progressing.
- Teagasc has established a Project Planning Committee to implement this project. Draft Terms and Conditions for the award of Industry-Based Fellowships are being finalised with a view to launching the programme in September 2016.
- 98 **Explore formal opportunities to transfer learnings from food and drink production to new sector entrants via mentoring, training and skills transfer by Industry, Skillnets, universities, schools and Agri Aware.** Industry
- Action commenced and progressing.
- Refer to Action 87. The context of this action fits into a new Report on Future Skills of the Food and Drinks Industry.

- 99 **Enterprise Ireland and Bord Iascaigh Mhara (BIM) to continue to develop a series of tailored executive development programmes in the Seafood sector to prioritise leadership and management development, technical development (including safety and green manufacturing), and sales and marketing.** BIM
- Action commenced and progressing.
- Innovation Academy: The first Seafood Innovation Academy for large companies was held on 3 May in which eight companies participated. The follow up meetings with the companies will be concluded by the end of May 2016. The second workshop is scheduled to take place in September. This workshop will focus on building an innovation process and an innovation culture in companies.
- Three innovation advisors have been recruited by BIM with start dates in September 2016.
- Seafood Premises Design Workshop: A Seafood Premises Design Workshop was given by BIM on the 5 April in Dublin, with 26 attendees from 16 companies.
- BIM's Green Seafood Business Programme: BIM's Green Programme sponsored the 'Green Seafood Business Award' at the annual Green Awards 2016 in Dublin on 14th April 2016. The Green Awards are a prestigious national awards ceremony which celebrates excellence in sustainability and environmental awareness. In sponsoring a dedicated seafood award, BIM are rewarding the seafood companies who have excelled in the area of sustainability and give recognition for the environmental initiatives they have undertaken. (The nominees for the BIM Green Seafood Business Award 2016 were Errigal Bay, Morgan's Fine Fish, Burren Smokehouse, Sofrimar, Keohane's of Bantry and Beara Seafood with Sofrimar winning the award.)
- 100 **Greater capacity must be developed around marketing and branding with a focus on increasing the number of international marketing graduates employed in the sector. Explore opportunities for industry co-funding/sponsorship to significantly increase these resources on the ground and extend the sector's market reach.** Bord Bia
- Substantial action undertaken and ongoing.
- Discussions ongoing with industry to develop a model to facilitate an increase in the footprint of sector, particularly in emerging regions. This will be further facilitated by Bord Bia's permanent presence in South East Asia and Eastern Europe from the first time from July 2016.
- 101 **Continue to build on the Bord Bia 'Marketing Fellowship' and 'Food Marketing Graduate' programmes to deliver high quality talent to the food industry.** Bord Bia
- Substantial action undertaken and ongoing.
- The recruitment of 20 Market Fellows for the 2016/17 period from an application pool of almost 600 graduates was completed in late April. The Fellows commence the programme in June and will complete almost 80 client assignments across 13 export markets over the following 12 months. Food Marketing Graduates continue to work with 24 client companies.

- 102 **Build on the Origin Green Ambassador programme to engage with targeted customers to build awareness and understanding of Ireland and the Origin Green programme.** Bord Bia
- Substantial action undertaken and ongoing.
- The current group of 10 Ambassadors will complete their first placements in mid-June with the second batch of placements commencing in mid-July. Placements are currently being finalised with host companies in the UK, China, Switzerland, Spain, Belgium and the United States.
- 103 **Communicate benefits of working in the food and drink industry throughout school, undergraduate and postgraduate programmes.** Bord Bia
- Action commenced and progressing.
- In addition to participating in the Agricultural Science Careers Day and the Agri Careers Day, Bord Bia continues to work with UCD and DIT to build a better understanding of the benefits of working in the sector.
- 104 **Bord Bia to establish a Market Placement programme which assigns Irish graduates to global target customers. The programme will create a group of graduates skilled in best practice which they will bring back to Irish industry upon their return. The placement will also serve to raise awareness and understanding amongst host companies of Ireland and its industry capabilities.** Bord Bia
- Action commenced and progressing.
- Work is underway to reach out to potential host companies with a view to creating a practical structure that can deliver improved relationships with priority customers and drive benefits for Irish exporters.
- 105 **Enterprise Ireland and Bord Bia to collaborate with industry on the development of a pilot support programme for agri-food companies to support overseas business development initiatives.** Enterprise Ireland
- Action commenced and progressing.
- Two applications under preparation and expect these to be submitted by end June for consideration.

106 **BIM to build market scaling of companies through its co-opetition programme** BIM

Action commenced and progressing.

China Seafood Collectives: A BIM China Council meeting took place on the 22 June. Progress on the consumer market research project (in conjunction with Bord Bia) presented at the meeting included:

- Brown crab consumer profiling project now underway in 'tier one' cities and
- The preparation of a project brief for Dublin Bay Prawns.

Regarding current restrictions on live crab exports due to the cadmium issue BIM received the Chinese delegation from the AQSIQ (Live Aquatic Animals Section) on 16 May in the SDC. The delegation was in Ireland as part of a week-long visit organised by the SFPA.

Provision of financial support to industry for activities of a collective nature:

Five applications were approved under BIM Seafood Scaling & New Market Development Scheme for collective projects with a total investment of €335,300 from €157,375 of state aid.

107 **DAFM, Teagasc and the Health and Safety Authority to continue to support educational initiatives supporting behavioural change at farm level in respect of safety in particular as part of knowledge transfer groups and level 6 (green cert) education.** DAFM

Action commenced and progressing.

All Knowledge Transfer Facilitators have been appointed for the scheme and groups are open for farmers to be added as individual members of groups. The tender for training of facilitators in farm safety has been prepared, and is expected to be issued this quarter.

Teagasc trainee module on Health and Safety is being enhanced and is being made into a free standing module: Farm Safety and Compliance. A DAFM suggestion that Buildings Layout and Design be incorporated has been included.

Teagasc is providing Risk Assessment training throughout the country in response to demand.

A PhD Walsh Fellowship on H&S commenced on 1 January 2016, with the title: 'Evaluating the influence of dairy discussion groups on farmer behaviour: An assessment of group engagement with occupational safety and health issues'.

- 108 **Engineered solutions to safety, such as those available under the Farm Safety scheme, to remain a priority in grant aided investment programmes, where available.** DAFM
- Action commenced and progressing.
- The first tranche of the Animal Welfare, Safety and Storage Scheme closed on 30 November 2015 with 938 applications made under this tranche. These applications are being processed. The second tranche of the Animal Welfare, Safety and Storage Scheme closed on 25 March 2016 with 607 applications made under this tranche. Issuing of approvals under the scheme commenced in Q2 2016. The third tranche of the Animal Welfare, Safety and Storage Scheme is open for applications and closed on 24 June 2016.
- 109 **BIM to provide an enhanced programme of training for crew of fishing vessels with a strong focus on safety at sea.** BIM
- Action commenced and progressing.
- The BIM Enhanced Safety Training & Equipment Scheme is progressing well with 103 PFDs with integrated PLBs issued to fisheries and aquaculture personnel up to 13 May 2016. This represents a 21% increase on the same period in the previous year.
- 110 **Bord Bia to implement the undergraduate Language Bursary Programme to improve the language proficiency of graduates coming from degree programmes strategically important to the food and drink industry such as Agricultural Science, Food and Nutritional Sciences and Food Marketing and Entrepreneurship.** Bord Bia
- Substantial action undertaken and ongoing.
- Bursary programme in place for undergraduates in Agriculture School in UCD.
- 111 **Consider better engagement with existing young Irish diaspora living in foreign markets as a potential source for recruiting talent and skills through better harnessing of networks and data from Irish Embassy networks.** DAFM
- Action commenced and progressing.
- DAFM met with DFAT, who agreed to follow up with other Divisions within DFAT.
- 115 **DAFM and industry to explore mechanisms to improve transparency around pricing and costs.** DAFM
- Action commenced and progressing.
- European Commission DGAGRI Task Force on Markets continued its work and is due to report by end 2016. At national level, the Grocery Goods Undertakings Regulations, 2014, which provide for clear written contracts between grocery goods undertakings with an annual worldwide turnover of more than €50 million and their suppliers of certain grocery goods, entered into force on 30 April.

- 116 **DAFM to review the possibility of developing a mechanism to minimise risk for processors and give farmers confidence regarding price including possible mutual funds such as a reinsurance scheme.** DAFM

Action commenced and progressing.

DAFM progressing a range of measures in response to price volatility:

- Direct payments, estimated by Teagasc at an average of over €17,000 per farm in 2015 (and €20,000 for dairy farms), provide a valuable source of farm income support and act as a fundamental hedge against price volatility.
- Ongoing contacts with banks and other financial institutions with regard to access to finance, cost of credit and new lending products. DAFM has just published a request for tender to procure an ex-ante assessment to assess any current failures in the access to finance market in Ireland. This is a first step towards the potential introduction of 'Financial Instruments' under the EAFRD Rural Development Programme and the EMFF Seafood Development Operational Programme.
- Continued engagement with the Department of Finance on key agri-taxation policy objectives, including responses to income and price volatility.
- DAFM liaising with European Commission on proposals for an EU response to market volatility.

Dairy Forum progressing a range of sector-specific responses to price volatility, e.g. a programme of cash flow and financial management training and advice for dairy farmers.

117 **The Agri-taxation Working Group to continue to examine and consider new actions which will help deliver:** DAFM

Substantial action undertaken and ongoing.

Following the publication of the Agri-taxation Review, which facilitated the most substantial package of its kind ever introduced in a single budget, major additional measures were announced in Budget 2016, including:

- A major new initiative on 'Family Transfer Partnerships' to assist succession;
- The removal of forestry income from the 'High Earners Restriction' for active foresters and farmers.

The introduction of these measures substantially completes the implementation of this comprehensive agri-taxation strategy.

Renewals:

Budget 2016 also announced that four existing tax measures on stock relief and stamp duty relief, vitally important to the agriculture sector, have been renewed for three years:

- 25% General Stock Relief on Income Tax
- 100% Stock Relief on Income Tax for Certain Young Trained Farmers
- 50% Stock Relief on Income Tax for Registered Farm Partnerships
- Stamp Duty Exemption on Transfers of Land to Young Trained Farmers.

Agricultural Relief from Capital Acquisitions Tax is also retained.

Changes in the taxation of the self-employed: Most farmers, foresters, fishermen and food entrepreneurs are self-employed and will see their tax liability fall with the introduction of the new €550 tax credit and reduced USC rates. These changes will mean over €800 in additional net income, or 3.5%, based on the average Family Farm Income (Average Across Sectors - €26,974, Teagasc National Farm Survey 2014).

The Agritaxation Review and its implementation have been very successful. The Department will continue to engage with the Department of Finance on the key agri-taxation policy objectives:

1. Increase the mobility and the productive use of land.
2. Assist succession.
3. Complement wider agriculture policies and schemes, such as: supporting investment to enhance competitiveness, including assisting new entrant, young trained farmers; environmental sustainability, including the improvement of farm efficiency; alternative farming models such as farm partnerships; and responses to increasing income volatility.

The Department will engage with stakeholders and the Department of Finance in advance of Budget 2017.

117 A **Ø Increased land mobility and productive use of land.** DAFM

117 B	Ø Improved farm succession including intergenerational partnerships.	DAFM
117 C	Ø On wider agriculture policies and schemes, such as supporting investment to assist new entrant young trained farmers, environmental sustainability, on-farm renewables, alternative farming models such as farm partnerships, leasing, contract farming and responses to increasing income volatility.	DAFM
117 D	Ø Scope for an energy efficient SEAI scheme for non-incorporated farm businesses.	DAFM
117 E	Ø Assistance to farmers to deal with the consequences of price volatility such as income averaging.	DAFM
118	<p>Department of Finance and DAFM to improve dissemination of information on taxation incentives including engagement with advisors, tax consultants and accountants.</p> <p>Substantial action undertaken and ongoing.</p> <p>Teagasc held their bi-annual 'Farm Business Conference' in November 2015. This brought together agriculture professionals, like accountants, solicitors and agricultural consultants, for a day themed 'Professionals working together'. Teagasc has identified the need to work more closely with these professionals for the benefit of mutual clients. This is particularly relevant when farmers are making decisions on land access, taxation, succession and carrying out business analysis.</p> <p>The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine gave presentations on topics such as: current CAP issues (especially in the context of entitlements for the Basic Payment Scheme); the requirements for registering 'Farm Partnerships'; and the 'Agri-Taxation Review' and its implementation over recent budgets. For more information please see www.teagasc.ie/publications/2015/3778/index.asp.</p> <p>The Department continues to work with Teagasc, professional bodies and representative bodies on raising awareness of taxation measures.</p>	DAFM

- 119 **DAFM and Department of Finance to undertake a review of capital, taxation and other incentives available to the seafood sector and to make initial recommendations by end 2015.** DAFM
- Substantial action undertaken and ongoing.
- A cross-Departmental Group has met and examined implementation of the Marine Taxation Review. This examination continues in advance of Budget 2017.
- 121 **DAFM should continue to take account of formally recognised collaborative farming arrangements in the design and implementation of its schemes and supports to ensure individuals are not disadvantaged by participating in these models of farming.** DAFM
- Action commenced and progressing.
- Some 1,450 farm partnerships were placed on the Department's new Farm Partnership Register by end June 2016, 900 of which are brand new farm partnerships (the remaining 550 are former Milk Production Partnerships). The vast majority of the new farm partnerships continue to be farm family partnerships in the dairy sector. While there were some minor difficulties in finalising payments for partnerships under the 2015 Schemes, all efforts have been made to ensure such difficulties do not arise for 2016 payments.
- 122 **Explore greater use of joint approaches with DAFM, Teagasc, industry and professional stakeholders in engaging with the farming community to embrace longer-term leasing and collaborative farming arrangements to help resolve land mobility challenges.** DAFM
- Action commenced and progressing.
- DAFM's Farm Partnership Unit is continuing its communications with other relevant stake holders in relation to the smooth implementation of the Farm Partnership Register and the introduction of the new Succession Farm Partnership Scheme.

123	Improve the use of genomic technologies and better breeding to improve the sustainability of the National herd, including by:	DAFM
	Substantial action undertaken and ongoing.	
	Roll-out of the Beef Data and Genomics programme continues. 24,000 participants in the scheme resulting in significantly enhanced and more reliable replacement index in the beef sector. DAFM collaborating closely with ICBF and Teagasc on communicating the benefits of genomic technologies. To date 12,000 participants have completed in full the survey data required under the scheme. ICBF and Teagasc working together to consider the optimum method of incorporating the genomic evaluations into the breeding indices.	
	BDGP payments of €38 million issued to 21,000 herds. Training courses ongoing for BDGP participants. Training currently underway for all participants. ICBF incorporating genomic evaluations into the breeding indices for dissemination to all participants in early Q3.	
123 A	Ø Increasing the level of data recording at farm level.	DAFM
123 B	Ø Increasing the use of breeding indices in purchase decisions.	DAFM
123 C	Ø Increasing the level of genotyping across the national herd to allow for robust, genomics based breeding indexes.	DAFM
123 D	Ø Application of commercially focused breeding indices and sexed semen to increase the beef characteristics of the increased output from the dairy herd and thereby ensuring these animals best meet market specifications.	DAFM

- 124 **Teagasc and other research providers to develop measures such as improved grazing management practices, increase soil fertility and sward renewal to increase grass utilisation by 2t/ha on livestock farms.** Teagasc

Action commenced and progressing.

Teagasc is actively researching new ways of increasing grass DM production and utilisation. Using PBI, emphasis is now being placed on improving grazing management knowledge through analysing the data within the national database.

Teagasc undertook two sets of spring grassland meetings nationally in 2016, these meetings were well attended and focused solely on using grass efficiency this spring. A lot of focus was placed on using the Spring rotation planner to allocate grass in spring. Teagasc is now beginning to initiate a grass utilization national program for the next four years to increase grass utilization on commercial farms. This task is progressing very well.

- 125 **Teagasc, other research bodies and industry to develop the use of precision technologies applicable to pasture based production.** Teagasc

Action commenced and progressing.

The Grasshopper is now linked to Pasturebase Ireland, this now makes pasture measurement very easy for the farmer. Within the redevelopment of PastureBase Ireland options are being explored to ensure the easiest method of data capture is sought and sent directly to the system.

- 126 **BIM to bring forward strategies/programmes to address irregularity in the supply of seed mussels into the bottom grown mussel sector. Continued research into the development of indicators for HNV farming that would allow targeted support for such farming systems.** BIM

Action commenced and progressing.

BIM is currently awaiting the collection and analysis of data from a number of experimental placements of rope grown seed mussels into sea bed culture mussel plots. In addition under the recent round of EMFF grant aid BIM has made an offer of grant assistance to producers to carry out further relaying of artificially collected seed onto bottom cultured mussel plots. It will take some time before results from these placements can be evaluated.

- 127 **DAFM will continue to explore additional innovative funding mechanisms and financial instruments, specific to the Agri-food sector, to complement existing mechanisms such as ISIF, SBCI and EIB, with a view to improving further competition in relation to credit provision. Appropriate delivery and distribution mechanisms will be considered including the potential for a dedicated Agri-food sector fund.** DAFM

Substantial action undertaken and ongoing.

DAFM, in cooperation with all the other relevant State bodies, will continue to explore additional funding mechanisms for farmers, the agri-food sector and for SMEs generally. DAFM has just published a request for tender to procure an ex-ante assessment to assess any current failures in the access to finance market in Ireland. This is a first step towards the potential introduction of Financial Instruments under the EAFRD Rural Development Programme and the EMFF Seafood Development Operational Programme.

Minister Creed recently met with the CEOs of the main banks and stressed the need for them to be flexible in the context of increased income volatility. The banks told the Minister that they recognise and are responding to the challenges facing farmers in this regard.

At a recent meeting of the Dairy Forum (including the Department, representatives of the main banks, the processing sector, farm organisations and Teagasc) the Minister launched the 'Financial Management Initiative', a programme of cash flow and financial management training and advice for dairy farmers.

- 128 **DAFM to encourage the EU Commission to review State Aid Regulations in the context of the development potential of the Irish agri-food sector and the sector's strategic importance to the Irish economy.** DAFM

Substantial action undertaken and ongoing.

DAFM is continuing to progress the introduction and implementation of the Transfer Partnership Scheme with the EU Commission. The Commission has also agreed to a more flexible implementation of State Aid rules in response to the ongoing market difficulties in the dairy and pigmeat sectors.

DAFM has re-notified a number of schemes whose terms and conditions have expired under the previous State Aid Regulations, including two schemes for Young Trained Farmers - Stamp Duty Exemption for Transfer of Land, and Stock Relief - as well as a number of disease eradication schemes.

The Department is currently examining possibilities to provide access to finance as a means of addressing the liquidity gaps currently facing agricultural producers, as part of the new flexibilities around State Aid rules recently announced by the Commission.

- 129 **In the light of its current fragmented structure and low financial capacity, EI and BIM to develop a financial model for seafood sector which provides funding opportunities that both increase scale and deliver commercial return. These will be tailored to meet the specific needs of the seafood sector.** BIM
- Action commenced and progressing.
- Discussions with The Irish Strategic Investment Fund (ISF) commenced in 2016. BIM had a series of meetings with the ISIF and investment institutions in February, March and April of this year with the aim of attracting an international player to co-invest in the Irish seafood sector.
- 131 **To drive entrepreneurship, Enterprise Ireland will create a new funding offer to incentivize a small number of scalable food and beverage start-ups.** Enterprise Ireland
- Action commenced and progressing.
- Competitive Start Fund 8 projects approved in 2015.
- Enterprise Ireland developed a new funding offer for scalable start-ups in 2016. It will target manufacturing projects leading to 50+ new jobs in Ireland within 3 years of investment.
- Two projects approved in 2016.
- 132 **To develop scale Enterprise Ireland will develop a new client engagement model that is focussed on scaling ambitious companies. This model will be: company-led, focussed on the leadership team, benchmarked against best-practice, to indicate key areas of focus, and will be implementation focussed, with advisers, mentors and peers working together.** Enterprise Ireland
- Action commenced and progressing.
- Implemented in Q2 2016.
- 133 **Enterprise Ireland will continue to develop customised management development programmes to develop in-company capability to ensure that they have the Leadership, Management and operational skills to capitalise on growth opportunities and scale internationally.** Enterprise Ireland
- Action commenced and progressing.
- Thirteen key persons approved in 2015 and eight in 2016.

- 134 **EI will continue to work with Development Capital Funds/Banks/Alternative sources of finance to ensure that scaling businesses are adequately funded.** Enterprise Ireland

Action commenced and progressing.

In 2015, Enterprise Ireland's Food team and Growth Capital undertook workshops and networking initiatives with the following funding providers: Ulster Bank, AIB, BOI, BDO Development Capital, Cardinal Carlyle, MML, Halo Business Angels and other private investment and non-Bank sources to facilitate access to Finance for Food companies. Enterprise Ireland collaborated with Goodbody in the delivery of its Agrifood summit Investor event in June 2015, with the Farmers Journal on the Alternative Finance Conference in Nov 2015 and was active on driving the launch of IFPI in Nov 2015.

Enterprise Ireland continuing to make introductions between the Food Companies and Finance providers.

- 135 **To develop scale and export capability in the seafood processing sector, BIM, Bord Bia and EI to work collaboratively to scale up companies in the pelagic, whitefish and shellfish sectors and to bring a number of companies to PLC level.** BIM

Action commenced and progressing.

A total of 29 projects were conditionally approved under BIM's Capital Investment Scheme in Q2 2016. The scope of the scheme includes all seafood categories aimed at both the domestic and export markets. The approved grant aid of €3,464,349 will support investment in the industry of up to €19,445,923.

The applicant companies are projected to create 316 new jobs by 2019 and additional sales of €77 million in the same period. Refer also to Action 384.

- 136 **DAFM and industry to pursue solutions to cost competitiveness issues for Irish Agri-food sector specifically energy, waste, regulatory costs, in National Competitiveness Council.** DAFM
- Q1 Update: Substantial action undertaken and ongoing.
- The NCC Council are appointed by the Minister for Jobs Enterprise and Innovation. They are responsible for the management and direction of its own work programme. The main functions of the Council are to prepare and submit to the Taoiseach and the Government, through the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation:
- an annual report benchmarking the competitiveness of Ireland's business sector against international peer countries, and
 - an annual report outlining the main competitiveness challenges facing the business sector in Ireland over the medium term, and the policy responses required to meet them. These reports are published following their noting by Government.
- DAFM has informed the NCC of this action and requested a broad discussion during 2016 on the intersecting elements of the new Food Wise 2025 strategy and the work of the NCC.
- The NCC made a detailed presentation on competitiveness to the HLIC on the 21 April. The presentation (i) exchange rate volatility and (ii) costs of doing business – transport, labour, credit and financial costs.
- 137 **To build competitiveness Enterprise Ireland will continue to promote and develop the Lean Business offer to help agri-food companies to adopt world class manufacturing standards and to drive productivity growth through skill development and Lean re- engineering.** Enterprise Ireland
- Action commenced and progressing.
- 16 projects approved in 2015 and three projects approved as at 1 June 2016 with a strong pipeline of seven projects for the rest of 2016.
- 138 **Enterprise Ireland to promote its competitive fund for SMEs to support a strategic initiative focusing on capital and technology acquisition leading to productivity and competitiveness.** Enterprise Ireland
- Substantial action undertaken and ongoing.
- Five technical feasibility projects approved in 2015 and two in date in 2016.

139	EI and IDA will cooperate to target a select number of multinational clients for large mobile investments.	Enterprise Ireland
	Action commenced and progressing.	
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Six projects approved to date including three expansions. 2. FDI: Marketing visits to China, Taiwan, Singapore, Germany, Amsterdam, Houston, Washington DC, UK, Thailand and Middle East. 3. Site visits from China, UK, USA, Canada and Thailand delegation visit. Short to medium term pipeline building strongly. 	
140	EI to explore FDI opportunities via partnerships and Joint Venture approaches between Irish processors and MNCs in particular in areas such as life-stage nutrition	Enterprise Ireland
	Action commenced and progressing.	
	Two major capital projects approved and significant inward itinerary undertaken on 14-15 March 2016 targeting Early Life Nutrition Sector. Significant project in the pipeline.	
141	DAFM, as part of interdepartmental and stakeholder initiatives such as the National Competitiveness Council, to promote the need to develop rural broadband, port, road and airport infrastructure development.	DAFM
	Substantial action undertaken and ongoing.	
	<p>The NCC Council are appointed by the Minister for Jobs Enterprise and Innovation. They are responsible for the management and direction of its own work programme. The main functions of the Council are to prepare and submit to the Taoiseach and the Government, through the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (i) an annual report benchmarking the competitiveness of Ireland's business sector against international peer countries, and (ii) an annual report outlining the main competitiveness challenges facing the business sector in Ireland over the medium term, and the policy responses required to meet them. <p>These reports are published following their noting by Government.</p>	
	DAFM has informed the NCC of this action and requested a broad discussion during 2016 on the intersecting elements of the new Food Wise 2025 strategy and the work of the NCC.	
	The NCC made a detailed presentation on competitiveness to the HLIC on the 21 April. The presentation (i) exchange rate volatility and (ii) costs of doing business – transport, labour, credit and financial costs.	

- 143 **Teagasc 'Options' programme to continue to support on-farm diversification measures and programme impacts to be monitored and measured.** Teagasc
- Action commenced and progressing.
- Developing plans for Options Plus courses in the areas of Food and Tourism this autumn. Collate information from Options 2012/2013/2014/2015 in relation to requirements for follow-on training.
- 144 **DAFM to roll out female entrepreneur development programme.** DAFM
- Target achieved.
- The Programme, known as "Acorns" was awarded through competitive tender to Fitzsimons Consulting. It ran until April this year with 48 participants from all over the country.
- 145 **To complement the current Marine Leisure and Tourism schemes, DAFM in conjunction with stakeholders to develop an agri-food tourism measure with an emphasis on food, beverage and eco-trails pairings.** DAFM
- Substantial action undertaken and ongoing.
- In 2015, over €345,000 from the budget of €450,000 was spent from the CEDRA Rural Development and Innovation Fund to support Agri-Tourism initiatives in Local Authorities.
- The funding for CEDRA Rural Development and Innovation fund in 2016 has been increased to €1.5 in total. Funding will be released in tranches, with the first two schemes launched by the end of Q2. Agri-Tourism remains one of the four priorities for the fund, and it is anticipated that support for this theme will be launched in the second half of the year.
- This action also aligns with Actions 158-160.

- 146 **DAFM, Bord Bia and EI to explore synergies and priorities for the deployment of human resources in specific markets, including possibilities for relocation, new posts and new offices based on market prioritisation which considers growth possibilities, consumer insights, political stability of regions/countries and the market access regulatory environment.** DAFM
- Action commenced and progressing.
- A competition for the position of agriculture attaché to a new location in Abu Dhabi was held in April. It is expected that the successful candidate will take up the position at the end of August 2016. Other Attaché posts will continue to be reviewed and assessed as they come up for renewal. Recruitment process complete for Bord Bia managers in both Singapore and Warsaw. Both offices will be up and running for the first time in July. In addition, options are being explored to increase Bord Bia's on the ground resources in Africa with a view to delivering ongoing market insights and drive lead generation and buyer contact initiatives. EI are exploring possible opportunities in South America and Middle East this year. There are regular meetings and communication between the Department, Bord Bia and EI. Bord Bia and EI interact with the relevant Irish embassies to assist food client companies in overseas markets.
- 147 **DAFM and agri-food state agencies to enhance linkages with other government agencies including Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade embassy network, IDA, DJEI – Tourism Ireland and leverage the resources in these agencies to support the Irish agri-food sector in accessing new markets.** DAFM
- Substantial action undertaken and ongoing.
- Senior DAFM officials attended Export Trade Council (ETC) in January 2016 (ETC led by DFAT and attended by various Departments, the relevant agencies - including EI and Bord Bia - and private sector representatives). At this meeting, DAFM recommended that a subgroup of the ETC be established to progress certain cross-cutting recommendations of FW2025, to monitor progress and to regularly report back to the ETC.
- St Patrick's Day events linkages with DFAT and agencies.
- There was no further development in Q2 - Export Trade Council expected to resume activities shortly, following recent formation of Government.
- 148 **DAFM to review and assess the assignment of Agri-food Attaché posts in the context of supporting industry trade development opportunities and priorities.** DAFM
- Substantial action undertaken and ongoing.
- A competition for the position of agriculture Attaché to a new location in Abu Dhabi was held in April. It is expected that the successful candidate will take up the position at the end of August 2016. Other Attaché posts will continue to be reviewed and assessed as they come up for renewal.

- 149 **Bord Bia to increase market presence in emerging markets with particular focus on Asian and African countries.** Bord Bia
- Substantial action undertaken and ongoing.
- Recruitment process complete for Bord Bia managers in both Singapore and Warsaw. Both offices will be up and running for the first time in July. In addition, options are being explored to increase Bord Bia's on the ground resources in Africa with a view to delivering ongoing market insights and drive lead generation and buyer contact initiatives.
- 150 **Bord Bia to continue to build Ireland's reputation and raise the awareness of Ireland with key customers globally through the Origin Green Ambassador and Market Placement programmes.** Bord Bia
- Substantial action undertaken and ongoing.
- The current group of 10 Ambassadors will complete their first placements in mid-June with the second batch of placements commencing in mid-July. Placements are currently being finalised with host companies in the UK, China, Switzerland, Spain, Belgium and the United States. It is envisaged that host companies that haven't already visited Ireland to see Origin Green in action will do so in the second half of 2016.
- 151 **Establish mechanisms to support market prioritisation strategies and market decision making through provision of consumer insights in specific regional and country markets including by exploring the feasibility of establishing a Centre for Consumer Insights.** Bord Bia
- Substantial action undertaken and ongoing.
- Consumer insight projects under way in Germany, The Netherlands, China, UK and currently scoping insight studies for Nigeria and Iran. The Centre for Consumer Insights named 'The Thinking House' opened the end of June.
- 152 **Bord Bia to continue to invest in innovative buyer contact initiatives and inward buyer visits across all existing markets and introduce into emerging markets.** Bord Bia
- Substantial action undertaken and ongoing.
- Ongoing focus across all market teams.
- 154 **Bord Bia to enhance its lead generation programme across all regions to deliver market and business prospects.** Bord Bia
- Substantial action undertaken and ongoing.
- Ongoing focus across all market teams.

- 155 **DAFM to optimise the use of strategic trade missions to emerging markets to ensure market entry conversion.** DAFM
- Substantial action undertaken and ongoing.
- A submission will be made to the new Minister shortly, outlining suggested programme for trade missions in 2016 and 2017. This is being done in consultation with Bord Bia and DJEI. Senior DAFM officials accompanied Bord Bia on a trade mission to Iran in April. The officials also went to Ankara to meet with senior Turkish officials.
- 157 **Establish an interdepartmental group to develop complementary approaches across Government agencies to promote 'Ireland' in emerging distant markets and to promote synergies between Irish tourism, agri-food and culture.** DAFM
- Action at commencement stage.
- DAFM has raised this action to the Export Trade Council in January. The Export Trade Council would be the ideal platform to promote Ireland' in emerging distant markets and to promote synergies between Irish tourism, agri-food and culture.
- There was no further development in Q2. The Export Trade Council expected to resume activities shortly, following recent formation of Government.
- 158 **Develop promotional marketing material to sell Ireland's - positive green environmental credentials, modern young well educated economy, research capacity, food environment (high quality, food safe) including positive imagery, social media and videos.** DAFM
- Substantial action undertaken and ongoing.
- Up to May 2016, 508 food and drink manufacturers had signed up to Origin Green. Of these, 169 companies, representing over 85% of Irish food and drink exports, are fully verified members, meaning that they have submitted sustainability plans that have been scrutinised by independent party SGS and are now planning to take measurable actions across a range of environmental measures in sourcing, manufacturing and social responsibility. These may include reductions in water and energy use and food waste. Plans submitted by a further 155 companies are at the assessment stage.
- New creative material for trade press and digital advertising has been developed and will appear in June and July in a number of EU markets – UK, France, Germany, Netherlands, Spain and Italy to promote the message that Origin Green is delivering sustainability in practice.
- The Origin Green vision and message was strongly showcased and promoted at Bloom from 2-6 June.

- 159 **DAFM to explore with relevant state agencies measures to better link in the agri-food sector with the experience of tourists, including the promotion of food, beverages and marine trails.** DAFM

Action commenced and progressing.

Bord Bia hosted an Irish craft beer/ Irish Whiskey Expo for 9 June.

Work is ongoing between agencies to develop the food tourism agenda.

- 160 **Build on the success of marketing Irish Whiskey and beers internationally by demonstrating the linkages of these products to the wider agri-food sector.** DAFM

Action commenced and progressing.

Department and Bord Bia made presentations to DTTAS and tourism agencies in Q4 on Food Wise and opportunities for collaboration.

Bord Bia developing a whiskey-food strategy.

Work ongoing with stakeholders to identify opportunities and develop strategic messaging.

- 161 **Bord Bia to develop a messaging programme to communicate, in partnership with industry, the benefits of Origin Green membership to producer stakeholders to ensure greater adoption and engagement with the programme by producers across all agri-food production sectors** Bord Bia

Action commenced and progressing.

- The inaugural Origin Green report was launched by Bord Bia No 9 November and received extensive media coverage across national television, radio, print and online.
 - Bord Bia established a media partnership with the Irish Farmers' Journal to develop new creative content for a farming audience. Over 20 pieces of content were created in total from farmer videos and podcasts to photo stories and advertorials. The materials will be used throughout 2016 and to date the videos alone have attracted over 20,000 views.
 - Bord Bia produced a new Origin Green farmers' ad which was placed with some key trade media including the Ear to the Ground annual.
 - In order to reach out to a new wider consumer audience, Bord Bia has worked with some thirteen Origin Green verified members to produce new, engaging video content for online promotional purposes. Eight of the videos have been filmed, edited and approved, with the final five still in production and planning. Roll out will commence in January 2016.
- Finally, Origin Green sponsored specific producer / farmer events with Macra and the ASA in the final quarter of the year.

An Origin Green Producer Awards programme has been planned this quarter for Q3 with a farming media partner to highlight the improvement potential of Origin Green to the wider farming community.

- 162 **Bord Bia to develop a mentoring programme to work with verified members to help them articulate their sustainability efforts to key customers and stakeholders and to gain recognition in the marketplace** Bord Bia
- Action Commenced and Progressing
- A co-marketing strategy that includes helping verified members engage buyers with Origin Green has been developed. Buyer research is being conducted to establish a barometer for the awareness and understanding of Origin which will be shared with verified members. Our marketing strategy and plans have adapted to target buyers in the UK to facilitate greater verified member engagement.
- 163 **Bord Bia to enhance the Origin Green Ambassador Programme building ongoing relationships with targeted customers to increase awareness and understanding of Origin Green and drive a preference for Ireland as a sustainable source of supply** Bord Bia
- Substantial action undertaken and ongoing.
- The current group of 10 Ambassadors will complete their first placements in 10 host companies by mid-June with the second batch of placements commencing in mid-July. Placements are currently being finalised with host companies in the UK, China, Switzerland, Spain, Belgium and the United States, which will include 5 new host companies.
- 164 **Bord Bia to expand scope of programme to include retail and food service sectors by developing charters relevant to each sector** Bord Bia
- Action commenced and progressing.
- A pilot programme is underway, a national retailer has become the first verified member and several other companies in this sector progressing plans.
- 165 **Provide further funding for consumer insight to identify and understand how consumer differences across geographical markets will impact on Origin Green messaging around sustainability to allow the brand to transition from B2B to B2C** Bord Bia
- Action commenced and progressing.
- Funding provided for consumer insight to understand Origin Green messaging around sustainability and transitioning from B2B to B2C switched from the Dutch to the German market; phase one completed.
- Consumer insight completed in Ireland around transitioning OG and QM and planned for other markets.

- 166 **DAFM, in consultation with stakeholders, to formulate a National Farmed Animal Health Strategy for Ireland which will provide the framework for an evidence based, co-ordinated and collaborative approach to animal health matters in support of on-farm productivity, processor efficiency and export markets.** DAFM
- Action commenced and progressing.
- The National Farmed Animal Health Strategy document is finalised with a view to publish and distribute to stakeholders shortly.
- 167 **DAFM and industry to build on the recent substantive progress towards the eradication of bovine Tuberculosis, by setting an ambitious target of eradicating tuberculosis from the cattle herd in Ireland by 2030.** DAFM
- Substantial action undertaken and ongoing.
- The multi-annual (2016-18) TB eradication programme submitted by the Department to the EU Commission for co-funding in 2015 included as an objective the complete eradication of bovine TB by 2030. The Department will consult with the stakeholders on the target set out in the multi-annual programme submitted to the Commission. Continued progress towards this target has been made. At end of February 2016, there were fewer herds restricted and reactors than for the corresponding period in 2015. Focus now is on consolidating the progress made to date ensuring that the eradication targets are met.
- 168 **Reflecting the need for strong leadership and involvement by all stakeholders in sustaining such progress and pursuing this objective, a high level national industry forum will be put in place to provide coordinated industry leadership in support of the DAFM executive team. The forum composition will represent the interests of farmers, industry, and government. Its role will be to review the strategic programme on an ongoing basis, facilitate agreement on appropriate new programme measures and targets and ensure the constructive participation by all parties in sustaining progress towards eradication.** DAFM
- Action commenced and progressing.
- Due to the recent appointment of the new Minister, this action will be progressed in Q3.
- 169 **Industry and state agencies continue to enhance support for Animal Health Ireland and agree an equitable sustainable funding model that will sustain the organisation over next ten years.** Industry
- Action commenced and progressing.
- There is ongoing communication between the Department and the stakeholders. The plan is that the Minister will invite the relevant stakeholders to discuss future governance and funding of AHL.

170	AHI and relevant stakeholders to address already identified animal health related production inefficiencies associated with endemic disease on Irish farms by:	AHI
	Substantial action undertaken and ongoing.	
170 A	Ø Completing the BVD eradication programme within an established timeframe.	AHI
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Results recorded for 99.7% of calves with a registered birth date in 2015 • Currently 57,498 herds have negative herd status • Process of neighbour notification due to start shortly • Number of herds retaining Pis continues to fall – currently approximately 350 (out of 83,000 breeding herds) since commencement of compulsory programme on 01/01/13 	
170 B	Ø Maintaining progress on the SCC CellCheck programme and achieving the programme objective target of continuing to improve milk quality.	AHI
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work continues with DAFM to develop a structure to receive and collate SCC data from milk processors, as part of the process of consolidating and streamlining the national bulk tank SCC database. • Preparations are advanced for the delivery over the period July 2016-December 2017 of approximately 400 CellCheck Farmer Workshops (to approximately 7,500 dairy farmers) as part of the dairy KT programme, a measure within the RDP. • Conclusion of research to analyse the impact of the seasonality factor on herd eligibility to supply milk. This research will inform a policy decision by DAFM on the future of the so-called 'Irish derogation' on milk quality standards. 	
170 C	Ø Evaluating the results of the Johnes' Disease Pilot programme with a view to putting in place a sustainable voluntary Johnes' Disease control programme.	AHI
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since the commencement of the programme, 2,639 veterinary risk assessments have been uploaded to the ICBF database. • 1,311 Herds have enrolled within the programme for 2016. To date 15,152 eligible animals have been tested during 2016 with their test results uploaded to the ICBF database. • Teagasc are nearing the completion of the economic evaluation of Johnes' Disease at the animal, herd and processor levels. The outcomes from these studies will be presented to the Johnes' Disease implementation group on 27th June where the findings will be used to inform decisions relating to a longer term sustainable Johnes' Disease control programme. • AHI have recruited a Johnes' Disease programme manager who will be in place by mid-2016 and whose role will include the ongoing evaluation, development and delivery of the AHI Johnes' Control Programme. 	

- 170 D **Ø Evaluating benefit/cost of initiating programmes and, where appropriate, develop and bring forward strategies/programmes aimed at addressing the current levels of 1. Calf mortality 2. Dairy cow lameness 3. Fertility rates in suckler herds 4. Sheep genetics and breeding** AHI
- Action not yet commenced.
- 171 **DAFM to support the carrying out an economic appraisal by Teagasc of the benefit/costs of implementing a compulsory national IBR eradication programme for consideration by AHI and its stakeholders with the expectation that if the outcome shows a favourable return on resource deployed that a national eradication programme will be initiated by 2019.** DAFM
- Substantial action undertaken and ongoing.
- Teagasc finalising CBA for AHI who will in turn present the study to relevant stakeholders. Teagasc appraisal is due in September.
- 172 **DAFM and industry to progress and improve the return to producers and their advisors relevant data arising from ante and post mortem inspection at meat plants, in support of optimising on-farm productivity, through improved animal health.** DAFM
- Substantial action undertaken and ongoing.
- Familiarisation of users on the ante-mortem and animal welfare portion of the programme will commence in Q1 of 2016. The trial of the concept post-mortem system commenced in a large throughput slaughter plant in Q1 2016. Animal Health Ireland (AHI) and Meat Industry Ireland in conjunction with local DAFM staff continue to roll out their data capture system (livers and lungs) to all beef slaughter plants.
- Ongoing action continues on the roll out options available to DAFM for the main users of the system and should be finalised in Q2. Action on the familiarisation of users on the ante-mortem and animal welfare portion of the programme has yet to commence as final procedural and technical issues have yet to be agreed.
- A new action will commence in Q2 whereby a pilot familiarisation scheme will be trialled in at least one beef slaughter plant. AHI and MII in conjunction with local DAFM staff have delivered a data capture system (livers and lungs) to 19 of the beef slaughter plants. It is envisaged this process will be completed shortly.

- 173 **Recognising global societal concerns relating to the threat to human and animal health of anti-microbial resistance, and in that context, the need to ensure prudent use of anti-microbials in animal production systems, DAFM will, in consultation with stakeholders, continue to advance its action plan and develop implementation strategies for veterinary practitioners and farmers in relation to anti-microbial usage.** DAFM

Action commenced and progressing.

A joint press release with the Department of Health regarding AMR was issued on 18 November 2015, European Antibiotic Awareness Day. In addition, DAFM launched a series of dedicated AMR web pages on the DAFM website with the goal of providing information to all stakeholders in relation to the threat posed by AMR and actions needed to contain the risk. Analysis of the data collected as part of DAFM's pilot project in relation to antibiotic consumption in the pig sector is now complete and a meeting with industry to discuss findings and next steps took place in January. The Inter-Departmental AMR Consultative Committee met on 3 February.

Work continued during Q2 of 2016 at European Council level in relation to two legislative proposals; one for a Regulation on veterinary medicinal products and one for a Regulation on the manufacture, placing on the market and use of medicated feed, both of which contain actions aimed at combating AMR. Work also continued at European Council level in relation to the development of a set of European Council following on from the Dutch Presidency Ministerial Conference on AMR held in February 2016.

The third meeting of the Interdepartmental AMR Consultative Committee was held during Q2 of 2016, during which a number of issues were discussed, including the development of a One Health National Action Plan for AMR consistent with the recommendations of the WHO Global Action Plan; the production of a One Health surveillance report along the lines of those that have been produced in the UK and Denmark, and the development of the set of European Council conclusions on AMR.

Work will continue during 2016 with the Department of Health and other stakeholders in relation to the development of a One Health AMR National Action Plan with a view to having a plan in place by the May 2017 deadline.

Work commenced during Q2 on the enhancement of DAFM's Veterinary Medicinal Products Official Control Programme to monitor, and improve where necessary, compliance with European Commission and OIE guidelines on the prudent use of antimicrobials in veterinary medicine. This work involves the training of staff, amending of inspection procedures and updating of national legislation. This work will continue throughout the remainder of 2016 and into 2017.

- 174 **DAFM should encourage industry stakeholders to enhance existing systems for surveillance of animal diseases to facilitate early detection of new/emerging and exotic disease and to provide a more robust evidence base substantiating marketing claims about the animal health and welfare status of the national herd/flock and supporting disease control at farm level.** DAFM
- Substantial action undertaken and ongoing.
- An animal health surveillance forum was held on the 28 April 2016. Progress is being made on developing a national animal health surveillance strategy cognizant of stakeholder contributions from forum.
- 176 **DAFM and agencies to promote the development of new medicines and measures to strengthen control of sea lice on salmon farms.** DAFM
- Action commenced and progressing.
- EMFF OP Knowledge Gateway Scheme launched on 14 January 2016. BIM Work Programme under the Scheme approved for EMFF funding on 3 March 2016. Under the Work Programme BIM will undertake work in 2016 on new measures to reduce sealice infestation on salmon. The results of the Marine Institute's sea lice monitoring and control programme are published in full annually in the Marine Institutes Irish Fisheries Bulletin series.
- Continuous on-farm sea lice checks have facilitated early intervention resulting in better sea lice control generally during 2015. The use of alternative approaches to complement husbandry and medicinal treatments, coupled with rigorous pro-active regulatory oversight, has led to improved sea lice levels over all in Ireland. Report of the 2015 Sea Lice monitoring programme now live on MI website.
- In September the Marine Institute is convening a major conference on sea lice in Ireland. Planning for the conference has commenced.
- BIM has commissioned the production of lump sucker cleaning fish in two facilities - strategically located in the west and south west – following a tender process. These actions will form the basis of a national production capability to supply these fish to the salmon farming industry into the future. The projects are co-funded by the EMFF, under the Knowledge Gateway Scheme of the EMFF Operational Programme 2014-2020. MI planning continues for the international conference on sea lice in September 2016 in Wexford. ICES advice on impact of sea lice, escapees on wild salmon published in May 2016. MI involved in the ICES process.

177	<p>State agencies to continue to advance shellfish safety monitoring and science.</p> <p>Action commenced and progressing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BIM ran a workshop to implement good hygiene practice and to develop a HACCP plan as part of an overall food safety management system was run on 11-12 May in the Mill Park Hotel, Donegal Town. A half day Workshop on Hygienic Design of Seafood Premises also took place on 5th April 2016. • MI Sampling and monitoring programmes for 2016 continue. All current samples for marine biotoxins and shellfish microbiology are completed and are being processed and analysed on an ongoing basis. The toxin levels have not reached levels in shellfish that require closure in aquaculture producing areas. • There is ongoing liaison between the Institute and the state agencies (SFPA, FSAI and BIM) in the area of shellfish safety, through the Molluscan Shellfish Safety Committee, and good cooperation exists with the industry. • Research activities on toxic plankton, norovirus risk and an international project on shellfish toxin chemistry ongoing. 	DAFM
178	<p>DAFM, FSAI and industry to combine resources and intelligence gathering capacity to improve monitoring and predictive capacity which will result in more timely responses to food safety threats which may arise and ongoing communication.</p> <p>Action commenced and progressing.</p> <p>DAFM and FSAI have undertaken discussions as part of proposal development.</p>	DAFM
179	<p>Review laboratory capacity to ensure effectiveness to address potential disease outbreak or food scares</p> <p>Action commenced and progressing.</p> <p>The Strategic Review of DAFM Laboratories Report is in preparation for Q2, 2016.</p>	DAFM
180	<p>Prioritise research to ensure the development of state of the art methodologies to identify and assess the risks with biological and chemical contamination of food and develop the controls to mitigate against these risks.</p> <p>Action commenced and progressing.</p> <p>DAFM Laboratories continue to engage on an ongoing basis with other State-funded laboratories to identify opportunities for inter-laboratory collaboration.</p>	DAFM

- 181 **Prioritise research to ensure that the Irish food industries have the best available technologies and systems that will assist in identifying and controlling risks arising from microbial and chemical contaminants.** DAFM
- Action commenced and progressing.
- Evaluation process of proposals to DAFM's 2015 Research Call completed; with proposals that included within their scope technologies and systems to assist in identifying and controlling risks arising from microbial and chemical contaminants under examination. The outcome of this competitive award process is expected to be made public in Q3/4 2016.
- 182 **Bord Bia to explore with industry the potential for development of a Centre for Consumer Insight which should provide consumer insight to inform future investment in research and development by Irish agri-food research bodies. This may include:** Bord Bia
- Substantial action undertaken and ongoing.
- The Centre for Consumer Insight opened the end of June.
- 182 A **Ø Investment in a physical space that is creative and inspirational, and accessible to international visitors and consumers who will be involved in the consumer research.** Bord Bia
- 182 B **Ø Invest in the technology that underpins the Centre for Consumer Insight and partner with private enterprise that will support the initiative with their intellectual expertise, share their global connections and innovation experiences so that it is a state of the art, outward looking, and world class facility.** Bord Bia
- 182 C **Ø Increase the number of marketing specialists in areas of qualitative research, data mining and analysis, brand and innovation specialists.** Bord Bia
- 182 D **Ø Communicate benefits to all stakeholders to maximise engagement.** Bord Bia

- 183 **Bord Bia to continue to partner with major domestic retailers on supplier development programmes including Taste Bud and Food Academy initiatives.** Bord Bia
- Action commenced and progressing.
- 20 businesses 'graduated' from the Food Academy Advance programme run in conjunction with SuperValu in this quarter. The Tesco Taste Buds programme has been deferred due to internal staff assignments within Tesco.
- 184 **Centre for Consumer Insight to inform market validation of future publically funded research investments.** Bord Bia
- Action commenced and progressing.
- Staff have been involved in DAFM Competitive Research Committee.
- 185 **The primary production research activities of national research bodies, including Teagasc and academia, to be focussed on grass land productivity, animal breeding/genetics, soil nutrient usage, animal health improvements, crop production, economic analysis of Irish agriculture, food ingredient, product and process innovation.** DAFM
- Action commenced and progressing.
- Evaluation process of proposals to DAFM's 2015 Research Call completed with many of the priority areas identified in Action 185 included within the scope of the proposals under examination. The outcome of this competitive award process is expected to be published in Q3/4 2016.
- 420 **The primary production research activities of national research bodies, including Teagasc and academia, to be focussed on grass land productivity, animal breeding/genetics, soil nutrient usage, animal health improvements, crop production, economic analysis of Irish agriculture, food ingredient, environmental sustainability practices, monitor effects of seafood production on European designated sites, product and process innovation.** DAFM
- Action commenced and progressing.
- Evaluation process of proposals to DAFM's 2015 Research Call completed with many of the priority areas identified in Action 185 included within the scope of the proposals under examination. The outcome of this competitive award process is expected to be published in Q3/4 2016.

- 421 **Teagasc in collaboration with relevant HEIs and others to research emerging precision technologies, data analytics, sensor technology, DNA technology and possibilities for mining big data to improve decision making, availing of existing resources and capabilities.** Teagasc

Action commenced and progressing.

This area has emerged from the Teagasc Technology Foresight 2035 project as a priority area of technology development for Irish agri-food. Teagasc is leading a research proposal in this area which was submitted to DAFM for funding under the Stimulus Programme, with multiple research and industry partners. Teagasc is involved (as is DAFM) in the EU ICT-AGRI Eranet and has received new funding for two projects in the 2015 call. Teagasc has many other ongoing projects and new funding applications in this area. Teagasc organised a conference on this theme (ICT in Agriculture) in Dublin in February 2016 which involved research, industry, end users and funders.

Teagasc, the Tyndall Institute in UCC, the TSSG group in WIT and the Insight group in UCD have submitted a proposal to SFI for a centre that aims to harness digital technologies at farm and processing level to make Irish milk the best in the world.

- 187 **Establish a high level core team to review current Agri-food sector innovation capacity, the utilisation of this capacity and to better market the Irish agri-food sector's innovation capabilities.** DAFM

Action not yet commenced.

- 188 **DAFM, Enterprise Ireland and other research funders to work collaboratively to implement SHARP with oversight from National Agri-food Research and Innovation Group (NAFRI).** DAFM

Action commenced and progressing.

A selection of the priority research and innovation areas identified across the thematic areas in SHARP were incorporated into the topics of DAFM's 2015 Research Funding Call, the evaluation process of proposals received in these topics are now completed. The outcome of this competitive award process is expected to be published in Q3/4 2016.

- 190 **DAFM through the FIRM programme to further collaborate with Enterprise Ireland and other research funding providers to ensure the required spectrum of agri-food research activity is funded to develop the underlining technologies and capabilities which can be leveraged to create commercial outputs and facilitate involvement in externally funded initiatives notably the EU Horizon 2020 RTD programme.** DAFM
- Action commenced and progressing.
- DAFM continue to engage with other funders through initiatives such as Enterprise Ireland's Meat Technology Centre Call and the JPI HDHL to cofund and/or apportion funding responsibility for Ireland's research activities where appropriate. DAFM and Health Research Board issued a cofunded award starting on 1 March 2016 for an initiative in Malnutrition in the Elderly.
- DAFM engaged with Enterprise Ireland on the Detailed Description of Needs developed for the Prepared Consumer Food sector and with SFI and the Health Research Board (HRB) on the development and finalisation of the JPI 'A Healthy Diet for a Healthy Life' (HDHL) Implementation Plan for 2016-18 which contains joint actions for future transnational research. DAFM through FIRM are also endeavouring to make new awards to a range of platform type research proposals under its 2015 Research Call ,with the outcome of this process expected to be published in Q3/4 2016.
- 191 **Continue to promote and increase joint industry and public sector investments in research projects which will improve the commerciality of research outputs.** Enterprise Ireland
- Action commenced and progressing.
- The first phase of the evaluation of applications to DAFM's industry co-funded, agri-food and bioeconomy innovation Platform call for proposals is completed and more detailed information will now be sought from applicants in Q3 2016 in the final phase of evaluations. The Platform Call is aimed at inter alia improving the commerciality of research outputs. DAFM personnel also sit on committees operated by Enterprise Ireland & Science Foundation Ireland that provide input for the approval of joint industry and public sector investment awards.
- 193 **DAFM in conjunction with state agencies and industry partners to develop a "SMART NAUTRIENTS" research programme to support high value products from seafood.** DAFM
- Action commenced and progressing.
- An EMFF OP Seafood Innovation and Business Planning Scheme was launched on 14 January 2016. This scheme will support investment by BIM and seafood processing enterprises in new product development, and will facilitate innovation and knowledge transfer between industry and research institutions.
- A meeting of the DAFM Competitive Research Committee took place on 19 May 2016.
- The Nutramara project final report was received and is undergoing external review. The National Marine research and Innovation strategy is being developed by the Marine Institute. This document reviews the status of Irish research in this area and identifies appropriate instruments for future funding.

- 194 **DAFM, Marine Institute and Industry to develop further research programmes on the potential of marine species of fish, shellfish and seaweed as possible high value sources of pharmaceutical, cosmetic and renewal energy products** DAFM
- Action commenced and progressing.
- The evaluation of proposals submitted under the ERA-MBT 2nd cofunded call (Bioactive molecules from the marine environment) will be completed in early Q3, at this point it will be clear if there are to be any Irish partners funded. Projects funded under the previous call (The development of biorefinery processes for marine bioresources) have commenced and are underway. The Beaufort award project on Marine Bioresources involving UCC, NUIG, NUIM and QUB, is finishing in Q2 and the partners will host a conference in association with the Seafest event in Galway at the end of Q2 to discuss their achievements and future plans.
- 195 **Teagasc to develop proposals for a Food Innovation Hub at its Moorepark campus to promote greater collaboration between industry and public research, and deliver a step change in innovation activity in the food industry.** Teagasc
- Substantial action undertaken and ongoing.
- Proposal submitted to Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine and is currently under review by Department of Public Expenditure and Reform.
- 196 **Teagasc will lead research in collaboration with other research institutions and industry to derive applications from the significant state investment in foods for health. This will build on initiatives such as the APC, FHI, and Nutramara.** Teagasc
- Substantial action undertaken and ongoing.
- The Teagasc-led JPI funded project LONGLIFE held its “kick-off” meeting on the 14-15 April. Within FHI, as a consequence of discussions with our industry partners and external scientific advisory board, it has been agreed that the work programme on the health benefits of cheese should focus on impacts on cardiovascular health. As a consequence, one human feeding study investigating the impact of the cheese matrix is under way and another is being designed which will investigate the role of calcium in mediating positive health benefits. As a number of milk hydrolysates with potential health benefits have now been identified there is increasing focus on approaches to scale up production of these at pilot plant level using approaches that can be transferred to industry. Work on other FHI work packages including mining milk for bioactive components, modification of milk fat and enrichment of oligosaccharides has continued as planned. A Teagasc funded project investigating the potential of cheese and cheese microbiota to modulate gut microbiota is underway.
- 198 **Enterprise Ireland will create an FDI and Innovation Portal to improve connectivity across the Irish innovation system for Food and beverage companies.** Enterprise Ireland
- Substantial action undertaken and ongoing.
- FDI Beta Version completed in January 2016. Website launched the end April 2016.

- 199 **Enterprise Ireland to continue to support the evolution of FHI and DPTC to allow the centre to realise long term full potential.** Enterprise Ireland
- Substantial action undertaken and ongoing.
- Review of FHI to be undertaken in 2016, DPTC Open Day held on 6 March 2016.
- 200 **Enterprise Ireland to develop the Meat Technology Centre initiative in association with meat industry, DAFM, Teagasc and academia, with a view to launching in early 2016.** Enterprise Ireland
- Substantial action undertaken and ongoing.
- Meat Technology Competency Centre approved on 10 February 2016. CEO now appointed. The official launch is now anticipated for Q4, 2016.
- 201 **Enterprise Ireland will continue to engage with Industry, DAFM, research providers and other relevant stakeholders to establish a food/test incubation technology centre of excellence to support PCF, Beverage and Horticulture sectors with a focus on pilot stage production, packaging innovation, product reformulation and be a portal to global best practice research data of interest to these sectors.** Enterprise Ireland
- Substantial action undertaken and ongoing.
- Two meetings held to date with Industry to progress a vision and direction for any potential centre.
- 202 **Industry and EI should continue to drive an industry-led network of Irish Agri-food companies which access Research Bodies in a collaborative/partnership manner on specific innovation/research challenges.** Enterprise Ireland
- Substantial action undertaken and ongoing.
- 203 **The DAFM funded Agri-Food Graduate Development Programme to continue to upskill agri-food graduates for employment through enhancing industrial knowledge, business and personnel management, leadership, communication and advanced research and innovation skills.** DAFM
- Action commenced and progressing.
- The AFGDP provided modules to agri-food postgraduate students on 21st century skills, science writing and presentation skills, encapsulation and a module run in collaboration with FHI giving young researchers an insight into the career management skills required for employment in the agri-food industry. The AFGDP also provided high level CPD and training to Teagasc post-doctoral researchers to meet their professional development requirements in line with a service programme agreed with Teagasc.

- 204 **DAFM to continue to partner with the Irish Research Council's employment-based Research Programme to facilitate the placement of post-graduate research students in agri-food enterprises.** DAFM
- Action commenced and progressing.
- The Irish Research Council's employment-based Research Programme was open for new applications until February 2016. DAFM remains committed to support the placement of a further tranche of post-graduate research students in agri-food enterprises if successful in this Call. Applications received under the Irish Research Council's recent employment-based Research Programme Call are currently being evaluated. When the results of the Call are known the IRC will contact DAFM with regard to providing funding to enable further new awards in the agri-food space. DAFM has recently decided to continue with this partnership over the next couple of years and, following this, has met recently with IRC personnel to discuss ways of increasing awareness of the EBP among agri-food enterprises including, in particular, SMEs.
- 205 **All milk producers should be strongly encouraged to carry out grass measurement as the efficient use of grass is one of the key advantages of the Irish dairy sector** DAFM
- Action commenced and progressing.
- Grassland management is identified as one of the key target areas in the Knowledge Transfer Groups for farmers, including those in the dairy sector. This will mean that efficient grassland management and measuring will be on the core curriculum of each group. The KT Group participants will also be completing the on-farm carbon navigator which contains core elements of effective grassland management.
- In addition, efficient grassland management will continue to form part of the core advisory services for dairy farmers from Teagasc.
- 206 **Strategies should be developed to increase the fertility of Irish grassland soils in order to address deficiencies in P, K and lime** Teagasc
- Action commenced and progressing.
- The soil fertility campaign developed in 2015 is being continued in 2016. Soil fertility will be included in all Teagasc open days. Further strategies will be investigated to further increase the halting of the decline in soil fertility which is threatening to significantly impact on yields.
- NMP online will deliver nutrient management plans to approximately 15,000 Teagasc clients and approximately 30,000 clients of other agencies in the next 12 months. Through the use of maps and graphics we will improve communication with these farmers and focus on dealing with farm level soil fertility problems

207 **Dairy farmers should set a target of increasing grass utilisation to 10 tonnes / ha** Teagasc

Action commenced and progressing.

A network of Grazing Coaches were identified for 2016. A nationwide series of farm walks was held in January, with a second series of events planned for mid - late March.

Grassland management decisions continue to be highlighted at discussion groups, farm walks, demonstrations and through media publications. Monthly on-farm meetings/workshops continue to take place on our network of Grazing Coaches. Work has commenced on the development of a Teagasc led, industry wide, knowledge transfer campaign on grassland management; Teagasc is currently consulting with stakeholders regarding the appropriate content for such a campaign.

208 **Continue to leverage the benefits of genomic technology to help maintain the rate of genetic improvement in the dairy sector to maximise resource use efficiency and lower emissions** DAFM

Action commenced and progressing.

A new version of the IDB (International Dairy and Beef) chip was developed by ICBF and Teagasc in Q3 (the IDBv3). This chip has now been delivered at a significant cost reduction to Irish dairy farmers (€22/sample compared to €30/sample for the previous IDBv2 chip), with the cost reduction being largely as a consequence of the new Beef Data and Genomics Program. This new chip is being used in various DAFM funded research projects, including "Healthy Genes" project (with Teagasc). As part of that project some 100 dairy herds were signed up for genotyping their herds during Q3 2015, with these tissue samples now in the process of being returned to ICBF for DNA extraction and genomic evaluation.

Plans in 2015 included the continuation of the required research and development to facilitate the roll-out of multi-breed genomic evaluations for dairy cattle (the current dairy genomic evaluations are only available for Holstein Friesian animals). It is anticipated that these new genomic evaluations will be available to herdowners later in 2016.

Research work in the area of multi-breed genomics evaluations for dairy cattle in continuing, in conjunction with Teagasc. Test proofs are expected to be made available to the industry later in 2016, for implementation in 2017. In addition work is underway to develop new fertility, health and disease genetic evaluations, again in conjunction with Teagasc. These are expected to be implemented in 2017 and will ultimately lead to greater resource use efficiency and lower emissions from the National dairy herd.

- 209 **Industry stakeholders need to ensure that sexed semen continues to be rolled out to Irish dairy farmers and that continued research in the technology is undertaken** ICBF
- Action commenced and progressing.
- The significant investment required to make this technology available in Ireland, coupled with low milk prices, has meant that progress on this action has been slower than anticipated. That said, the relevant groups (ICBF, Teagasc, Sexing Technologies and Irish AI partners) are in discussions regarding a potential research project to be undertaken in Spring 2017. This project will primarily focus on the latest iteration of the technology and its impact on female pregnancy rate.
- 210 **Increase the number of farmers that complete profit monitors or other cost management tools** Teagasc
- Action commenced and progressing.
- Teagasc Cost Control Planner updated for 2016 year will be used to produce accurate profit monitors and cash flow plans for 2016. There will be an increase in the number of profit monitors this year supported by the KT groups programme.
- Focus on cash flow for dairy farmers – these should lead to more detailed analysis where required including profit monitors.
- 211 **An increased awareness among milk producers and others in the dairy sector in relation to the key issues surrounding fixed price contracts and financial management skills should be facilitated, including an increased use of cash flow budgeting and monitoring tools to help cope with milk price volatility** Teagasc
- Action commenced and progressing.
- Targeted farm walks, working with GFFF stakeholders, planned for June as part of the Money Manager initiative on volatility management and, particularly, cash flow management.
- ‘5 Minute Cash Flow’ and ‘debt schedule’ incorporated in a document to go to all dairy farmers via co-ops (20,000 of these to be produced and are a key tool at Get Farm Financially Fit farm walks in June).
- 213 **The issues around the possibility of developing a mechanism including mutual funds such as a reinsurance scheme should be examined to minimise risk for processors and give farmers confidence regarding price** DAFM
- Action commenced and progressing.
- The Dairy Forum continues to meet and had its most recent meeting in Q2 2016 chaired by Minister Creed. The main priority is to consider various measures to mitigate price volatility in the sector and the June meeting saw the launch of a collaborative effort between DAFM, Teagasc, the banks and the co-ops to roll-out a series of information and training initiatives on cashflow planning for farmers.

- 214 **The Government will ensure that the tax system as it specifically applies to farmers should remain under review to establish if there is further scope to take account of income volatility faced by dairy farmers** DAFM

Substantial action undertaken and ongoing.

The Agri-taxation Review was published as part of Budget 2015 and included two recommendations specifically to help address farm income volatility, both of which were introduced in Budget 2015:

- Retain and enhance 'Income Averaging' by increasing the period from 3 to 5 years. This provides more scope for income smoothing within a commodity price cycle.
- Allow averaging to be availed of where a farmer and/or their spouse receive income from an on-farm diversification trade or profession.

The Department will engage with stakeholders and the Department of Finance in advance of Budget 2017.

- 215 **Engagement by processors, producers and the Department with the Milk Market Observatory should be enhanced** DAFM

Action commenced and progressing.

The Department will continue to adhere with the regulatory reporting requirements. Discussions with other key stakeholders will continue with a view to improving the timeliness of reported data and the provision of estimates where hard data is not yet available.

- 216 **Origin Green will be a key marketing tool and should be fully supported at all levels of the industry within an ambitious time frame. The verifiable sustainability credentials of Irish dairy products will be a key marketing advantage under this programme and Ireland will be positioned as a leading supplier of sustainable dairy products across all markets** Bord Bia

Action commenced and progressing.

The Origin Green Dairy consumer website desktop version launched in China in late November 2015. A mobile device designed version of the website launched on 18 December 2015. Plans are underway to support the site in 2016 with an integrated digital marketing campaign. The digital campaign aims to target Chinese Mums in tier 1 and tier 2 cities.

Origin Green Dairy promotion was also undertaken as part of the trade mission to Ghana and Nigeria in November 2015 and in customer meetings as part of a market research project on the Democratic Republic of Congo (also November).

The Origin Green dairy plan for 2016 has been presented to industry by Bord Bia. The media plan for advertising is being developed for Europe and the Middle East, targeting dairy trade print and digital. The first burst of advertising will happen in May / June, across key markets in Europe, including UK, France, Germany and the Netherlands. New creatives for the dairy campaign are currently being developed to highlight the achievements made under Origin Green for the dairy industry. A number of inward journalist visits have also been confirmed for the upcoming months. In China, activities are ongoing in support of our digital campaign.

In Q2, a Marketing Agency has been appointed in China to market Origin Green to 20 million Chinese mums in Tier 1 and Tier 2 cities. The campaign is digital and focusses on the use of key online platforms such as Baidu and Weibo, along with search engine optimisation and search engine marketing of the www.origingreen.com.cn website, to promote and market Origin Green. A business to business broader dairy campaign has been developed and expanded in new markets, including Spain, Italy and the US. New creative has been developed and signed off for Origin Green Umbrella and has been adapted for Origin Green Dairy for communications across Europe from June.

- 217 **Industry will continue to focus on the development of value added products whilst ensuring, insofar as possible, that the maximum value possible is retained indigenously** Industry
- Action commenced and progressing.
- Industry will continue to focus on the development of value added products, e.g. Bord Bia is currently working with three dairy companies, managing consumer research and assisting with their launch in the Middle East.
- Bord Bia debriefed consumer insight to Irish companies active in Saudi Arabia on a brand creation project.
- Bord Bia has also undertaken individual assignments for dairy companies in Africa.
- Work in Saudi Arabia and Senegal on adding value to powders; further work planned in Iran.
- Field researchers met in Iran and market scoped for work in Q4 this year. Individual company work in the dairy sector and studies for the meat sector in China.
- 218 **In line with the findings of the Report on Smart Ageing which was presented to Government in April 2015, opportunities for the development of dairy based foods in this sector will be examined** Industry
- Action at commencement stage.
- Work scheduled to start in the next quarter for completion in Q4. Bord Bia has undertaken to review all available research in 2016 with a view to commissioning original research in 2017.
- 219 **Ireland's success in added value sectors such as farmhouse, artisan and higher end cheeses and butters will continue to be recognised, developed and encouraged** Bord Bia
- Action commenced and progressing.
- October Month of Cheese, 100+ events nationwide. Launch of Cheese Institute Fundamentals (October) which will run for 10 months which addresses production, control and process issues as well as marketing and business development. The programme comprises a series of workshops aimed at Starter and Fundamental levels, with 24 companies in total participating on these programmes. The programme is managed by Bord Bia and Teagasc.
- Continuation of Cheese Institute Fundamentals programme in partnership with Teagasc Moorepark. This programme will wrap up in July 2016 with the Advanced level commencing in September 2016. Continuation of the Discover Farmhouse Cheese campaign with this three year consumer promotion campaign for the Irish market ending in July 2016.

- 220 **The scope for continuous efficiency improvements must be continuously pursued against competitive benchmarks** Industry
- Substantial action undertaken and ongoing.
- Since Origin Green was established, more than 55,000 Irish farms and 122 food and drink companies have become fully-verified members of the programme. These farms account for 90% of Ireland's beef production and half of its milk output, while the companies are responsible for 85% of the country's food and drink exports.
- The focus now turns to how Origin Green can help lower the industry's environmental footprint, with a major focus on emissions, biodiversity and water quality, while enhancing its impact on society by prioritising health and wellbeing. It will also soon look to extend the programme to retail and foodservice to complete the food supply chain, and ultimately reach out to consumers.
- The Department continues to provide funding to Enterprise Ireland to assist companies in (i) lean manufacturing (ii) CEO and senior management leadership development (iii) training and (iv) innovation through vouchers (€5,000) to commission research by universities, Teagasc and Institutes of Technology to test innovative ideas new product development or resolve problems.
- 221 **The response to environmental challenges in areas such as emissions, water quality and biodiversity must be centrally co-ordinated and must highlight Ireland's key leadership role in balancing more intensive production with environmental concerns** DAFM
- Action commenced and progressing.
- A whole of government approach is being taken to climate change issues, discussions continued in Q2 on the EU 2030 Climate and Energy Framework and the trilogue discussions on the NEC directive also continued.
- DAFM participated in a meeting of SEA & AA National Forum.
- The DAFM Water Network was established and held two meetings in Q2. DAHG has recently reconvened the Biodiversity Working group to review progress and prepare the 3rd National Biodiversity plan to be implemented from 2017 onwards.
- 222 **The Sustainable Dairy Assurance Scheme (SDAS) must include all dairy farmers as an immediate priority** Bord Bia
- Substantial action undertaken and ongoing.
- 15,320 audits conducted to date with 11,607 (66%) of all dairy farms certified.

422	Cost benefit analysis in relation to mitigation measures for ammonia emissions should be undertaken	DAFM
	<p>Action commenced and progressing.</p> <p>Whole of Government approach being taken to ongoing trilogue discussions on the NEC Directive amendments under the EU Clean Air Package. Ammonia MACC completed and was crucial to informing the whole of government approach to ongoing NECD negotiations.</p>	
223	Increase fertility levels and decrease calving intervals in suckler herds	Teagasc
	<p>Action commenced and progressing.</p> <p>Beef Data Genomics Programme was launched in 2015. Teagasc in conjunction with DAFM and ICBF encouraged farmers to join the programme and have been running information meetings to explain the programme requirements that farmers have to meet. Part of this process has been explaining how the beef breeding indexes should be used by suckler farmers to improve the fertility levels within their herds. 15 Beef advisers and Cattle Specialists were brought to France in September on a study trip to learn more about how beef breeding indexes have improved the maternal traits in their suckler herds.</p> <p>Teagasc developed, in conjunction with ICBF and DAFM, all the training material in Q1 2016 for the new BDGP courses under which it is planned to train 24,000 farmers. Approx. 160 tutors trained in Q1 2016 to deliver these courses.</p> <p>BDGP training courses have now commenced with approximately 1,200 farmers receiving a 4 hour training course each week where the issue of fertility levels and decreasing calving intervals in suckler herds is being addressed. Improving suckler herd fertility is also being covered as a topic in beef discussion groups throughout the country which continue to run in every county.</p>	
224	Facilitate the rapid operationalisation of all aspects of the Beef HealthCheck programme, including batch-level, herd-level and geographic reporting	AHI
	<p>Substantial action undertaken and ongoing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 16/18 participating MII plants are now recording data under the Beef HealthCheck programme and issuing reports to farmers. The final two plants will be recording by the end June 2016. • Live data transfer from meat plants to ICBF is underway in 3/7 participating MII processors, with others to follow in the coming weeks. • AHI is working with ICBF to develop web screens for farmers and vets to view Beef HealthCheck data on the ICBF website. This facility will be available in Q3. • Beef HealthCheck events for farmers are being organised for Q3/Q4. • The programme manager continues to progress a Master's degree in UCD, based on the Beef HealthCheck programme, which will establish the national and regional prevalence of liver fluke and lung pathologies and which will establish the economic impact of these at farm and national level. 	

- 225 **Facilitate the further development of resources and information to encourage livestock producers to place an economic value on the biosecurity of their holdings** DAFM

Action commenced and progressing.

- 226 **Leverage the benefits of the recent adoption of genomics technology in the beef sector to improve the genetic quality of the national breeding herd though inter alia, maximising participation in the Beef Data and Genomics Programme, to help lower emissions and improve farm competitiveness** DAFM

Substantial action undertaken and ongoing.

BDGP payments of €38 million issued to 21,000 herds. Training courses ongoing for BDGP participants. Training currently underway for all participants. ICBF incorporating genomic evaluations into the breeding indices for dissemination to all participants in Q3.

Mart Modernisation scheme launched to provide ICBF breeding indices to purchasers via display screens in marts.

- 227 **Exploit potential of genomics to add value at farm level by improving breeding and at processing level in areas such as meat quality and meat tenderness** ICBF

Action commenced and progressing.

Work in this area has progressed positively with further data (both carcass cut data and meat eating quality) having been collected through the Tully performance test station. Initial genetic parameters have now been estimated (albeit on limited data), with clear evidence of ample genetic variation for these traits. Next steps will include the production of “test evaluations” which we anticipate will happen later in 2016.

- 228 **Further develop the potential use of sexed semen for breeding selection and improving genetic profile and profitability of the proportion of the beef herd coming from the dairy sector** ICBF

Action commenced and progressing.

ICBF, Teagasc and domestic AI companies (including stakeholders) are currently developing a research proposition to examine further developments in the technology, as well as the interaction between male fertility performance and the sexing process. Work on this project is continuing, with an expectation of a research project being in place in Spring 2017.

- 229 **Intensify the level of research aimed at informing the formulation of the breeding indexes used in the sector and the distribution of the traits therein** DAFM
- Action commenced and progressing.
- The ICBF have launched a BDGP page in the Farmers Journal which focuses on the scheme but also provides information on the value of the maternal index for breeding purposes. ICBF and Teagasc are working together to decide on the optimum method for incorporation of the genomic information into breeding indices.
- Industry consulted on progress with incorporation of genomics into Beef breeding indexes. Decision made by industry to publish updated indices in Q3.
- 230 **Focus on net margin per hectare as a measure of profitability and kilograms of beef produced per hectare as a suitable measure of efficiency** Teagasc
- Action commenced and progressing.
- eProfit Monitors completed for beef farmers have these figures included and they are emphasized with clients. Output report on kilograms of beef produced per livestock unit and per ha which ICBF have produced (in consultation with Teagasc) is being used by Teagasc to provide advice to clients.
- 231 **Increase the number of livestock farmers in Knowledge Transfer Programme** Teagasc
- Action commenced and progressing.
- DAFM opened application period in May 2016 whereby farmers can apply to join the Knowledge Transfer Groups.

- 232 **Develop infrastructure through knowledge transfer programmes and farmer education to ensure improved grassland management. This will include increasing the proportion of grassland farmers participating in weekly grass measurement from 1,250 today to 3,000 by 2020 and 5,000 by 2025** Teagasc
- Action commenced and progressing.
- The number of farms now using PastureBase Ireland is >1,000. This has increased substantially from 550 in 2014. In 2015, a number of new initiatives were established, including the establishment of 12 Grass Pod group across the country to promote weekly grassland measurement and measurement use. These groups have worked well. In 2016, the plan is to double the number of grass pod farms to 24. In 2016, the plan is also to increase the number of farms using PastureBase Ireland to >1500.
- Grass Pod groups will be increased to 24 in 2016; currently 1,050 farms are on PastureBase Ireland. Plans to increase this number further. Grasshopper technology will make the measurement of pasture easier and will also increase the numbers measuring pasture.
- Advisers receiving training in the use of PastureBase Ireland. Only advisers who have clients on PastureBase Ireland will continue to receive this training.
- Small number of Grasshoppers being purchased by Teagasc in Q2 to be used on demonstration farms and on Teagasc research farms to demonstrate their use at open days, in articles, newsletters etc.
- 233 **Support research efforts and knowledge transfer tools to better utilise the beef output from the dairy bred calves in a systemised manner** Teagasc
- Action commenced and progressing.
- Ongoing with the Teagasc Green Acres Calf-to-Beef Demonstration farms. Very successful open day held on one of these farms in April 2016.
- 234 **Review mechanism for linking the knowledge developed on Teagasc/Farmer's Journal BETTER Farm Beef Programme and the new Suckler Cow demonstration farm in Athenry with widespread application at farm level** Teagasc
- Action commenced and progressing.
- Ten farm walks / events took place on BETTER Beef farms in 2015 – four of which took place in Q3. There were large attendances at these walks. Weekly articles on the progress being made on these farms continue to be published in the Irish Farmers Journal.
- National BETTER Farm Beef Conference being planned for April 19th 2016.
- Open Day took place on Newford Farm on 25 May 2016.

- 235 **Develop a uniform approach to the supply of clean cattle underpinned by research in this area** DAFM
- Action commenced and progressing.
- This matter has been the subject of ongoing discussion with the meat processing industry. Next steps in this area are currently under internal DAFM consideration, with a view to identifying the options which can offer the best prospect of progress with the issue.
- 236 **Increased level of communication and engagement with and between processors and producers in terms of marketplace developments** Processors
- Action commenced and progressing.
- Improved and timely communication between producers and processors on marketplace developments are recognised as key if producers are to adapt to changing customer specifications. Teagasc, with input from Bord Bia and industry, published producer blueprints in September advising on different types of beef production which included advice on market specifications.
- Communication from Bord Bia at Beef Roundtables on market developments and outlook will continue and a further meeting of the Roundtable will be held in July 2016. DAFM is also producing and making publicly available on its Twitter feed infographics on latest meat market to complement the existing weekly Meat Market Report
- Commitment in PFG to host meetings of Beef Forum.

- 237 **Explore options to increase data availability on traded volumes by channel across the whole supply chain, to increase transparency and better inform stakeholder understanding of market returns** Processors

Action commenced and progressing.

Bord Bia presented its analysis to the July meeting of the Beef Roundtable, with input from processors, on traded volumes of specific beef cuts into key export markets. This information is regarded as commercially confidential by processors and falls outside the statutory price reporting requirements.

Commission to finalise terms of reference for a small Agricultural Markets 'Taskforce' (DGAGRI) to assess market dynamics and to finalise membership of the High Level Forum for a better functioning Food Supply Chain established on 1 June 2015 (Decision 2015/C 179/3) which will assist the Commission (DGGROW) in developing industrial policy in the agro-food sector and related policy measures to improve the functioning of the food supply chain.

In January 2016, the EU Commission published a report on unfair trading practices (UTP), concluding that an EU initiative was not justified as Member States' approaches varied considerably, these would be monitored. The Commission Task Force on Agricultural Markets met in January and March to discuss market transparency issues and will conclude its work by end 2016. The High Level Forum on better functioning of the food chain will hold its first meeting before the summer break, probably on food chain competitiveness issues and UTPs.

The EU Commission DGAGRI Markets Task Force continued its work and will report by end 2016. An interim report will be made to the High level Forum on better functioning of the food supply chain which will now meet in September.

- 239 **Focus on assisting the production of the market required carcass specification and production systems which are designed to maximise return both to the farmer and the processing industry** Farm advisory services

Action commenced and progressing.

The Beef Production System Blueprint/Guidelines recently published by Teagasc are designed to address the issue of producing beef profitably and meeting market requirements. Bord Bia was party to the production of these guidelines. In addition, a number of ongoing Teagasc research projects will produce further new information in the area. Work underway in two Stimulus projects (Bull Beef and Grass-fed beef) is addressing the production of carcasses from both male and female animals. There is a strong meat quality dimension to these projects. Suckler and dairy calf-to-beef components are included in the bull beef studies and all have industry involvement.

Two further Stimulus projects are looking at feed efficiency in beef cattle, designed to make most efficient use of available feedstuffs.

Work on beef systems modelling indicates that optimal (economics and greenhouse gas) production systems fall within the carcass weight and age requirements of the industry specifications.

- 240 **Engage with retail customers to develop a partnership approach to the production of Irish beef, ensuring a harmonised and collaborative approach to market specifications, price points and farm management practices** DAFM
- Action commenced and progressing.
- This is an ongoing issue and any such action will be considered jointly with all relevant stakeholders.
- 241 **Develop sectoral indicators, analysis and service delivery models which differentiates the sector in terms of farm size/labour requirement of farmers in the industry** Teagasc
- Action commenced and progressing.
- A working group will be established in Q4 to progress this action for the beef sector.
- 242 **Develop further and build a strong brand image for Irish beef capable of securing a significant price premium at retail and food service** Bord Bia
- Action commenced and progressing.
- Promotional programme for 2016 is underway. Irish cattle prices remain ahead of average EU prices for the year to date and the gap between Irish and British prices has narrowed significantly.

243 **Develop markets for fifth quarter products through enhanced marketing capabilities and through enhanced market access** DAFM

Action commenced and progressing.

The DAFM meat market access team covers all meat products - beef, sheep, pork and poultry. It continues to work very closely with Bord Bia, industry, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Irish Embassies abroad and the European Commission in trying to identify and secure new markets, as well as to ensure that existing markets remain open and to reinforce them where possible. Four quarterly meat market access meetings were held in the last year with the industry to assess their priorities, gauge interest in particular markets and to update the industry on progress.

Over the course of the first year of implementation of Food Wise 2025 the market for Irish beef has been opened in Canada, Oman, Israel and the Maldives. The US market for manufacturing beef was also opened in Q2 2016 marking Ireland as the first EU MS to achieve this goal. The market in the Philippines, where Ireland is the second largest supplier of beef and an important destination for beef offals, was successfully extended. The remaining elements of a detailed questionnaire on beef for South Korea was submitted and a week-long inspection visit was hosted, as the next stage in the process of getting beef market access there. A successful inspection visit from an Israeli delegation was hosted and changes to the veterinary health certificate were agreed, opening the market for beef exports there. The market for live exports to Egypt, Serbia and Algeria and most recently Turkey have also been opened in 2016.

The market access team continues to engage with a wide range of other third country markets to advance market access demands and currently in the process of trying to secure beef access to other Third Countries including, inter alia, Ukraine, Thailand and Vietnam and work continues to be pursued in the sheepmeat, pork, poultry and cooked meat sectors also.

- 244 **Dedicated and adequately resourced DAFM beef market access team to identify, develop, reinforce and secure new third country markets as well as supporting the trade in live exports** DAFM

Action commenced and progressing.

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- 245 **Defend interests of the Irish beef sector in international trade agreements pursued by the EU, particularly in light of competitive threat posed by the US and Mercosur** DAFM

Action commenced and progressing.

DAFM is in regular communication with DJEI on international trade negotiations and their implications for the Irish agri-food sector. The 13th formal round of the EU-US free trade negotiations (TTIP) was held in New York during the week beginning 25 April 2016. A formal EU offer in relation to the MERCOSUR trade negotiations was made on 11 May. Following intensive efforts by Ireland and other Member States at official and political levels, the proposed TRQs for Beef and Ethanol were withdrawn from the offer.

- 246 **Investigate and develop viable alternative markets for the additional prime cattle arising from dairy herd expansion** DAFM
- Action commenced and progressing.
- Ongoing work to identify possible markets for live exports. Three vessels approved for dedicated livestock carriage and three roll-on/roll-off ships approved for carriage to the UK and France.
- A further three vessels to facilitate live exports are at various stages of approval with possibility of these being finalised in Q4. Efforts are ongoing to ensure these are finalised as soon as possible.
- The DAFM meat market access team covers all meat products - beef, sheep, pork, poultry and cooked meats. In Q1 2016 it continued to engage closely with industry, Bord Bia and DFAT to identify and develop new third country markets. Successful incoming Chinese & Israeli beef inspection visits were facilitated and an Egyptian delegation visited in relation to live cattle and agreed a live cattle certificate. A number of beef plants were listed to export beef to Canada.
- In Q2 2016 it continued to engage closely with industry, Bord Bia and DFAT to identify and develop new third country markets including hosting a quarterly market access working group meeting. A week-long South Korean beef inspection visit was facilitated in May 2016 and engagement continues with other third country markets to advance market access demands.
- 247 **Building on the launch of Irish beef into the US, implement a strategy for the premium positioning of Irish beef as sustainable and grass fed resulting in a growth of exports into high end retail and foodservice outlets** Bord Bia
- Action commenced and progressing.
- Export volumes achieved some 2,000 tonnes in 2015. Access for manufacturing beef which is important for the commercial viability of this opportunity continues to progress. Bord Bia and industry recently exhibited at North American Meat Institute (NAMI) Meat Conference in Nashville, Tennessee (21– 23 February).
- Export volumes are progressing with consignments regularly shipped. Almost all companies that have export approval have invested in executives situated in the market to develop business. Access for manufacturing beef which is important for the commercial viability of this opportunity continues to progress.
- An application for Irish Beef under the USDA's Process Verified Program is advancing.
- 248 **Investigate opportunities for including animal welfare standards and human health benefits of grass fed beef in the marketing messages for Irish beef** Bord Bia
- Action commenced and progressing.
- A pilot programme to develop Origin Green messaging in Irish Beef promotional activity in Germany is underway involving significant consumer research work.

- 249 **Explore options for increased returns from meat and bone meal, and tallow through industry and agency R&D** Teagasc
- Action commenced and progressing.
- The Department has a FIRM funded project led from Teagasc Ashtown with UCC, UCD, NUIG and IT Tralee seeking to recover high value protein rich co products from meat processing and to apply them to high value revenue streams.
- The Meat Technology Centre was opened in June.
- FIRM Re Value project is ongoing focusing on retrieving value from 5th quarter.
- 250 **Develop early warning/surveillance systems, vaccines and intervention strategies for the rapid recognition, prevention and control of livestock diseases** DAFM
- Substantial action undertaken and ongoing.
- DAFM launched its Animal Health Surveillance strategy and organised an Open Forum, including both regulatory and industry stakeholders. DAFM will revise its strategy based on feedback received.
- 251 **Explore options for alternative funding models for research in the sector, including contributions from the industry** DAFM
- Action commenced and progressing.
- The first phase of the evaluation of applications to DAFM's industry co-funded, agri-food and bioeconomy innovation Platform call for proposals is completed and more detailed information will now be sought from applicants in Q3 2016 in the final phase of evaluations. DAFM personnel also sit on committees operated by EI & SFI that provide input for the approval of joint industry and public sector investment awards.
- 252 **Complete the establishment of the Meat Technology Centre** Teagasc
- Action commenced and progressing.
- Meat Technology Centre opened in June.

- 253 **Explore research projects on the advantages of Irish grass fed beef systems in comparison with other production systems with regards to animal welfare, health and taste along with any other relevant areas. This should include a consideration as to the definition of 'grass fed'** Teagasc

Action commenced and progressing.

A DAFM funded research project is currently ongoing in this area and is due to be completed in November 2017.

Research on the marketable consumer benefits will be included in the project portfolio for the Meat Technology Centre.

The Meat Technology Centre opened in June.

- 254 **Consider the merits of developing a standing national resource with expertise in the field of animal health economics and disease modelling** DAFM

Action commenced and progressing.

The Department is considering various available options i.e. UCD, DAFM, and Teagasc.

- 255 **Ensure the availability of the appropriate skills throughout the supply chain, including providing adequate training in butchery skills to the processing sector** DES

Substantial action undertaken and ongoing.

The Association of Craft Butchers of Ireland has recently been approved for the development of a Butchery Apprenticeship. While this seems to be more targeted at the Retail sector, one would imagine the skills would be transferable, in part at least, to the Beef processing sector. The proposed Apprenticeship is to be developed over the coming months by the Association of Craft Butchers in consultation with the Apprenticeship Council, which also comes under the aegis of DES.

There is an issue in attracting Irish residents to take up a career in pork/beef butchery skills and in that regard the Taste4Success Skillnet is working with the Department of Social Protection to address this by identifying and training suitable Job-Seekers.

The Proposer continues to work with the Apprenticeship Council regarding the development of a new apprenticeship. They are working towards QQI programme validation in January 2017.

Skillnets funds enterprise-led training through a Network model, where companies from Networks representing specific industry sectors, or geographical regions co-operate to deliver training programmes appropriate to current market requirements and the future skills needs of sectors. Skillnets currently funds 2 training Networks in the food processing /food technology sector: The Food and Drink Industry Ireland (FDII) Skillnet and the Taste4Success Skillnet.

- 256 **Seek to maintain support for suckler producers in the current CAP arrangements and prioritise that support in future negotiations on the post 2020 policy** DAFM

Action commenced and progressing.

A number of schemes launched under Ireland's Rural Development Programme for 2016, such as the Beef Data & Genomics Programme and the Knowledge Transfer Group Scheme, are of direct benefit for suckler producers. Also recently launched is the Mart Modernisation Scheme, which will assist producers in making informed decisions when purchasing breeding stock and complying with the 4 & 5-star breeding stock requirements of the Beef Data & Genomics Programme. DAFM is committed to ensuring that suckler producers are prioritised in future negotiations on the CAP post-2020.

- 257 **Any increased support for suckler cow production should be conditional on quantity and technical efficiency improvement** DAFM

Action commenced and progressing.

This is an ongoing issue and any such action will be considered in policy discussions on the CAP.

- 258 **Competitive financing packages required for acquisitions to improve foreign market presence.** DAFM

Action not yet commenced.

Refer to Action 127.

- 259 **Seek to ensure origin labelling requirements across all sectors reflect the appropriate balance between consumer demand and increased cost to consumers and industry** DAFM

Substantial action undertaken and ongoing.

SI 113 of 2015 sent to statutory consultees in Q1 2016. Draft S.I. will be circulated to Commission and other Member States for consultation later this year. Compliance building through FSAI/EHO's and Retailer Forums.

Liaison with Department of Health to extend requirements to "loose" products such as is sold in butchers.

Draft SI from DoH on the extension of country of origin labelling to loose and processed meats agreed between DAFM and Department of Health in Q1. Sent to statutory consultees for observations in Q1 and draft S.I. circulated to Commission and other Member States for consultation in Q1.

- 260 **Seek to minimise the impact of mandatory labelling requirements on the competitiveness of Irish exports on EU markets** DAFM
- Action commenced and progressing.
- DAFM is currently examining the implications of the proposal by other EU MS to extend mandatory COOL laws on a national basis on the origin of milk, milk as an ingredient in dairy products and meat as an ingredient in prepared foods where milk or meat is greater than 50% of the ingredients used in the product. DAFM is also monitoring a possible proposal by the Commission to prepare regulations in accordance with Art 26 of the FIC where the origin of the primary ingredient of the food product is different to the origin of the product itself.
- 261 **Increase farmer participation in Beef and Lamb Quality Assurance Scheme (BLQAS) to 90% in terms of proportion of output by 2025** DAFM
- Action commenced and progressing.
- Latest figures show farmer participation in BLQAS currently standing at approximately 45,000 beef farmers and 12,000 sheep farmers representing 92% and 65% of national beef and lamb production respectively. These numbers have remained stable throughout the year to date and it is hoped to increase them after calf and lamb rearing time passes in Q3.
- 262 **Develop strong reputation for quality and environmental sustainability of Irish beef with customers, competent authorities in target markets and NGOs building on the Sustainable Beef and Lamb Assurance Scheme (Origin Green) and optimise the use of this brand reputation in the market place** Bord Bia
- Action commenced and progressing.
- Refer to Action 248 for a specific example on how this work is developing.
- Origin Green is incorporated into all customer presentations and inward buyer and journalist visits. Bord Bia sponsored activity at the forthcoming General Assembly of the Sustainable Agriculture Initiative Platform in Dublin in April which will include farm visits to beef, lamb and dairy enterprises.
- A significant programme of inward buyer and journalist visits has taken place during Q2 with some 20 groups visiting farms and receiving detailed briefing on Origin Green.

- 423 **Explore research into the potential reduction of methane generation arising from cattle and roll-out appropriate mitigation** DAFM
- Action commenced and progressing.
- The recent European Research Area Network (ERA-NET) Co-fund Call for Monitoring & Mitigation of Greenhouse gases from Agri- and Silvi-culture received a number proposals for new research in the area specified in Action 423 – these proposals have now commenced a expert review evaluation process which is being coordinated and managed by DAFM.
- 264 **Work collaboratively with processors, Bord Bia, Teagasc and Sheep Ireland to modify the very seasonal nature of Ireland's sheepmeat supply, and maintain our presence, and access to markets throughout the year** DAFM
- Action commenced and progressing.
- Modifying the seasonal nature of production will be a long term challenge. In the short term DAFM, in conjunction with processors, continues to monitor sheepmeat supply and prices on a weekly basis and will also to try and expand market access for sheepmeat in Third Countries on an ongoing basis.
- 265 **Increase farmer participation in Beef and Lamb Quality Assurance Scheme (BLQAS) to 90% in terms of proportion of output by 2025** Farmers
- Substantial action undertaken and ongoing.
- Numbers participating in the sheep scheme have shown a decline to 11,782 and beef numbers are static at 45,907. Total membership of BLQAS at 48,246 members.
- 268 **Increase sheep farmer participation in Knowledge Transfer Programmes** Teagasc
- Action at commencement stage.
- The KT programme for sheep producers was opened for applications in Q2 2016.
- 269 **Enhance hill farming systems by promoting greater integration with lowland sheep producers** DAFM
- Substantial action undertaken and ongoing.
- KT groups launched Q2. Progress ongoing. While the measure is targeted at the broad Sheep sector, it is expected that some facilitators will avail of the opportunity to form Knowledge Transfer Groups which combine both hill and low land sheep producers, thereby promoting integration within the sector.

- 270 **DAFM to continue to support and engage with Sheep Ireland on their work to drive better genetic gain for the flock** DAFM
- Action commenced and progressing.
- DAFM continues to support the work of Sheep Ireland through the payment of an operational grant.
- 271 **Underpin and further improve Ireland's sheep traceability system** DAFM
- Action commenced and progressing.
- Consultation with stakeholder continuing.
- 272 **Teagasc to undertake a review of their sheep research and advisory programmes** Teagasc
- Action not yet commenced.
- The review is currently being planned and it is expected to be carried out in Q4.
- 273 **Improve the consumer perception of lamb with the younger demographic as a healthy, convenient protein choice** Bord Bia
- Action commenced and progressing.
- European Lamb promotion underway and the first wave of promotional activity commencing on the Irish market in the first week of June for a three week period coinciding with peak supplies.
- 274 **Build a strong brand image for Irish lamb based on its sustainable grass based production to secure outlets and price premium** Bord Bia
- Action commenced and progressing.
- European Lamb promotion underway and the first wave of promotional activity commencing on the Irish market in the first week of June for a three week period coinciding with peak supplies.
- 276 **Develop a Carbon Navigator tool for sheep producers** Teagasc
- Action not yet commenced.
- This is expected to commence at the end of 2016.

- 277 **Develop strong reputation for quality and environmental sustainability of Irish beef with customers, competent authorities in target markets and NGOs building on the Sustainable Beef and Lamb Assurance Scheme (Origin Green) and optimise the use of this brand reputation in the market place** Bord Bia
- Action commenced and progressing.
- Refer to Actions 248 and 262 (a pilot programme to develop Origin Green messaging in Irish Beef promotional activity in Germany is underway involving significant consumer research work. A significant programme of inward buyer and journalist visits took place earlier this year with some 20 groups visiting farms and receiving detailed briefing on Origin Green).
- 424 **Policy development should include a focus on managing overgrazing particularly in areas of ecological importance and in areas where water bodies are sensitive** DAFM
- Action commenced and progressing.
- Ongoing development of GLAS Commonage Management Plan with a view to completing online tool for management planning in these areas. Locally-led agri environment schemes (under development) will provide a further opportunity to explore innovative approaches to land management in these areas. Discussions ongoing with the Commission on the framework and structure of these locally-led elements of the RDP.
- 278 **Investment in pig production facilities particularly energy efficiency to reduce input costs** DAFM
- Substantial action undertaken and ongoing.
- TAMS II Pig and Poultry Investment Scheme launched in August 2015. Applications for investment received under the first two tranches of this scheme are being processed on an ongoing basis.
- 282 **Engage further with non intensive sector to ensure standards of bio-security are understood and implemented** DAFM
- Action commenced and progressing.
- DAFM gave presentation on the subject to Irish Pig Society (which represents the sector) at its AGM in February 2016. Ongoing interaction with the Irish Pig society on this issue and related issues

- 283 **Explore extension of country of origin labelling to loose and processed products** DAFM
- Substantial action undertaken and ongoing.
- DAFM is liaising with Department of Health to extend requirements to “loose” products such as is sold in butchers.
- Draft S.I. agreed between DAFM and Department of Health in Q1 and circulated to statutory consultees and returned with observations to Department of Health. Awaiting feedback from Department of Health before circulation to Commission.
- 285 **Agreement on and implementation of revised Pig Salmonella Control Programme** DAFM
- Action commenced and progressing.
- The final report of the Pig Industry Stakeholder Group report issued in Q1 2016 and work has commenced on implementation of the recommendations outlined in the report.
- 287 **The industry to scope out an effective marketing message with Bord Bia** Industry
- Action commenced and progressing.
- Subsequent to the Department information day, applications for funding were submitted by 28 April covering beef, pigmeat and sheepmeat, dairy products and mushrooms. This was a record number of applications for EU promotion funding. Bord Bia co-ordinated a response to the recent call for proposals on promotion campaigns under the “Enjoy – it’s from Europe” programme. Of the four proposals submitted, one was specifically for pork for a three year campaign concentrating on the Chinese market, but also including activity in Japan.

- 288 **Invest and strengthen the position of the Quality Mark on the domestic market positioning pigmeat as a versatile, healthy option with consumers** Bord Bia
- Action Commenced and Progressing
- To encourage 30-60 year old female shoppers to switch to ham and bacon with the Quality Mark when shopping, the ham and bacon campaign including TV and digital advertising took place from 12 October to 22 November. The TV advert was extended from three to six weeks on air and an additional three advertorials appeared across the Saturday Independent 'Weekend' magazine and the Sunday Independent 'Life' Magazine. These explained the benefits of quality assured ham and bacon and provided everyday meal options. A radio advertisement highlighting the versatility of pork and encouraging shoppers to look for the Bord Bia Quality Mark was aired on nine radio stations nationwide from 16 to 29 November.
- A national radio campaign to promote pork took place in January. 59% of adults who heard the advert are more likely to buy pork as a result. A TV, PR and digital campaign promoting quality assured ham and bacon is underway since early February.
- There were PR activities to encourage consumers to celebrate St Patrick's Day with quality assured ham and bacon generated €350,000 of editorial coverage. These included including a photocall, and press release targeting national and regional media combined with a national radio promotion. The TV and digital advertising activities to encourage female shoppers to choose quality assured ham and bacon when shopping continued in May. Over 70 % of the target group heard the TV advert and of these, the majority said they would be more likely to buy ham and bacon with the Quality Mark as a result.
- 289 **Roll out a carbon footprinting assessment and improvement programme for pigs** Bord Bia
- Action commenced and progressing.
- Development work has commenced in collaboration with Teagasc.
- 292 **Improved animal health, welfare and bio-security awareness and implementation through on-farm investment and training** DAFM
- Action commenced and progressing.
- KT Schemes (including Poultry) launched 18 May 2016. Information meetings being held from end of May to beginning June prior to rollout of scheme.
- 293 **Investment in poultry production facilities particularly energy efficiency to reduce input costs** DAFM
- Substantial action undertaken and ongoing.
- The closing date of the third tranche of applications under the specialised Pig and Poultry Investment Scheme is the end of June. Tranches will continue to run on a three monthly basis until the closure of the programme in 2020.

300 **Provide funding under the Rural Development Programme to up-grade existing buildings and funding to support the construction of new housing, including the siting of new housing to avoid environmental effects, and ensure animal welfare and safety** DAFM

Substantial action undertaken and ongoing.

Budget assigned for the Animal Welfare, Safety and Nutrient Storage Scheme under TAMS II.

Applications for investment received under the first two tranches of this scheme are being processed on an ongoing basis.

Action commenced and progressing.

A national representative survey of grocery shoppers by Red C took place in October indicating that QMark awareness is very strong - when prompted, 93% of shoppers are aware of the Quality Mark. The Quality Mark is still the most reassuring symbol by far for shoppers across a range of aspects - 65% regard it as the most reassuring label on both food quality and food safety. The figure for food safety has increased by 5% since the previous survey in July 2015.

The aim of the QMark egg marketing campaign is to increase the frequency of consuming quality assured eggs at both lunch and dinner occasions among 25 – 44 year old female shoppers. The second burst of activity in October included two weeks of national and local radio advertising, advertorials in four magazines of national weekend newspapers, PR and digital activities. A nationally representative survey of the impact of the second phase of activities in October indicated that 28% of the target group recalled the radio advertising and of these, 77% would be happy to hear it again. The key intended messages of eggs as part of a protein packed substantial meal and encouraging their usage midweek came across strongly to listeners. Having heard the radio adverts, 43% said they would be more likely to buy eggs in the future as a result. In terms of the press advertorials, 39% of the target group saw at least one of them, with a total reach among this group of 550,000.

Nearly half of the target group said they would be more likely to buy eggs as a direct result of reading the advertorials. The PR activities which involved teaming up with Irish rugby footballers, Fergus McFadden and Sophie Spence to highlight the role of protein in eggs in sports performance/fitness generated €123,000 worth of editorial coverage across national, regional and online media – more than three times the PR spend.

Substantial work took place in Q2 to establish an evolved brand positioning for Qmark based on its sustainability credentials in a way that resonates among shoppers in Ireland. This included a new brand key to strengthen and differentiate Qmark on the domestic market. It has included the complex parallel broad public introduction of Origin Green as a concept. It has involved research assessment and strategic brand planning, media strategy reviews and the preparation of briefing documents for the purposes of the creative evolution of the idea that Qmark is strengthening (getting even better) through sustainable practices for the benefit of consumers in Ireland. This work needs to be developed in the context of preserving the equity that stands in Qmark currently at 93% prompted awareness and a more than 60% understanding of its meaning with an ability to discriminate purchase. The Quality Mark is also by far the most dominant quality symbol in terms of motivating purchasing choices. 66% of grocery shoppers are more likely to choose a product if it carries the Quality Mark. The brand equity in Qmark was validated in this quarter with Bord Bia winning a best in class corporate reputation award driven by the main touchpoints of Qmark and Qmark advertising in Ireland.

303	Incorporate sustainability criteria under the Origin Green programme into the Poultry Products Quality Assurance Scheme (PPQAS)	Bord Bia
	Action not yet commenced.	
	Action scheduled to commence later this year.	
304	Roll out a carbon footprinting assessment and improvement programme for poultry	Bord Bia
	Action not yet commenced.	
	Action scheduled to commence later this year.	
310	Form partnerships with intensive livestock producers to avail of organic manures to reduce fertilizer costs, improve biological activity and improve soil fertility	Growers
	Action commenced and progressing.	
	Applications being processed for approval under TAMS II.	
316	Promote the use of superior crop varieties through the seed certification system. This will ensure that seeds of the highest quality are available to growers	DAFM
	Target achieved (2015).	
	Sowing of 2015 winter cereal evaluation trials completed.	
	Processing of certified seed at merchants premises completed.	
	Harvest and seed reports published.	
	Consultation took place with seed industry in November where the 2015 scheme was reviewed, its delivery for 2016 was planned and further ways of promoting the use of certified seed was discussed.	
318	Identify break crop opportunities and ensure their development by putting in place a cohesive development plan for growers, industry research and technology transfer and policy makers	DAFM
	Substantial action undertaken and ongoing.	
	Research continuing into opportunities for break crops, upcoming knowledge transfer measure under the RDP will incorporate relevant agronomic and economic aspects. The Teagasc Tillage Stakeholder sub-group will finalise an action plan in the second half of this year.	

319	<p>Establish a new industry grouping to ensure achievement of targets for protein crops, break crops and oilseed rape</p> <p>Substantial action undertaken and ongoing.</p> <p>Teagasc Tillage Stakeholder sub-group will target end of Q3 to produce a draft action plan.</p>	DAFM
320	<p>Examine the feasibility of expanding the seed potato production sector to take advantage of national high-health status and increase exports of seed</p> <p>Action commenced and progressing.</p> <p>Initial discussions held with all stakeholders. Group will be formally convened during Q3.</p>	DAFM
425	<p>To promote minimum tillage</p> <p>Action commenced and progressing.</p> <p>Amendment Fiche to TAMS II to support the tillage sector submitted to the EU Commission. Fiche includes measure to support low disturbance tillage equipment. TAMS II will commence as soon as the Commission indicates its formal approval in the coming weeks.</p>	DAFM
322	<p>Producers to support and fund the Horticulture Industry Forum actions</p> <p>Action commenced and progressing.</p> <p>As the Horticultural Forum has a broad remit, it has established a small steering group to direct its activities. The Forum has also appointed a coordinator to assist the steering group in overseeing the implementation of its work. He is funded by two of the forum members who are significant horticulture producers.</p>	Horticulture Forum Members
333	<p>To develop Bloom further as the major showcase of Irish Horticultural production, landscape design and construction</p> <p>Substantial action undertaken and ongoing.</p> <p>The key elements of the show included a floral pavilion, retail pavilion, 23 show gardens and the food village. The Origin Green feature had a central position in the middle of the food village. There were a number of stages that had activity, talks and demonstrations around gardening, GIY, cooking and entertainment. The show featured some 400 exhibitors across the show.</p>	Bord Bia

- 335 **Develop a strategy to maximise opportunities in relation to supplier relations, import substitution and below cost selling in the retail horticultural market** DAFM
- Action commenced and progressing.
- The Grocery Goods Undertakings Regulations provide that from 30 April all new contracts concluded by grocery goods undertakings with an annual worldwide turnover of over €50 million and their suppliers must be clear and in writing. These undertakings will be required to report on performance after one year.
- 339 **All companies to sign up to Origin Green initiative** Industry
- Substantial Action Undertaken and Ongoing.
- 508 companies are registered for Origin Green.
- 340 **Increase industry expenditure on R&D and innovation by setting a target of a 10% increase in funding per annum** Industry
- Action not yet commenced.
- In the absence of baseline data on R&D expenditure at overall food industry and sectoral level, research is required to identify potential sources and suitable data gathering methodologies
- 341 **Government agencies in consultation with the industry to align the definition of PCF and co-ordinate their approach accordingly** DAFM
- Action commenced and progressing.
- The highlighting of the PCF definition in Bord Bia Performance and Prospects 2015-2016 provided a keynote start to 2016. Trade data is now available on a timely basis to facilitate timely analysis and focus on the various categories making up the PCF sector.
- 342 **Develop a sectoral strategy for food and drink SMEs, which sets out supports, targets and best practice for the entry, development and progression of these companies to 2025** Bord Bia
- Action at Commencement Stage.
- The scoping for the individual sectors is being developed.

- 343 **Continue to work directly with indigenous companies to identify new export market opportunities and develop services and supports for companies to facilitate export growth** Bord Bia
- Substantial action undertaken and ongoing.
- Three market study visits took place in Q1 with 18 participants attending. The visits develop client knowledge of new markets and channels. The UK market entry programme has also commenced with 8 companies.
- Five Market Missions, with 37 participants took place in Q2 with a focus on organic, speciality, food to go and retail channel trends. Dairy research was completed to identify new opportunities in Senegal and DRC. A trade mission to Iran was also successfully completed with 15 client companies.
- 345 **Drive greater participation by the sector in the Innovation Voucher and Innovation Partnership Programmes** Enterprise Ireland
- Substantial action undertaken and ongoing.
- 158 innovation vouchers were awarded to food companies in 2015 and 39 so far in 2016
- 346 **Continue and expand the Employment and Investment Incentive Scheme (Enterprise Ireland) and Seed Capital Scheme to encourage more investment in small PCF companies** DoF
- Substantial action undertaken and ongoing.
- The Employment and Investment Incentive (EII) and Start-Up Refunds for Entrepreneurs (SURE) have been amended to comply with State Aid rules and the changes announced to the EII in Budget 2015 have been commenced from Budget night. In addition, the EII scheme has been amended to enable nursing homes to raise EII funding in order to extend the nursing home or residential care units associated with that nursing home.
- Any changes could only be considered in the context of future budgets.

Bord Bia to maximise the use of Origin Green and their Quality Assurance programmes to differentiate Irish produce

Bord Bia

Action Commenced and Progressing

The closing out of the EXPO Milan Ireland Pavilion featuring a 6 month Origin Green experience visited by 2.5 million people and activated through 50 business events. The Ireland Pavilion was awarded the overall bronze medal at the Expo Awards for "Theme Development" for Pavilions under the 2000 metre size. Origin Green was the essential contributor to that alignment. This award followed on from the Sustainable Expo Award received for pavilion architecture in June from the Italian Ministry of the Environment. Ireland was very fortunately located on a prime site at Expo Milan 2015. Special occasions in the programme of activities, such as the visit of President Higgins, An Taoiseach's and Minister Coveney's visits as well as attendance by Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi and Bono, drew wide attention to Ireland's participation and Origin Green. Ireland and Origin Green's participation at Expo has been positively and widely reported throughout media and a full 6 month media report has been prepared reporting a Media Value of PR achieved by Bord Bia for Origin Green at Expo of €1 million. There will be a legacy of elements of the Origin Green Exhibit placed in a permanent exhibit of the best of Milan Expo in a Community Museum in Milan.

The Global Sustainability Forum in Dublin on the 9 & 10 November. The event saw more than 300 sustainability professionals engage on the issue of sustainability over two days. As part of the Forum there was an Origin Green experience, which interactively explained the scope and depth of Origin Green to key customers. The completion of the Origin Green International business to business Campaign for 2015 including partnership with the Guardian Sustainable Business (GSB) Food Hub and the Origin Green Partner Zone, with an overall reach of 7.1 million unique browsers, and 600,000 unique monthly users per month (Link: <http://www.theguardian.com/sustainable-business/origin-green-ireland-partner-zone>). Content and Display advertising and earned media reach and PR across Europe. Live Q&A and conference participation. Inward Journalists visits and Origin Green at 17 Trade Fairs (Europe, Middle East and China).

In Q1 the potential for the evolution and strengthening of Qmark to communicate its sustainability credentials from mid-2017 has been explored. In advance of this there is a plan to communicate Origin Green to the general public in Ireland from September 2016 – to establish the concept as something they grasp, understand and feel good about. This fits with the vision of Ireland becoming a show case for sustainability (which will support the reputation of Irish Food and Beverage abroad) and the evolution of verified membership of Origin Green through the food chain with Musgraves Group having become the first Retail/Wholesale verified member of Origin Green.

BLOOM 2016: An Origin Green feature at Bloom was located in the Food Village which invites the public to discover how Ireland is leading the world in responsible food production. The feature was designed to simply explain (using family friendly messaging) what Origin Green is and why it was created, who is involved and what they are doing, in an engaging way. The feature had several interactive areas with ipads and Google Goggles, an area to view the Origin Green film, a family photo opportunity, a pledge area that invited people to choose how they can get involved and the chance to enter a competition for a weekend for four at a Discover Ireland "Stay Green" Hotel.

B2B Campaign: Bord Bia are shifting the emphasis and focus of Origin Green communications to be more inclusive of trade buyers and to focus on the business case for Origin Green.

New creative for Origin Green trade press and digital advertising communications was developed aimed to position sourcing from Origin Green suppliers as something that can help trade customers deliver food sustainability in practice, and in the process safeguard their reputation and improve the resilience of their businesses. The first expression of the new creative is being adopted by the Origin Green dairy campaign from June across Europe in: UK, France, Germany, Netherlands, Spain and Italy.

A digital review of the Origin Green website was concluded and actions to enhance the website's user experience and update it with the new Origin Green creative messaging has commenced.

Ongoing awareness building and engagement with our European target audiences continued in this quarter through our online community management on Twitter and LinkedIn platforms as well as Google search.

Current potential partnerships are in development with The Grocer and with Food Matters events UK.

PR Ongoing PR activities to explain Origin Green to Irish consumers include circulating short videos with relevant messaging online, briefing the Irish Food Writers' Guild and preparing for the Origin Green Farmers' Awards.

348 **Continuation and possible expansion of the Foreign Earnings Deduction (F.E.D.)** Dept of Finance

Substantial action undertaken and ongoing.

The Foreign Earnings Deduction was extended until 31 December 2017 in Finance Act 2014. This Act also made a number of amendments with regard to the scheme's requirements, including the definition of "qualifying day," applicable countries included in the scheme and the required time spent abroad to qualify.

Any changes could only be considered in the context of future budgets.

349 **Establish discussion groups for malting barley growers to include environmental and sustainable practices knowledge transfer** DAFM

Action commenced and progressing.

RDP KT group for tillage being rolled out this year.

350 **All companies to sign up to Origin Green initiative** Industry

Substantial Action Undertaken and Ongoing.

508 companies are registered for Origin Green.

- 351 **Increase industry expenditure on R&D and innovation by setting a target of a 10% increase in funding per annum** Industry
- Action not yet commenced.
- In the absence of baseline data on R&D expenditure at overall food industry and sectoral level, research is required to identify potential sources and suitable data gathering methodologies (Refer also to Action 340).
- 352 **Industry to continue to highlight the value of the national economy of the drinks sector and work to reduce the fiscal and regulatory burden** Industry
- Action commenced and progressing.
- Industry published paper entitled 'Sustainable Growth of the Drinks Industry' in Q4 2015.
- Spirit drinks companies producing Irish Whiskey, Irish Cream and Irish Poitin lodged applications for GI verification by 29th January deadline .
- Publicity events organised by the industry included the Irish Beer and Whiskey Festival 2016 in the RDS from 16-19 March.
- Irish craft beer / Irish Whiskey Expo took place on 9 June.
- 353 **Industry and state agencies to work collaboratively to develop an Irish Whiskey and food pairing trail as a major tourist attraction and to differentiate Irish food and drink produce** Bord Fáilte
- Action commenced and progressing.
- Bord Bia working with industry on a whiskey-food strategy.
- 358 **Develop a sectoral strategy for food and drink SMEs, which sets out supports, targets and best practice for the entry, development and progression of these companies to 2025** Bord Bia
- Action commenced and progressing.
- The scoping for the individual sectors is being developed.

- 359 **Continue to work directly with indigenous companies to identify new export market opportunities and develop services and supports for companies to facilitate export growth** Bord Bia
- Substantial action undertaken and ongoing.
- Follow up work with Marketplace 2015 participants to convert new business leads.
- A market visit including buyer contact took place in Poland in Q3 2015.
- There were six trade shows with 61 client participants in Q1 2016. New distributors and buyers were identified and invited to meet with companies at these trade shows.
- An investigation took place in March to identify the opportunity for certain PCF sectors in the Russian market.
- There were seven trade shows with 44 participant companies. Of note were Seafood Expo Global which took place with 19 participating seafood companies in Belgium, Wine and Spirits Wholesalers of America (WSWA) with nine companies attending to identify new distributors for the US market and Sial China with eight companies.
- 360 **Facilitate the growth of the premium drinks categories by providing market knowledge for the US market** Bord Bia
- Target achieved (2015).
- The Bord Bia Drinks Strategy, launched in April 2014, identified a number of concerns to be addressed for the drinks category. One of these concerns was that there is a lack of understanding amongst new entrants of the category's principal target market – the USA.
- Consultation with industry proposed that a Category Structure Report would have significant value to both new entrants and to established producers looking to enter the US and/or Canadian markets, or expand existing territory there.
- The report was launched in February 2015 in Bord Bia's Dublin office, where it was presented to an audience of more than 50 suppliers and entrepreneurs. It provides a comprehensive understanding of the three tier import/distribution/sales model employed in the US. It also examines the structure of the market from a trade perspective, providing insight into the control state model as well as independent on and off-trade and the promotional channels employed in both. It advises suppliers on the fundamentals of supplying into the market, providing links to labelling requirements, guidance on obtaining importation licences, identifying importers and distributors and much more.
- This report is seen as a dynamic 'how-to' manual which will be adapted as and when necessary in reaction to changes in modus operandi within the market. This is to ensure sustainability and relevance of the body of work to its target audience.

- 362 **The CSO/DJEI survey to track the Business Expenditure on R&D (BERD) performance of the PCF sector** CSO / DJEI
- Action commenced and progressing.
- The Department has been in contact with CSO. More work needs to be done on this. Detailed information will be available for Q2.
- 365 **Create a pipeline of companies growing beyond Artisan/Small Food Business definition via the introduction of both bespoke 1:1 and group multi-level supports across strategic planning, marketing and marketing finance (for example Ascent, Superbrands and Step Change Fund).** Bord Bia
- Action commenced and progressing.
- 11 companies were selected to participate in the Ascent programme. Scale of company ranges from less than €5m to €20m. Company diagnostic session undertaken with assistance from PwC and key barriers to growth identified. Mentors assigned according to specific issues identified and first mentoring sessions commenced.
- Superbrands continue to support brand development and design projects from the artisan/small business sector, with 2016 projects beginning in January.
- 366 **Introduce a new support programme for Direct to Consumer producers aimed at enabling producers to extend their local and regional business reach and resulting in a pipeline for new entrants to the Artisan Food Market at Bloom.** Bord Bia
- Action commenced and progressing.
- Planning is underway for the delivery of a new regional support programme for direct to consumer producers with the planned delivery timed for Q3 2016.
- Project scoped and further consultation required with sector prior to delivery.
- 367 **Increase the opportunity for successful meet the buyer occasions through market focused relationship development with distributors, specialist retailers, and other retail and foodservice buyers on the domestic and international markets.** Bord Bia
- Action commenced and progressing.
- The first 'meet the buyer' activity undertaken in 2016 was a UK Specialty Seminar in February with Director of Food & Restaurants at Harrods as well as online retailer i-chef.biz and specialty distributor Taste Distribution. 60+ attendees were present on the day. This event is part of a series of build-up events to the Specialty & Fine Food Fair in London next September where Bord Bia will have a stand.
- A speciality food distributor event was held in Dublin from the 25–26 April. The Health Food Store (distributor to over 800 health food stores) and Buckley & Beale (distributor to premium retailers) visited Ireland and held 1:1 meetings with companies in Bord Bia. To date at least two companies have secured listings.

- 368 **Annual investment in and delivery of small business specific consumer and market insights.** Bord Bia
- Action commenced and progressing.
- Home Baking consumer research was broadened to include trade interviews and data and will now be debriefed to companies in July.
- A 'free from' (with a focus on gluten-free) seminar took place in April. Consumer and trade research from the UK, Sweden and Russia were presented to companies at Bord Bia's Dublin offices.
- 373 **Increase the roundwood harvest to 4.6 m cubic metres by 2025. Produce a new all Ireland roundwood production forecast. Develop a flexible and environmentally responsible roundwood supply chain to enhance the competitiveness of the processing sector and the production of high value products** DAFM
- Action commenced and progressing.
- The new All Ireland Roundwood Production Forecast 2016-2035 issued in March 2016 and is available at www.coford.ie. Roundwood harvest and use data for 2015 are currently being compiled.
- A new COFORD Wood Mobilisation and Forecasting Group, comprising stakeholders and officials, has been established to advise on the implementation of supply chain and other measures related to wood mobilisation, and the national roundwood production forecasting system. It is chaired by Mike Glennon, Joint MD of Glennon Brothers.
- 380 **Commission an independent review of existing aquaculture licensing system involving all stakeholders, to identify the current shortcomings and bottlenecks (legislative, resource and logistical), to report by early 2016 and implement necessary changes to the aquaculture licencing system as a matter of priority** DAFM
- Action commenced and progressing.
- Terms of Reference being considered.
- 381 **Develop a strategy to expand shellfish and aquaculture production taking account of the carrying capacity of bays** BIM
- Action at commencement stage.
- In its 2016 Work Programme, BIM has set out a plan to carry out a series of carrying capacity studies in bay prioritised by DAFM for licensing. Results from the studies will generally be available in Q4 2016.
- Sanction has been received to recruit an additional officer into BIM on a five year fixed term basis, co-funded under the EMFF, to address this project. It is anticipated that recruitment will be completed by Q3 2016.

382	<p>Develop and initiate practical and competitive measures to attract additional landings into Irish ports and continue to invest significantly in necessary infrastructure at the Fishery Harbour Centres</p> <p>Action commenced and progressing.</p> <p>BIM's tender "Developing a strategy to expand the raw material base for the Irish Seafood Sector" went live on the e-tender website on 20 May 2016 following external reviews.</p> <p>BIM are seeking tender proposals to contribute to the development of a strategy to expand the raw material base for the Irish Seafood Sector with the aim of exploiting Ireland's strategic location to access additional raw material resources from non-Irish vessels to augment existing high quality supply from Irish fisheries.</p> <p>BIM's internal review of the Responsibly Sourced Standard (RSS) has been completed. This incorporates changes arising from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the impact of the landing obligation and other changes arising from the CFP, • changes in working conditions specific to all crew, including migrant workers and • includes linkages to sustainability initiatives in line with Origin Green. <p>Discussions with key stakeholders on this revised draft will be completed in Q2. A meeting of the Technical Advisory Council - set up to oversee the development for the RSS - will be convened in early Q3 2016, to agree on the revised RSS. This will then be sent to the Irish National Accreditation Board (INAB) for ratification.</p>	DAFM
383	<p>Develop a strategy with practical and implementable actions to deliver scale in the key seafood sectors, including food ingredients</p> <p>Action commenced and progressing.</p> <p>Refer also to Actions 129 and 384.</p>	BIM
384	<p>Develop a strategic plan with practical and implementable actions to significantly increase the quantity of seafood added value across all main species groups. This strategy should complement the strategic plan to deliver scale in the key seafood sectors, including food ingredients and should, at a minimum reduce the level of produce sold in commodity form from 70% to below 50%</p> <p>Action commenced and progressing.</p> <p>BIM's tender for a strategic plan to deliver scale and value-adding in the sector went live on 13th May 2016. There are two phases in the tender process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phase 1 is the development of a strategic Plan due by September 2016 • Phase 2 involves training and mentoring support to implement the plan, over a two year period. <p>The aim of the plan is to increase the share of value added seafood from the current 30% to 50%.</p>	BIM

- 385 **Progress participation and engagement of Origin Green with seafood companies with the aim of bringing all seafood companies under the programme by 2016** Bord Bia

Action commenced and progressing.

A series of seafood-specific Origin Green planning workshops were scheduled in Q1 and Q2 2016. During the workshop, participants are guided on how to develop their Sustainability Charter with guidance from Bord Bia and BIM's Green Seafood Business Programme team. This workshop is an important first step in the development of an Origin Green sustainability plan and has set many companies on the path to full membership of the programme.

The first Origin Green seafood specific workshop was held in Sligo on 2 March with a second on the 13 April in Dublin.

Continuing the series of seafood-specific Origin Green planning workshops BIM's seafood business team co-hosted a workshop with Bord Bia on 25 May 2016 in Cork.

- 386 **Improve the environmental sustainability of the sector including fishermen gear sensitivity and replenishment of depleted inshore stocks** BIM

Action commenced and progressing.

BIM has focussed much of its resources on developing solutions to deal with the Landing Obligation (LO). Due to commence in January 2016, the LO poses immediate challenges to the continued economic viability of the Irish fishing Industry. All of the actions outlined in Action 38 will lead to improved environmental sustainability and assist in maintaining economic viability in the fishing sector.

Net recycling activities continued at the Tramore baling centre taking end of life gillnets from Castletownbere and Dingle FHCs.

BIM, in co-operation with the respective Harbour authorities, commenced a pilot 'Fishing for Litter' initiative in three ports – Clogherhead, Castletownbere and Union Hall. Vessels were provided with large bags to collect marine litter caught in their nets. This litter will be characterised with a view to streaming appropriate material into the ongoing BIM net recycling activities while the remainder will be sent for appropriate disposal.

The Sustainable Fisheries Schemes (under the EMFF) was agreed with the OPMC and opened for applications on 14 January 2016. This scheme is specifically designed to assist all those directly involved or soon to be involved in implementing the landing obligation.

Six BIM projects, of national interest, are progressing under the Sustainable Fisheries Scheme. These projects are focused on environmental sustainability. It is envisaged that there will be further projects on which discussion are currently underway with DAFM.

An update to the Sustainable Fisheries Scheme was introduced in May 2016.

- 387 **Give renewed priority to R & D into seafood based new product development, food ingredients and functional foods. This research should also include both harvested wild and farmed seaweeds and their by-products.**

BIM

Action commenced and progressing.

BIM coordinated an ingredients strategy meeting on 22nd April 2016 in Teagasc Ashtown. The agenda included:

- An assessment by the working group of the feasibility of a pilot processing facility for bio Ingredients that will scale up from laboratory R&D to produce product concepts that enable industry to engage with the market.
- Discussion on the development of joint NPD information for industry.
- Exchange on a joint R&D project within the working group.

A visit by the Nofima Group senior management was hosted by BIM during the 11-13 May 2016. The group visited the Teagasc Food Research Centre on the 11 May, BIM's Seafood Development Centre on May 12 with a wrap up meeting in BIM's office in Dun Laoghaire on the 13 May.

- 427 **Continue screening, assessment, monitoring and reporting measures for sea-fisheries and aquaculture in compliance with EIA, Birds, Habitats and Marine Strategy Framework Directives In the case of new inshore fisheries, proposals will be developed through the multi-stakeholder Regional Inshore Fisheries Forums and the National Inshore Fisheries Forum.** DAFM

Action commenced and progressing.

Following from completion of fisheries-Natura risk assessments mitigation plans for scallop fisheries on the SE coast have been developed. Two fisheries-habitat impact studies have been planned for 2016. 5 year (2011-2015) fishery Natura plan for cockles in Dundalk Bay reviewed and reported.

Potential new fisheries for razor clams have been mapped on south and west coasts. Protocols for opening and managing such fisheries have been developed (DAFM, SFPA, MI). Continued Implementation of VMS project for inshore fishing vessels. Data management systems completed.

Surveys for razor clam, oysters, cockles and cockles planned for 2016 DAHG/NPWS briefed NIFF on seal population challenges in Jan 2016. Networking event hosted for Inshore forums in Galway in March. At the meeting the MI presented on MSY concepts for shellfish.

The next meeting of the National Inshore Fisheries Forum is scheduled for 22 June 2016 and it is expected that proposals for management of certain inshore stocks (razor clams, velvet crab) will be brought forward by industry as well as proposals concerning inshore fleet access to certain quota species (herring).

Environmental studies have been concluded on the effects of fishing with pots on certain habitats (mackerel, eelgrass and kelp). The results of this will contribute to assessments of sea-fisheries and in-combination assessments for aquaculture.

A study underway concerning sea- fishing activity on the vicinity of seal haul-out sites will conclude in Q2 with a report due by the end of August 2016.

Arrangements underway for public consultation during Q2 on revised Fisheries Natura Plans for Castlemaine, Kerry and Dundalk, Louth.

Appropriate Assessment (AA) of aquaculture in 'Natura' areas is ongoing: 16 AA Reports and nine AA Conclusion Statements produced to date

- Additional monitoring has taken place in two 'Natura' sites
- EIA Screening Assessments have been completed in respect of sites in 11 bays to date
- Licensing determinations of aquaculture applications are ongoing and has been substantially completed in respect of sites in seven bays
- 50+ licensing determinations during Q1 and Q2.