Public Consultation on the Draft Climate Change Adaptation Sectoral Plan for Agriculture, Forest and Seafood Sector

Consultation Questionnaire

1. Details:
   Full Name: Aine O’Connell
   Organisation where applicable: ICMSA
   or
   Member of the public: 

   Subsector:
   Dairy  x  Mixed  
   Beef  x  Arable  
   Sheep  
   Horticulture  
   Prepared Consumer Foods  
   Other:_________________________

2. What do you think are the changes in climate that are having the most impact on those working in the agriculture, forest and seafood sector?
   Extreme Rain  x  Storminess  
   Drought  x  Flooding  x  
   Extreme heat  
   Seasonal stability  
   Other:__________________________________________
3. **What do you think the main impacts from climate change will be on the agriculture, forest and seafood sectors?**

   Please Explain:
   
   Shortage of feed due to drought and flooding
   Longer wetter winters has the potential to disrupt daily farm management practices

4. **How are those working in the sector currently adapting to climate change?**

   Please Explain:
   
   Farmers have been recommended to create a fodder buffer to alleviate times of feed shortages
   Overcoming wetter winters will be more difficult for farmers

5. **Where do you get climate related information?**

   Please Explain:
   
   Government departments and EU
   MET.ie
   Teagasc
   Peer-reviewed journal papers
6. What additional information do those working in the sector need to adapt to a changing climate?

Please Explain:
It is important that farmers are given adequate notice of changes to regulations particularly with regard to livestock figures or where new regulations would require additional investment.

7. How do you perceive and use weather and climate information to inform management decisions?

Please Explain:
Farmers use daily weather information to determine whether cattle can graze grass, whether crops can be cut, slurry spread, fertiliser spread etc.

8. Is the source of inputs to your farm or business affected by climate change; if so what supply chains?

Please Explain:
Yes, feed costs rise instantly and rapidly when weather conditions deteriorate.

9. When making investments and management decisions how far ahead do you plan?

0 - 1 year [ ] 10 years + [ ]
1-5 years [ ]
5 -10 years [x]
10. Does the Draft Climate Change Adaptation Sectoral Plan adequately demonstrate the potential impact climate change may have on Agriculture, Forestry and Seafood in Ireland (see section 4 of Draft Plan)?

☐ Yes - yes

☐ No

☐ Need more information

Please Explain:

Most capital investments are paid off within 10 years and so most business plans are forecast over 5-10 years. Therefore, a formal transition process is required for any proposed regulatory change that when introduced would disrupt general farming practice.

11. The Adaptation Plan’s focus is on actions that can be undertaken over the next five years. Therefore, do you think the Adaptation Objectives are appropriate for the duration of this plan (see section 2 of Draft Plan)?

☐ Yes

☐ No - no

☐ Unsure

Please Explain:

The objectives read more like overall aims than tasks which can be acted upon. The objectives should provide more detail and should be broken down by each sector.
12. What three things could the Department do to help you be better prepared to adapt to future climate change?

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<td>1.</td>
<td>Allow all farmers to avail of the TAMS grant to invest in increased slurry capacity</td>
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<td>2.</td>
<td>Encourage farmers to create riparian buffers with adequate financial supports in order to minimise soil erosion</td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>Timely advice on the management of any new diseases which may arise as a consequence of climate change</td>
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<td>4.</td>
<td>An adequately resourced section within the department is needed to actively eradicate non-native invasive species such as Japanese knotweed and giant hogweed both on public and private lands.</td>
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13. Any other comments?