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

Consultation Questionnaire

1. Details:

Full Name: INHFA

Organisation where applicable: INHFA

or

Member of the public: [ ]

Subsector:

- Dairy [ ]
- Beef [ ]
- Sheep [ ]
- Mixed [ ]
- Arable [ ]
- Horticulture [ ]
- Fisheries [ ]
- Industry [ ]
- 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 [ ]
- Drought [ ]
- Extreme heat [ ]
- Storminess [ ]
- Flooding [ ]
- Seasonal stability [ ]
Other: One of the positives of climate change is the ability to year-round graze outdoors, suitable livestock, in an extensive farming system

Please Explain: The milder winters allow forage to be available year-round in extensive livestock systems.

3. What do you think the main impacts from climate change will be on the agriculture, forest and seafood sectors?

Please Explain: There will be the ability for extensive livestock farming systems to produce carbon neutral beef and lamb products for the food security of EU citizens.

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

Please Explain: By utilising year-round grazing systems for livestock which reduces significantly the build up of slurry and requires far less mechanisation and fossil fuel use.

5. Where do you get climate related information?
6. **What additional information do those working in the sector need to adapt to a changing climate?**

   Please Explain: Information on the most resilient grasses and herbaceous species suitable for year-round grazing on extensive farming systems.

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

   Please Explain: Sustainably extensive farming systems are resilient and less dependent on exact weather data.

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

   Please Explain: Sustainably extensive livestock farming systems are less dependent on the fluctuation of inputs.

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

Please Explain: From geologists and experts on the history of ice ages.
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
☐ No
☐ Need more information X

Please Explain: Needs more information from geological specialists.

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
X Unsure

Please Explain: We are thinking of the next generations.
12. What three things could the Department do to help you be better prepared to adapt to future climate change?

1. During this unjust attack on sustainable extensive Suckler beef, the Dept in next budget, could ring fence a pillar one payment for extensive Suckler production.
2. Develop and promote strong marketing methods on the virtues of extensively raised Suckler beef and lamb.
3. Dept to instruct Bord Bia to divert a significant amount of their funding to the marketing, promotion and sales of naturally reared Suckler beef and lamb.

13. Any other comments?

- DAFM to establish a CO2 emissions trading agency between extensive and intensive farming systems.
- Under the “polluter pays” principle, this would allow for a just transition for intensive farmers to meet obligations of CO2 reduction targets for 2030.
- The trading would be based on DAFM establishing a sustainable CO2 figure per hectare per annum for all agricultural area.
- This figure would be the total emissions from agriculture, divided by the total agricultural area.
- This figure would change annually to follow a convergence pathway from the present to 2030 in increments of 3% reduction per year.
- Extensive farmers operating below this average annual figure could trade the excess production rights/quota to intensive farmers.
- The Dept of Agriculture to include in their mission statement their absolute commitment to defending and protecting the Irish family farm system.
- DAFM to ensure in the design of both Pillar I Eco-Schemes and Pillar II Agri-Environment Schemes to be a 50/50 mix of adaptation and mitigation.
- Dept to recognise that ruminant livestock are part of a virtuous cycle. They act as ‘air scubbers’. There is no methane being produced by our cattle and sheep that has not originated in the atmosphere and been processed through the grass they graze. That converts long life carbon dioxide into methane, with a significantly shorter lifespan, with the huge benefit of tasty, affordable meat and milk.