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

1. Details:

Full Name: _____ ALISON GOUGH______________________________

Organisation where applicable:_______________________________

or

Member of the public: X

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 X
- Storminess
- Drought X
- Flooding
- Extreme heat
- Seasonal stability X
- Other:______________________________
3. **What do you think the main impacts from climate change will be on the agriculture, forest and seafood sectors?**

   As in 2018, as an island nation we will be unable to feed our cattle herd from silage and feed produced in Ireland. Climate change is a global phenomenon, so we may not be able to import these feeds as other countries experience the same. We need to reduce the herd and produce enough grain to feed our own human and animal population. The seas are acidifying so we cannot rely on seafood. We will see more forest fires. Correct fire management is needed beforehand rather than reactive control.

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

   Please Explain:

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

   The IPCC and other scientific bodies
6. What additional information do those working in the sector need to adapt to a changing climate?

   The Government needs to declare a climate emergency and act accordingly before it's too late to make any significant difference.

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

   Please Explain:

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

   Please Explain:

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
X No
☐ Need more information

Seafood: We cannot have sustainable, “growth” in a finite ocean, this is a dangerous goal. Ultimately, unending growth in a finite system leads to its collapse. There can be no competition or workforce in a collapsed system. These goals are the very antithesis of adapting to climate change. They are causing climate change.

Agriculture: We need to move to regenerative farming practices which build soil health, which in turn will store more carbon. Current practices are not sustainable.

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
X No
☐ Unsure

Please Explain:
12. What three things could the Department do to help you be better prepared to adapt to future climate change?

1. Reduce the Cattle Herd
2. Switch to Tillage using organic practices to build soil health
3. Encourage widening of Hedgerows and planting native forestry on more than marginal land

13. Any other comments?

There is a climate emergency and the Irish government is not preparing for a worst case scenario. We should be aiming to be able to feed our own population and take the lexicon of “Growth” out of the equation. Endless growth in a finite system is impossible.