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

1. Details:

Full Name: ___Anonymous__________________________________________

Organisation where applicable: ________________________________

or

Member of the public: [ ]

Subsector:

Dairy [ ] Mixed [ ] Fisheries [ ]
Beef [ ] Arable [ ] Industry [ ]
Sheep [ ] Horticulture [ ] Prepared Consumer Foods [ ]

Other: __ Agriculture based anaerobic digestion__________________________

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 [ ] Storminess [ ]
Drought [ ] Flooding [ ]
Extreme heat [ ] Seasonal stability [ ]

Other: __ extreme cold__________________________________________
3. **What do you think the main impacts from climate change will be on the agriculture, forest and seafood sectors?**

Please Explain:

Necessity to diversify crops, cumulative extreme events eg spring flooding followed by summer drought as seen a few years ago creating a fodder and growth crisis. Also as climate change acknowledgement and legislation develops, sector will be challenged by more rigorous regulation, a need for producers and industry to be flexible, to be given info and to be incentivised to switch/develop green tech.

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

Please Explain:

In gas, installing combined heat and power (CHP) to as many properties as possible, this storm proofs network, onsite energy generation. A growth in agri anaerobic digestion and biomethane production also guarantees supply as more gas coming from indigenous sources and also guarantees farmer income as feedstock not at the mercy of international market fluctuations as eg beef is.

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

Please Explain:

We generate it ourselves, can track weather changes over time, keep a lot of data. We do detailed daily analyses in our own systems. We have it down to the level of detail of every gas consumer, much more than the electricity network would have.
6. **What additional information do those working in the sector need to adapt to a changing climate?**

   Please Explain:
   Agri- Producers working with anaerobic energy systems need to know how much of a priority this is, what is the nature of contracts that the state is willing to support. In general - if agriculture needs to change, then what technology and skills should farmers be investing in now so that they are equipped and ahead in 10 years time? This is an absolute priority considering the high emissions of Irish agriculture and the state of the industry - barely profitable for some as it stands.

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

   Please Explain:
   See number 5

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

   Please Explain:
   Oh yes, security of supply and climate change alters customer base.
   That’s why we should encourage indigenous energy supply by promoting biomethane development. Med-long term its about renewables. This is the future as far as Irish green agri-industry is concerned. Invest now to help beef farmers and ultimately future proof a cornerstone of the Irish economy

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

   0 - 1 year [ ] 10 years + [v]  
   1-5 years [ ]  
   5 -10 years [ ]
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

Please Explain:
We have enough past data and manage such large infrastructure to be able to/have to think 25 years into future

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:
Could do with information on how changing policy and not only physical climate will affect the industry. Obviously this is in development but agriculture and energy providers need frank and honest advice about future policy direction and what is in place to aid us to change at lowest cost and for maximum benefit to economics and environment

Please Explain:
Needs to be far more proactive on mitigation of carbon footprint and green industry investment and not simply mitigating risks that currently exist/will exist in near future
12. What three things could the Department do to help you be better prepared to adapt to future climate change?

1. Focus on decarbonising food and beverage production

2. Communicate better with local government and have councillors meet local representatives to discuss climate change and policies

3. Invest in green agritechnology so that we are not left behind the rest of the world and become uncompetitive! The current approach is too short sighted, money needs to be spent!

13. Any other comments?