



**An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara**
Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine

Development of Carbon Farming in Ireland

Climate Change and Bioenergy Policy Division

Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine (DAFM)

20 June 2024

Development of an Irish Carbon Farming Framework



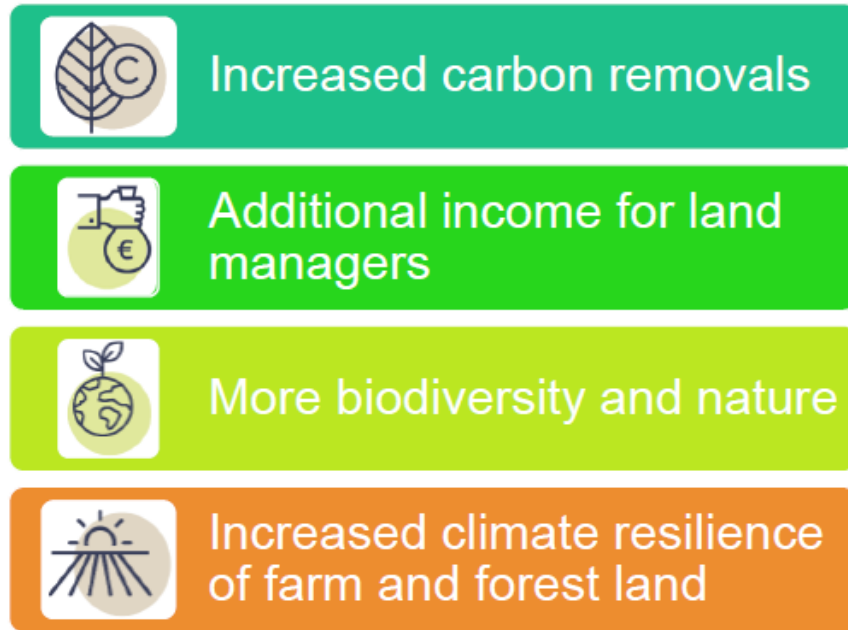
What is carbon farming?

- Any practice or process, carried out over an activity period of at least five years
- Resulting in capture and temporary storage of atmospheric and biogenic carbon into biogenic carbon pools or the reduction of soil emissions.
- The **purpose** of developing carbon farming is to provide structures but also endeavour to attract additional investment to support and enable the adoption, acceleration and scaling of management practices.

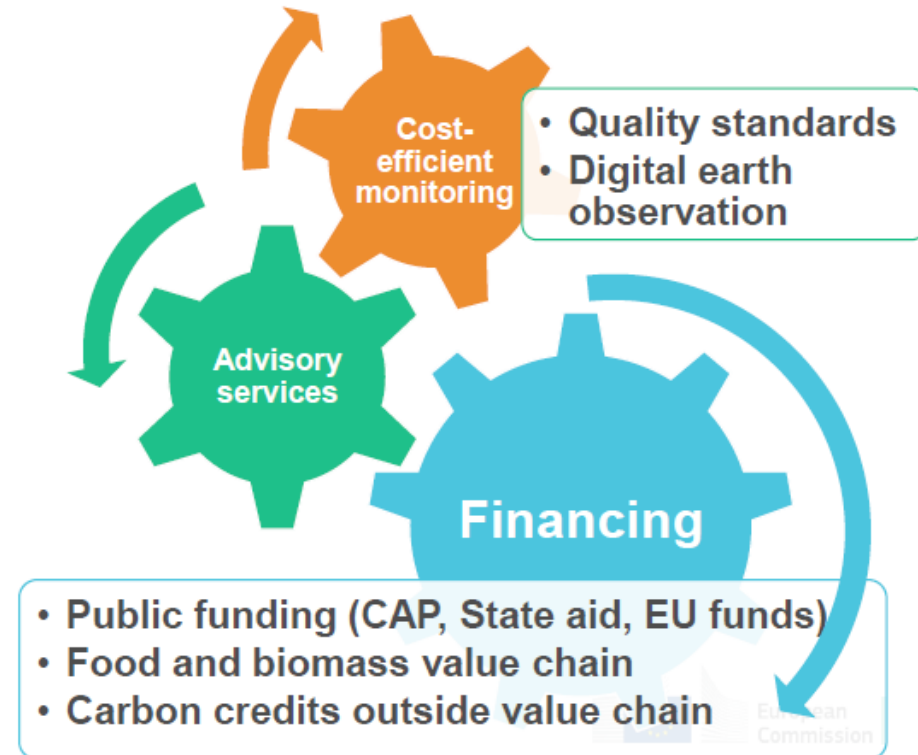
Carbon farming: potential benefits and challenges



Benefits



Challenges



Development of an Irish Carbon Farming Framework



Where does this all fit in relation to Irish Agricultural Policy?

Ireland's legally binding commitments:

- Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021 - Ireland's commitment: climate neutral by 2050
- **Agriculture sector** - Greenhouse gas reduction target of 25% by 2030 (compared to 2018)
- Additional measures required to achieve the 2030 target include enabling a carbon farming framework
- As part of Ireland's commitments in the National Climate Action Plan 2024, the DAFM has the responsibility in developing a '**Carbon Farming Framework**' this year (2024).

Development of an Irish Carbon Farming Framework



Capability building and scope:

- **August 2023 – Working Group was assembled** - comprising Government Departments and Agencies to drive the process of developing the carbon farming policy. All stakeholders were consulted but this remains a new policy area and more consultation is needed
- **The development of an initial public consultation (September 2023)**
- **The national framework will outline key policy principles** of effective governance, transparency, robust validation and measurement protocols, and integrates just transition, sustainable development and ‘learning by doing’ approaches.
- **The framework will align with (and potentially inform) the CRCF Regulation**, fostering coherence with international standards

Development of an Irish Carbon Farming Framework



Guidance from public consultation process:

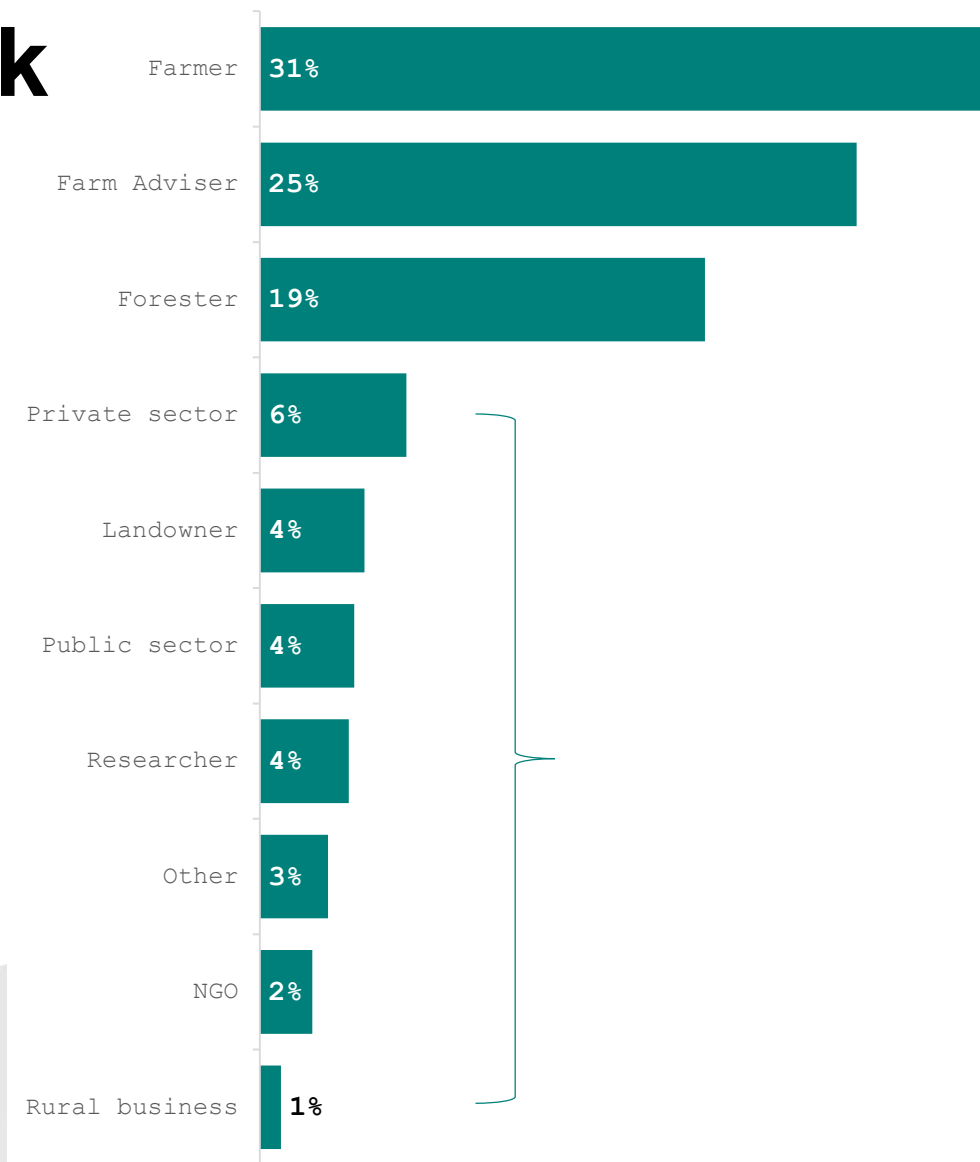
- A public consultation launched in September 2023
- The objectives of the public consultation were as follows:
 - Obtain feedback from stakeholders
 - Reflect and gather insights on existing initiatives.
- **457 responses were received to the online survey**, and positive feedback was received from stakeholders primarily identifying the the opportunity to diversity farm income.

Public Consultation on Irelands Carbon Farming Framework



Some Key Findings:

- The biggest response to the online survey (30.6%) came from farmers followed by farm advisers (24.9%) and then foresters (18.6%).
- There was broad agreement that a mechanism to reward eco-systems services was needed.
- The responders strongly agreed that carbon removal, GHG reductions and biodiversity measures needed to be included in the Carbon Farming Framework developed.

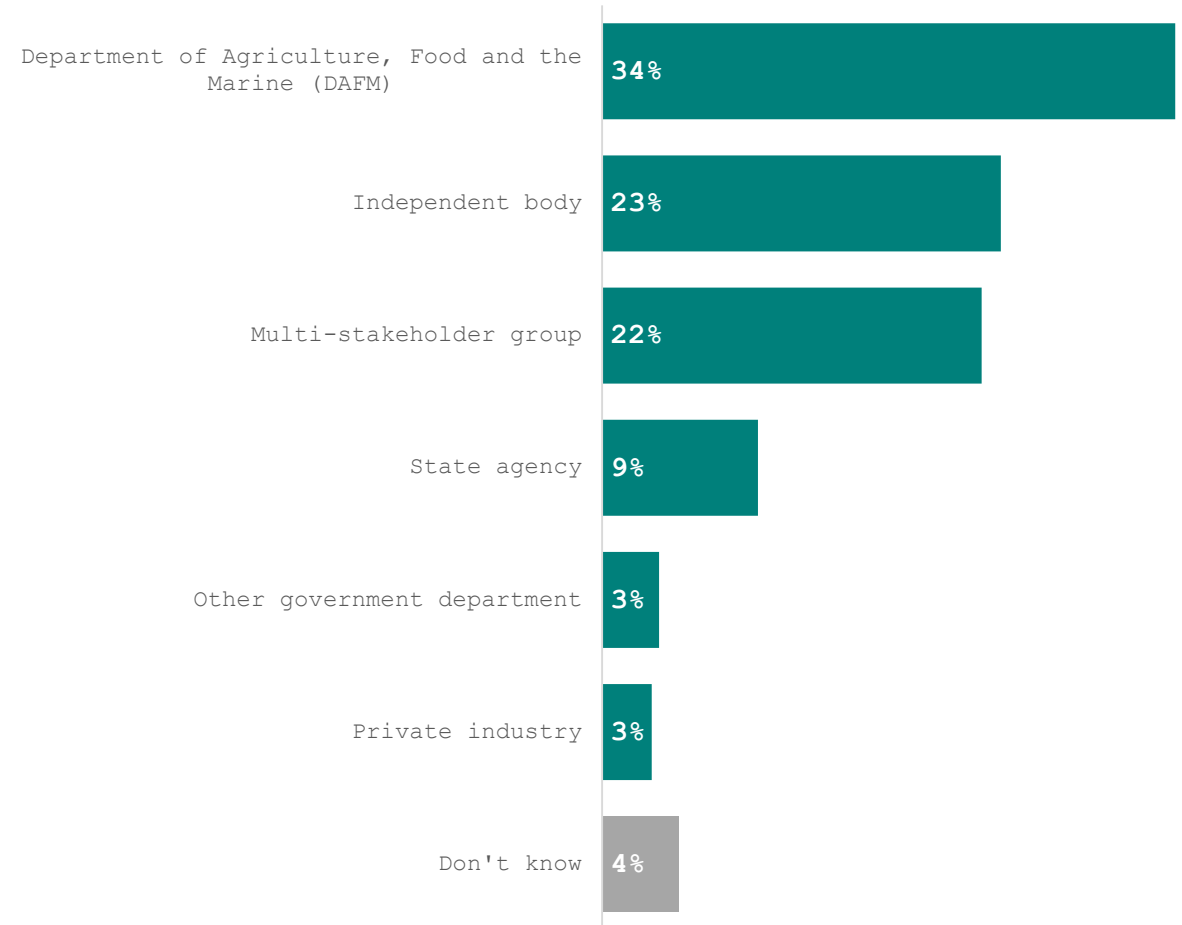


Public Consultation on Irelands Carbon Farming Framework



Some Key Findings: Governance

In terms of governance responsibility, 45% of the total replies indicated that Independent Body/Multistakeholder group should have governance responsibility. 34% indicated DAFM.



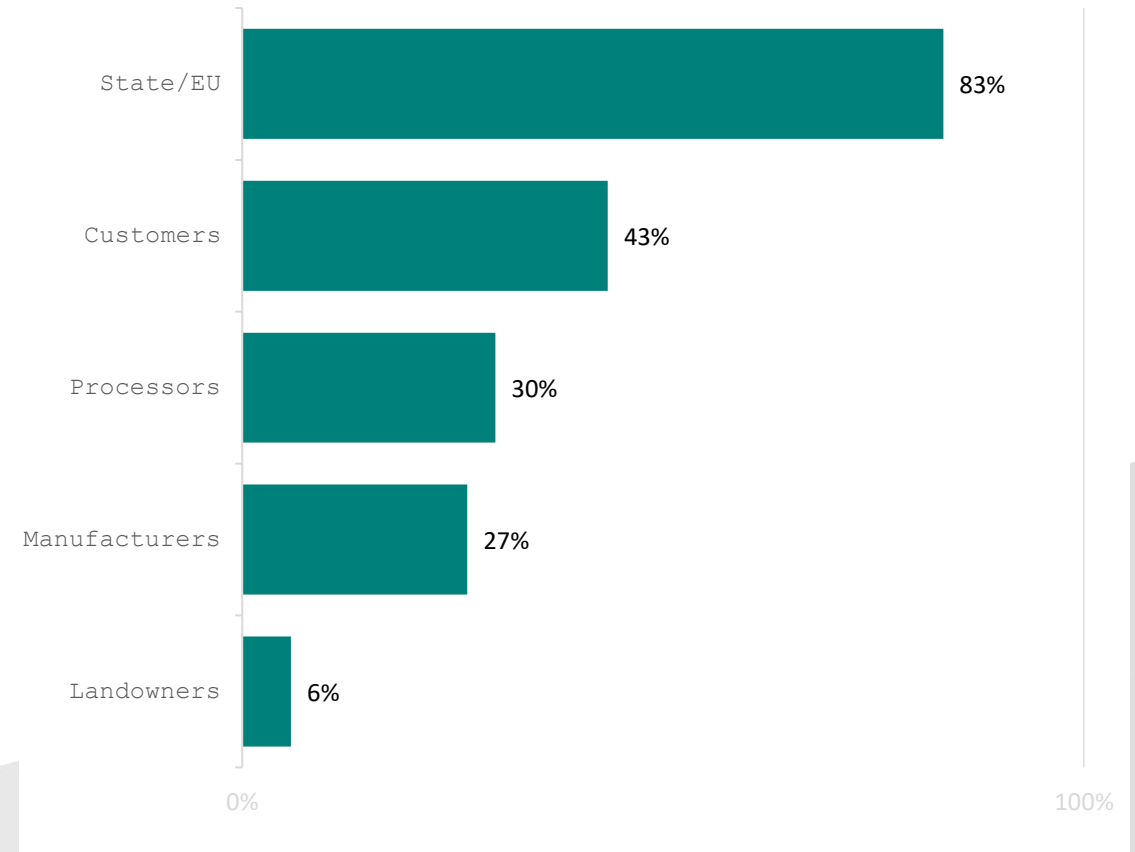
Public Consultation on Irelands Carbon Farming Framework



Some Key Findings: Who do you think should pay for these services (select all that apply)?

A great majority of answers sees the State or the EU responsible to pay for the services covered by a national framework.

The payment for services was divided with the State being indicated as a key pillar however a clear group of those taking part in the consultations believe that the costs can be shared by consumers, processors, and food producers themselves.



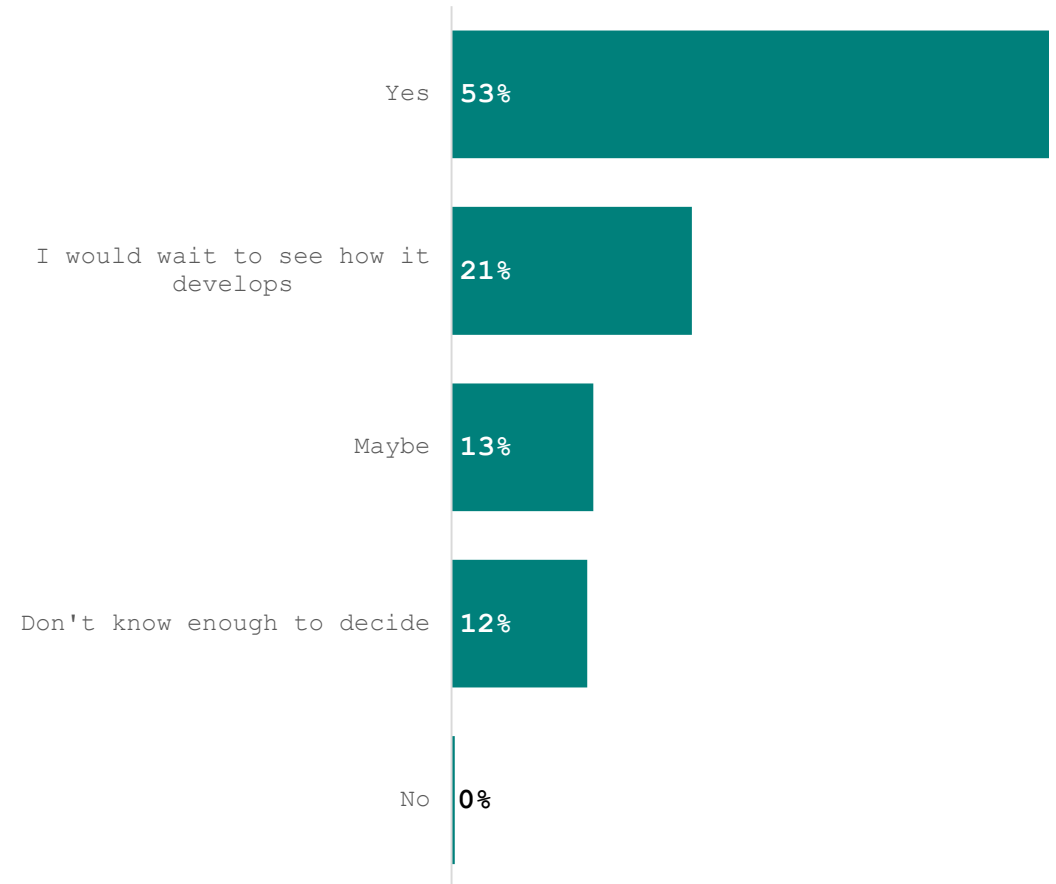
Public Consultation on Irelands Carbon Farming Framework



Some Key Findings: If you are a landowner/land manager, would you sign up for an initiative if it were developed?

Now only 53% of the consultation participants answered "yes", but the rest would rather wait and admit that they do not know enough to be able to decide now.

This is an important signal showing the scale of uncertainty.



Public Consultation on Irelands Carbon Farming Framework



Some Key Findings:

- Close to 50% of responders indicated **funding of 20 years was preferred.**
- **Those who have adopted measures early must be recognised under fairness.**
- From a forestry perspective, there was **strong consensus that Ireland needs a Forestry Carbon Code (akin to the UKs Woodland Carbon Code).**

Additional Stakeholder Engagement:



Discussions were held with stakeholders through one-to-one engagement, and workshops to hear their expert views on the potential for Carbon Farming in Ireland.

The following organisations were consulted in subsequent meetings:

- Irish Farmers Association, Irish Grain Growers Group, Irish Environmental Network, Irish Cattle and Sheep Association, Irish Organic Association, Environmental Protection Agency, Bord Bia, Meat Industry Ireland, Dairy Sustainability Ireland, IrBEA, Teagasc.

What are the next steps in the creation of a Carbon Farming Framework:



1. Policy guiding carbon farming key principles will be finalised shortly and a public consultation will follow seeking stakeholder views.
2. Continue to engage with CRCF developments at EU level to ensure that alignment with the scope of the CRCF Regulation
3. Draft an Implementation Plan to design and demonstrate the key principles of this framework through a series of pilot projects.
4. Methodologies will be developed in the coming year and beyond, based on the Q.U.A.L.I.T.Y criteria of the CRCF regulation, which will align with the work of the European Expert Group. Tailored certification methodologies will be examined for the different types of activities such as carbon removal, emission reductions and co-benefits of biodiversity and ecosystem restoration.

What are the key principles to develop Carbon Farming:



1. Overarchingly, the management of expectations
2. Governance – Effective, Tracking and Transparency
3. Emissions Impact – Additionality, Permanence, Robust MRV, No double counting
4. Sustainable Development – Benefits/Safeguards, Contributions towards targets, Just transition and demonstrate



www.teagasc.ie/signpost

Signpost Programme Demonstration Farms

Example Pilot Based on Teagasc Signpost Programme

The Signpost programme is a multi-annual campaign to lead climate action by all Irish farmers. The programme aims to achieve early progress in reducing gaseous emissions from Irish agriculture and also:

- improve water quality
- maintain and in some cases improving bio-diversity
- reduce costs and create more profitable and sustainable farming enterprises.

It will also act as a test bed for on-farm carbon sequestration measurements so that this can, in time, be taken into account by the EPA in the national Greenhouse Gas inventory. It is a collaborative programme, led by Teagasc and includes all relevant industry partners and state bodies such as Bord Bia.

