

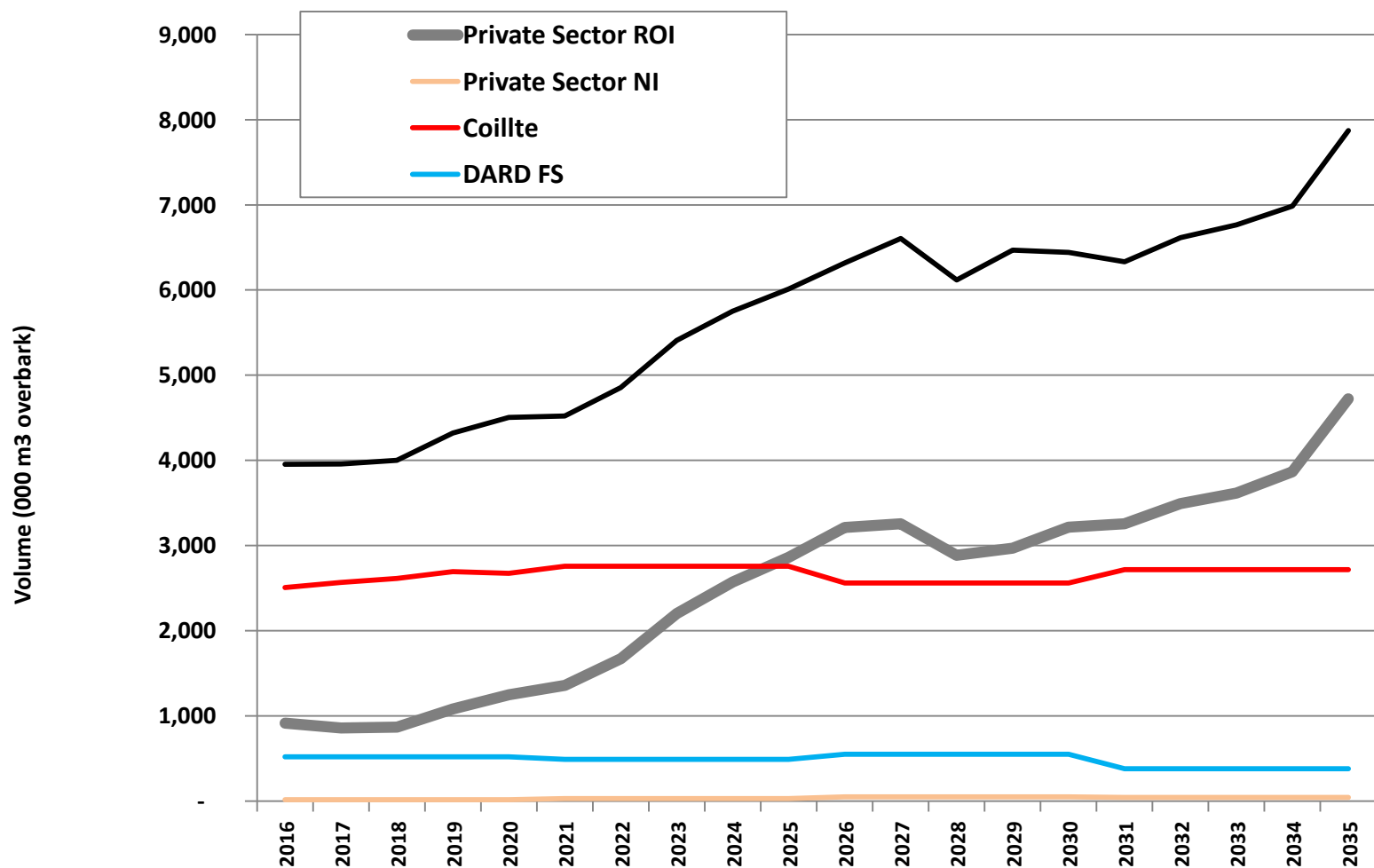
An aerial photograph of a forest landscape with various tree species and colors. A decorative horizontal bar with segments of green, yellow, orange, and brown is positioned above the text.

# Teagasc Forestry Development Department

# Irish forest sector

- 775,000 hectares of forest
  - Public 51%, private 49%
    - » Over 20,000 private forest owners (of which 85% farmers)
  - Conifers 71%, broadleaves 29%
  - 3.8 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> sequestered by forests per year
- Annual volume of timber harvested: 3.4 million m<sup>3</sup>
  - 3.1 million m<sup>3</sup> processed by mills and increasing use of wood for energy
- Forecast of net realisable volume
  - Increasing steadily to nearly 8 million m<sup>3</sup> (2035)
  - Increase comes from private sector
- Total value to the economy
  - Output from forest products sector: €2.3 billion
  - Exports from forestry sector: €355 million
  - 78% of forest products exported
  - Employment (mainly rural): 7,000 direct, 5,000 indirect)

## Forecast of Total Net Realisable Volume Production to 2035 (000m<sup>3</sup>)



Source: All-Ireland Roundwood Production Forecast 2016-2035 (COFORD, 2016)

# Uses

- Construction and fencing material
  - Renewable building material
- Wood energy
  - wood chip, firewood, wood pellets, charcoal
- Innovative wood based products replacing oil-based products
- Tourism & Recreation
- Biodiversity
- Carbon storage
- Other forest produce: mushrooms, berries, biochar

*Resulting in employment and enterprise opportunities in rural areas*

# Who's who

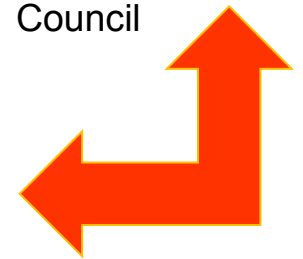
## Forestry Division, Research and Codex Forest Sector Development



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



Council



**Forest owners**  
Private  
Farmers  
Investment Funds  
Coillte

ITGA  
Farming Bodies  
Forest Owner  
Groups



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**Other  
Agencies**

**Forest Industry**  
Consultants Nurseries  
Companies Harvesters/Hauliers  
Processors Wood Energy  
IFFPA / Other Representatives  
Environmental NGOs

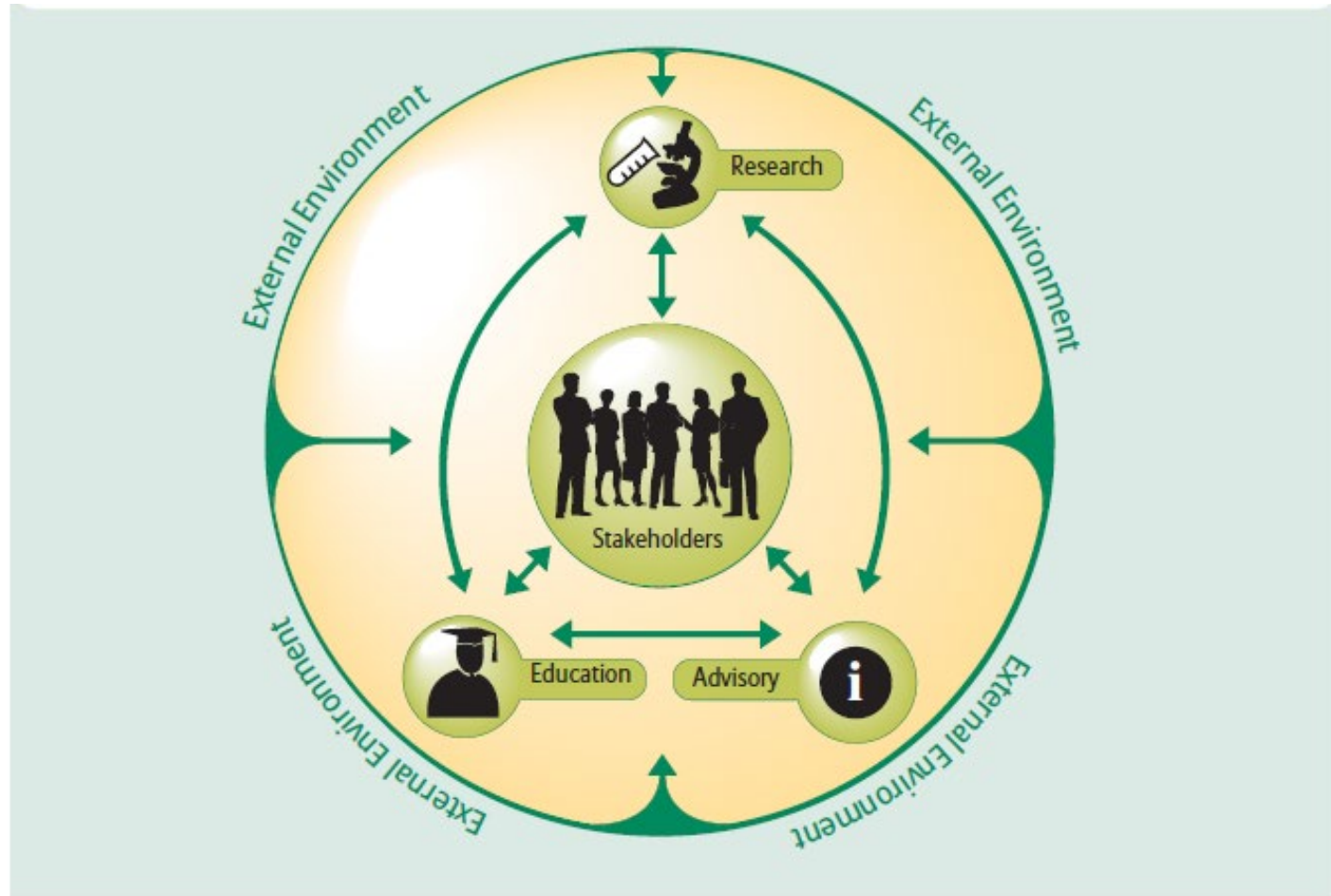
### Education & Research

Teagasc	UCD	WIT
NUIG	UCC	UL
Bots	NUIM	TCD

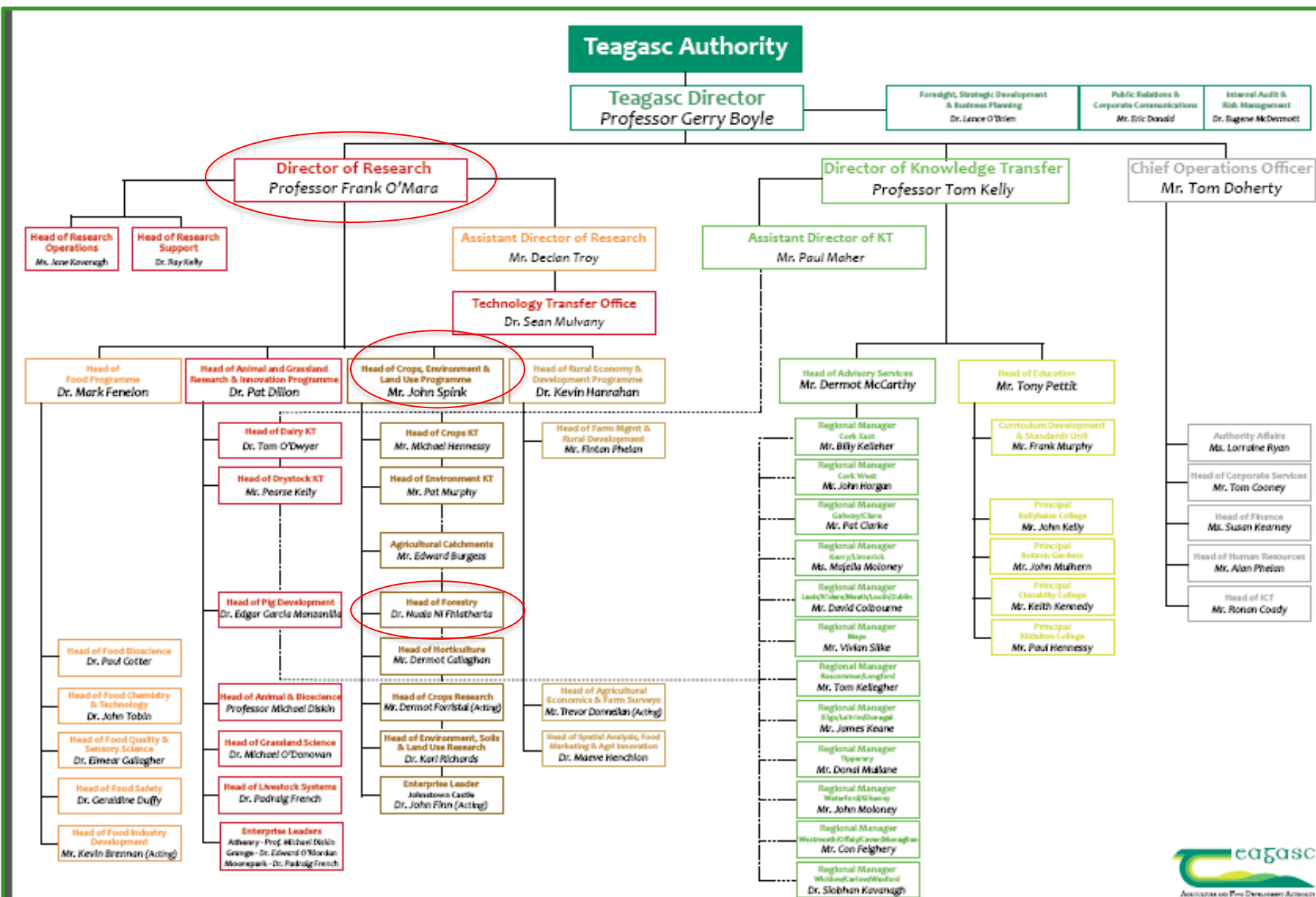


AGRICULTURE AND FOOD DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

# The Teagasc Model



# Teagasc - organisation



# FDD - staff

- Head of Department
  - Dr Nuala Ní Fhlatharta
  - 1 administrator
- Research
  - 4 researchers & 1 contract researcher
  - 2 technical/farm staff
  - 7 post graduate students
- Advice and training
  - 1 forestry specialist
  - 8 forestry advisers
  - 1 forestry liaison officer

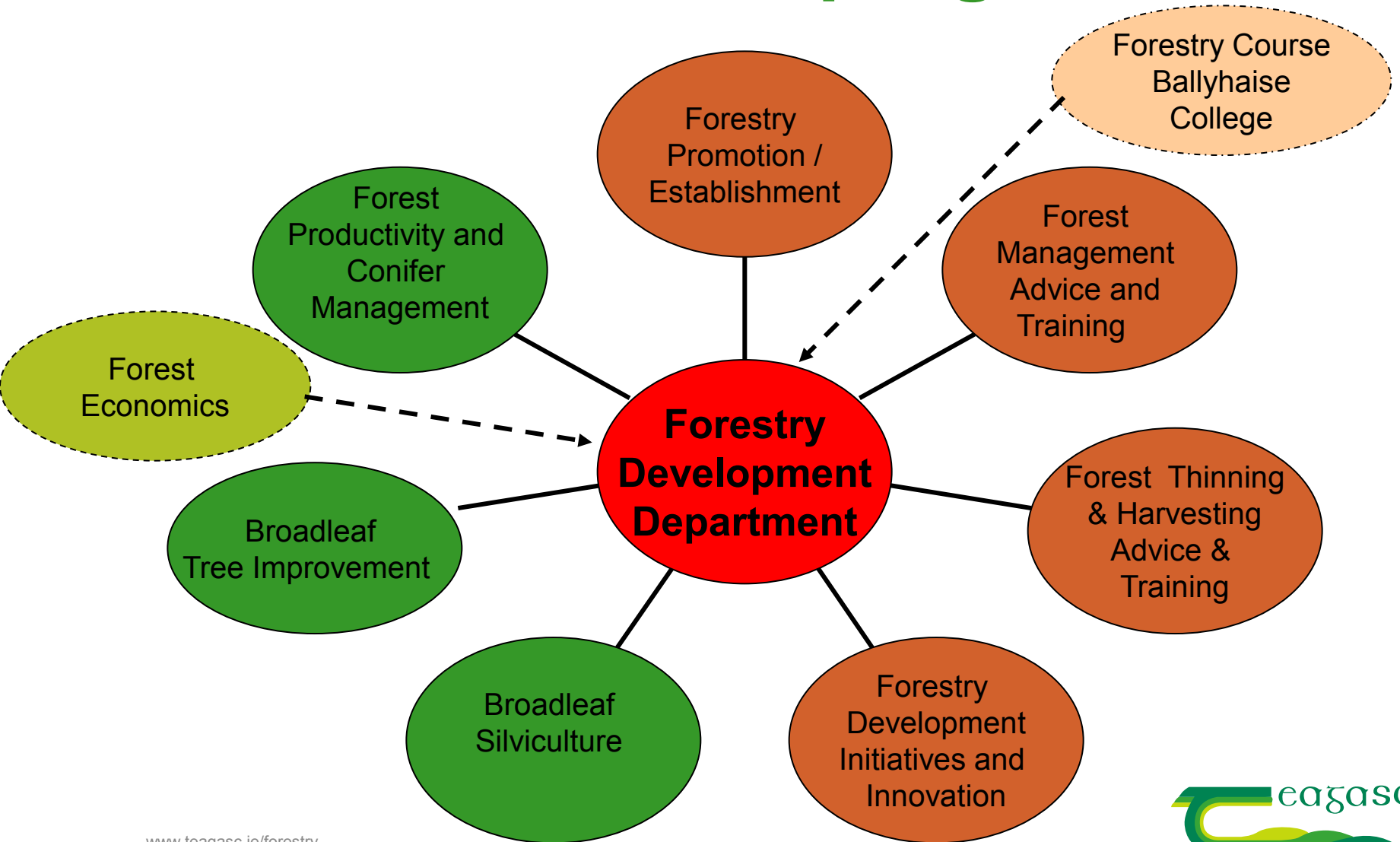
# FDD – mission...

- ... to lead and support science-based innovation in the farm forestry sector and wider bio-economy to underpin its profitability, competitiveness and sustainability

# FDD – objectives

- ... to lead, drive and guide the expansion and development of the farm forestry sector in Ireland, in consultation with our stakeholders, so that it can achieve and optimise its potential

# Overview of FDD programme



# Private (farm) forestry – our focus

- Most new planting done by farmers
  - Approx. 5000 ha per annum – average under 8 hectares
  - Policy to plant 15,000 hectares per year to 2046
  - Land availability and suitability
  - Species choice and improved planting material
- Forests predominately young
  - Relatively inexperienced forest owners – new crop
  - Knowledge gaps re crop management – broadleaves and conifers
  - Need to address economic and environmental issues.
- Harvesting and markets
  - Approx. 1.1 million m<sup>3</sup> harvested from private forest per year
  - Subsequent thinnings and clearfells now coming on stream
  - Need timber mobilisation initiatives –focus on forest owner interests
  - Forest Owner Association development and evolution
  - Forest certification becoming increasingly important in private sector

# Recent Key Activities

- Launch of forestry promotion campaign including forestry element in agricultural courses, presence at agricultural events, RDS awards.
- Range of initiatives to encourage wood mobilisation including Talking Timber, Decision Support Tools,
- Support to pilot forestry KTGs and ongoing roll out of Forestry KTGs.

# Recent Key Impacts

- Guidance provided to DAFM in relation to site suitability for afforestation based on Site Classification system developed by Dr. Niall Farrelly
- Availability of improved birch for commercial deployment in Irish forestry based on Oliver Sheridan's work
- Support provided by Dr. Ian Short and advisory staff to DAFM in relation to broadleaf management and developing protocols for managing existing ash plantations in context of ash dieback
- Process established to identify, select and propagate Chalara- resistant/tolerant ash

# Further information

- Website:
  - [www.teagasc.ie/forestry](http://www.teagasc.ie/forestry)
- Teagasc Forestry e-News



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