

# Developing an Understanding of the Relationships and Methodologies in Contract Cropping Agreements

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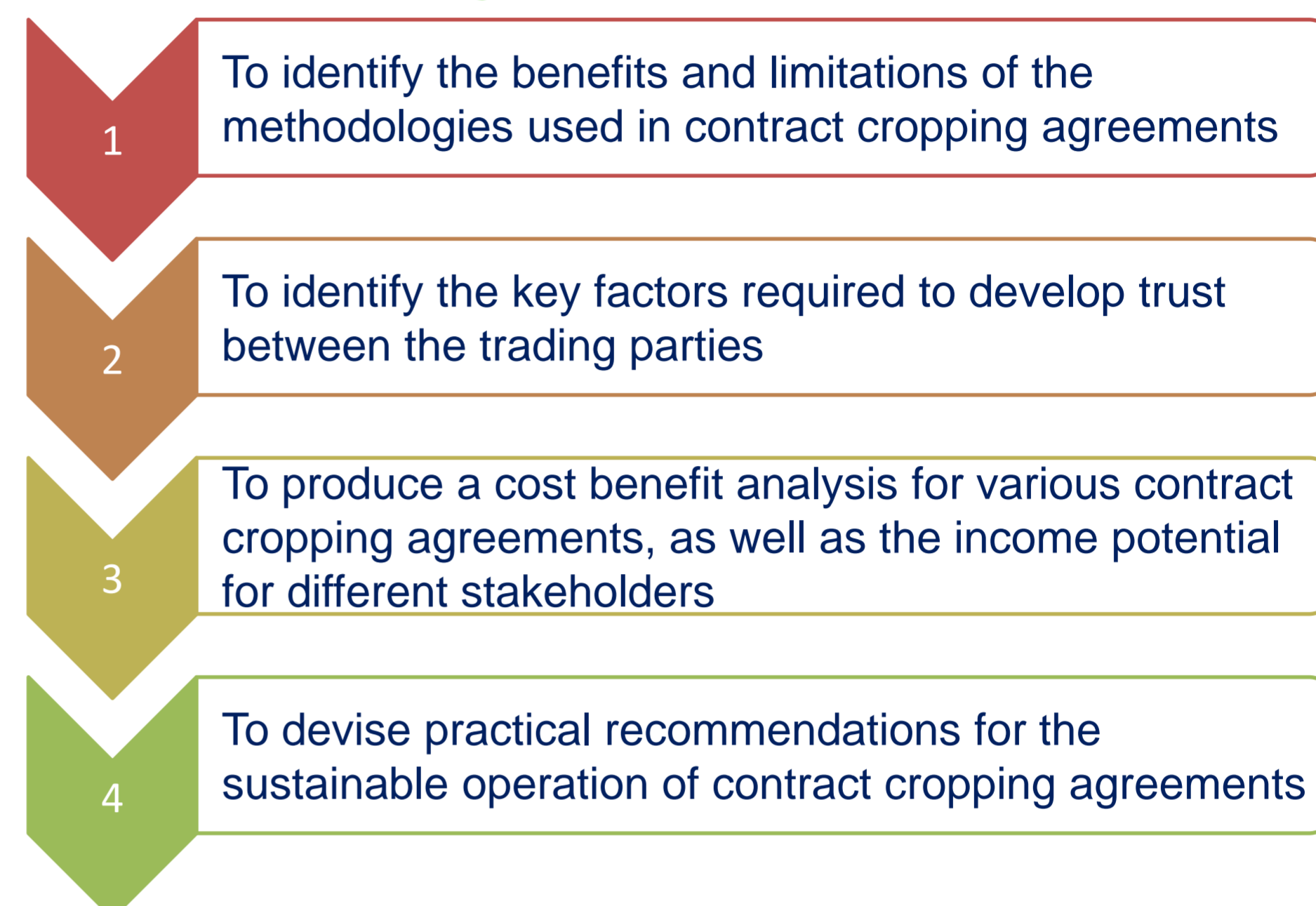
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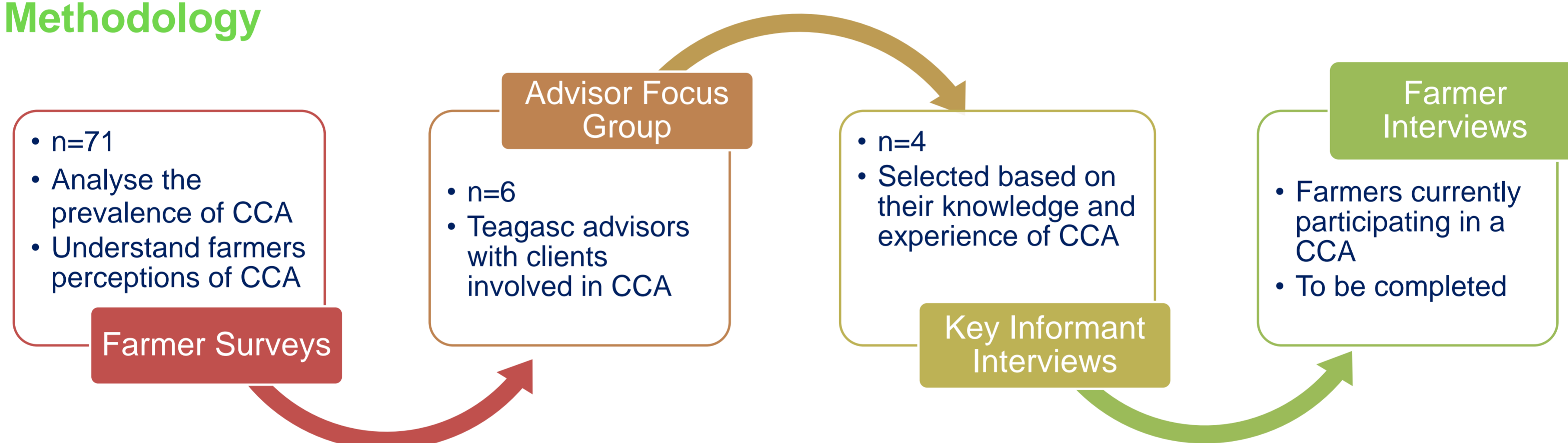
## 1. Background

- Contract cropping is an agreement where a tillage farmer enters a contract with a livestock farmer to grow a crop such as maize or fodder beet (Teagasc, 2017)
- Collaborative farm agreements such as contract cropping agreements have the potential to increase the economic, social and environmental sustainability of farming systems in Ireland
- Food Wise 2025 suggests that collaborative farming agreements should become the norm to increase land mobility and promote optimum use of land (DAFM, 2015)
- Literature on the operation of contract cropping agreements is limited and points to an important knowledge gap

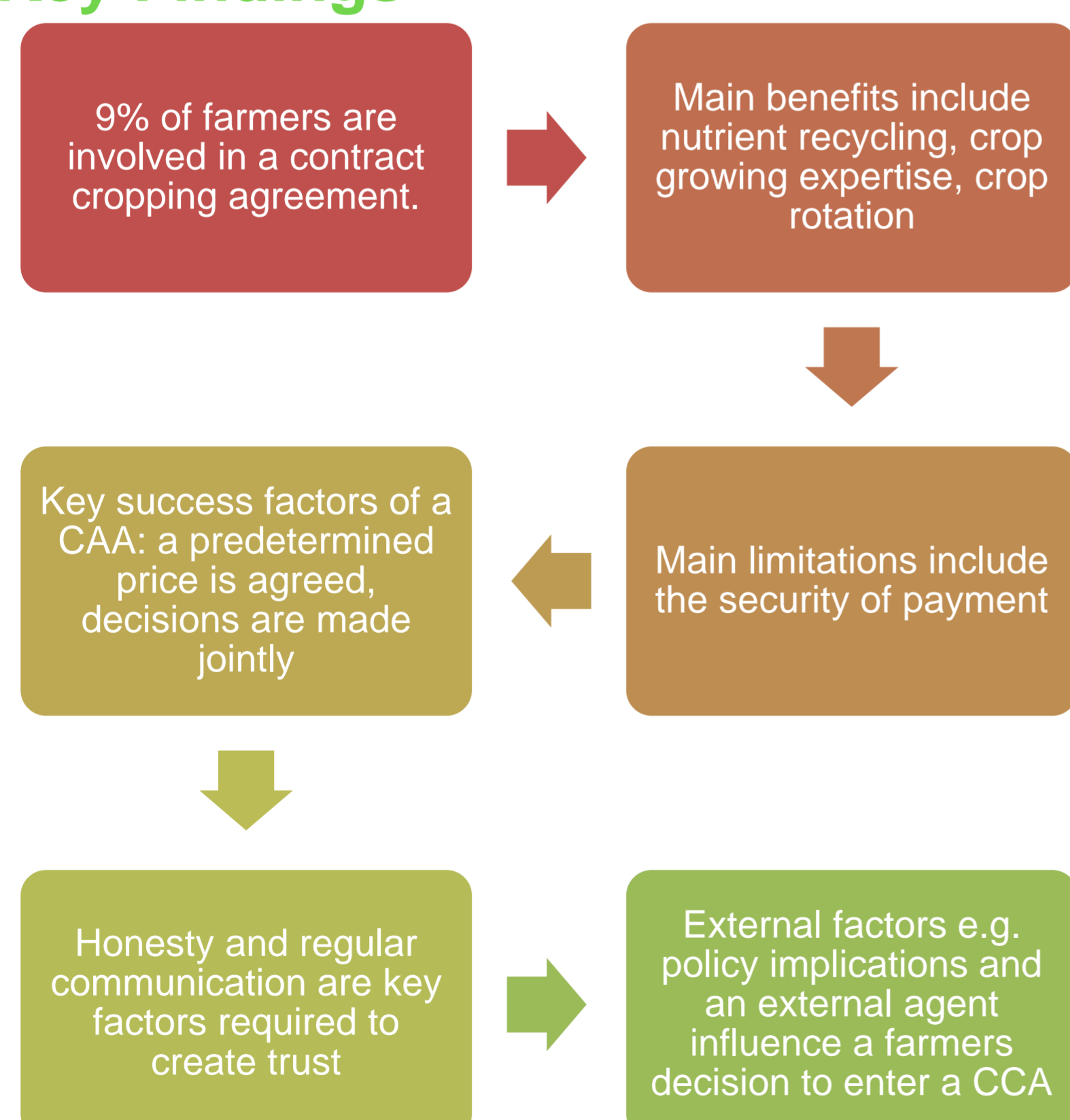
## 2. Research objectives



## 3. Methodology



## 4. Key Findings



## 5. Conclusion

The findings thus far point to the potential of contract cropping agreements to improve the sustainability of both the tillage and livestock sectors through the following:

- Providing alternative market opportunities for the tillage sector
- Improving Ireland's self-sufficiency in animal feed concentrates
- Addressing the land constraint issues on intensive dairy farms
- Supporting Origin Green credentials by providing traceable animal feed

## 6. References

DAFM (2015). *Food Wise 2025*. [Online] Available at: <https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/foodwise2025/> [Accessed: 12/11/2019].

Teagasc (2017). *Collaborative Farming Arrangements* [Online] Available at: <https://www.teagasc.ie/rural-economy/farm-management/collaborative-farming/> [Accessed: 17/11/2019].