

# Teagasc Briefing for Irish MEPs

31 Jan 2023



# Presentation outline

- Teagasc Climate Action Strategy
- 5<sup>th</sup> Nitrates Action Programme
- Intra-community Transport of Unweaned Calves
- Common Agriculture Policy
- Teagasc in Europe

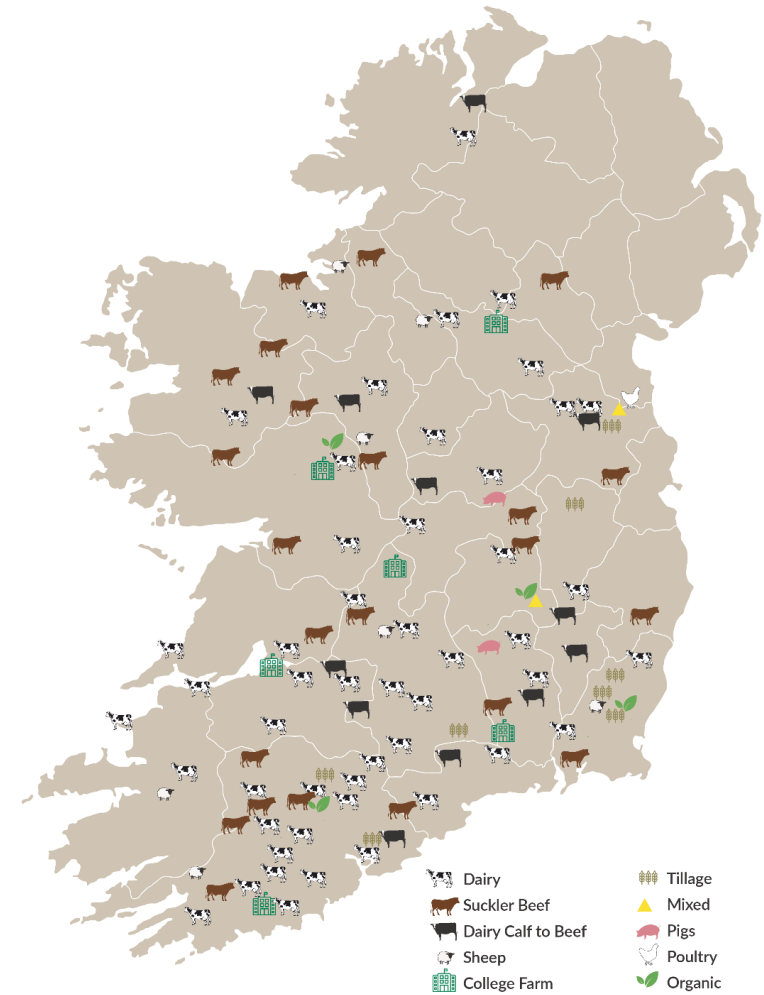


# Key initiative in 2021

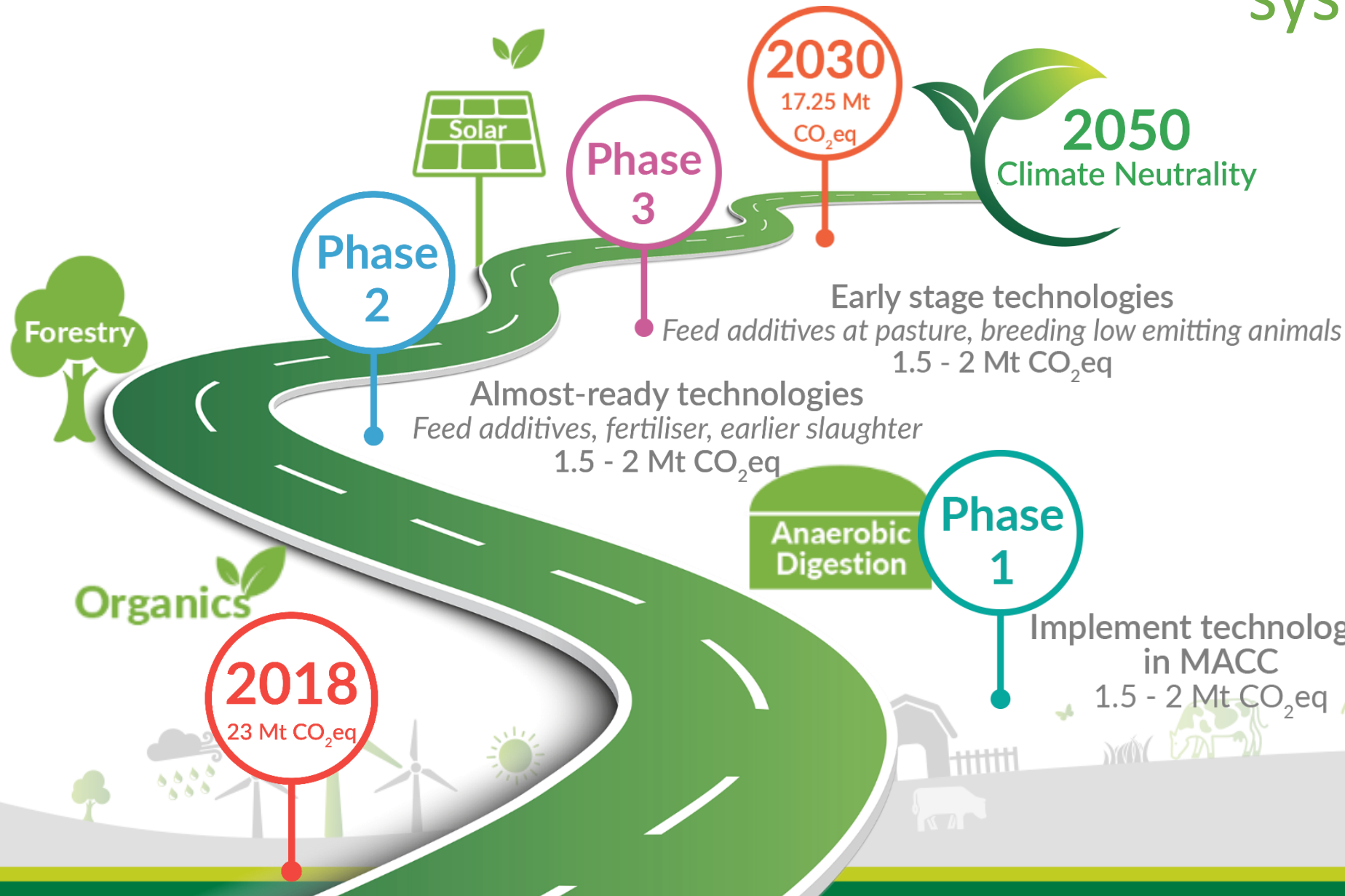


**120 Farmers**  
Signpost Demonstration Farmers

**62 Partners**  
consisting of farmers, industry, state bodies, farm organisations & media



# Is there a roadmap through technology, efficiency and system change?



- Yes, it is possible
- It is very challenging
- Critical now to achieve phase 1
- 2 key asks of Teagasc
  - Develop more technologies
  - Support farmers with adoption

# 3 Key Pillars of Climate Action

Signpost  
Advisory  
Programme

Sustainability  
Digital  
Platform

National Centre  
for Agri-food  
Climate Research  
& Innovation



# Signpost Advisory Programme



Available to all farmers



Enhanced advisory & training support



“Know My Number – Make My Plan”  
- supported by the Sustainability Digital Platform



Engage with 50,000 farmers between now & 2030

Registration & Commitment

Know My Number

Make My Plan

Support for Action  
(3 year programme)

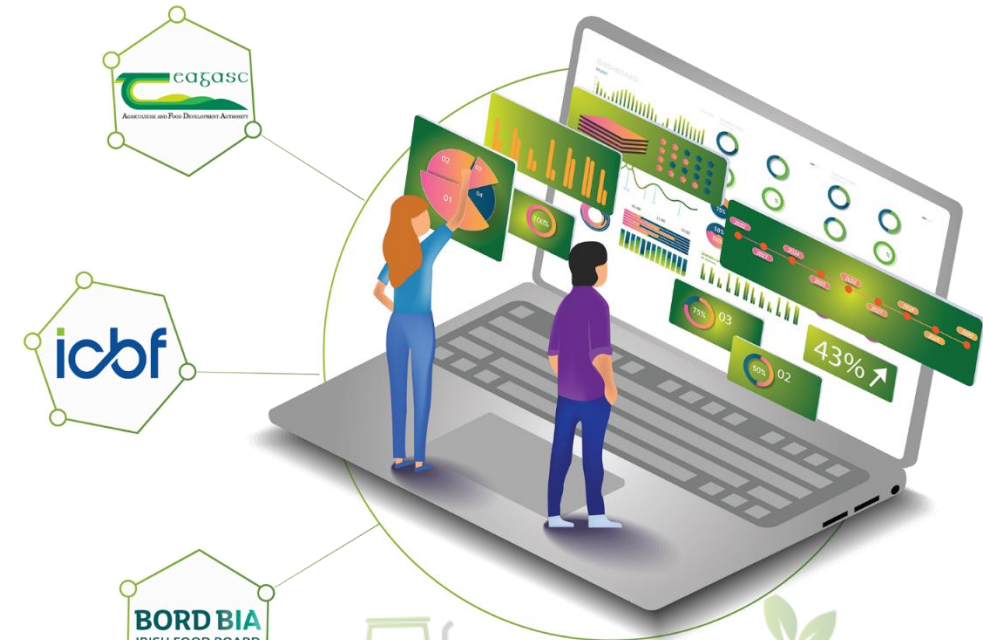
Emissions Reduction



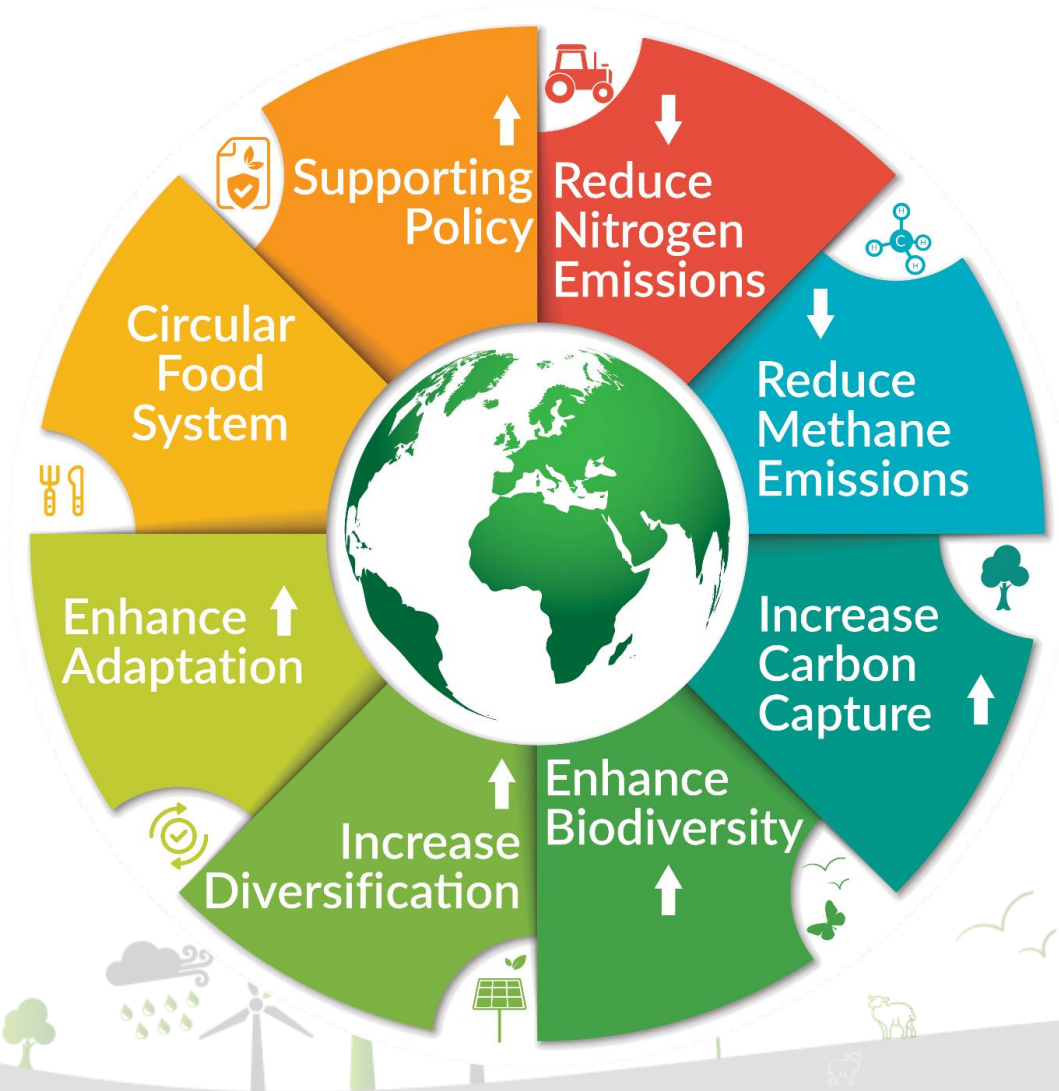


# Sustainability Digital Platform

- Unique, secure online platform
- Allow farmers count carbon emissions & sequestration on farm
- Decision support capability
  - Tailored sustainability plans
  - Track progress



# National Centre for Agri-Food Climate Research & Innovation



- National focal point
- Increase Teagasc capacity
- Greater cooperation across Teagasc
- Inform national policy
- National & international collaboration
- Greater efficiency



# Ireland's 5th Nitrate Action Programme & Nitrate Derogation

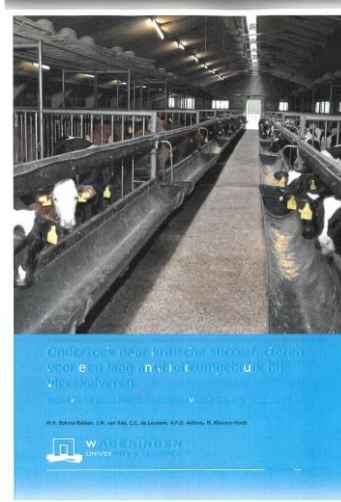
- Water quality in Ireland has remained relatively static in recent years, with the exception of 2018/19 when reduction were found;
- The Fifth Nitrate Action Programme has introduced new measures with regards:
  - Slurry storage and management;
  - Soiled water storage and management;
  - Livestock excretion rates;
  - Chemical fertilizer controls;
- As part of the Nitrate Action Programme Ireland has availed of a derogation from the 170 kg N/ha;
- A review being prepared by Teagasc has highlighted that the dual objectives of improvements in water quality and a continuation of a derogation of 250 kg N/ha can be achieved.



# Intra-community Transport of Unweaned Calves

(EU Regulation 1/2005)

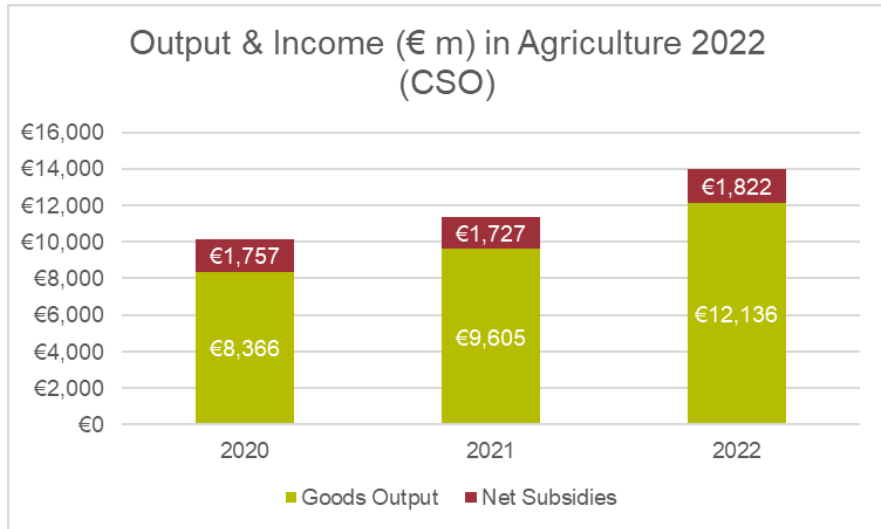
- ANIT committee recommendations -unweaned calves should not be transported under the age of 28 days- currently 14 days;
- EFSA report- 9 recommendations- milk feeds not exceed 12 h, journey should not exceed 8 h, increase space allowance, at least 5-weeks of age and 50 kg live weight prior to transport;
- Irish calves are of very high health status-
- Current research programme:
  - MOOVE- objective to improve the welfare of Irish calves during transport to continental Europe;
  - DairyBeef 500 Campaign- objective to promote and demonstrate dairy beef systems that are socially, environmentally and financially sustainable;
  - Increase the use of sexed semen- increase the beef merit of progeny coming from the dairy herd;



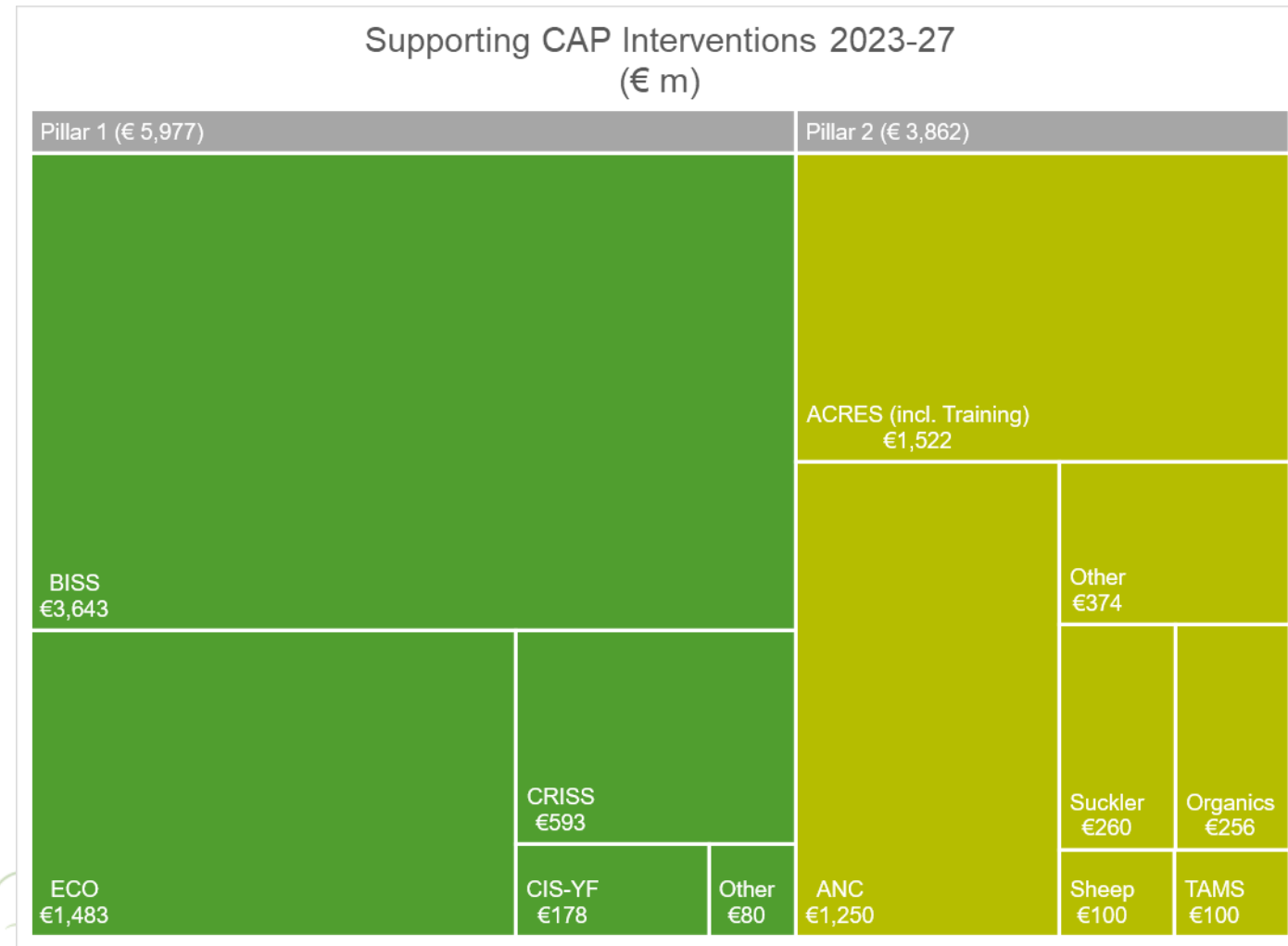
Study on shifting from transport of unweaned dairy calves over long distance to local rearing and fattening



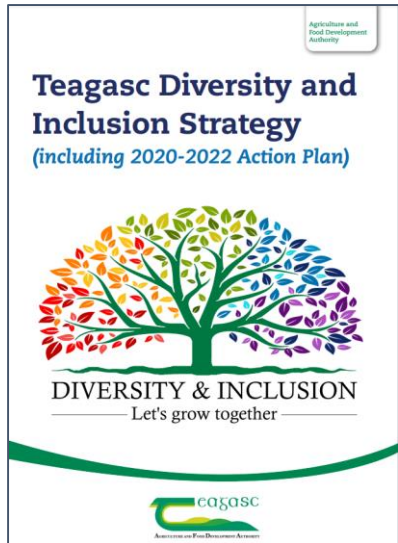
# Supporting Farm Income and Viability



- Farm output and CAP support both critical to farm viability
- Advisory support to new CAP cycle (2023-27)



# Equality, Diversity and Inclusion



## 2022 Year of Diversity and Inclusion

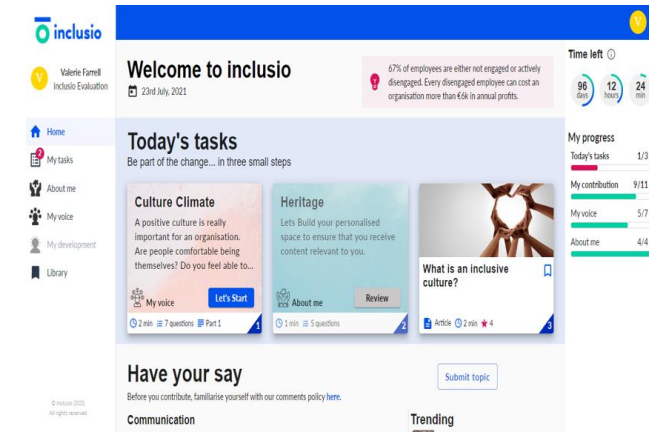
- Cultural audit using diversity and inclusion on-line tool
- Training for staff and manager
- Communities of support, e.g. Pride
- Support for staff with neuro-diverse needs

## External Diversity actions

- Female only discussion groups
- Female only education courses
- NFS: requirement to gather data –
- Website for visually impaired
- Recordings of publications
- Learner supports

## Gender Equality actions

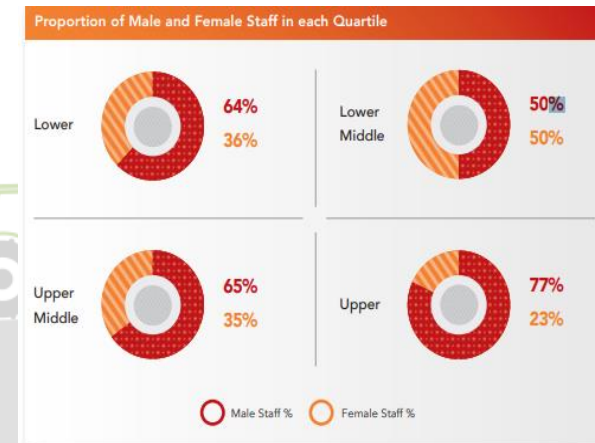
- Female leadership programme
- Mentoring
- Lean In Circles
- Sponsorship



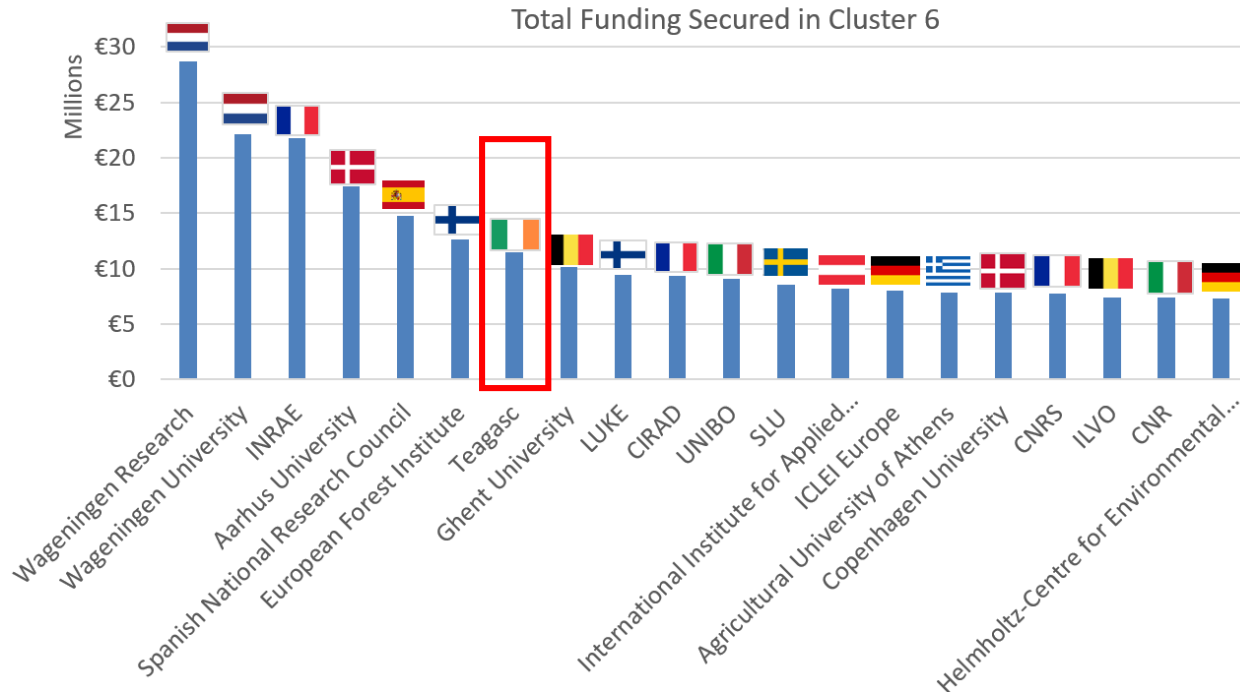
## Women in senior management positions in Teagasc



TEAGASC'S GENDER PAY GAP IS  
**12% AS AT  
30TH JUNE 2022**



# Teagasc engagement at EU level



**FACCE ERA-GAS**

MONITORING & MITIGATION OF GREENHOUSE GASES  
FROM AGRI- AND SILVI-CULTURE

- 3 international funding calls
- 27 Projects
- €39 million



## Future Partnerships under Horizon Europe

**Agriculture of Data**  
Core group

**Agroecology**  
Core group

**Sustainable Food Systems**  
Core group

**Animal Health & Welfare**  
Partner





# 3 Key Pillars of Climate Action

Signpost  
Advisory  
Programme

Sustainability  
Digital  
Platform

National Centre  
for Agri-food  
Climate Research  
& Innovation

