

Supporting and Developing the Irish Agriculture and Food Sector

Irish MEP Information Briefing 15 October 2024
Brussels



The logo for Teagasc, featuring a stylized green 'T' shape with a yellow swoosh underneath, followed by the word 'teagasc' in a green sans-serif font.

Presentation Overview

01

Background to Teagasc

Overview of the History, Structure
& Programme Areas in Teagasc

02

Emerging Challenges

Context of Challenges and Opportunities for the Agri-food
Sector in the EU & Ireland

03

Supporting Programmes and Activities

Key Activities and Campaigns in Teagasc to
support the sector

Origins of Teagasc

An Foras Talúntais

(Research)

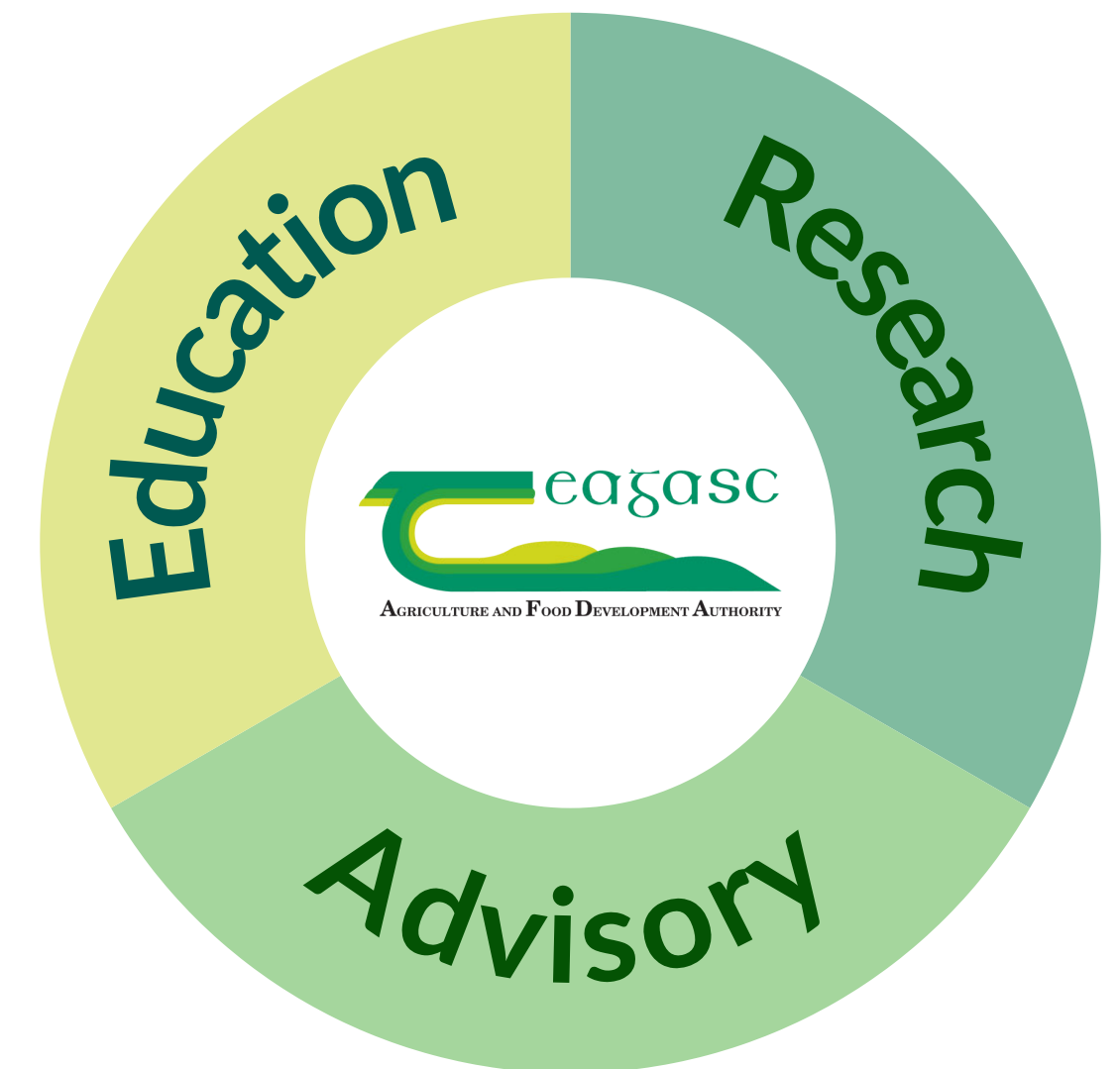
1988

ACOT

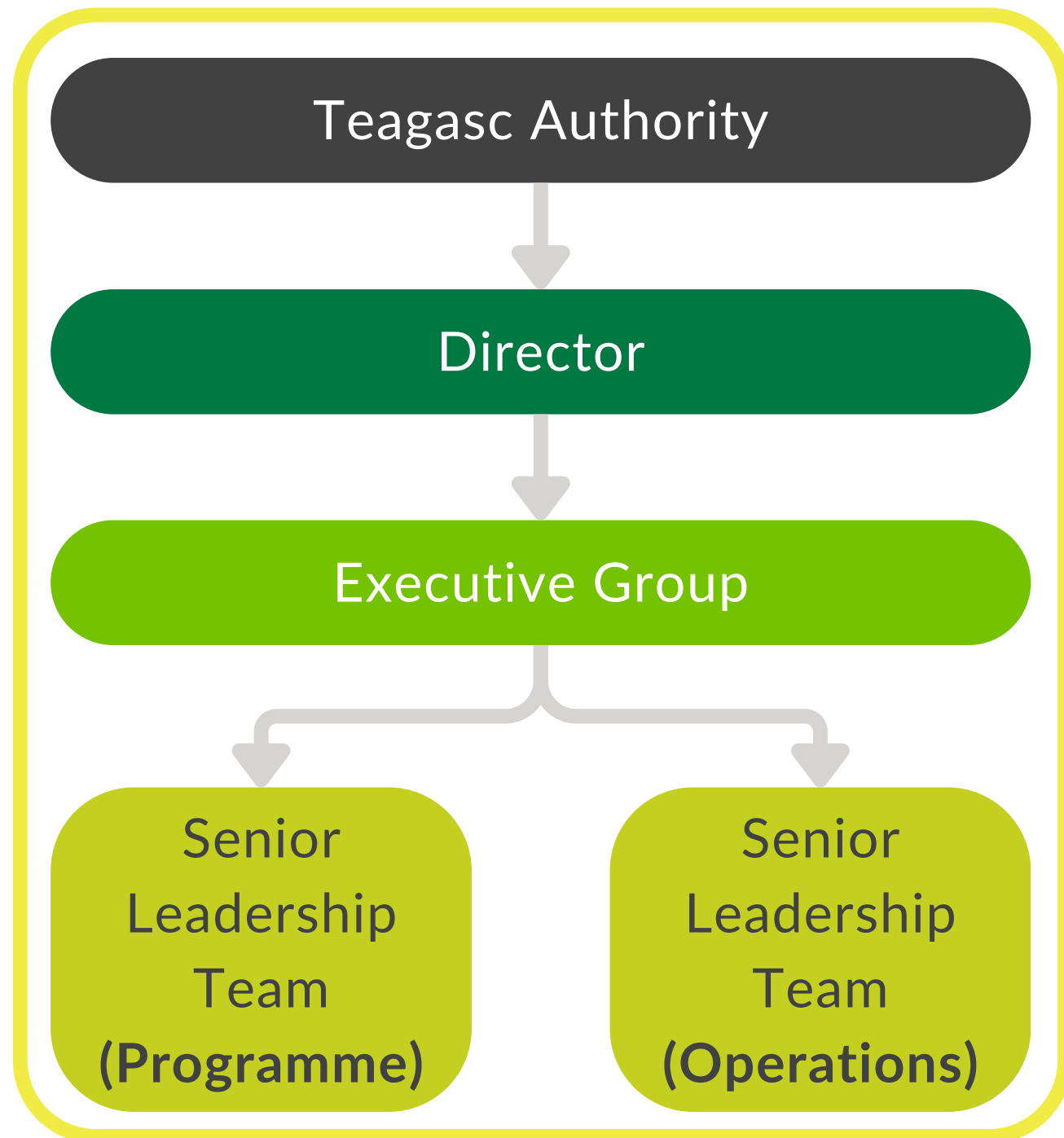
(Advisory & Education)

Teagasc - the Agriculture and Food Development Authority – is the national body providing integrated research, advisory and training services to the agriculture and food industry and rural communities.

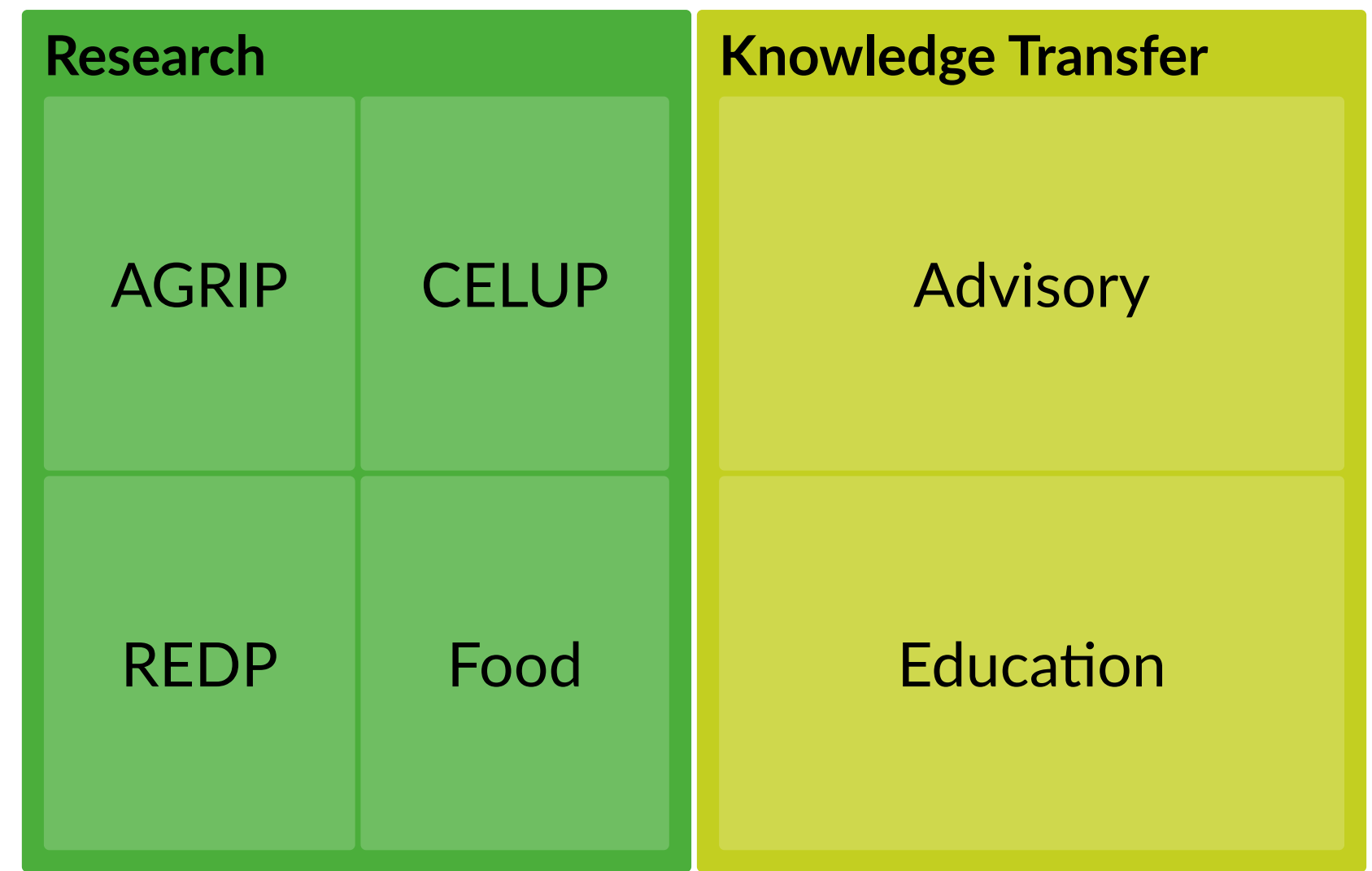
It was established in September 1988 under the Agriculture (Research, Training and Advice) Act, 1988.



Organisation



Programmes



Locations

National Reach of Farmers and Rural Communities

7 Research Centres

7 Colleges

- 4 Teagasc Colleges
- 3 Private Colleges

12 Advisory Regions

- 52 Advisory Offices + Clinics



Strategic Priority

Sustainability (multi-dimensional)
Front and Centre
of all Teagasc Activities

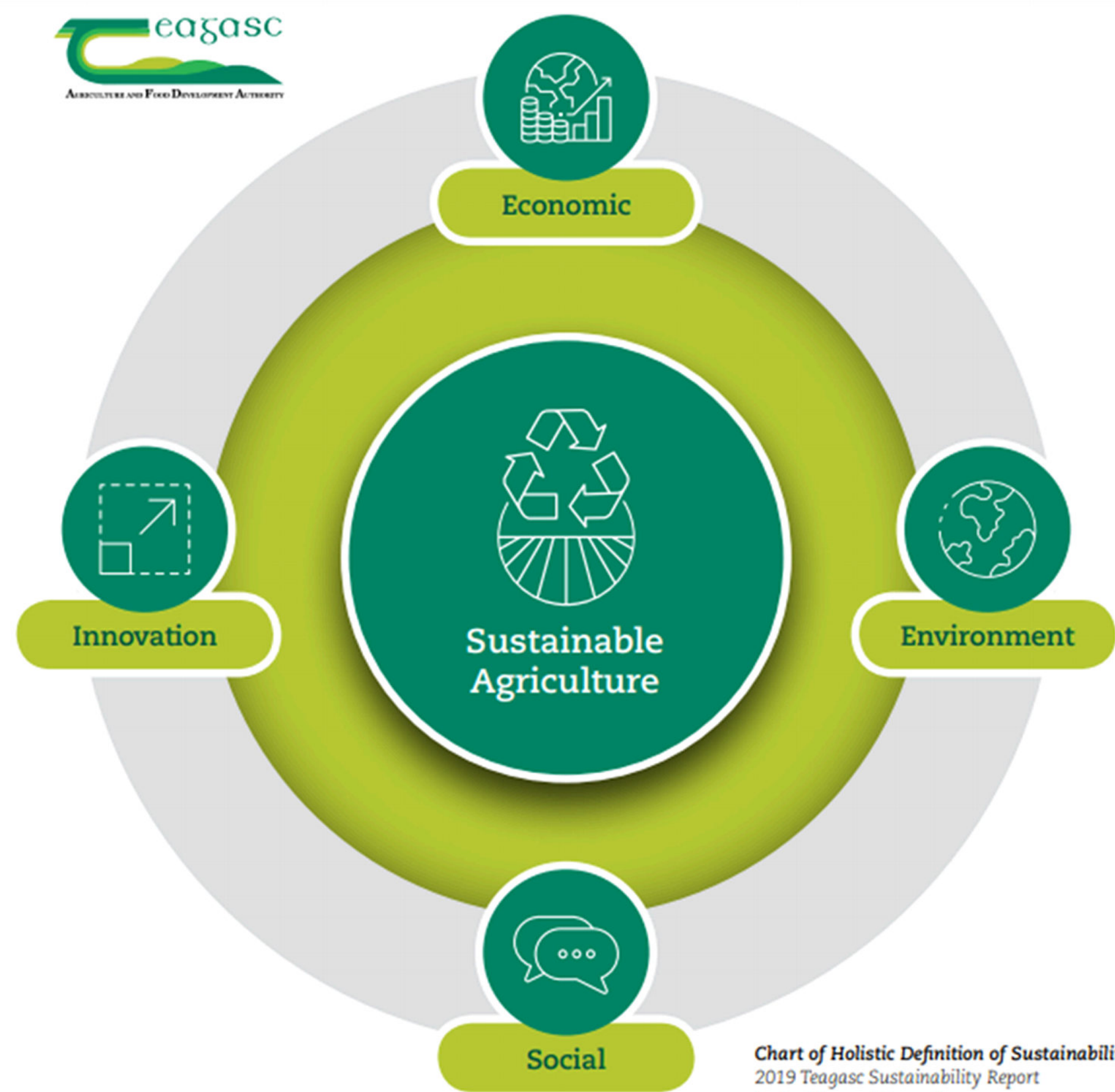
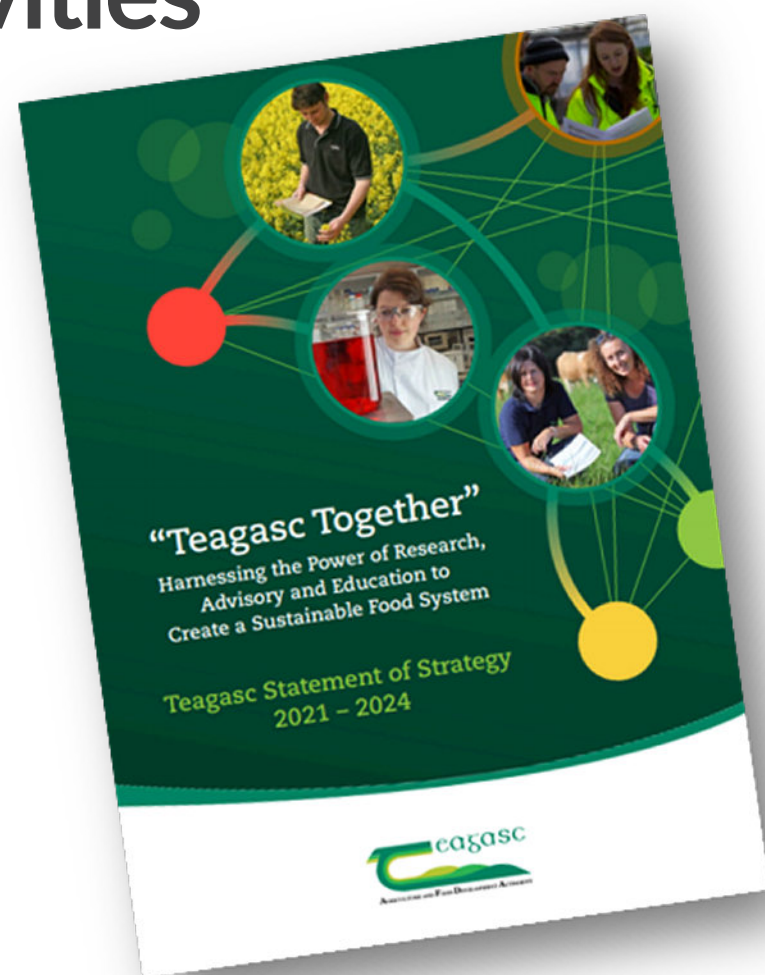
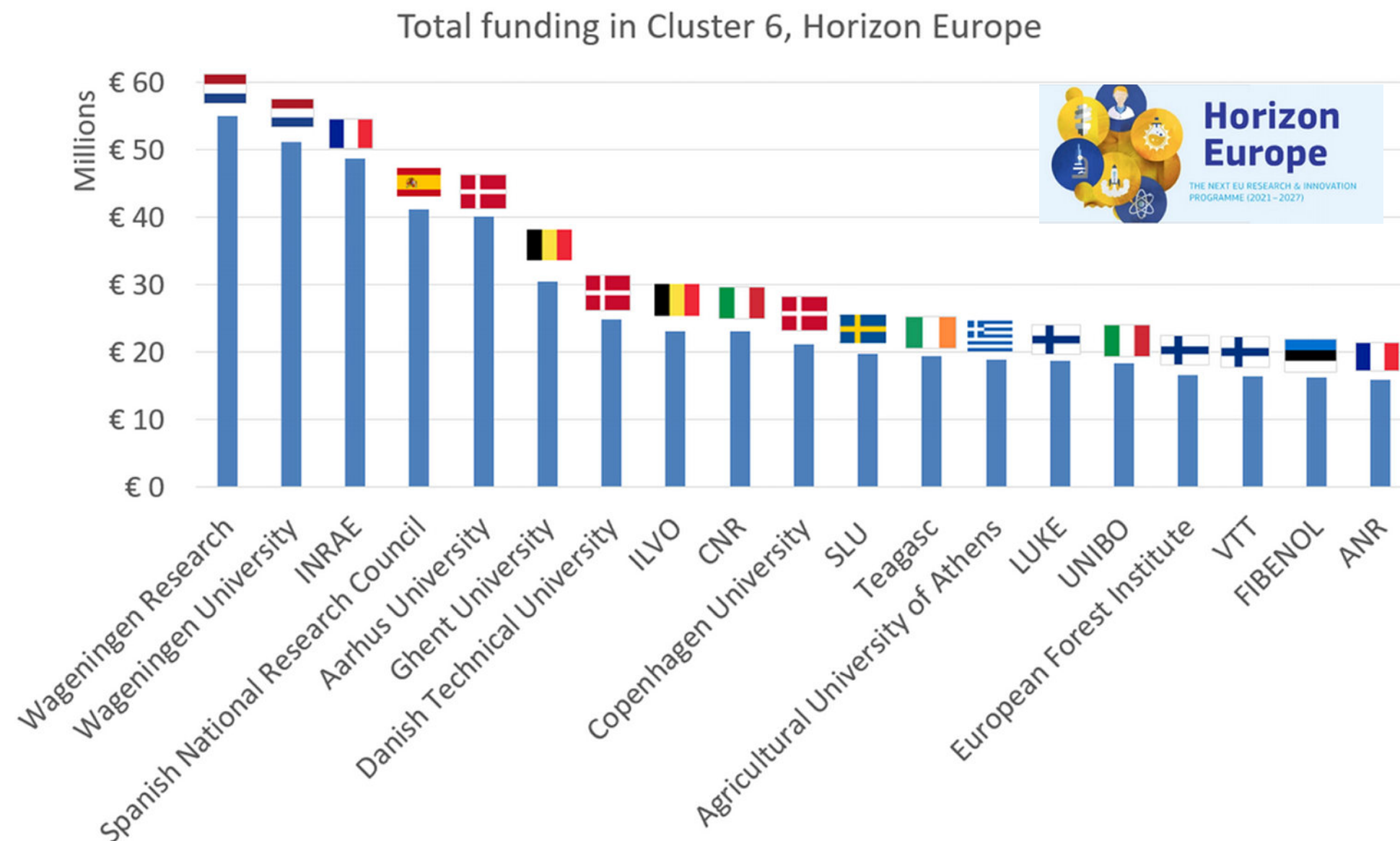


Chart of Holistic Definition of Sustainability.
2019 Teagasc Sustainability Report
by Buckley and Donnellan

Research at EU level

Funding



Leadership



Farm Health & Safety
Knowledge & Innovation
Systems



Bioeconomy and Blue
Growth Strategies:
Marine & freshwater
sustainability (Sea to Shelf)



Livestock Systems
Sustainability



Collaboration for Impact



Network of Pilot Demonstration Farms

Network of 1500 advisors in 260 Communities of Practice

Horizon Europe Partnerships

Agroecology
€300M



Sustainable Food Systems
€525M



Animal Health & Welfare
€360M



Agriculture of Data
€330M



Emerging Challenges & Opportunities



EU Policy Landscape

Strategic Dialogue..... New Commission & Parliament.....



Irish Independent  [News](#) [Opinion](#) [Business](#) [Sport](#) [Life](#) [Style](#) [Enter](#)

[News](#) [Agri-business](#) [Dairy](#) [Tillage](#) [Beef](#) [Sheep](#) [Farm Property](#) [Machinery](#) [Legal Advice](#) [Comm](#)

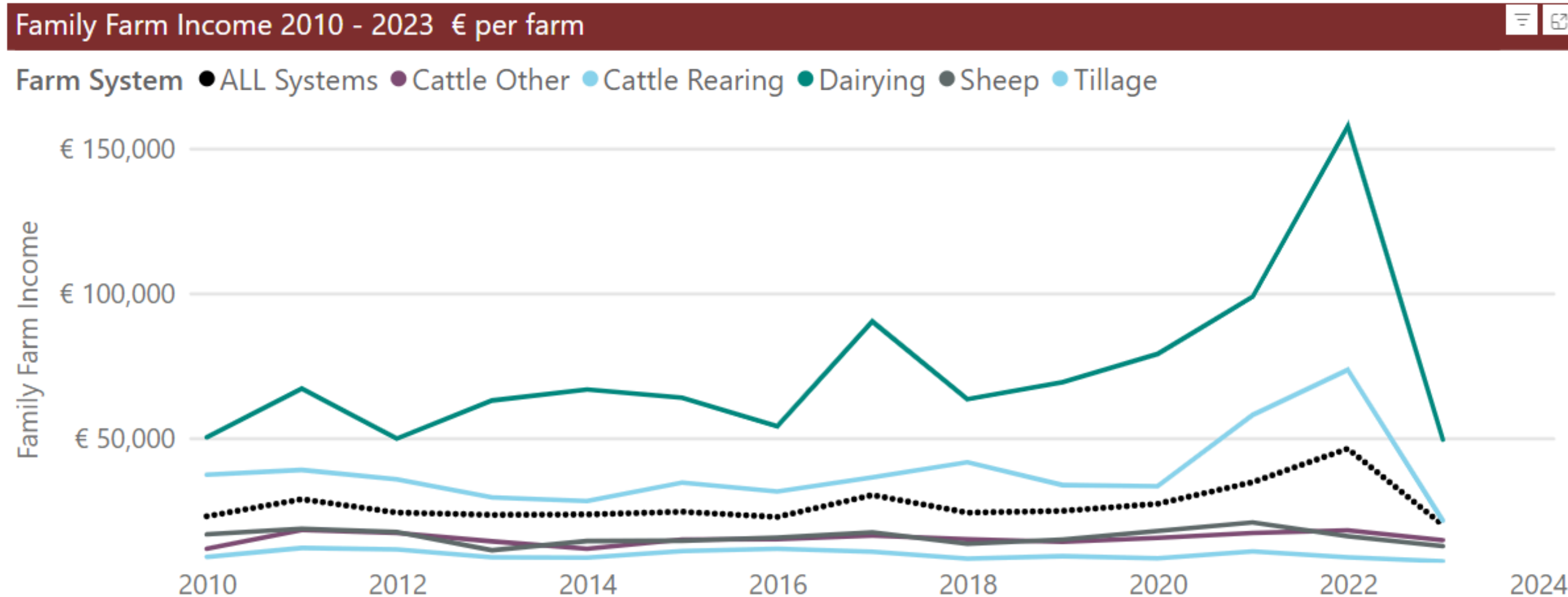
New EU Agriculture Commissioner given 100 days to prepare vision for sector



New Geo-political context.....
Youth & Succession.....
Multi-dimensional sustainability.....
Diets & Health.....
Rural Areas.....

Farm Viability Challenges

National Farm Survey (NFS)



Farm Income:

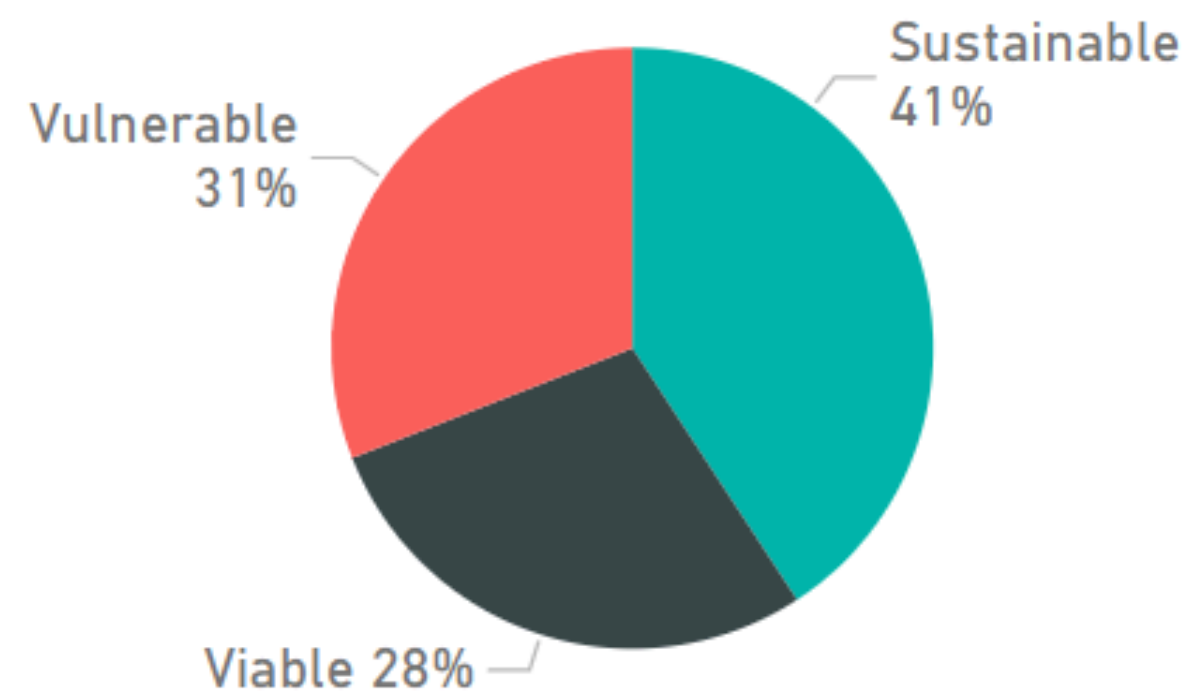
- Low
- Volatile
- Flat (nominally)
- Declining (Real terms)
- Sector specific

The National Farm Survey (NFS) has been conducted by Teagasc on an annual basis since 1972. The survey is operated as part of the Farm Accountancy Data Network of the EU and fulfils Ireland's statutory obligation to provide data on farm output, costs and income to the European Commission. A random, nationally representative sample, of between 1,000 and 1,200 farms depending on the year, is selected annually in conjunction with the Central Statistics Office (CSO). Each farm is assigned a weighting factor so that the results of the survey are representative of the national population of farms.

Farm Viability Challenges

National Farm Survey (NFS)

Farm Viability 2023



Viable A farm business is viable if the farm income can remunerate family labour at the minimum agricultural wage and provide a 5% return on the capital invested in non-land assets.

Sustainable If the farm business is not viable the business is still considered sustainable if the farmer or spouse has an off-farm income.

Vulnerable A farm business is considered to be economically vulnerable if the farm business is not viable and if neither the farmer nor spouse work off the farm.

The National Farm Survey (NFS) has been conducted by Teagasc on an annual basis since 1972. The survey is operated as part of the Farm Accountancy Data Network of the EU and fulfils Ireland's statutory obligation to provide data on farm output, costs and income to the European Commission. A random, nationally representative sample, of between 1,000 and 1,200 farms depending on the year, is selected annually in conjunction with the Central Statistics Office (CSO). Each farm is assigned a weighting factor so that the results of the survey are representative of the national population of farms.

Farm Viability Challenges

National Farm Survey (NFS)

Direct Payment as % of FFI

Dairy Farm Average 2023

44%

Direct Payment €335 per ha
Family Farm Income (FFI) €765 per ha



Cattle Rearing Farm Average 2023

231%

Direct Payment €507 per ha
Family Farm Income (FFI) €212 per ha



Sheep Farm Average 2023

161%

Direct Payment 459 per ha
Family Farm Income (FFI) €286 per ha



Cattle Other Farm Average 2023

112%

Direct Payment €465 per ha
Family Farm Income (FFI) €415 per ha



Tillage Farm Average 2023

154%

Direct Payment €451 per ha
Family Farm Income (FFI) €292 per ha



National Average 2023

99%

Direct Payment €432 per ha
Family Farm Income (FFI) €438 per ha



Source: Teagasc National Farm Survey

EU funds + Irish Exchequer
Complex set of Schemes (Pillar 1 + 2)

Farm-gate profitability highly dependent on Direct Payments
Half of farms dependent on Direct Payments to have any net Income

The National Farm Survey (NFS) has been conducted by Teagasc on an annual basis since 1972. The survey is operated as part of the Farm Accountancy Data Network of the EU and fulfils Ireland's statutory obligation to provide data on farm output, costs and income to the European Commission. A random, nationally representative sample, of between 1,000 and 1,200 farms depending on the year, is selected annually in conjunction with the Central Statistics Office (CSO). Each farm is assigned a weighting factor so that the results of the survey are representative of the national population of farms.

Environmental Sustainability

Gaseous Emissions (Carbon & Ammonia)

- Agricultural GHG -4.6% in 2023
- Ammonia - challenge to meet EU emission reduction commitments

Adaptation to Climate Change

- Weather patterns
- System Resilience

Water Quality

- 45% of water bodies outside of High/Good biological quality



Biodiversity

- Halting Biodiversity decline
- Nature based solutions for farm output, climate, water, & carbon

Crop Protection

- Reducing Plant Protection Product options
- IPM & Genetics

Social Challenges

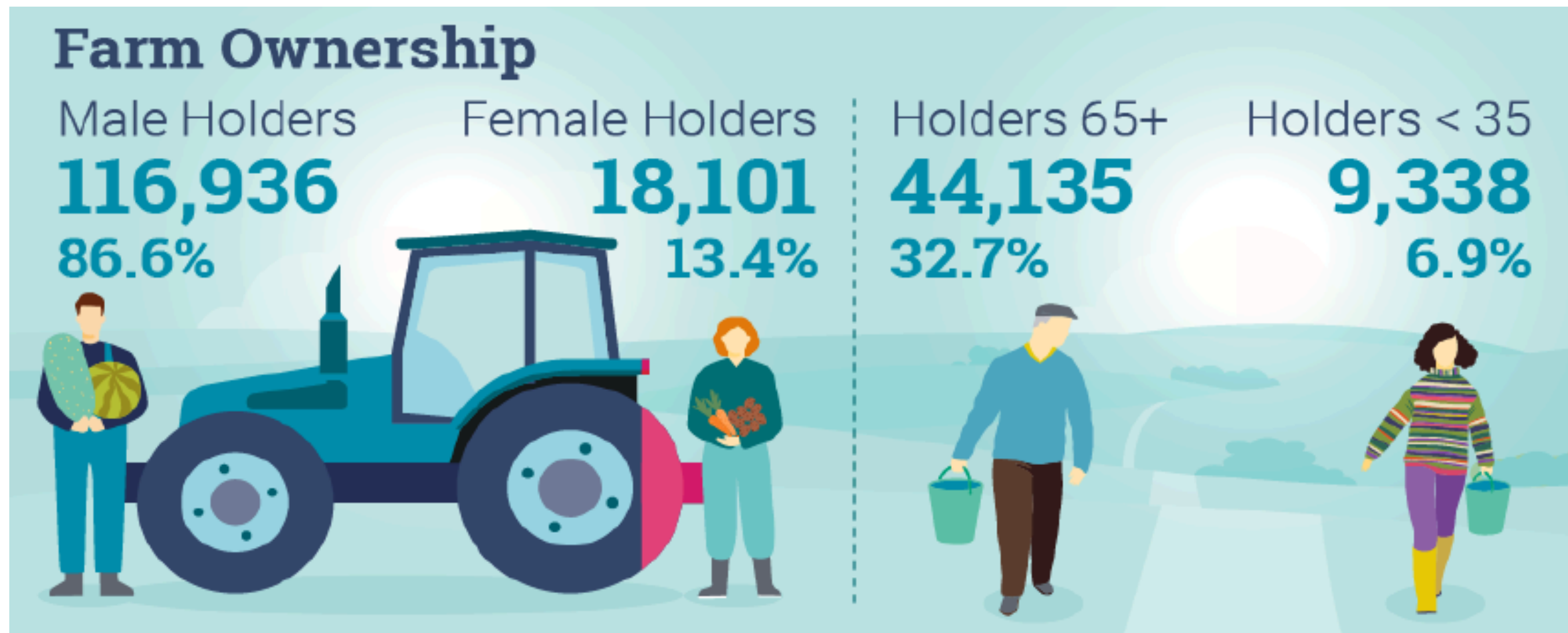
Gender Balance

Generational Renewal

Farmer Well-being & Mental Health

Occupational Health & Safety on farms

Social narrative around Agriculture and Food



CSO Census of Agriculture 2020

Animal Welfare

Public & Consumer Confidence in the care for animals

- Animal Transport Regulations
- Housing and Welfare Guidelines and Standards

Fundamentals for Ireland are good
(Pasture-based / Outdoor systems)



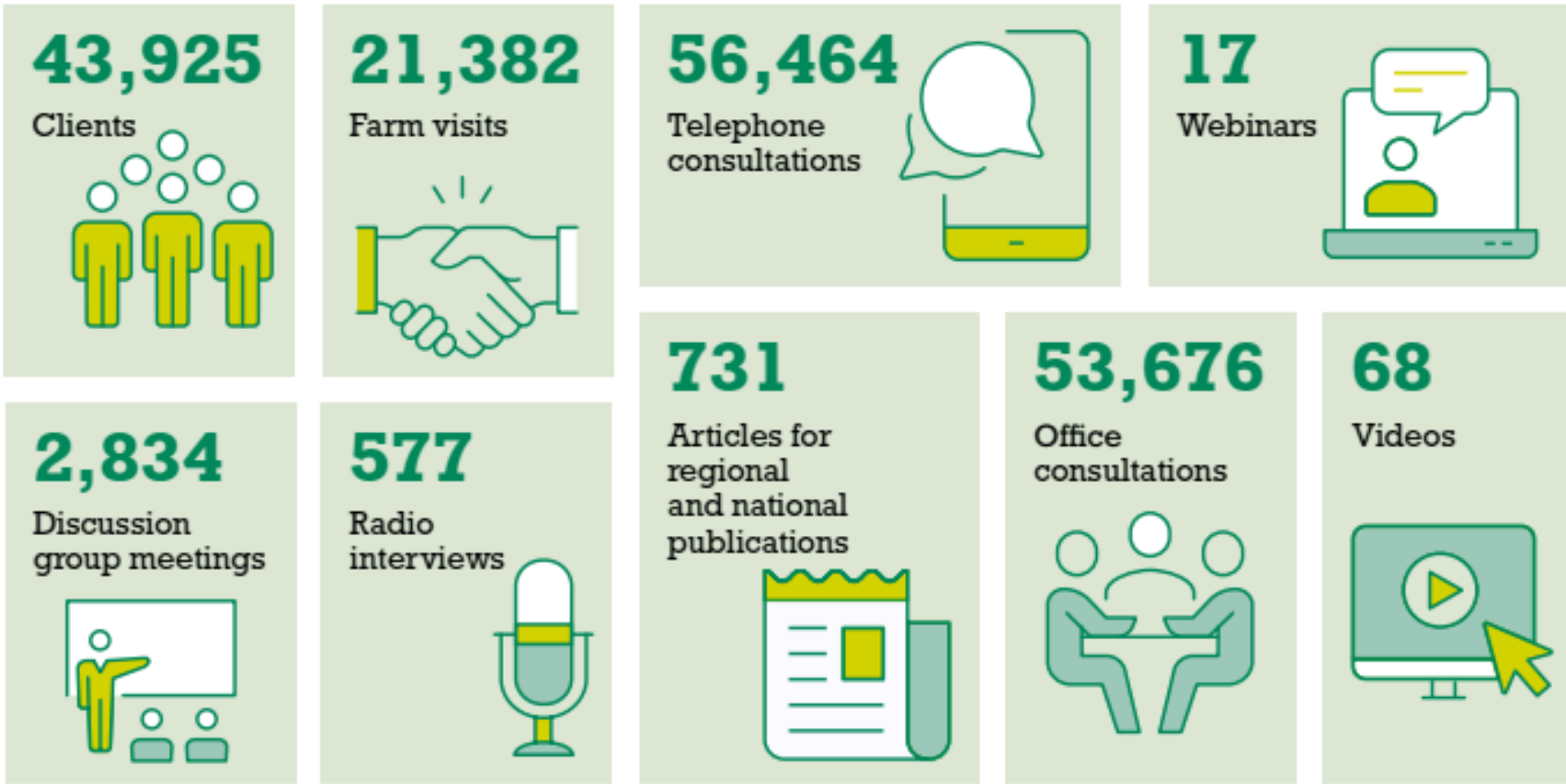
Supporting Activities and Programmes



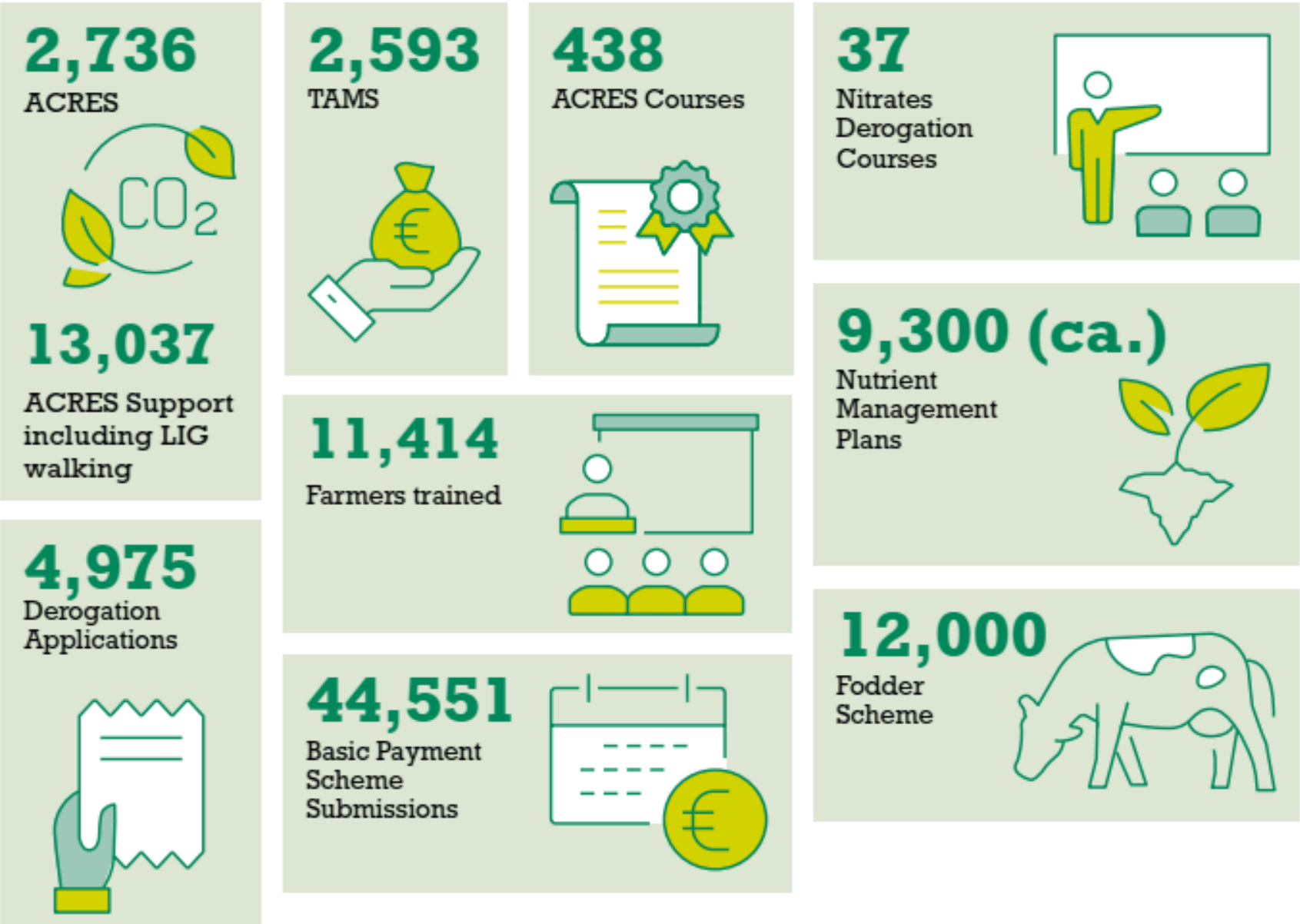
Supporting Farm Viability

Extensive range of services and activities through Advisory Regions and Specialists

Knowledge Transfer activities by Teagasc regional advisors in 2023



Scheme Applications Supported



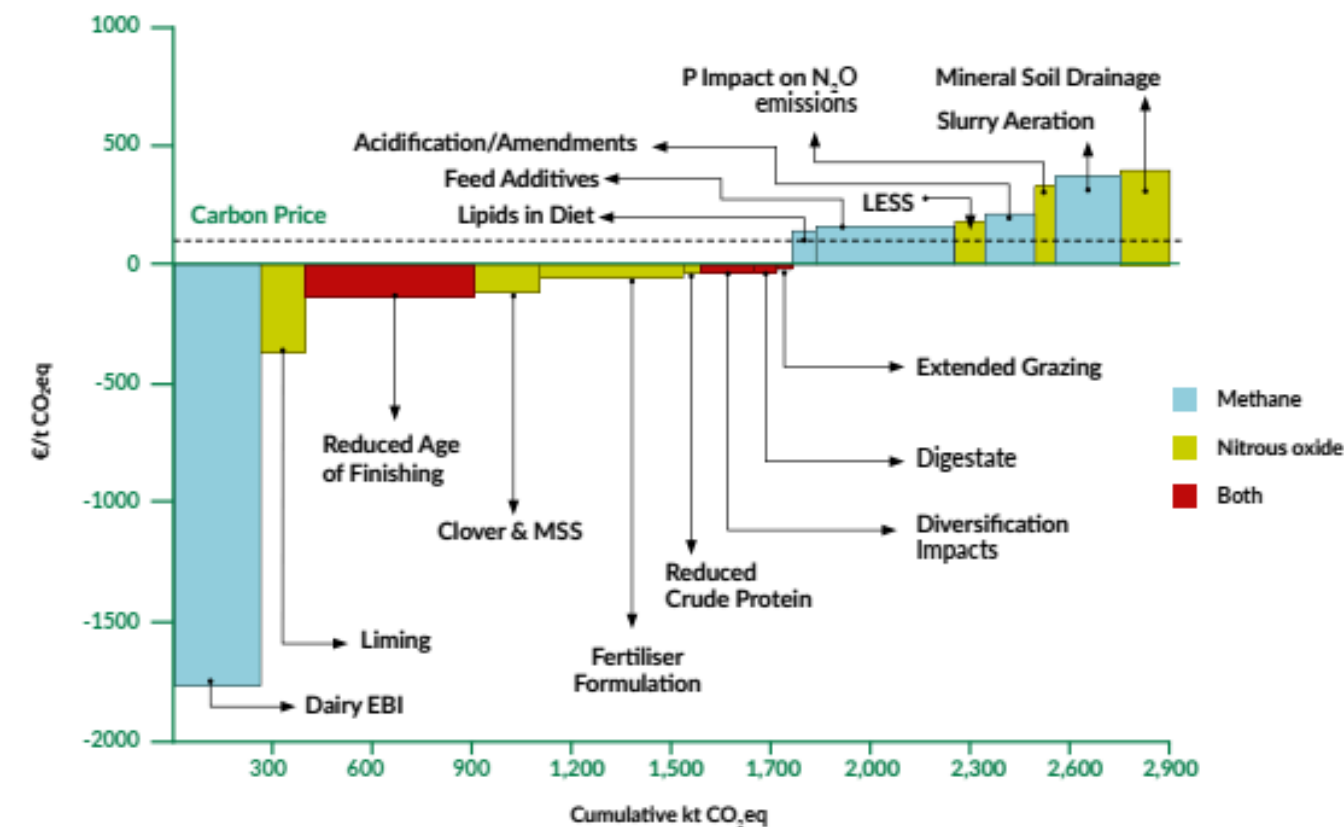
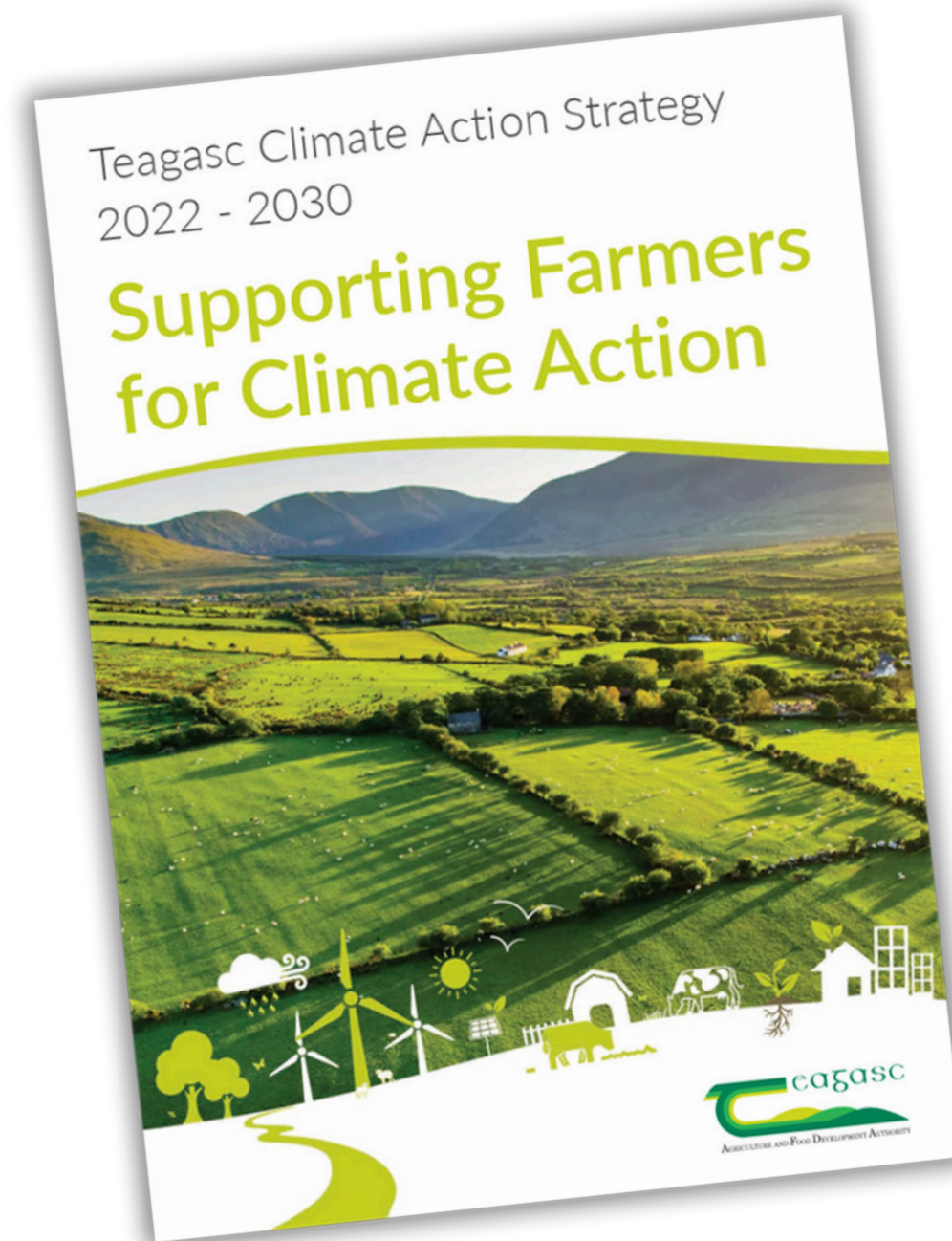
Supporting Programmes

Technical Programmes & Tools (Examples)

- Collaboration with Industry and Public Bodies



Teagasc Climate Strategy



Marginal Abatement
Cost-curve (MACC)

Provides roadmap for
mitigation potential
for the sector

Climate - SIGNPOST

Partners



Government, State Agencies and Sponsors

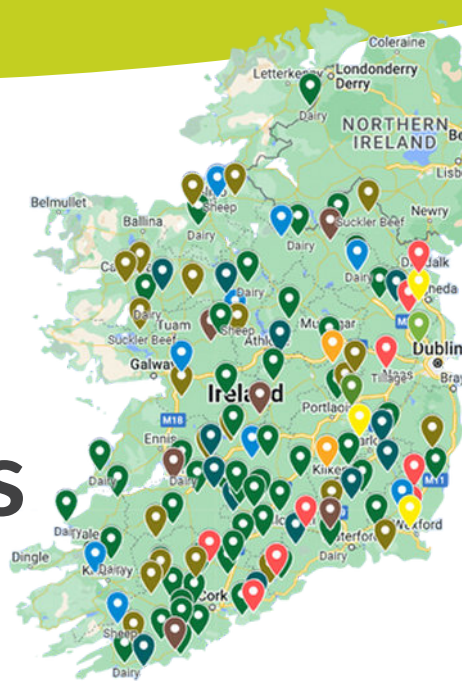


Supporters



Signpost Demonstration Farms

> 100 Demonstration farms
Cross-cutting of enterprise programmes



Signpost Advisory Programme

Reaching individual farmers
20 dedicated advisors
>12,000 participants to date



Cross-Industry Support (> 60 partners)

Cross-enterprise & Cross-sector



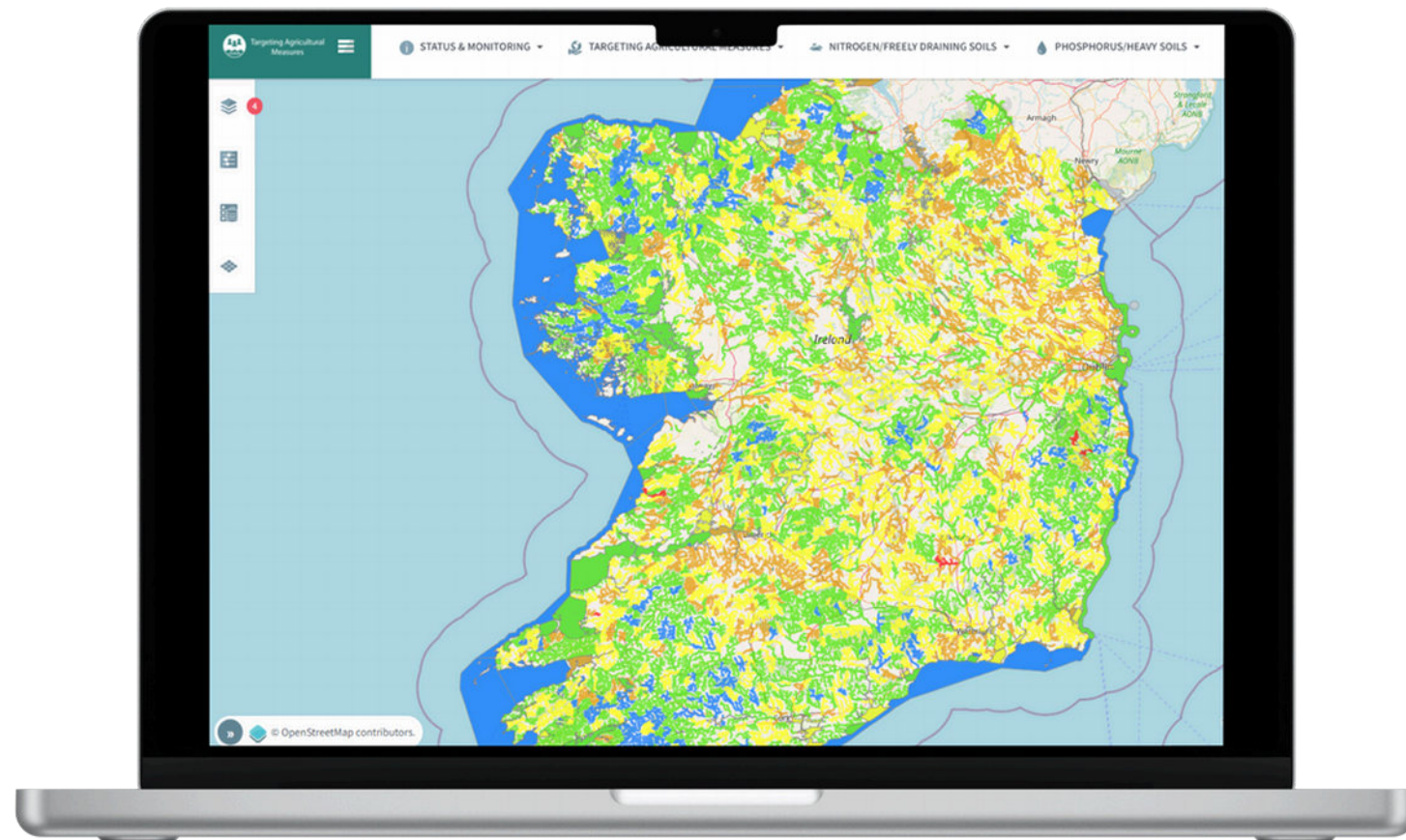
BETTER farming for Water

Launched by Teagasc - May 2024

Ministerial request for a multi-actor collaborative campaign

Complementarity of Initiatives to improve Water Quality

Connecting farmers with local water quality data



EPA | Catchments.ie - Targeted Agricultural Measures

8 - Actions for Change

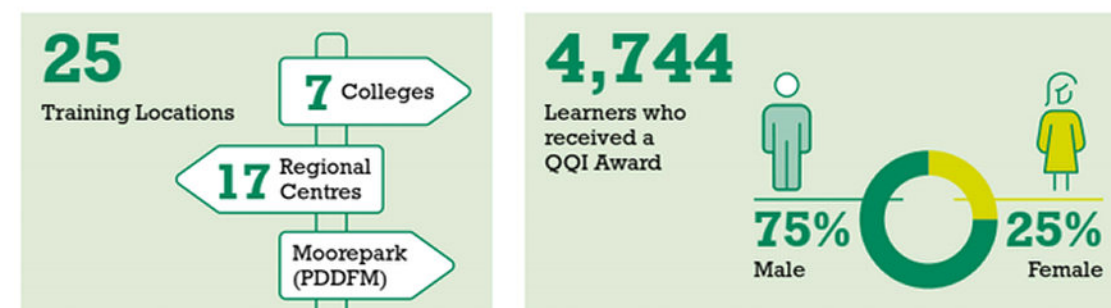
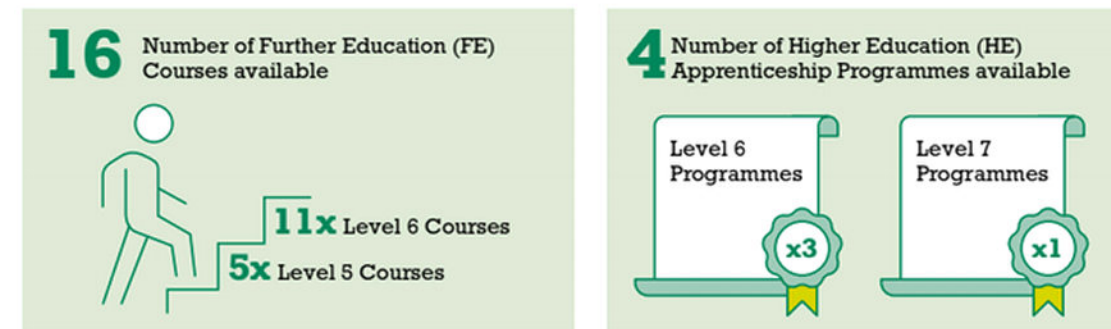
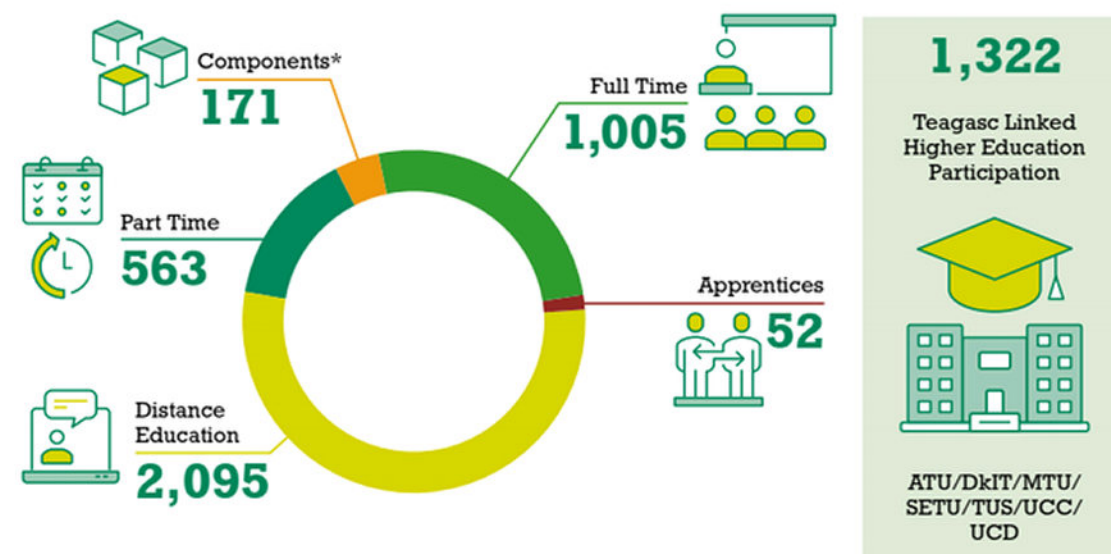
Right Measure - Right Place

- | Nutrient Management | | |
|---------------------|---|---|
| 01 | Reduce purchased nitrogen (N) & phosphorus (P) surplus per hectare |  |
| 02 | Ensure soil fertility is optimal for lime, phosphorus and potassium |  |
| 03 | Ensure application of fertiliser and organic manure at appropriate times and conditions |  |
| Farmyard Management | | |
| 04 | Have sufficient slurry and soiled water storage capacity |  |
| 05 | Manage and minimise nutrient loss from farmyards and roadways |  |
| Land Management | | |
| 06 | Fence off watercourses to prevent bovine access |  |
| 07 | Promote targeted use of mitigation actions such as riparian margins, buffer strips & sediment traps to mitigate nutrient and sediment loss to water |  |
| 08 | Maintain over-winter green cover to reduce nutrient leaching from tillage soils |  |

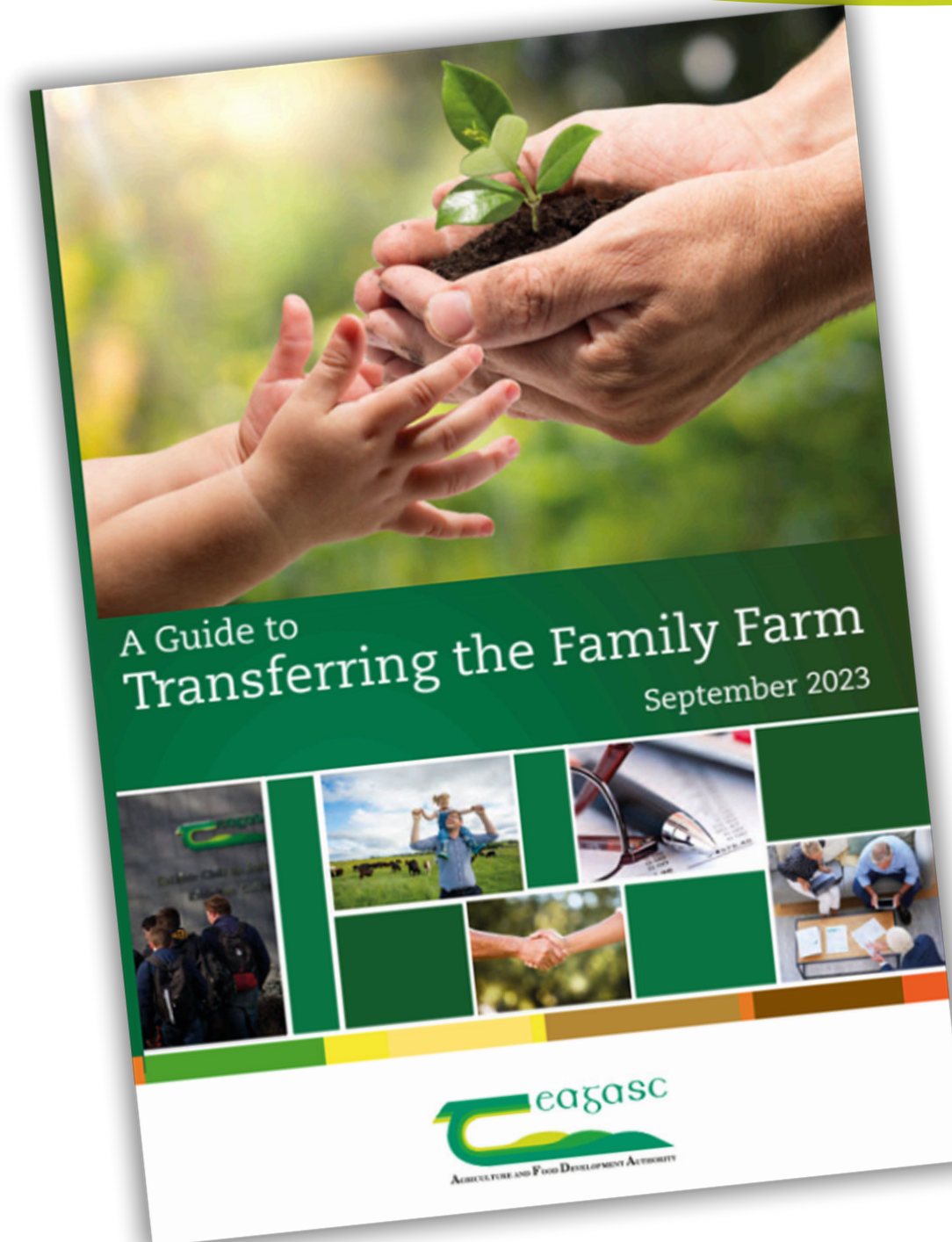
Generational Renewal

Teagasc Education: Developing New Talent

Teagasc Education Delivery 2023



Supporting Farm Succession



Rural Development

On-Farm Diversification:

- Organics
- Alternative Enterprises

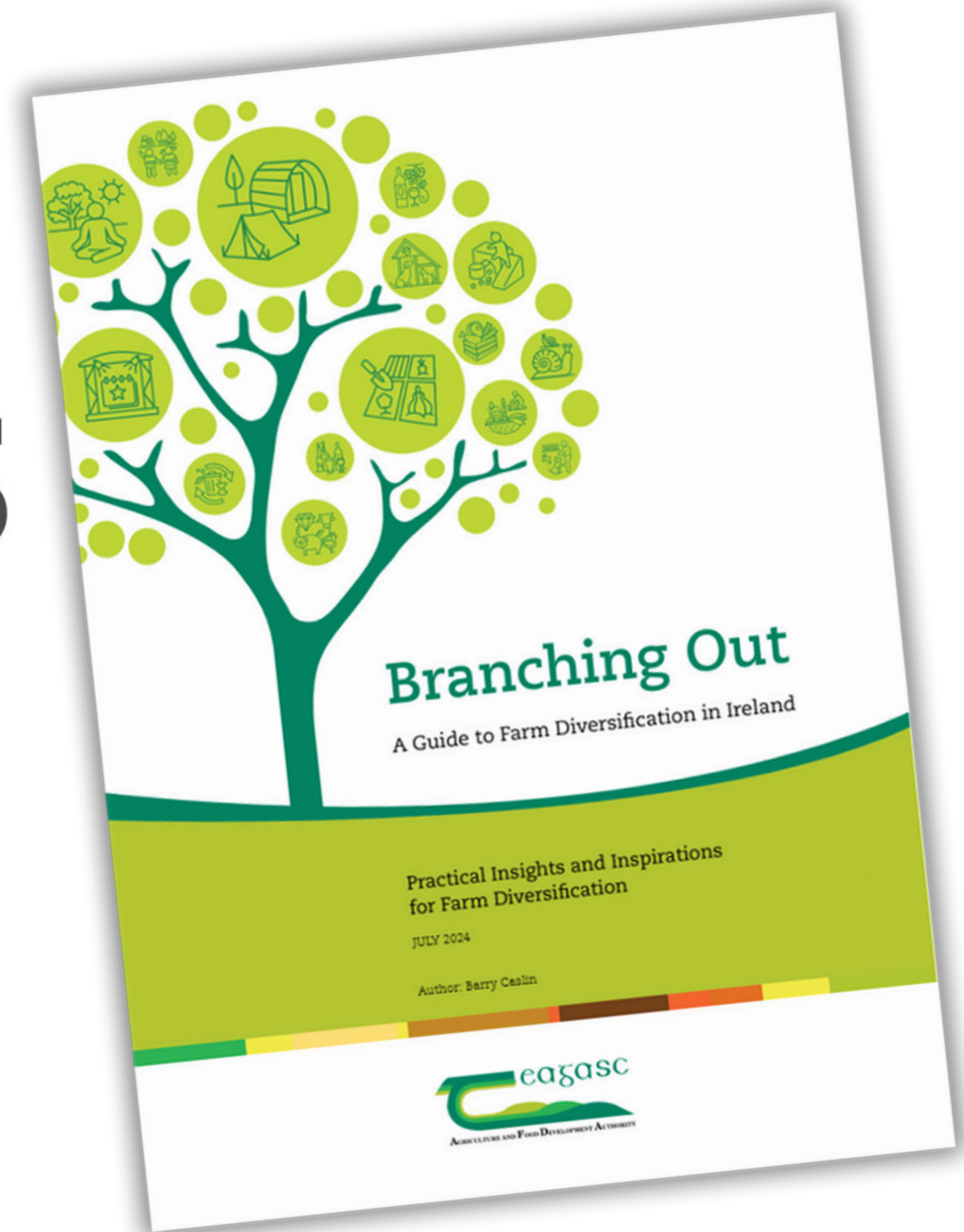


Supported by DAFM

Options

think • plan • act

- Generate new thinking & ideas
- Additional on & off-farm income
- Linkage with other support organisations



Food Programme

Sustainable Food Systems Approach

- > 300 staff and students
- Science-based innovations and solutions for the Irish and International food industry
- Centred on sustainably produced, nutritious, safe food with good sensory properties
- Science relevant to fresh, prepared, fermented, and ingredient foodstuffs, aligning with food exports to consumer and business-to-business markets
- Strong linkages with food companies, universities, and other public bodies

Supporting Diversification within Food Systems

- Creating new value streams
- Increasing bio-circularity by valorising crop-, animal-, and marine-based biomass into value add ingredients or renewable products
- Integration of sustainable, digital and fermentation technologies



Teagasc Food Research Centre,
Moorepark, Co. Cork



Teagasc Food Research Centre,
Ashtown, Co. Dublin

Food Research Programme



Food Bioscience



*Food Chemistry and
Technology*



*Food Quality and
Sensory Science*



*Food Industry
Development*



Food Safety



*National Food
Innovation Hub*



*Moorepark Technology
Ltd.*



*National Prepared
Consumer Food Centre*



BIA Innovator Campus



Supporting Industry

Work of Teagasc extends beyond farmers to the wider Agri-sector



Industry can partner with Teagasc in multiple ways including joint collaborations with state-of-the-art scientific expertise, and access to technologies, research services, world-class facilities and specialist equipment.



Structured access to Teagasc research, education & training, knowledge resources and online tools for agricultural businesses and professionals



Supporting Sectors across the Agri-Food Industry

Dairy

Suckler Beef

Dairy Beef

Sheep

Pigs

Poultry

Tillage Crops

Horticulture

Forestry

Organics

Equine

Rural Enterprise

Food Research

Food Industry Support

**Technical Advice
Schemes Support**

**Full-time & Part-time
Education Courses
Apprenticeships**

Thank You Questions?

