



Fri 10 January 2020

Ag-climatise Public Policy Consultation

Dear Sir or Madam,

On behalf of Dairy Industry Ireland (DII), and on behalf of the Irish Co-operative Organisation Society (ICOS), representing the Dairy Processing (primary and secondary) and Co-op Sector, and as part of the Dairy Sustainability Ireland Initiative (DSI), we wish to make the following commitments and observations in relation to the Ag-climatise policy proposals:-

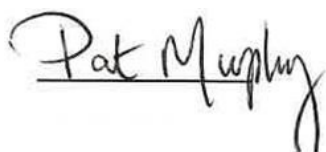
1. The Dairy Processing /Co-op Sector, commits to and will support the achievement and delivery of the strategies and objectives of the Govt's proposed Ag-Climatise policy, in partnership with its suppliers and key stakeholders, in support of the Govt's Climate Action Plan to reduce Greenhouse Gas emissions by 2030 in line with the Paris Agreement and as part of a clear path to achieve lower carbon emissions for the dairy and food sector.
2. The Dairy Processing/Co-op Sector recognises that addressing climate change and protecting the Environment is a serious issue for our society, economy and for the domestic and international consumers of Irish agri-food products.
3. The Dairy Processing/Co-op Sector working with its suppliers and key stakeholders will engage with and support the implementation of the strategies identified in Ag-climatise in the reduction of ag-emissions, in the enhancement of sustainable land use and in the development of new systems to contribute to sustainable energy and the decarbonising of energy systems.
4. The Dairy Processing/Co-op Sector working in partnership with suppliers and key stakeholders will support and assist in the delivery of the Action Programmes set out in Ag-climatise to deliver the changes identified in the Teagasc MACC curve.
5. It is suggested that the proposed Ag-climatise programme should build on the

internationally recognised existing high/extensive carbon efficiencies of the Irish Dairy sector, the success of the Origin Green programme and its associated Sustainable Dairy Assurance Scheme, the success of DAFM sustainability funding programmes, the principles and approaches of the Dairy Sustainability Initiative and the joint Co-op and Teagasc Agricultural Sustainability and Support Programme – ASSAP.

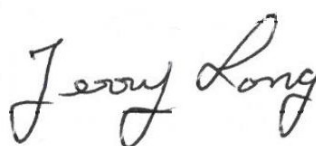
6. The Dairy Processing/Co-op Sector herein re-commits to its participation and funding of the ASSAP pilot programme under which 10 Dairy Industry Farm Sustainability Advisors work with 20 Teagasc Farm Sustainability Advisors, 30 LAWPRO Scientists, and 12 LAWCO Community Advisors to support water quality improvement across the country until 2021. It is suggested that the ASSAP programme should be expanded and widened to incorporate climate, bio-diversity, and ammonia as well as water in light of the common elements of improvement strategies for each so that there is an integrated approach to on-farm sustainability. It is suggested that the LAWCO and climate community programmes should be integrated at local level.
7. The Dairy Processing/Co-op Sector will participate in the whole of Govt/whole of sector partnership processes and structures proposed in Ag-Climatise in support of the achievement of Ag-climatise objectives and implementation and delivery of its strategies. The Dairy Sustainability Initiative mechanisms and the Dairy Sustainability Forum will be made available to support Ag-climatise objectives and policies.
8. The Dairy Processing/Co-op Sector commits to working collaboratively across sectors to identify and implement effective decarbonisation initiatives e.g. potential exists to establish partnerships across agriculture and energy sectors given the potential of renewable and biofuel generation on-farm currently. The Sector would welcome support and facilitation of cross-industry collaboration by the Department.
9. It is recognised that in addition, new approaches and mechanisms, will be needed to progress and advance the achievement of low carbon objectives for Irish society, the economy and the agri-food/dairy sectors. This will require an openness to new approaches and new solutions and the Dairy Processing and Co-op Sector will support and participate in the development of such new approaches and solutions.
10. All Processors/Co-ops will actively and at an early date promote in a co-ordinated way, with all stakeholders, the significant strategies which would assist and deliver climate change mitigation, building on work already underway as follows :- promotion of the use of protected urea with Fertiliser companies - steps underway, promotion of the use of lime with Lime producers and the Irish Concrete Federation (steps underway), reduced protein in concentrates for Dairy Cows (steps underway), Nutrient Mgt planning (underway in all Co- ops), use of LESS (regulatory requirements), .assessment of 0.5 Ha (in chunks) of native woodland on farm (assessments commencing for pilot farms), EBI - breeding changes, solar energy (framework offered with Electric Irl- other energy companies also offering), additives to reduce methane (Teagasc testing of same), engagement with and support of the forestry sector generally (discussions underway), AD/renewable gas exploration (steps/discussions underway). The existing Processor/Co-op Farm Pilots programmes will be used along with with the Teagasc Signpost Farms Programme to support the foregoing.
11. It is proposed that a joint messaging/communication programme on

climate/sustainability be agreed and delivered at an early stage with DAFM, Bord Bia, Teagasc, Co-ops, Farm bodies etc so that there is a joined up approach with active communication by all stakeholders.

12. It is suggested that as part of a whole of Govt/whole of Sector joined up approach, that there would be strong benefits in aligning CAP, Govt and industry investment to support climate/sustainability objectives.
13. It is recognised that in the implementation of low carbon strategies, there are significant co- benefits for other environmental priority areas including ammonia, water quality, and bio- diversity as well as co-benefits for soil productivity improvement which will improve farm productivity and farm incomes. As set out earlier, a new integrated on-farm sustainability approach is suggested incorporating all of these objectives.
14. As a first step, the Dairy Processing/Co-op Sector working in partnership with its suppliers and the key stakeholders previously identified will seek to achieve early adoption of the low carbon approaches and strategies identified in Ag-climatise by the initiation of an advisory and promotion strategy to underpin the implementation of the Teagasc MACC measures, by the development of a network of pilot demonstration farms to demonstrate best farm practice in the implementation of the Teagasc MACC and the support of research and development.
15. The Dairy processing/Co-op Sector confirms its support for the analysis and findings of the NESC paper “Self Organisation under Deliberate Direction – Irish Dairy and the Possibilities of a New Climate Change regime” – Professor Charles Sabel, Professor Rory O Donnell and Larry O Connell Director Nesc.
16. The Dairy Processing/Co-op Sector confirms its full commitment to the achievement of Ag- climatise objectives as part of a clear path to reach low carbon goals for the Irish dairy and agri-food sector.



Mr. Pat Murphy
Chairman
Dairy Industry Ireland



Mr Jerry Long
President
Irish Co-operative Organisation Society