



Teagasc Foresight 2030 Conference Programme

Dublin Castle, 30th May 2008



Teagasc **2030**

creating knowledge for the bioeconomy





creating knowledge for the bioeconomy

Celebrating 50 Years of Agriculture and Food Research in Ireland and Anticipating the Future

Teagasc - the Agriculture and Food Development Authority - is the national body statutorily responsible for providing integrated research, advisory, education 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. Through its services, Teagasc provides a strong scientific basis for competitive and sustainable primary production and helps underpin food product innovation and the safety and nutritional attributes of food.

2008 marks 50 years of agriculture and food research in Ireland provided by An Foras Talúntais and its successor organisation, Teagasc. Today, we celebrate the achievements of the organisation in advancing Irish farming and the food industry. Today, we also look forward to the future by launching the results of a major Foresight exercise—Teagasc 2030.

Teagasc 2030 is a Foresight exercise, undertaken in collaboration with the key agri-food and rural stakeholders. The project aimed to establish a broadly-shared vision for the agri-food and rural economy in 2030, identify its knowledge requirements and strengthen the strategic capabilities of Teagasc and its relevance to its stakeholders, thereby enabling it to provide proactive leadership in a rapidly changing open-market environment.

The project was undertaken against a rapidly changing market, policy and scientific environment for the agri-food sector. Associated concerns about food and energy security, climate change and environmental sustainability are now to the forefront of global concerns. At the same time, rapid advances in the biosciences are already helping to meet these urgent global challenges and, in the process, are creating a multitude of new business opportunities for agriculture and the broader natural resource sector. Responding to these fundamental opportunities and concerns will provide a new and central focus on agriculture globally over the coming decades.

Ireland, too, can benefit from these new opportunities and our natural resource sector could play a central role in the country's economic development in the post-Celtic-Tiger era. The potential for new business development is so great that it is necessary for us to re-configure the traditional scope of the sector to encompass its greater potential. The focus of this report is, therefore, on the broader concept of the bioeconomy. This encompasses the traditional agri-food sector, but also reflects the potential for an enhanced range of activities that can be generated from our natural resources of land, forestry and the marine.

Teagasc's role into the future will be to support the Irish bioeconomy in playing a central role in the 'knowledge economy' through supporting innovation by farms and firms. Teagasc, in collaboration with other relevant state agencies and organisations and its stakeholders, will support the transfer or conversion of knowledge into value. This is not a new role for Teagasc. Teagasc and its predecessor, An Foras Talúntais, have been doing this since 1958. What is new, however, is the pace of change, the increasing intensity of advanced knowledge needs and the need to respond to challenges and opportunities in shorter time-frames than ever before.

Programme

- 09.00 – 10.30** **Session 1**
Learning from the past : 50 years of agriculture and food research
- Chair**
Dr Tom O'Dwyer, Chairman of the Teagasc Authority
Film presentation on 50 years of research in Irish agriculture and food
- Official Opening Address**
Mr Brendan Smith T.D., Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
- Key Note Address**
The strategic role of agriculture and food research institutes - past, present and future
Dr Gale Buchanan, Under Secretary for Research, Education and Economics, USDA
- 10.30 – 11.00** **Coffee and film presentation on key achievements in Teagasc agriculture and food research 1958-2008**
- 11.00 – 13.00** **Session 2**
Teagasc 2030 Foresight : the expectations of national stakeholders
- Moderator**
Ms Olivia O'Leary, Broadcaster and Journalist
- Teagasc 2030**
Dr Lance O'Brien, Foresight Project Manager
Prof Gerry Boyle, Director of Teagasc
- Responses from key stakeholder representatives**
Mr Pdraig Walshe, President, Irish Farmers' Association
Mr Jackie Cahill, President, Irish Creamery Milk Suppliers' Association
Ms Catherine Buckley, National President, Macra na Feirme
Mr John Moloney, Group Managing Director, Glanbia plc
Mr Mike Feeney, Executive Director, Internationally Traded Business Sectors, Enterprise Ireland
Dr Hugh Brady, President, Irish Universities' Association Council
- 13.00 – 14.00** **Lunch**
- 14.00 – 15.30** **Session 3**
Agri-Food Foresight : the international perspective
- Chair**
Mr Tom Moran, Secretary General, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
- Speakers**
Hon John Luxton, Chairman, DairyNZ, New Zealand
Dr Hervé Guyomard, Scientific Director, Society, Economics and Decision-Making, INRA, France
Dr Luis Vieira, Co-ordinator, Embrapa (Brazil) Labex Europe
Mr Elie Faroult, Foresight Unit, EU Commission, Brussels
- 15.30 – 16.30** **Session 4**
Open Forum
- Chair**
Prof Seamus Smyth, Chairman, Teagasc 2030
- 16.30** **Close of Conference**
Prof Gerry Boyle, Director of Teagasc

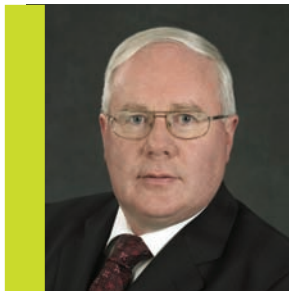


Speakers and Chairpersons



Dr Tom O'Dwyer, Chairman of the Teagasc Authority

Dr O'Dwyer spent his early career in An Foras Talúntais. In 1973, he was appointed Head of the Dairy Division of the European Commission. He served as *Chef de Cabinet* for two Irish Commissioners. In 1990, he was appointed Director-General for Co-ordination of Structural Policies and member of the Board of the European Investment Bank. He became Director-General for Education, Training and Youth in the Commission in 1993; in 1994, he was selected as President of the Board of the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training and first President of the European Foundation for Vocational Training. In 1998, he was appointed Chairman of Teagasc and is also Chairperson of the Heritage Council of Ireland.



Mr Brendan Smith, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

Mr Brendan Smith TD, was appointed Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food in May 2008. Previously he had served as Minister for Children at the Department of Health and Children from June 2007 and served as Minister of State at the Department of Agriculture and Food, with special responsibility for Food and Horticulture, from September 2004. Brendan Smith has been a full-time Public Representative and a Dáil Deputy for the constituency of Cavan-Monaghan since 1992. He also served as a Co-Chairman of the British-Irish Inter-Parliamentary Body from 2002 to 2004.



Dr Gale Buchanan, Under Secretary for Research, Education and Economics, USDA

Dr Buchanan spent the first 21 years of his professional career with Auburn University in the Department of Agronomy and Soils. He served as Dean and Director of the Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station from October 1980 to September 1985. In April 1986, he was appointed Associate Director of the Georgia Agricultural Experiment Stations and Resident Director of the Coastal Plain Experiment Station. He served as Interim Director of the Georgia Agricultural Experiment Stations from June, 1994 to February, 1995. He became Dean and Director of the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences in March 1995.



Ms Olivia O'Leary, Broadcaster and Journalist

Olivia O'Leary has presented television and radio programmes for the last three decades for both RTE and the British Channels, BBC and ITV. She presents the 'Between Ourselves' discussion programme for BBC Radio 4, and does a weekly political column for RTE Radio One's 'Drivetime'. Two collections of her columns have been published by O'Brien Press. She co-wrote, with Dr Helen Burke, the authorised biography of former President Mary Robinson, published by Hodder and Stoughton.





Dr Lance O'Brien, Foresight Project Manager

Lance O'Brien is Head of the newly established Foresight Unit in Teagasc. A former researcher in the ESRI and civil servant in the Department of Finance, he has served in various capacities in Teagasc over the past 25 years.



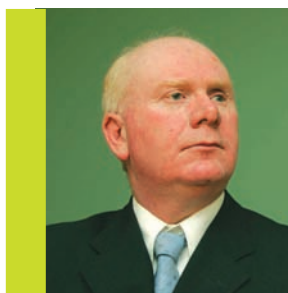
Prof Gerry Boyle, Director of Teagasc

Gerry Boyle is Emeritus Professor of Economics at the National University of Ireland (NUI) Maynooth and former head of its Economics Department. He is a former member of the Governing Authority of NUI Maynooth and Director and Secretary of Maynooth University Foundation. He is Co-Chairman of the FAPRI-Ireland Partnership and the founding director of the National Institute of Regional and Spatial Analysis. He is also a past member of the Senate of NUI. He holds adjunct professorships at the Universities of Limerick and Missouri, Columbia.



Mr Pdraig Walshe, President, Irish Farmers' Association

Pdraig Walshe is the 12th President of the Irish Farmers' Association. He was elected in December 2005 and took up office in January 2006. He is a native of County Laois, where he runs a dairy and beef farm. He is a Director of the Board of FBD Holdings plc, FBD Trust and Farm Business Development. He is also a Director of the Agricultural Trust and Bord Bia.



Mr Jackie Cahill, President, ICMSA

Mr Cahill is a native of Killinan, Thurles, County Tipperary, where he runs a dairy and beef farm. He was elected President of ICMSA in 2005, having previously served as Deputy President, Chairman of the Dairy Committee and as Tipperary representative on the National Council.





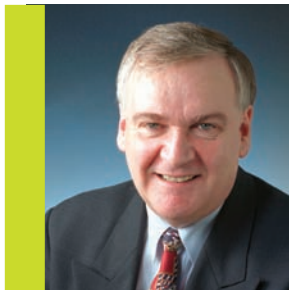
Ms Catherine Buckley, President, Macra na Feirme

Catherine Buckley is a native of Rylane, County Cork, and an accountant by profession. In 2007, she was elected as the 31st President of Macra na Feirme and is the first lady President. She had previously served as national chairperson, treasurer and as a member of the National Executive.



Mr John Moloney, Group Managing Director, Glanbia plc

John Moloney B.Agr Sc., MBA, was appointed Group Managing Director of Glanbia plc in June 2001. He joined the Group in 1987 and has held a number of senior management positions, with appointment to the Board in 1997. He is a Director of the Irish Dairy Board and a council member of both the Irish Business & Employers Confederation and the Irish Management Institute.



Mr Mike Feeney, Executive Director, Enterprise Ireland

Michael Feeney is an Executive Director in Enterprise Ireland with responsibility for Internationally Traded Business Sectors. He is a graduate of UCD with B.A., and Trinity College with M.Sc. in Management - Business Strategy.



Dr Hugh Brady, President, Irish Universities' Association Council for 2008

Dr Hugh Brady became President of University College Dublin in January 2004. Since coming into office he has overseen a radical programme of academic restructuring and curriculum reform in order to foster research and educational excellence and to enhance the university's international reputation. He was previously UCD Professor of Medicine and Therapeutics and played a key role in the establishment of UCD's Conway Institute and in the formation of the Dublin Molecular Medicine Centre.



Mr Tom Moran, Secretary General, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

A native of County Dublin and a graduate of UCD, Mr Moran joined the Department of Agriculture and Food in 1980. He was appointed Assistant Secretary General in 1997, with responsibility for policy in the livestock products area, including the dairy, beef, sheepmeat, pigmeat and poultry sectors. He was appointed Secretary General in January 2005.





Hon John Luxton, Chairman, DairyNZ, New Zealand

Hon John Luxton is the Chairman of DairyNZ, the farmer-funded research, development and extension organisation. He is a former Minister of Agriculture in New Zealand and Chair of Tatura Dairy Co-operative Co. Ltd. He farms over 10,000 cows on 12 dairy farms in the Waikato region of New Zealand. A graduate of Massey University, he has also spent several years consulting on dairy farming in a number of countries.



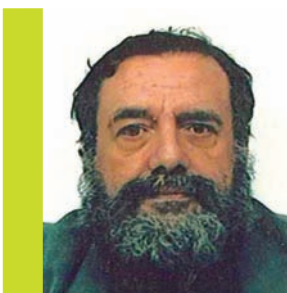
Dr Hervé Guyomard, Scientific Director, Society, Economics and Decision-Making, National Institute for Agricultural Research (INRA), France

Dr Guyomard is an agricultural engineer and statistician/economist. He is Director of Research (DR) at the French National Institute for Agricultural Research (INRA). His work involves the analysis of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and its evolution in the context of new challenges.



Dr Luis Vieira, Co-ordinator, Embrapa (Brazil) Labex Europe

Dr Luis Vieira, co-ordinator of Embrapa Labex Europe, is former director of the Embrapa (Brazil) National Centre for Food Technology Research; executive secretary of the Brazilian national programme of Agri-industrial Technology Research; international co-ordinator of the Programme of Agro-industrial Technology Research of PROCISUR (Consortium of Co-op Ag Research formed by Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay); co-ordinator of Policy and Strategy of R&D in the Department of R&D of Embrapa.



Mr Elie Faroult, Foresight Unit, EU Commission, Brussels

Elie Faroult studied medicine and psychology and has 20 years experience of counselling industries and administrations on strategic management and innovation. He was professor in social sciences in ENA (Ecole Nationale d'Administration), HEC and ESCP (Paris) and an adviser in OECD (1979-1990). He joined the European Commission in 1992, initially working on a development programme in Africa. Since 1998, he has worked as Scientific Officer in DG Research, working on social sciences and humanities, scientific and technological foresight.



Prof Seamus Smyth, Chairman, Teagasc 2030

Professor Smyth is a graduate in geography from University College Dublin and was head of the Geography Department in NUI Maynooth. In 1994, he was appointed Executive Head and Master of NUI Maynooth. In 1997, he became the first President of the newly created National University of Ireland, Maynooth. He also served as Pro-Vice-Chancellor of the National University of Ireland and from 1999-2001 served as Vice-Chancellor. In 1997 and 2003 he served as Chairman of the Conference of Heads of Irish Universities. Currently, he is a visiting academic at the University of Toronto, where he is researching the historical geography of Irish settlement in Canada.



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