1.0 Eritrea

1.1 Description of activity

Following exchange visits between the Director of Teagasc and the Eritrean Minister of Agriculture, a five-year partnership agreement (PA), involving Teagasc, Vita and Gorta SHA, was signed in July 2016, which sets the framework for enhanced partnership in the 2017-21 period.

Teagasc is providing support through a community dairy model that can be replicated across Eritrea. It introduced a dairy model based on sustainable ‘home grown’ forage using cow breeds which are suitable to this system and adaptable to the climatic conditions of the area. The project has two interlinked components: (i) a pilot model dairy farm where dairy farming best practice will be demonstrated at NARI and (ii) support to selected dairy farmers close to the NARI Halhale research station with the aim of transferring the technology from the research station to the wider community and providing a dairy research focus for the centre. Work in 2018 will also extend into milk processing through our work with a small dairy processor who is scaling up to produce larger volumes of cheese and yoghurt.

Teagasc is also working with NARI and Vita to promote food security at national and regional levels through access to a reliable source of potato tubers (seed), which, in turn, would help improve household incomes of beneficiary farmers. The focus of the project is on developing a scale model of a seed potato system, seed multiplication, tissue culture development and up-skilling of research and extension staff. The seed for the project was supplied by IPM.

In 2018, Teagasc will continue to support a PhD student from Eritrea (based in Oak Park) who is registered in UCD and two Masters’ students (based in Moorepark) registered in UCC.

1.2 Rationale, including contribution to Irish Aid priorities/MoU

The Programme aligns with Irish Aid policy and has a clear focus on hunger and the resilience of poor households and communities. Expected high-level outcomes include improved household nutrition and development of climate-resilient food systems. The programme will also open up opportunities for Ireland to take a lead on wider concerns around Eritrea including the lack of civil society space, youth outward migration and conflict resolution. The Eritrean Government places a high value on the Teagasc model of integrating research, extension and farmer training to enable faster uptake of new technologies by significant numbers of farmers.

1.3 Dates

Q1-Q4 2018

1.4 Estimate of cost

€66,000 for the three postgraduate students funded by Teagasc

€15,000 for Teagasc involvement in the dairy and potato production projects.
2. Kenya

2.1 Description of activity

The focus in 2018 will be on implementing the Ireland-Kenya Agri-Food Strategy 2017-2021, which was launched in November 2017. Within the context of the Strategy, Teagasc will continue its capacity building programme with KALRO. In this regard, we propose three actions for 2018:

1. Continue to support a KALRO staff member to undertake a PhD in the area of potato breeding under our Walsh Fellowships Programme in association with Wageningen University. This support commenced in 2017.

2. Help build capacity in KALRO in the area of livestock production, building on the actions identified in a back-to-office report by two KALRO managers who visited Teagasc in April 2017. One project will focus on milk products development and the second on training in residues and toxin analysis for dairy and meat products.

3. Contribute to a new project on ‘Potato Value Chain Capacity Building Activity (PCB)’ to be funded by the Embassy and involving IFDC, Irish Potato Marketing (IPM) and Kevian (Kenyan company).

2.2 Rationale, including contribution to Irish Aid priorities/MoU

In the area of livestock production, recent meetings with KALRO, ILRI and IFDC have identified significant needs in Kenya and agreement on a tripartite agreement to work on those needs. KALRO identified a lack of donor support for livestock research as a major constraint and asked for support from Teagasc to help develop their capability.

The actions are being undertaken in accordance Articles 2.1 (g) (Research and Extension) and Article 3.1 (Capacity Building) of the Teagasc/KALRO MoU and paragraph 6 (Criteria for engagement), and paragraph 7 (ii) (Areas of Collaboration) of the Teagasc/DFAT MoU.

2.3 Dates

Q1-Q4 2016

2.4 Estimate of cost

€40,000 for two KALRO capacity building projects to be funded by Embassy

€22,000 PhD Fellowship costs to be funded by Teagasc

€10,000 Potato Value Chain project to be funded by Embassy.
3. Vietnam

3.1 Description of activity

Based on the Teagasc delegation visit to Vietnam in September 2016, we submitted a report to the Embassy proposing a series of possible interventions with a range of partners. Activity commenced in 2017 with IPSARD (the Vietnamese Institute for Policy & Strategy for Agriculture & Rural Development) on modelling of and associated research on the Vietnamese agricultural economy at farm/household level. Following a visit to Teagasc by an IPSARD team in April 2017, two Teagasc experts visited Vietnam in December to further support the modelling work.

It is proposed to continue this work in 2018 and to initiate a VNUA/Teagasc/UCC partnership to provide for training in Ireland in the food safety/standards area, leading on to funding some PhD fellowships in 2019.

3.2 Rationale, including contribution to Irish Aid priorities/MoU

These projects will lead to the involvement of Teagasc as an Irish Aid IDEAS Programme partner and thereby respond to MPI and MARD requests for involvement of the Irish agriculture and agribusiness sectors in the Programme. They will also contribute to the wider aims of the 2017-20 Hanoi Embassy strategy including increasing Ireland’s “food footprint” in Vietnam.

3.3 Dates

Q2-Q4

3.4 Estimate of cost

€3,000 for continuation of the IPSARD partnership funded by the Embassy

€5,000 for initial training in food safety/standards funded by the Embassy.

4. Ethiopia

4.1 Description of activity

Piloting effective Extension System (Discussion Group plus other activity) to improve extension system in SNNPR Gamo Gofa zone, Chencha woreda, Ethiopia in association with the Bureau of Agriculture, Bureau of Livestock and Fisheries, and Bureau of Finance and Economy Development.

4.2 Rationale, including contribution to Irish Aid priorities/MoU

Despite the fact that there is a well-organized structure to implement the extension system, well organized development and training groups to provide improved technology through the general advisor extension service at level of the sub Kebele, the Ethiopia agricultural extension system is weak due to poor linkage between research and extension, low skills of extension officers and lack of technical adoption among farmers due to lack of information.

The purpose therefore of this pilot project is to sustainably improve the existing extension system by adopting improved linkage between research and extension and establishing a discussion group
structure based on the Teagasc model. In addition to the discussion group, the project will incorporate an improved mobile communication system through the use of social media apps between extension officers and farmers.

The Irish Aid programme’s support for agriculture assigns special importance to agricultural development practices which are nutrition-sensitive, climate-smart and gender-sensitive. Irish Aid works through national agriculture systems in partner countries in a multi-sectoral approach, and globally in cooperation with other development partners. This project complies with these objectives.

4.3 Dates
Q2-Q4 2.

4.4 Estimate of cost
€35,000 p.a over three years. Funding to be sought from Embassy.

5. Mozambique
5.1 Description of activity
This year we will commence capacity building activity with IIAM working on the implementation of some of the actions identified in the back-to-office report from the 2017 visit to Ireland by IIAM staff. The key action will be a visit by two Teagasc experts in spring to Mozambique to advise on the development of beef and dairy production and the revitalization of the country’s extension service. We also plan to invite a number of IIAM researchers to Teagasc for further training and to identify opportunities for PhD training to commence in 2019.

5.2 Rationale, including contribution to Irish Aid priorities/MoU
Mozambique is one of nine priority countries for Irish Aid and benefits from the largest bilateral aid programme. Irish Aid provides support to the Government of Mozambique and to non-governmental organizations in the country. Specifically, the activity would support capacity building in IIAM in accordance with Article 3.1 of the Teagasc/IIAM MoU and paragraphs 6 (Criteria for engagement), and paragraph 7 (ii) (Areas of Collaboration) of the Teagasc/DFAT MoU.

5.3 Dates
Q1-Q4

5.4 Estimate of cost
€8,000 for visit to Mozambique by two Teagasc experts and training period in Teagasc for three IIAM researchers.

6.0 Colombia
6.1 Description of activity
Undertake a scoping mission to Colombia to focus on exploring options for technical assistance to the Colombian government in respect of rural development planning, specifically the planning of the Territorial Development Programmes (PDETs) envisaged in the Peace Agreement, and the strategy for Sustainable Integrated Rural Development (DRIS)). The scoping mission will explore how Ireland’s experience and expertise may be of relevance in this process. The agreements that have been put in place with local communities on crop substitution will require considerable follow-up engagement and technical assistance to ensure that alternative forms of productive agricultural activity can be devised.

6.2 Rationale, including contribution to Irish Aid priorities/MoU

The Government of Ireland is committed to continued support for the Peace Process in Colombia. This commitment includes providing both financial and technical support and sharing the experience of the peace process in Ireland and Northern Ireland with the Colombian government, civil society organisations and other stakeholders involved in the implementation of the Peace Agreement. DFAT/Irish Aid have provided over €10 million in funding to Colombia since 2007, mainly channelled through Colombian and international NGOs and focusing on the areas of human rights, conflict prevention and peace building and supporting livelihoods for rural populations.

6.3 Dates

Q1-Q4

6.4 Estimate of cost

€10,000 for visit by Teagasc experts and return visit by Colombian experts to Ireland for training to be funded by the Embassy.

7. Irish Forum for International Agricultural Development (IFIAD)

7.1 Description of activity

Teagasc and Irish Aid took a lead role leading to the formation and launch of (IFIAD) in October 2016. IFIAD is a voluntary, multi-disciplinary platform, bringing together actors from the agri-food sector to share knowledge and good practices for the benefit of agricultural development programming and policy in support of Ireland’s development objectives.

Teagasc will play a full role in all activities planned by IFIAD in 2018 and will work to help the development of the organisation.

7.2 Rationale, including contribution to Irish Aid priorities/MoU

The underlying premise for establishing IFIAD was the recognised need for a more effective multi-disciplinary engagement in the area of agricultural development and the identified opportunity to better leverage Irish expertise in this area for the benefit of development programmes overseas. Capitalising on Ireland’s excellence in the agri-food sector, the Forum aims to bring together researchers, policymakers and practitioners with a view to strengthening the research-policy-practice interface and maximising the Irish contribution to agriculture-driven poverty reduction in developing countries.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Estimated Costs 2018</th>
<th>Funding Sources</th>
<th>Gap in Funding filled by Irish Aid Dublin</th>
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<tr>
<td>Eritrea</td>
<td>€89,000</td>
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<td>Embassy: €8,000</td>
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