



RAMIRAN 2017

TEAGASC will host an international conference on manure and organic residue management in September 2017. The following articles serve as a taster of some of the research to be presented.

The 17th international RAMIRAN conference is being hosted by Teagasc Crops, Environment and Land Use Programme, Johnstown Castle, Co Wexford, and takes place from September 4-6, 2017. This is the first time that this world-leading biannual conference will be held in Ireland. It represents international recognition of the Irish contribution to research, knowledge transfer and implementation of technologies and strategies that are contributing to this important component of sustainable farming systems. The conference will focus on cutting-edge knowledge, focused on improving the efficiency of manure and organic residue (e.g., composts, bio-solids) management. Recycling of Agricultural, Municipal and Industrial Residues in Agriculture Network (RAMIRAN) is a research and expertise network focused on agronomic and environmental issues relating to the use of these materials across a diverse range of farming systems and environments. This conference is the primary output of the network, which is held every two years.

Conference theme and sub-themes

The theme of RAMIRAN 2017 is 'Sustainable utilisation of manures and residue resources in agriculture', and this will be explored under five sub-themes (Figure 1).

Advances in technology

This section focuses on the latest innovations in manure and residue treatment, processing and management. It will include the development of new technologies for the generation of bio-based products (compost materials, paper, bio-based plastic and biochemical) and energy (bioethanol, biogas and heat) from manures and organic residues.

Crop nutrition

This theme will focus on the nutrient value of various manures and organic residues for both arable and grassland production, and their influence on crop yield and quality.

Gaseous emissions

Quantification and mitigation of gaseous emissions (greenhouse gases and ammonia) across the entire manure management chain (housing, storage, land spreading, grazing) will be covered under this sub-theme. Modelling of these emissions, including life-cycle assessment, will also be included within this sub-theme.

Soil and water quality

This sub-theme will include studies investigating the effects of manure and organic residues on nutrient losses to water, soil organic carbon, soil biological activity and biodiversity. The potential issue of contaminants and harmful pathogens arising in soil and water from the use of these materials in agriculture will also be addressed.

Adoption and impact

This sub-theme will focus on improving knowledge transfer from research to farmers related to manure and organic residue management, with experiences from different countries presented.

Conference programme

The conference programme includes an international panel of keynote speakers to address each of the sub-themes in a series of parallel paper and poster presentation sessions. There will also be a conference panel discussion and field trips for delegates. Over 190 presentations from experts from 35 countries, including many European states, the USA, Australia, China and Japan have been submitted to the conference. Over 250 delegates are expected to attend and will include policy makers, students, researchers, advisers and representatives of the agro-industry, government bodies and consultancy. Field trips during the conference will include a visit to the Teagasc Crops, Environment and Land Use Research Centre at Johnstown Castle, where the latest research and innovations on

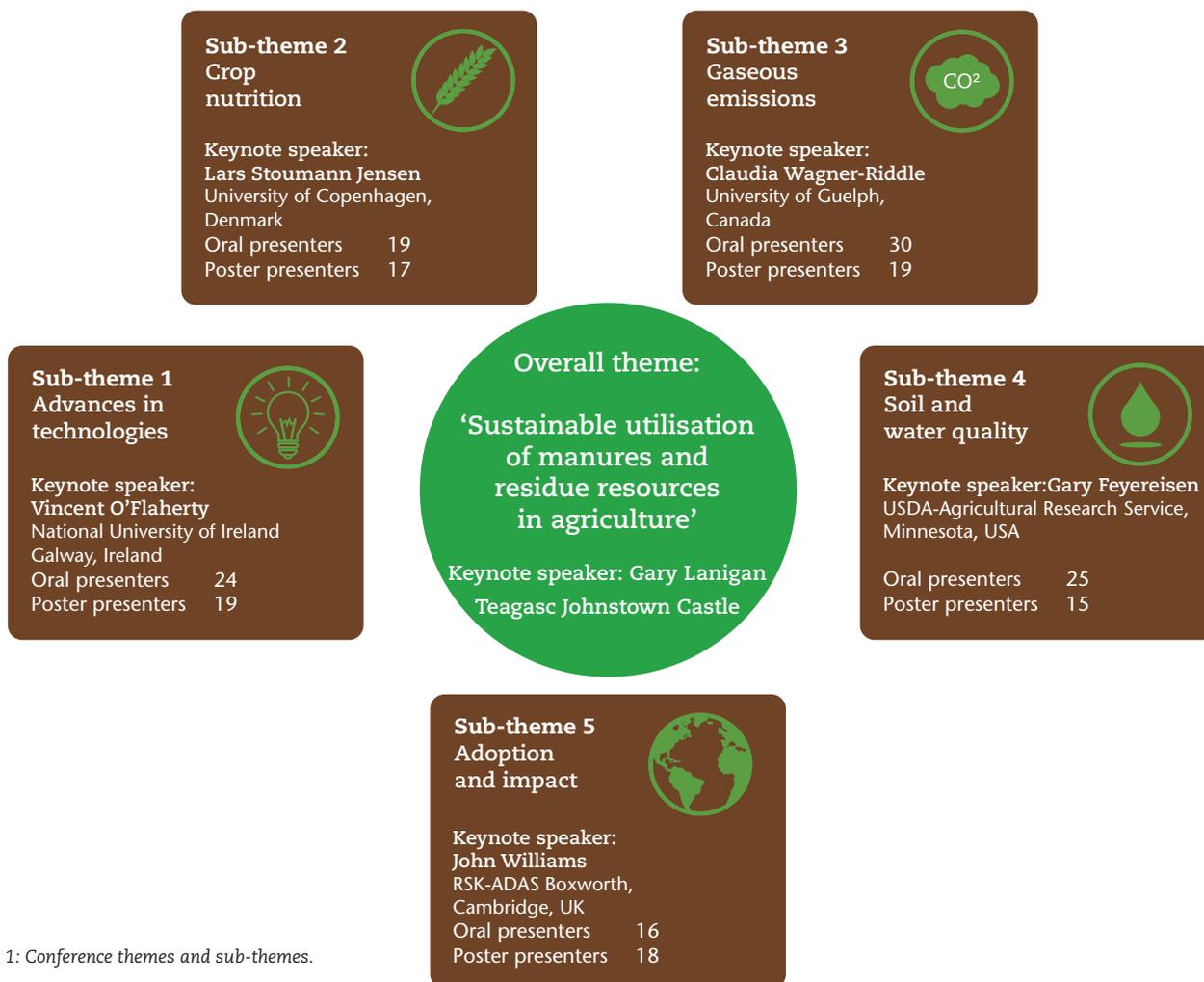


Figure 1: Conference themes and sub-themes.

manure and organic residue management will be on display. The conference will also include an extensive line-up of social events, which will provide a platform for further discussion and networking among delegates. These will include a gala conference dinner and Viking barbecue at the Irish National Heritage Park. The conference outputs and networking will provide Ireland with an improved platform to progress the development of strategies and technologies to address the significant challenges we face. These include developing economically-viable farming that protects and enhances the environmental media including water, air, soil and biodiversity, as envisioned in the Irish Government’s strategic plan for the development of the agri-food sector over the next decade, ‘Food Wise 2025’.

Registration

The conference takes place in the Clayton Whites Hotel, Wexford. Online registration will be open until August 28, 2017. Those interested in participating in the conference, and companies and organisations wishing to showcase their latest innovations and products on manure and organic residue management, should visit the conference website (www.ramiran2017.com), contact us at: ramiran2017@abbey.ie and follow us on Twitter: @RAMIRAN2017. The articles following this RAMIRAN 2017 preview provide an insight into some of the work that is currently being undertaken by Teagasc within the scope of the conference. These articles and much more work being conducted by Teagasc in

collaboration with other institutes will be presented at the conference. For more information on the RAMIRAN research network see: <http://ramiran.uvlf.sk>.

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