

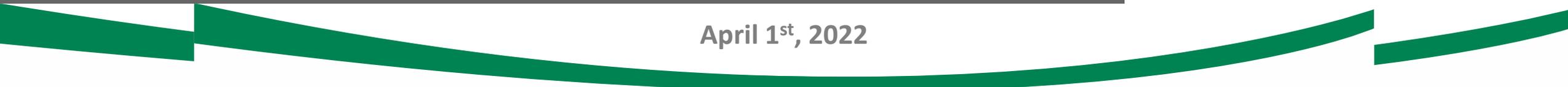


Understanding and supporting social sustainability of farmers

David Meredith, PhD
(david.Meredith@Teagasc.ie)

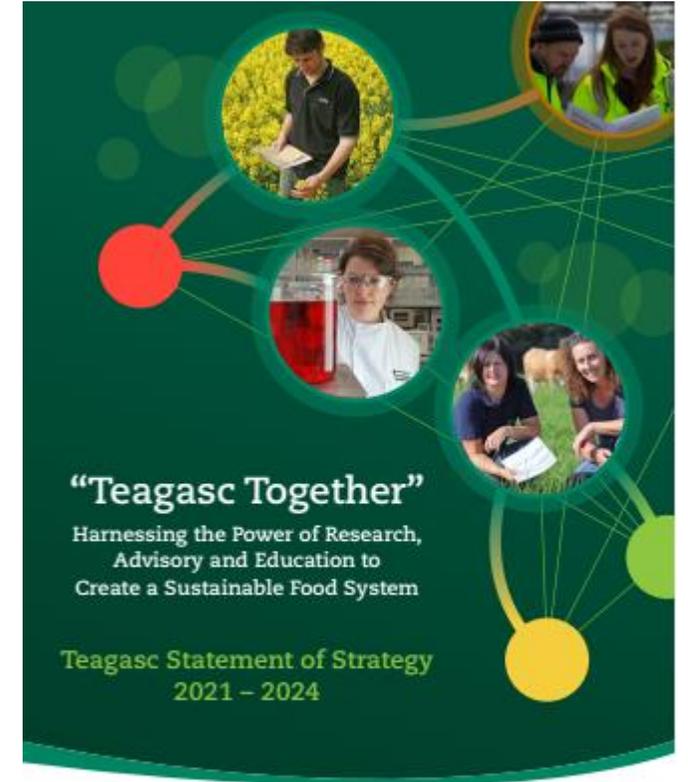
Dept. of Agrifood Business and Spatial Analysis
Rural Economy Development Programme

April 1st, 2022

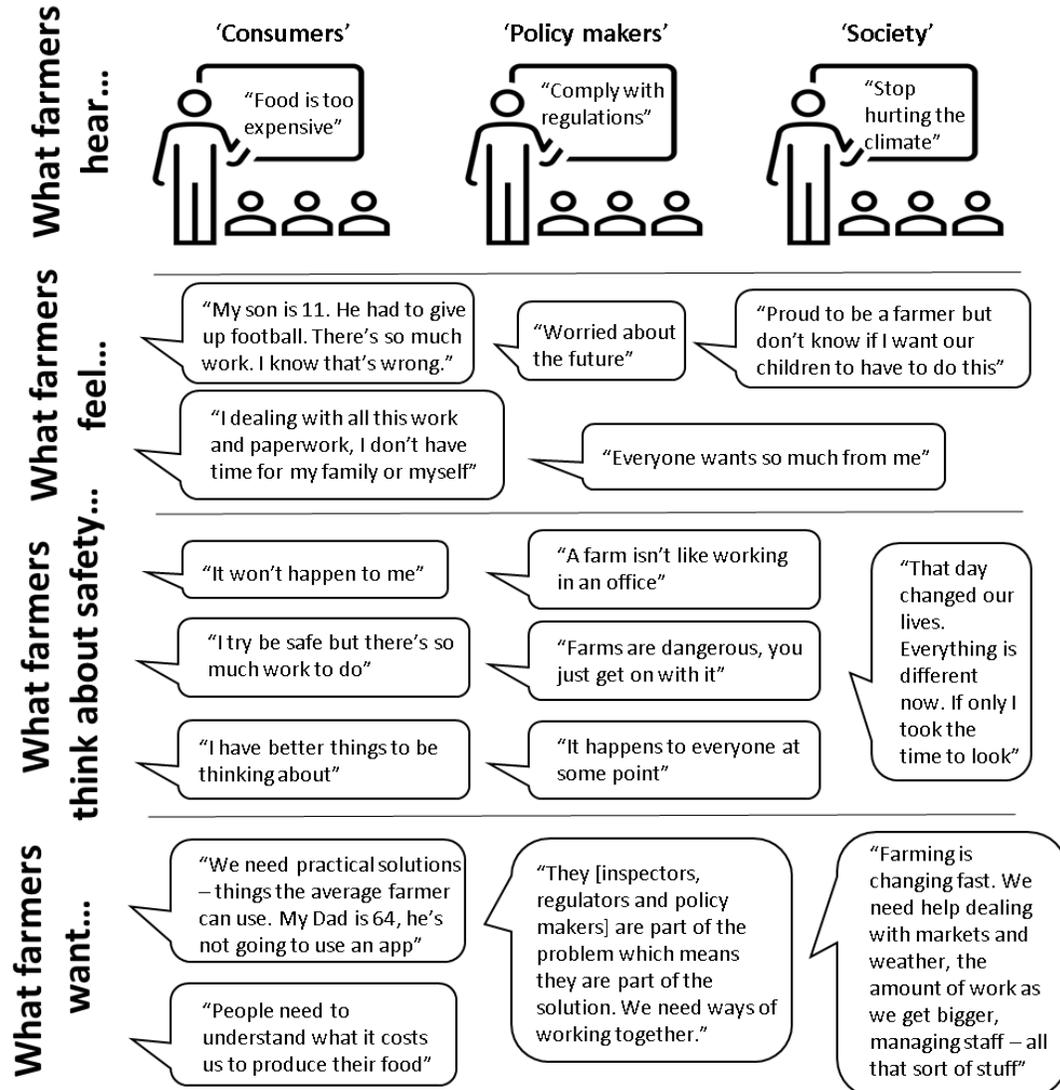


Teagasc' role in farmer health, safety and wellbeing

- “Our commitment to **social sustainability** is captured primarily by our plans for making farms safe for work and home life...”
- Teagasc Together: Strategic Goal 1
 - Securing Farmer Health and Safety and Wellbeing



Key Challenges



- Age
 - Farmers continue working into old age – more likely to die from an injury
- Culture / Identity
 - Self-reliance (getting on with it / making do)
 - Socialised into risk acceptance / taking (This is how we do things around here)
- Workload and Uncertainty
 - Long hours, working alone
 - Weather, finance, policy, markets, 'society'
- Approach
 - 'Show, don't tell'

Approach

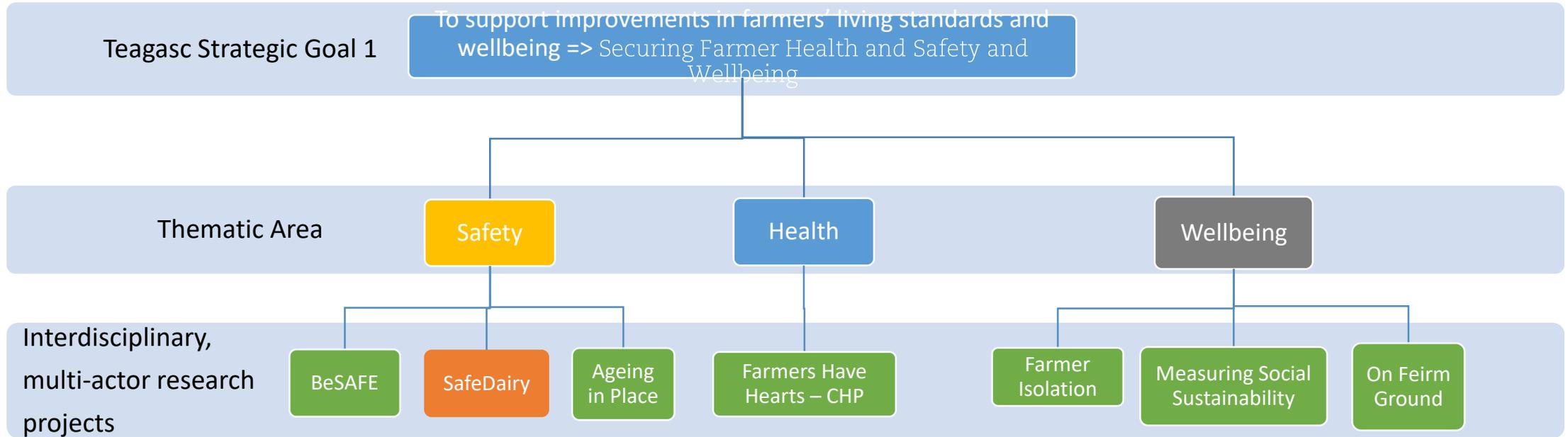


*Extend the approach of One Health that is central to Teagasc Together by foregrounding the centrality of the **social sustainability of farmers** as a critical nexus in the development of a sustainable food system.*

- 1. Development Sustainability of Farmers*
 - Equipping farmers with the knowledge, skills and practices to sustain safety and health*
- 2. Maintenance Sustainability of Farmers*
 - Empowering farmers to proactively engage with contemporary policy agendas relating to food, climate and the environment.*

Teagasc Together

Harnessing the Power of Research, Advisory and Education to Create a Sustainable Food System



Key Outcomes	BeSAFE	SafeDairy	Farmers Have Hearts – CHP	Farmer Isolation	Measuring Social Sustainability	On Feirm Ground
	Co-designed, piloting and evaluation of Livestock / Machinery Safety initiatives International network	Co-design, piloting and evaluation of OHS initiative ‘Little and Often’ encourages farmers to adopt changes	Co-design, piloting and evaluation of CVD health programme. Improvement in farmer health	Farmer / farm household responses to Covid-19	Development of social sustainability indicator for NFS. As farmers get older they are more likely to experience stress but at a declining rate.	Evaluation of advisor training to support farmer’s wellbeing