



From research to policy:
how to provide scientific insights to policy
makers dealing with controversial issues

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What areas of policy do we provide advice / analysis?

- Environmental issues related to agriculture (greenhouse gases, water quality, ammonia, etc)
- Common Agricultural Policy
- Brexit
- International trade
- Animal health and welfare
- Farm finances and taxation
- Farm labour supply
- Various technical matters

Who do we provide analysis for?

- Mainly the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM)
 - Our researchers and Ministry experts interact a lot on many issues

- Sometimes other Departments also involved or make use of the analysis
 - e.g. Ireland's Nitrates Regulations reviews are managed jointly by DAFM and Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage



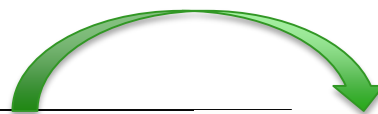
An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara
Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine



An Roinn Tithíochta,
Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta
Department of Housing,
Local Government and Heritage

Example

Teagasc published a major analysis of abatement potential of GHG emissions in 2018, which greatly informed the subsequent government policy plan, **AgClimatise**



An Analysis of Abatement Potential of Greenhouse Gas Emissions in Irish Agriculture 2021-2030

Prepared by the Teagasc Greenhouse Gas Working Group

Gary J. Lanigan & Trevor Donnellan (eds.)

Authors:

Gary Lanigan, Trevor Donnellan, Kevin Hanrahan, Carsten Paul, Laurence Shalloo, Dominika Krol, Patrick Forrester, Niall Farrelly, Donal O'Brien, Mary Ryan, Pat Murphy, Barry Caslin, John Spink, John Finnan, Andy Boland, John Upton, Karl Richards

June 2018

Teagasc, Oak Park, Carlow

Ag Climatise

A Roadmap towards Climate Neutrality

Example

Teagasc makes science-based submissions wherever there is a review of Ireland's Nitrates Action Programme. Many of the points made result in changes to the regulations

RESEARCH

Teagasc submission made in response to the Consultation Paper on The Third Review of Ireland's Nitrates Action Programme

with associated proposals for amendments

Prepared by:

Teagasc Working Group on the Water Framework Directive:

Shortle G. (chair), Alexander S., Boyle G., Boland A., Browne P., Burgess E., Carroll C., Daly K., Dillon P., Fenton O., Foley M., Hackett R., Hennessy M., Horan B., Humphreys J., Hyde T., Kelly T., Kennedy N., Leach S., McCutcheon G., McDonald N., Micha E., Mellander P.E., Mullane D., Murphy P., NíFhlatharta N., O'Dwyer T., O'Uallachain D., O'Mara F., O'Riordan E., Plunkett M., Richards, K., Ryan M., Shaloo L., Smiddy B., Vero S., Wall D.P.

Editors:

Shortle, G., Wall, D.P., Murphy, P.

Teagasc
Agriculture and Food Development Authority
Oak Park, Carlow
28/04/2017



Submission for third review of the Nitrates Directive National Action Programme

Teagasc Water Framework Directive (WFD) Working Group. Ger Shortle, David Wall, Pat Murphy (editors)

Industry impact: In 2017, Teagasc made a submission in response to the consultation process for the Nitrates Action Programme (NAP). The submission made specific proposals that have the potential to positively impact water quality based on research published since the last NAP. It reviewed technological and management changes impacting on farm productivity and environmental sustainability, and dealt with the implications of Food

...as the achievement of sustainable intensification objectives, have been made. All of the Teagasc proposals were adopted during the review process and the new regulations were approved by the EU Commission.

Practice (GAP) regulations.

Teagasc put forward eight proposals for am regulations with a view to achieving more effe water quality, and/or more efficient production risk of nutrient loss to water. Given the challenges farm productivity while also improving water quality (and greenhouse gas and ammonia emissions), significant changes to the fourth Nitrates Directive NAP for the protection of water quality, as well as the achievement of sustainable intensification objectives, have been made. All of the Teagasc proposals were adopted during the review process and the new regulations were approved by the EU Commission.

JSC



Key principles in formulating our advice

- Mainly analysis rather than advice – we don't recommend policy
- Mainly undertake policy analysis when requested by Department (Ministry) or in response to public calls for consultation
- Stay as detached from the policy making decision as possible
 - » provide the analysis but try not to favour any particular option
 - » Try to get clarity from requester as to what options they want analyzed
- Base our advice on published science where possible, or well developed and tested models (e.g. FAPRI Ireland model)
- Publish the advice where possible
- Meet and present to Ministry and stakeholders if necessary
 - » Researcher gets to meet the policy maker and sometimes the Minister

Independence – arms length

Quality and Consistency

Transparency

Integrity and trustworthiness

Managing differences in scientific opinion

- Working Groups of key researchers and other experts for hot topics
- Interdisciplinary
- Differences generally resolved there
 - try to focus on the science

Conclusions

- Difficult to maintain trust of everyone, e.g. environment
- Can draw a lot of criticism
- Publicly funded resources should be available to the state
- Brings a buzz to the job and keeps researchers grounded