

# Irish Farmers' position on Greenhouse Gas Emissions: An insight into representation, perceived trust and worry



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# Literature and Background

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- The potential to mitigate some of Ireland's agricultural emissions through the adoption of efficient farm management practices may be hampered by farmers' attitude towards climate change and their knowledge of agricultural GHG emissions (Tzemi and Breen, 2018).
- Trust among society, level of stress and personal beliefs have been found to be very motivating for farmers when tasked with reducing their GHG emissions (Jantke et al., 2020).
- This research assesses the position of Irish farmers using similar emotive factors when tasked with reducing their farm's GHG emissions.

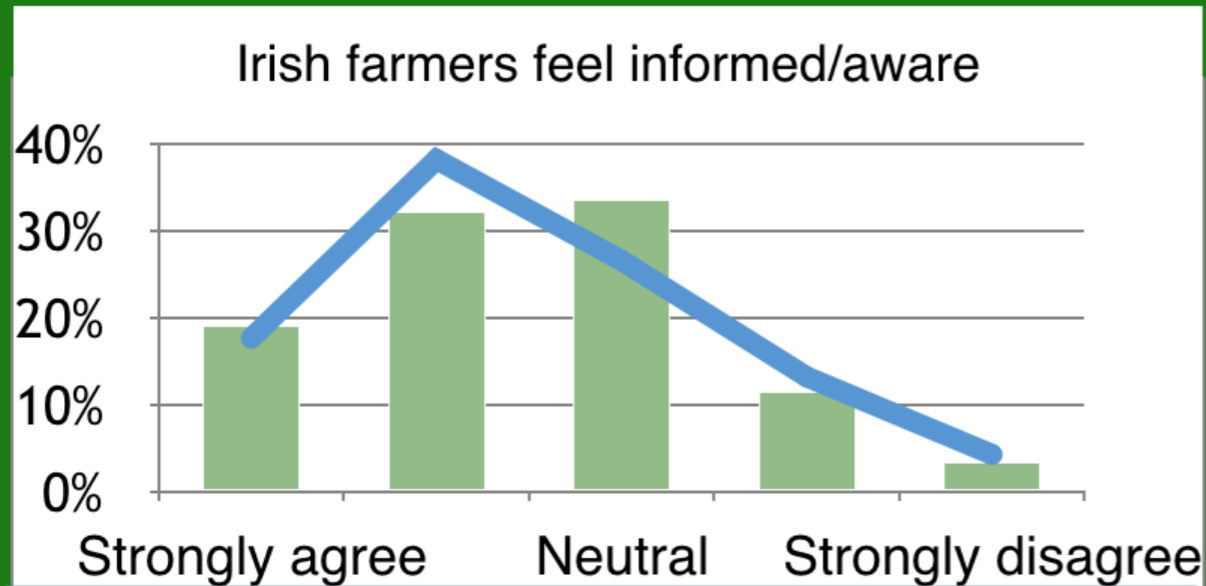
# Data Collection

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- One question (consisting of 9 components) was included in the Irish **National Farm Survey** for 2021.
- The questions were structured using a standard likert scale of one ('strongly disagreed') to 5 ('strongly agreed').
- The NFS was in the field from October 2021 until January 2021. Economic modelling of the data is now taking place.
- Hypothesis: How do factors such as trust among society, perceived representation, worry, awareness and knowledge impact farmer motivation to mitigate GHG emissions.

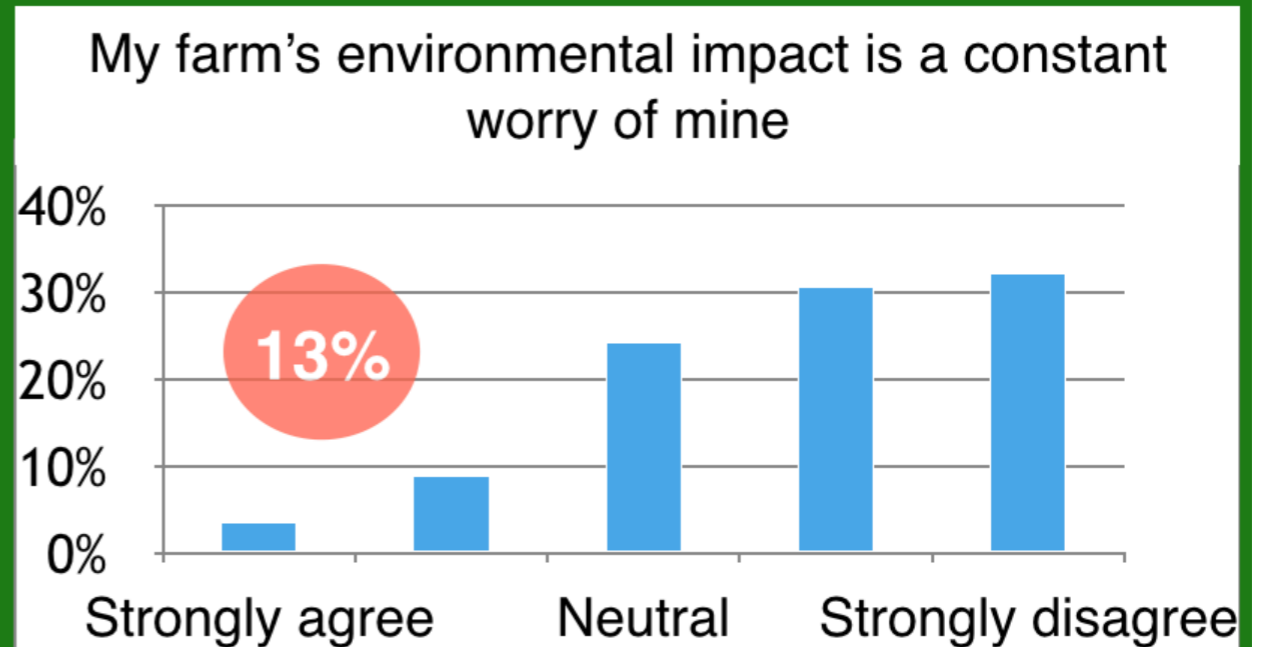
# Preliminary Findings

## Results: Strong views on trust, representation and worry were recorded

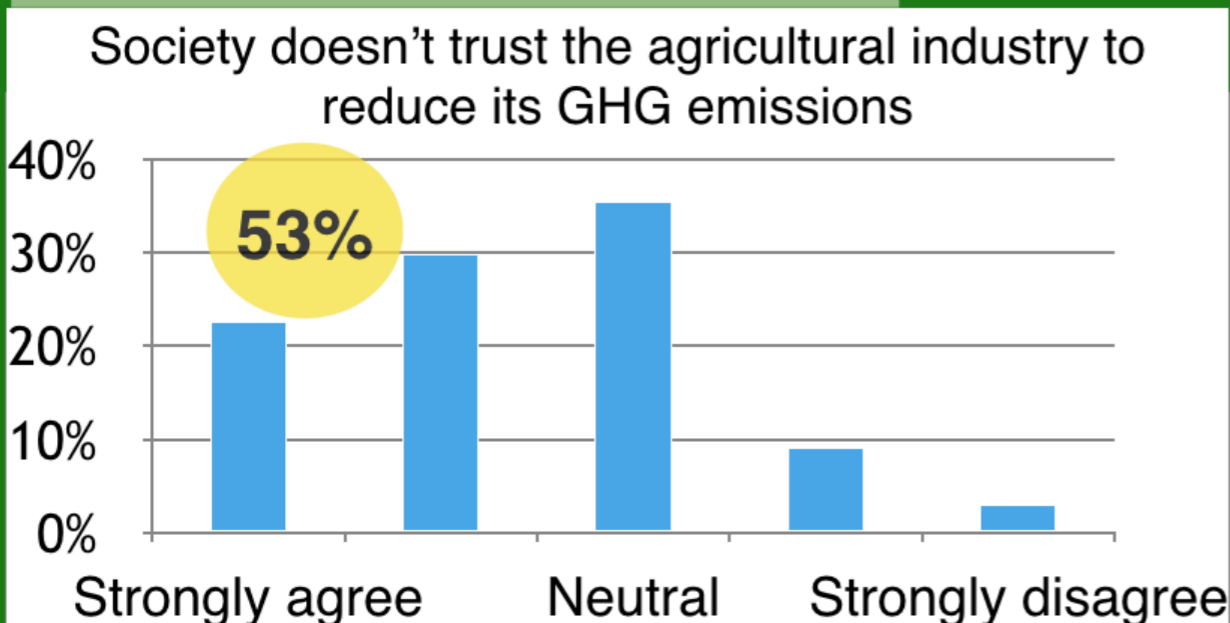


I am aware and informed about what I need to do as a farmer to reduce my own GHG emissions

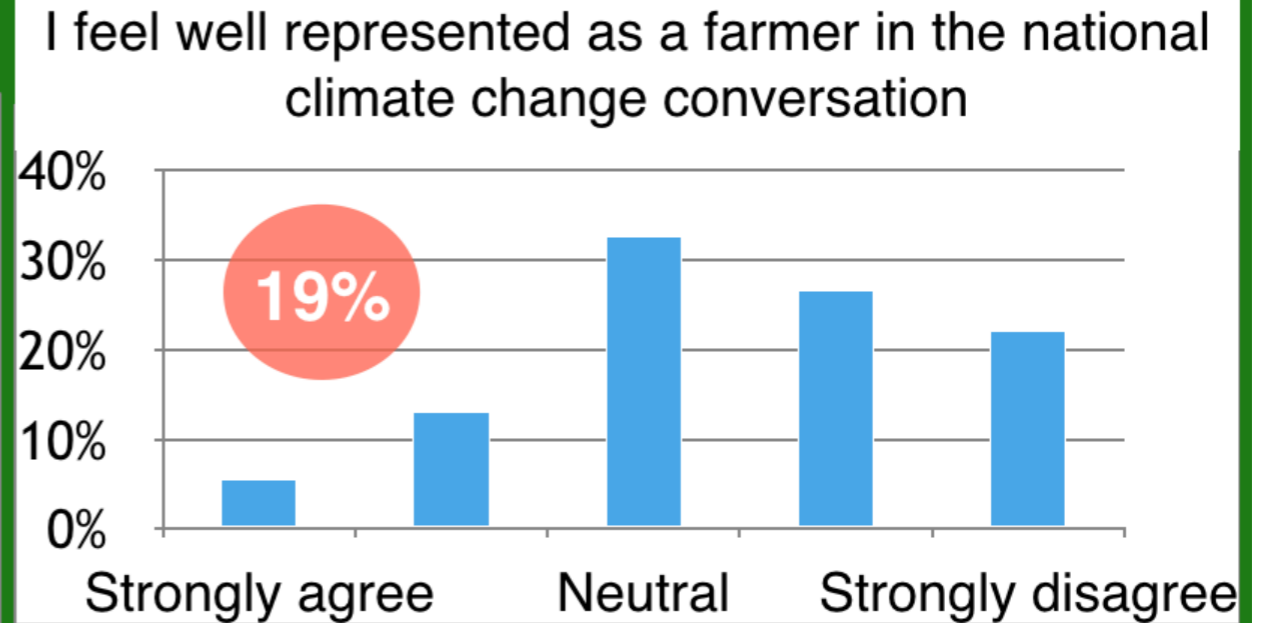
I have a good understanding of how agriculture contributes to Ireland's GHG emissions



Below 15% of farmers stated that the environmental impact of their farm is a constant worry to them



Over half of Irish farmers feel wider society doesn't trust the agricultural industry to reduce its GHG emissions.



Just 19% of farmers feel well represented in the national climate change conversation

# Preliminary Findings

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- 56% of farmers feel aware and informed about what they need to do as a farmer to reduce their farm's GHG emissions and the majority felt as though they have a good understanding of how agriculture contributes to Ireland's GHG emissions.
- **The majority** of Irish farmers, **63%**, stated that their farm's environmental impact is **not a constant worry** of theirs.
- Over 50% of Irish farmers feel wider society **doesn't trust** the agricultural industry to reduce its GHG emissions. Similarly, half Irish farmers believe that the economic future of their farm depends on their willingness to reduce GHG emissions.
- **4 in every 5** farmers feel **unrepresented** in the national climate change conversation in Ireland.

# Economic Modelling

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- The paper to come from the modelling of this work will show differences observed between farmer demographic, farmer characteristics, farm size, farm type and regional location.
- Farmer motivations towards the uptake of GHG mitigating technologies will be concluded upon and explained.
- **Economic modelling of the data is now taking place to distinguish correlations between the results and compare farmer responses to their actual level of climate action.**
- **Factor analysis followed by a cluster analysis to look at farmer attitudes towards GHG emissions and interventions**