



Taighde, Idirphlé, Comhairle

Research, Dialogue, Advice

Exploring Just Transition in Agriculture and Land Use

Friday, 30th June 2023, Convention Centre Dublin

Introduction

The agriculture and land use sector can increasingly be a part of the solution to addressing the climate change and biodiversity crises. This requires that the environmental challenge is addressed together with the intersecting economic and social challenges facing the sector.

Purpose of the Event

Bringing together a wide range of stakeholders across the agriculture, land use, climate and environmental sectors, this event will explore the key themes and recommendations of the forthcoming NESC Council Report No.162, *Just Transition in Agriculture and Land Use*.

The central question this event will address is how to achieve a just transition in the agriculture and land use sector.

Based upon the analysis and recommendations in the forthcoming NESC report No.162, this event will explore how the transition in agriculture and land use can be opportunities led, including diversifying incomes, supporting rural regeneration and leveraging innovative sources of finance. It will explore how effort and costs can be equitably shared as well as inclusive processes for governing transition.

It will draw on stakeholders' perspectives on the key next steps for ensuring a transition that supports social, economic and environmental sustainability.

08.30-
08.55

Registration

09.00-
09.20

Welcome and Outline of the Day

Elizabeth Canavan, Department of the Taoiseach, Deputy Chair NESC

Keynote address

Minister for Environment, Climate and Communications, and Minister for Transport Eamon Ryan TD

Introduction to the Report

Thia Hennessy, UCC - Chair of the Working Group

09.20-11.00 Panel 1: An Opportunities Led Transition, Grappling with Complexity

11.00

Session Chair: Niamh Moore-Cherry, UCD

NESC Input:

Niamh Garvey, Senior Policy Analyst, NESC

Land Use Change and Sustainable Finance

Christian Holzleitner, Head of Land Use and Sustainable Finance, DG Climate, European Commission

Emerging Practice in Carbon Farming

Douglas McMillan, Farm Carbon EIP and Green Restoration Ireland Cooperative Society

Broader Adoption of Forestry

Geraldine O'Sullivan, Senior Policy Executive, IFA Farm Forestry Committee

Supporting Biodiversity in Practice

Oonagh Duggan, Head of Policy and Advocacy, Birdwatch Ireland

Labour Force and Downstream Employment

Tom McDonnell, Co-Director of the Nevin Economic Research Institute (NERI)

Facilitated Discussion

11.00-11.15 Morning Coffee Break

11.15

11.15-12.45 Panel 2: Systems and Processes Driving Effort-Sharing, Change and Opportunity

12.45

Session Chair: Rory O'Donnell

NESC Input:

Jeanne Moore, Policy Analyst, NESC

Sustainable Systems of Production, Supports and Reward

Jim Bergin, CEO, Tirlán

Projects as a Catalyst for Innovation

Donal Sheehan, Project Manager, BRIDE Project

Sustainable Standards, Regulation and Monitoring

Jim O'Toole, CEO, Bord Bia

Precision Environmental Science, Regulation and Improvement

Mary-Frances Rochford, EPA

Local Authority Supports for Sustainable Agricultural Production and Climate Action

Anne-Marie Devaney, Assistant Senior Planner, Tipperary County Council

Facilitated Discussion

12.45-13.30 Panel 3: Reflections on Next Steps Towards a Just Transition in Agriculture and Land Use

13.30

Session Chair: Larry O'Connell, NESC

Reflections from Participants in the Multi-stakeholder Working Group

John Enright, Irish Creamery Milk Suppliers Association (ICMSA)

Oliver Moore, UCC

Michelle Murphy, Social Justice Ireland

Conor Mulvihill, Director, Dairy Industry Ireland

Trevor Donnellan, Teagasc

Macdara Doyle, ICTU

13.30 Closing Remarks

13.35 Lunch/Networking Opportunity

Biographies

Minister Eamon Ryan TD: Eamon Ryan is the Minister for Transport and the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications. He was appointed to these roles in June 2020. Eamon was elected to represent Dublin Bay South in the 2020 general election. He was born in Dublin and raised in Dundrum and Dartry. He studied commerce in UCD before taking a job managing a marketing course in the university's School of Business. He went on to found a cycling tourism company, Irish Cycling Safaris, in the late 1980s and in 1996 won the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year award. He was the founding chairperson of the Dublin Cycling Campaign and began his political career as a Dublin City Councillor for the Rathgar-Rathmines ward. He then went on to serve both as a TD for Dublin South and as a Government Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources. In recent years he has worked for a European climate organisation and chaired the digital policy group in the Institute of International and European Affairs. He is currently leader of the Green Party/Comhaontas Glas.

Dr Larry O'Connell: Larry is the Director of the National Economic and Social Council (NESC), and Chief Officer of the National Economic and Social Development Office (NESDO). As senior economist in NESC, since 2007, he worked on a range of policy areas including Ireland's transition to low-carbon and digital future; housing and land; climate change and sustainable development; higher education funding; and Ireland's five-part crisis. He previously worked in the National Centre for Partnership and Performance, Teagasc, UCD, Waterford Institute of Technology and Louis Dreyfus Trading (London). He has a degree in Agricultural Economics, Masters in Business Studies and, in 2001, completed his PhD at UCD on the Internationalisation of Irish Business. He was also Greencore Newman Scholar in Competitiveness at UCD Business School.

Professor Thia Hennessy: Thia is Head of School and Chair of Agri-Food Economics at Cork University Business School. Her research interests include the sustainable development of the agri-food sector with a particular interest in the impact of public policy on the farm sector. Thia is a member of a number of international research consortia examining issues such as the economic performance of farms, the sustainability of food production and the impact of climate change on agriculture. She has published widely in both the academic literature and mainstream media.

Professor Niamh Moore-Cherry: Niamh is Professor in the School of Geography, Deputy College Principal in the UCD College of Social Sciences and Law, and Honorary Professor at the Bartlett School of Planning, University College London. Her research is focused on understanding governance and the impact of territorial politics on urban and regional outcomes. She founded and leads the Cities, Governance and Sustainability (www.citiesgovernancesustainability.eu) research group in UCD which brings together academic, policy and community engaged work. In summer 2022, she was appointed as an independent member of the advisory National Economic and Social Council (NESC) by An Taoiseach.

Niamh Garvey: Niamh joined NESC as Senior Policy Analyst in March 2021 and works in the area of sustainable development and climate action. Niamh was previously the Head of Policy and Advocacy at Trócaire – an Irish international development organisation, working in 17 countries across Africa, Asia and Latin America – where she led a team of policy and advocacy advisors working on climate change, sustainable agriculture, business and human rights and international finance. She held previous roles in research and advocacy at Christian Aid and the Institute of Development Studies, and has served as Board Director with a number of NGOs, including Debt and Development Coalition Ireland, Friends of the Earth Ireland and the Fairtrade Mark Ireland. She is a graduate of Durham University and the Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex

Christian Holzleitner: Christian is currently Head of Unit responsible for *Land economy and Carbon removals* at the European Commission's Directorate-General for Climate Action. Previously, he worked as Head of Unit for *Finance for Innovation and Land Use* and assistant to the Director-General for Climate Action covering all issues related to EU and international climate policy; and at the Directorate-General for Competition in the area of State aid for services of general economic interest in the postal, transport, and health sectors.

Before joining the European Commission, Christian worked as senior manager with KPMG Germany on international transfer pricing. Christian is an economist and holds a PhD from the University of Linz (Austria).

Dr Douglas McMillan: Douglas has a PhD in Environmental Sciences part of which focused on the ecology and water quality of Abbeyleix Bog before its restoration. He has over 25 years of combined experience in academic research, consultancy, environmental monitoring and training in the fields of ecology, environmental science, EHS, laboratory, carbon, energy, sustainability and quality management systems and auditing.

He is one of the founders of the Green Restoration Ireland Cooperative (GRI) which was established in 2019 (<https://greenrestorationireland.coop>). GRI develops innovative approaches to help landowners restore damaged peatlands and other wider habitats in the farmed landscape. He is Project Manager of the Farm Carbon EIP (European Innovation Partnership) (<https://farmcarbon.ie>) which works with farmers in the Midlands to find sustainable solutions to reduce CO2 emissions from peat pastures, one of Ireland's biggest sources of greenhouse gases. This involves baselining the farm habitats for the three key environmental 'pillars' of biodiversity, carbon and water quality, implementing measures to improve environmental performance in these areas for all farm habitats and measure the subsequent improvements.

As part of this work, GRI is developing an Irish Peatland Community Standard to provide a means of financing restoration of degraded Irish peatlands and have established paludiculture trials to research crops for the new and sustainable wetland agriculture of the future. The findings of this research will provide key policy recommendations for sustainable peat-based agriculture in Ireland.

Geraldine O'Sullivan: Geraldine is the Senior Policy Executive for Environment and Forestry at Irish Farmers Association. She has over 20 years' experience, in both the public and private sector, working in various positions focussed on the transformational role of forests and agriculture to effectively contribute to meeting climate targets, with an emphasis on building income resilience for farm families through the sustainable development of the circular bioeconomy. She has a BSc degree from Maynooth University and a MSc in Forestry from University College Dublin. She has recently completed a certificate on Creating Value with Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) at Trinity College.

Oonagh Duggan: Oonagh Duggan heads up the advocacy team at BirdWatch Ireland which focuses on influencing policy to ensure that bird populations, their habitats and other biodiversity thrive. She has 25-years experience working for the environment in Ireland and in California including in the areas of climate change, marine and inland waterways, energy policy, and working with farmers on biodiversity and water issues. Oonagh holds an undergraduate degree in European Studies and Languages, a MA in International Development and a MSc in Biodiversity and Land Use Planning. She is a member of the steering committees of the Environmental Pillar and Stop Climate Chaos and of Ireland's National Biodiversity Forum.

Dr Tom McDonnell: is co-director of the Nevin Economic Research Institute (NERI). The NERI is an all of island institute tasked with developing policies for the achievement of a better, fairer and sustainable economy and society. Tom is responsible for the institute's research programme and strategic direction as well, as analysis of the Irish economy including risks, trends and forecasts. He specialises in the economics of growth, innovation, and fiscal policy. He previously worked as an economist at TASC and has lectured at NUI Galway, DCU and Maynooth University. He is a member of the independent Commission on Taxation and Welfare.

Prof Rory O'Donnell: Rory is an Adjunct Professor in the School of Social Policy in University College Dublin. He worked as an economist at NESC and was Director from 2002 to 2019. In 2021 he chaired a Teagasc review of ASSAP, the Agricultural Sustainability Support and Advisory Service.

Dr Jeanne Moore: Jeanne is a Policy Analyst at NESC, and one of the Secretariat team for the agriculture report, as well as on previous Council projects on just transition. As part of her role, she has contributed to Council Reports, represented NESC on advisory committees, addressed conferences and policy forums and presented to Oireachtas Committees on climate change. Other recent work has included an overview of climate and biodiversity collaboration on a shared island, sustainable recovery from Covid-19, community engagement in wind energy and climate policy. Her current project looks at how nature is accounted for in Ireland.

With a PhD in Environmental Psychology, Jeanne has an interest in social and environmental transition. Jeanne has previously worked with the National Economic and Social Forum (NESF), lectured at the University of Teesside, Middlesbrough, as well as researcher with Combat Poverty Agency, the Arts Council, and Focus Ireland. Jeanne is a member of a number of advisory groups, including the Carbon Budgets Working Group for the Climate Change Advisory Council, the Advisory Board of DCU Centre for Climate & Society, IIEA Climate and Energy Advisory Group, and DECC Renewable Electricity Support Scheme Evaluation Expert Steering Group.

Jim Bergin: is Chief Executive of Tirlán, a world-class food and nutrition business, with 11 high-tech processing facilities, more than 2,300 employees, over 11,000 members and sales revenue of over €3 billion. Tirlán's portfolio includes many of Ireland's best known and most loved Irish brands, such as Avonmore.

In 2021, Jim guided Glanbia Co-op to assume full control of the Glanbia Ireland dairy and grains business and it unveiled a new identity, Tirlán. A graduate of UCC, Jim held a number of senior management positions after joining Glanbia in 1984. In 2003, he joined Glanbia Ingredients Ireland as operations manager before becoming CEO in 2005 and being appointed a director in 2012. With the formation of Glanbia Ireland in 2017, Jim was appointed CEO to oversee the integration of the Glanbia Agribusiness, Ingredients and Consumer businesses. Jim is on the Board of Governors of the South East Technological University and is Vice Chairman. He is a former Chairman of the Irish Dairy Industry Association and Ornua Co-operative.

Donal Sheehan: Donal Sheehan is a full-time dairy farmer from Castlelyons in East Cork. He is also the project manager for The BRIDE Farming with Nature project. The project was set up to improve biodiversity on intensive farmland and to create a template that could be used on a national scale.

As a follow up to this project, which finishes in December 2023, a "Farming with Nature" environmental certification standard has been developed by the BRIDE team to certify farms based on their environmental performance. It is hoped to eventually use this standard on food products coming from FwN certified farms and thus return a payment to farmers based on higher environmental performance. Part of this development has also been a FwN app that is used by the BRIDE farmers for documenting biodiversity on their farms.

Jim O'Toole: was appointed Chief Executive Office of Board Bia, The Irish Food Board, in November 2022. Previously, Jim held the role of Chief Executive Officer, Bord Iascaigh Mhara (BIM), Ireland's Seafood Development Agency from April 2017 to October 2022. Prior to this, Jim held several senior positions in Bord Bia, The Irish Food Board, including spearheading the development of Origin Green, the world's only national food and drink sustainability programme. Jim also gained extensive experience in the global marketplace having spend 15 years managing Board Bia offices in London, Milan and Paris. A Board Member of the Irish National Accreditations Board (NIAB), Jim holds a Master's Degree in Agricultural Science from University College Dublin. He has completed professional development programmes at Ashridge Business School, Cranfield University, UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School and Harvard Business School.

Mary-Frances Rochford: Mary Frances is the Programme Manager with responsibility for Climate Change in the Office of Evidence and Assessment within the EPA. Her area of responsibility includes the National Green House Gas Inventories and Projections, Climate Science and International Engagement, Climate Adaptation, the National Dialogue on Climate Action and Behavioural Insights.

Mary-Frances has broad experience in the area of environmental protection having worked across the areas of climate, circular economy, sustainability, behavioural change and industry and waste enforcement.

Anne-Marie Devaney: Anne-Marie graduated with a Masters in Regional and Urban Planning in 2003, (UCD), having completed her undergraduate BA Degree in English and Geography in 2000, (NUIG). Anne-Marie has worked in the public sector planning role with the Regional Authority and the Local Authority. While employed with Tipperary County Council, Anne-Marie has been involved at various times in the Planning Policy Section working on community engagement, urban regeneration and policy formation including Development Plans, Local Area Plans and Variations. She also worked with the Development Management Section assessing planning applications. She has significant experience in assessing planning applications for both small- and large-scale development and projects including residential, office, healthcare, education, hospitality, retail, agriculture and industrial uses. More recently Anne-Marie has engaged in guest lecturing at LASNTG Level 8 Courses accredited by Carlow IT. Anne-Marie is actively engaged in project development and delivery in her current role, including the preparation of funding applications under Project Ireland URDF and RRDF funding streams.

John Enright: has been General Secretary of ICMSA since 2012 having joined ICMSA in 1996 and previously served as Executive Secretary of ICMSA's Dairy Committee and Livestock Committee and previously worked in the Department of Agriculture, Food & Marine. John represents ICMSA on many Government forums including the Food Vision Dairy Group, the Food Vision Beef & Sheep Group. John is a member of NESCC and was a member of the working group supporting the process of developing NESCC Report No. 162 *Just Transition in Agriculture and Land Use*.

Dr Oliver Moore: Oliver is a lecturer at the Centre for Co-operative Studies in UCC, part of the Cork University Business School (CUBS) where he teaches on the MSc in Cooperatives, Agri-Food and Sustainable Development. He also works on European agri-food and rural policy with the ARC2020 NGO. There he assesses and communicates on CAP and other policies, including on the Nature Restoration Law and other aspects of the European Green Deal. He is involved with the Cloughjordan Community Farm as a board member, volunteer, event organiser and happy eater. With Cultivate, Oliver works on rural regeneration, helping to organise the annual Feeding Ourselves gatherings, the speakEATsy events and the talks tent in the sustainability area of the Electric Picnic each year. He lives in Cloughjordan ecovillage." Oliver was a member of the working group supporting the process of developing NESC Report No. 162 *Just Transition in Agriculture and Land Use*.

Michelle Murphy: is Research and Policy Analyst with *Social Justice Ireland*. Her research interests include sustainability, rural development, education, healthcare and the European Social Model. She is particularly interested in the impact of climate targets on regional development, the potential impacts on income distribution, poverty and social inclusion, and how rural proofing could support a just transition for rural communities. She is a member of the 'Our Rural Future' implementation advisory group. Michelle was a member of the working group supporting the process of developing NESC Report No. 162 *Just Transition in Agriculture and Land Use*.

Conor Mulvihill: Conor was appointed director of Dairy Industry Ireland in February 2016. Coming from a farming background in the mid-west of Ireland, he has worked as a political advisor in the Irish Houses of Parliament (Oireachtas) before taking up the role as head of EU affairs for the Irish Cooperative Organisation Society in Brussels, where he focused on dairy policy. Conor currently is a board member of the European Dairy Association and Specialised Nutrition Europe. At home he sits on the executive committee of Food Drink Ireland, the government's FoodVision Dairy Group & the Consultative Council of the Food Safety Authority of Ireland. Dairy Industry Ireland represents primary and secondary dairy manufacturers including the specialised nutrition sector in Ireland and is affiliated to Ibec, Ireland's business umbrella body. Conor was a member of the working group supporting the process of developing NESC Report No. 162 *Just Transition in Agriculture and Land Use*.

Trevor Donnelan: Trevor is an economist and is Head of the Economics and Farm Surveys Department at Teagasc. His research interests include the economic analysis of agricultural markets, with a particular focus on agricultural, trade and environmental policy issues affecting the agri-food sector. This research informs stakeholders and supports evidence-based policy making. He is an author of the National Farm Survey Sustainability Report, which tracks the economic, environmental and social sustainability performance of the various farm types in Irish agriculture. He is a member of the Climate Change Advisory Council's Carbon Budgets Working Group and a former member of the Royal Irish Academy's Climate Change and Environmental Sciences Committee. He has worked extensively on a range of international projects exploring issues associated with the economics of the agri-food sector and has a role as an external expert advising the European Commission on its medium-term outlook for the EU agricultural sector.

Macdara Doyle: Macdara is Campaigns & Policy Officer with the Irish Congress of Trade Unions and his work also includes a focus on issues relating to Just Transition. He was a member of the working group that contributed to the 2020 NESC report *Addressing Employment Vulnerability as Part of a Just Transition in Ireland*. Macdara was also a member of the working group supporting the process of developing NESC Report No.162 *Just Transition in Agriculture and Land Use*.

Directions to Venue:

The CCD's city centre location makes it quick and easy to reach by foot. We encourage delegates to walk as it reduces your carbon footprint and is a great way to incorporate physical activity before and after your conference.

The CCD is situated where the Royal Canal meets the River Liffey and is well serviced by public transport.

- [Dublin Bus](#): G1,G2, 33x, and 142 leave you outside The CCD.
- [Luas Red Line](#): Mayor Square or Spencer Dock leave a short walk to The CCD.
- [Dart](#): Pearse Street and Tara Street DART stations are located approximately a 10 minutes' walk from The CCD.
- [Dublin Bikes](#): Guild Street parking station is the nearest to the main entrance.

If you are cycling your own bike to The CCD, there are parking facilities in our car park, which you can use to secure your bike. You can access them by entering the East door to the building (adjacent to PwC) and taking the elevator to the B1 or B2 car park levels. There are bike racks outside the elevator lobbies on the East and West sides of both levels. Please note, you will require your own lock to secure your bike.

Should you have to drive, The CCD has its own [underground car park](#), with over 2,000 spaces located in [car parks nearby](#), as well as considerable on street 'pay and display' parking on North Wall Quay and adjoining roads.

Taxi and car hire services are also easily available.

The CCD 'How to Get There' information

