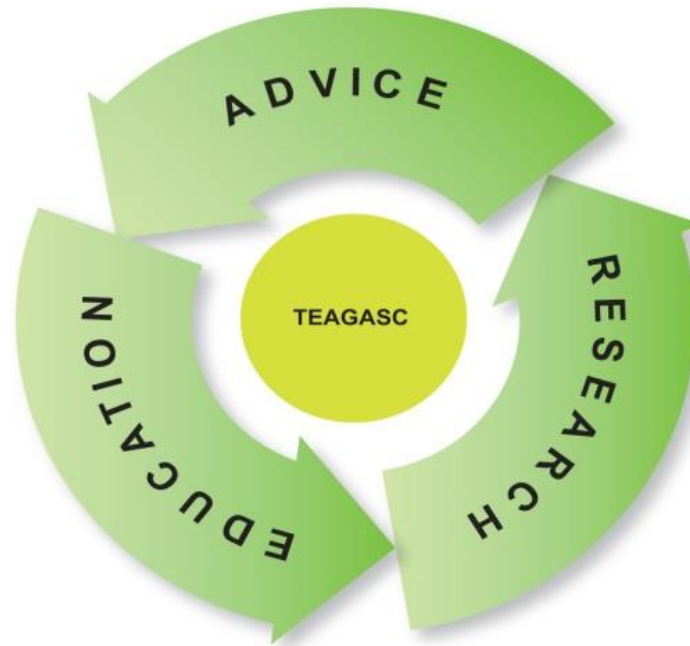
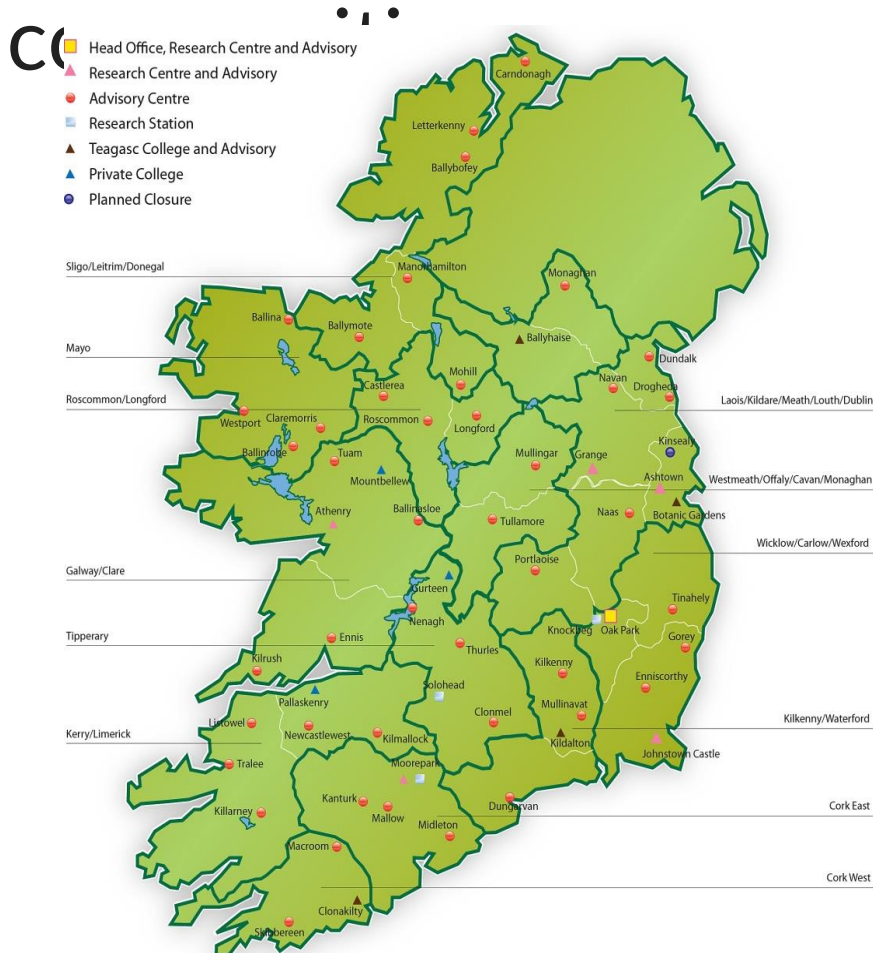




Prof Pat Dillon
Director of Research Teagasc
“The climate action strategy in Ireland: Examples from the dairy sector”

Teagasc- the Irish Agriculture and Food Development Authority

– is the national body providing integrated research, advisory and training services to the agriculture and food industry and rural



50 Advisory Offices
7 Agricultural Colleges
7 Research Centres

(1,200)	Perm.	Con.	Total
Researchers	140	120	260
Advisors	240	30	270
Education	55	30	85
Specialists	65	0	65

Agriculture in Ireland

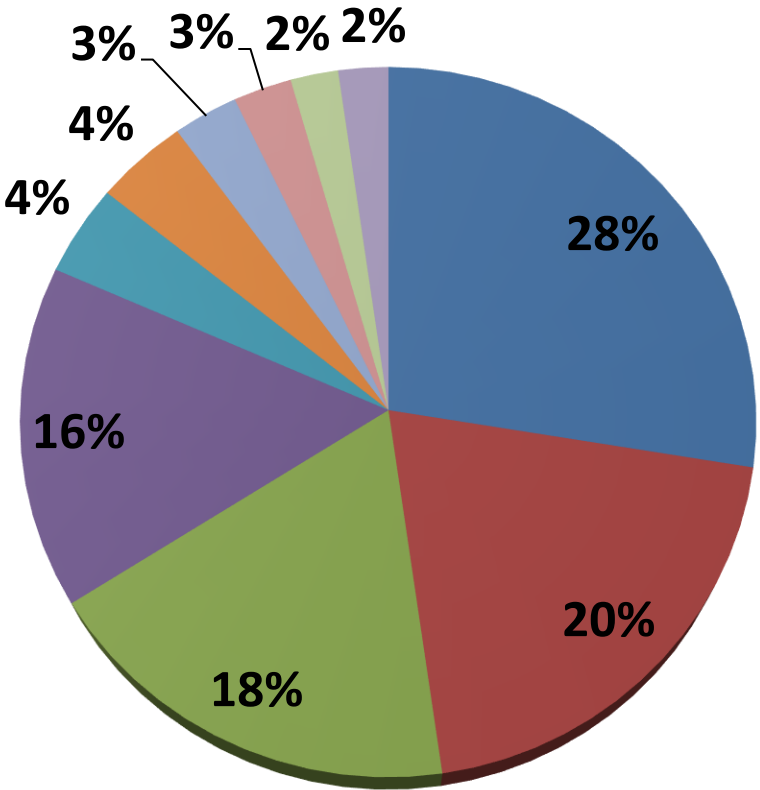


- 6.9 million hectares
 - 4.52 million in Agriculture
 - 0.78 in Forestry
- 92% under grassland
 - Pasture, hay, grass silage (82%)
 - Rough grazing (10%)
- 8% cropping
 - Cereals, Potatoes, Beet, Oilseeds, Beans and Peas (6.5%)
 - Fruit & vegetables (1.5%)
- 85-90% of dairy and beef production is exported

Composition of Irish Food and Drink Exports

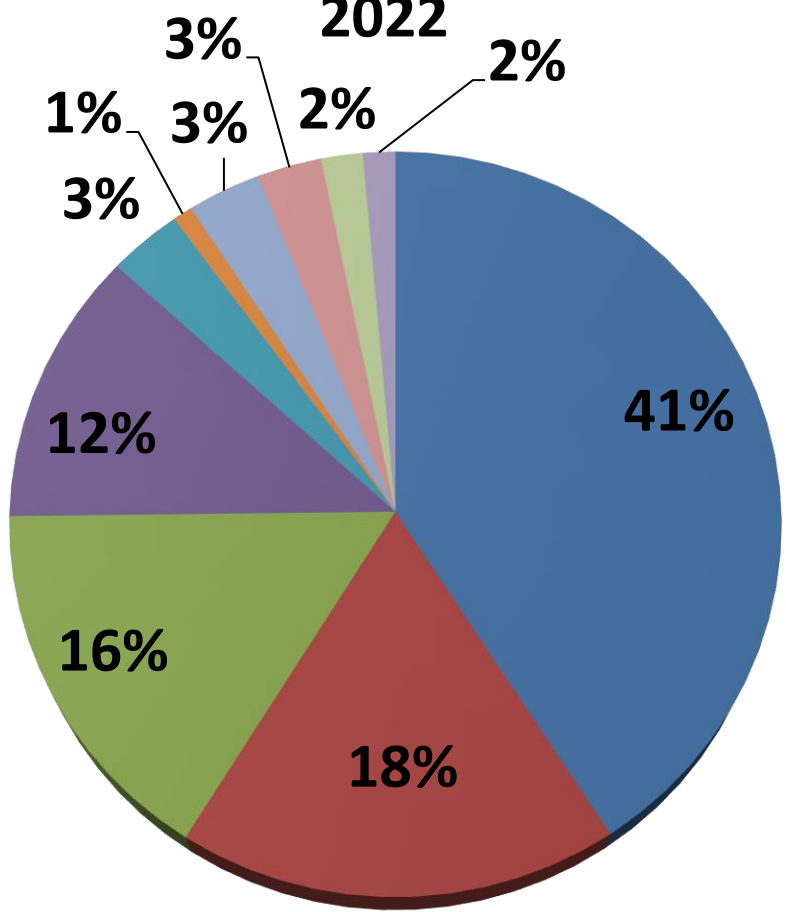
Total Exports €7.663 billion

2007/9



Total Exports €16.7 billion

2022



- Dairy Products and Ingredients
- Prepared Foods
- Beef
- Beverages
- Seafood
- Poultry
- Pigmeat
- Sheepmeat

Source: Bord Bia

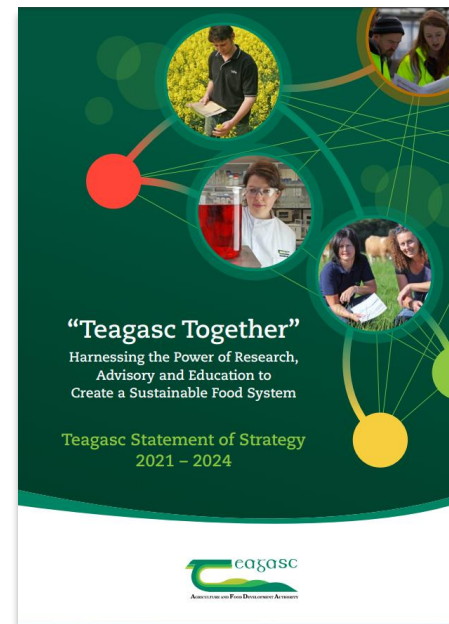
Evaluation of the Irish Dairy Industry

Year	Milk Production (billion l)	Cow Numbers (million)	Milk Yield/cow (l)	Fat %	Protein %	MS/cow	Milk Production (% change)	Cow Numbers (% change)	MS Yield (% change)
1984	5.422	1.549	3474	3.51	3.27	242			
2007/09	4.932	1.005	4469	3.81	3.33	333			
2014	5.651	1.192	4740	3.99	3.43	366			
2015	6.399	1.295	4938	4.03	3.50	391			
2016	6.674	1.347	4956	4.08	3.46	383	4.3	4.0	0.5
2017	7.251	1.388	5249	4.09	3.48	408	8.6	3.0	6.1
2018	7.576	1.425	5290	4.14	3.48	417	4.5	2.7	1.5
2019	7.980	1.465	5446	4.17	3.53	432	5.3	2.8	4.0
2020	8.292	1.512	5485	4.20	3.55	437	3.9	3.2	1.4
2021	8.754	1.555	5630	4.23	3.55	451	5.6	2.8	3.1
2022	8.825	1.569	5625	4.28	3.50	450	0.8	0.9	-0.8
						Average	4.7	2.8	2.3

Challenges Facing the Irish Agri-food Industry

1. Climate Change- how should the Irish agri-food respond?
2. Water Quality/Biodiversity- there is a requirement to reverse current trends.
3. Calf Welfare- we need to develop a sustainable outlet for calves coming from the dairy herd.
4. People- adequate supply and skillset.
5. Competitiveness- maintained at both farm and processor level

Importance of tackling climate change is recognised in FoodVision 2030 and Teagasc Statement of Strategy

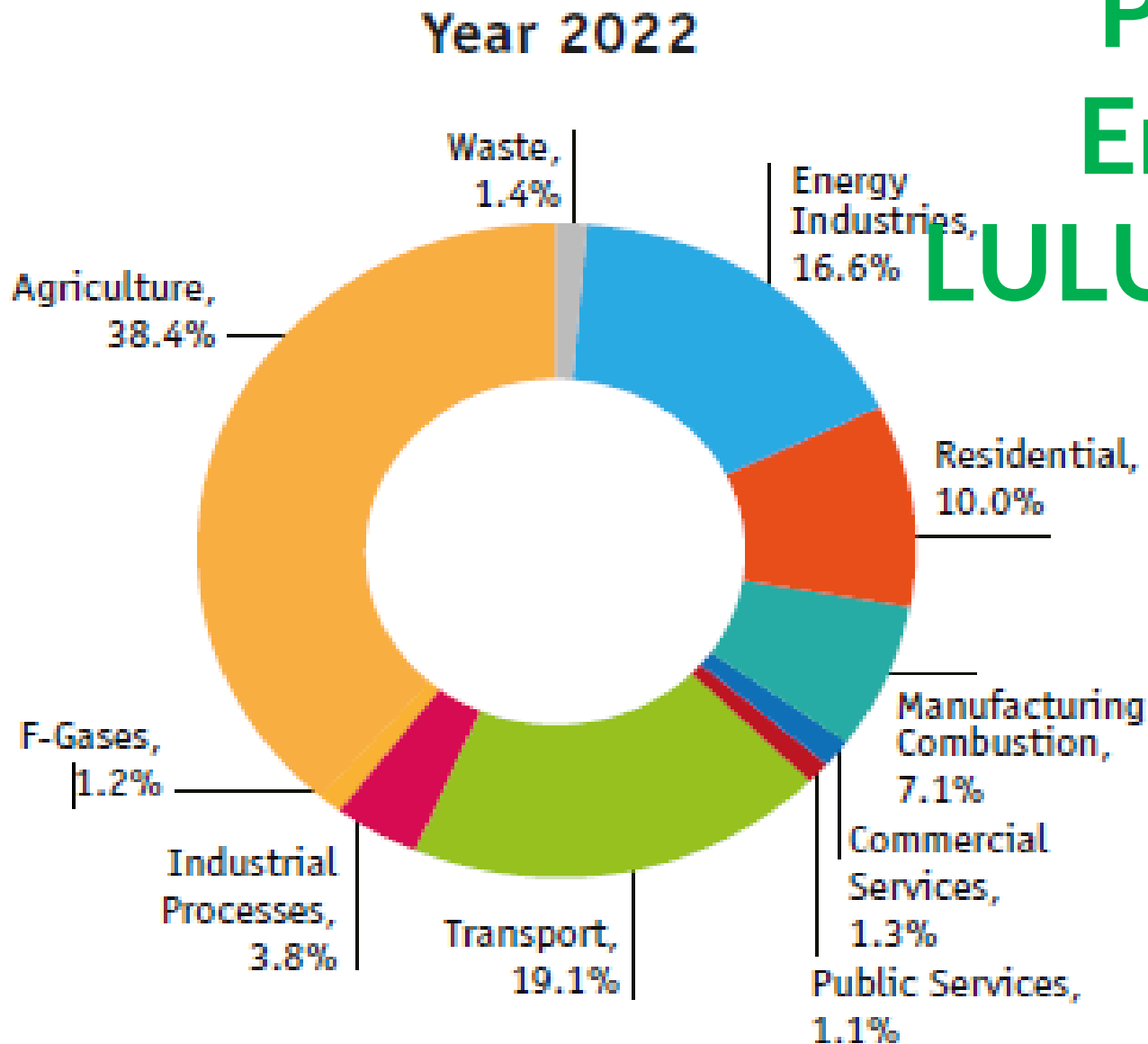


Overarching Strategic Goal

“To make sustainability front and centre of all Teagasc activities.”

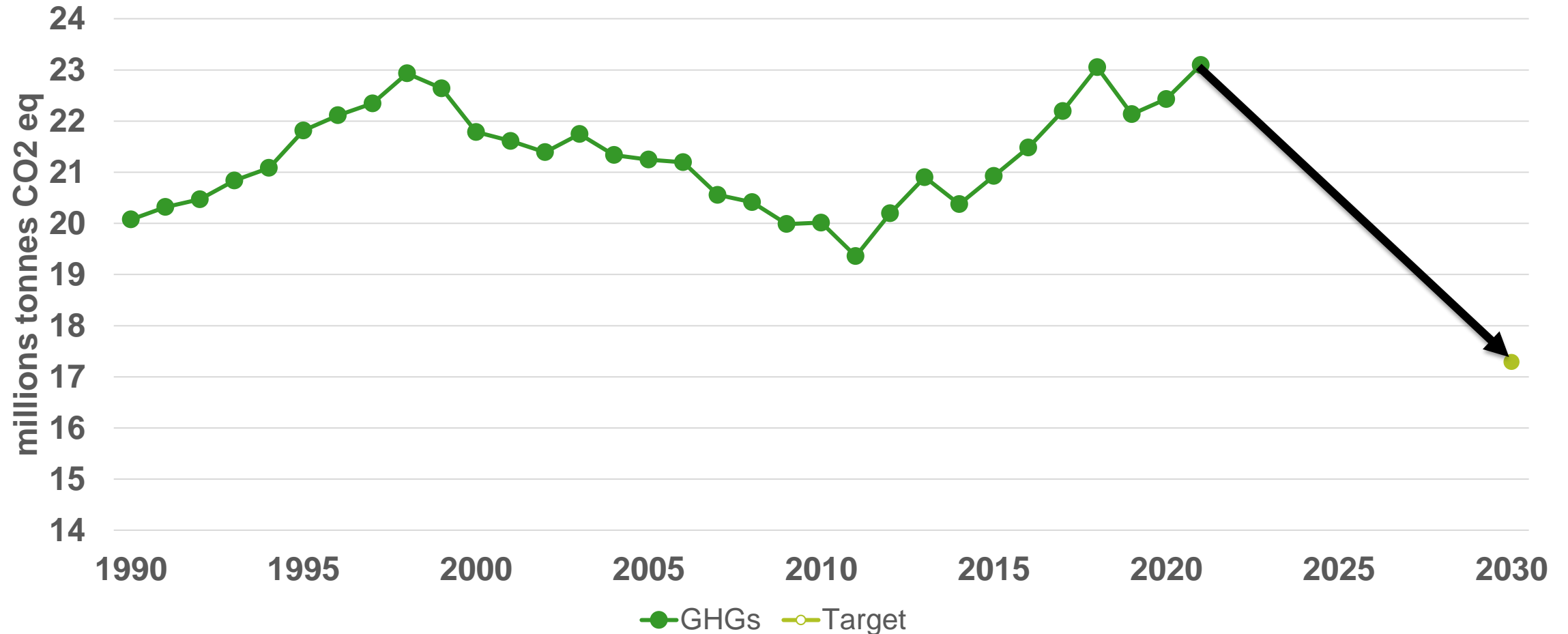


Profile of Irish GHG Emissions (excluding LULUCF) in 2022 by Sector

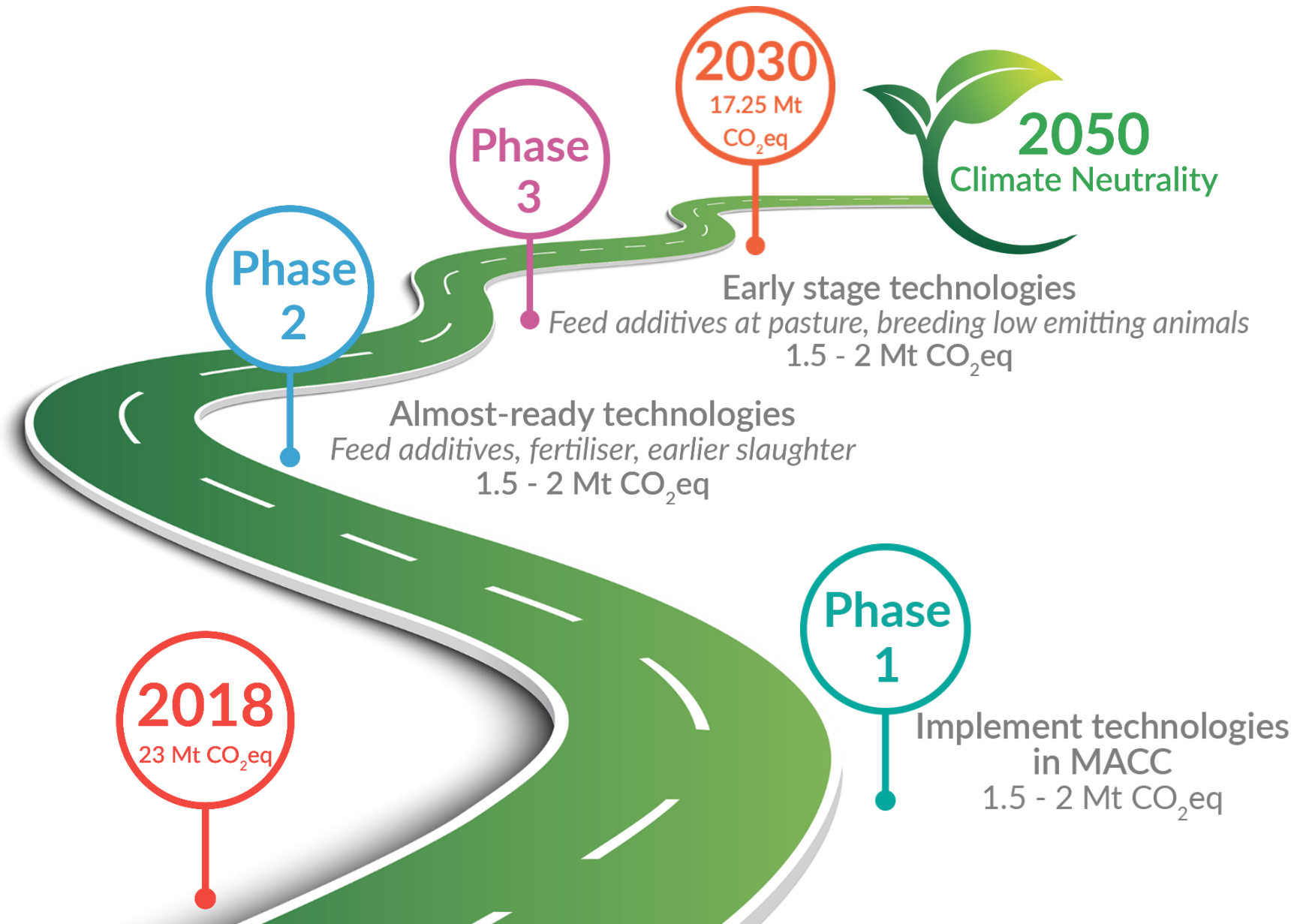


Total Irish Greenhouse Gas Emissions in 2022 (excluding LULUCF) are estimated to be 60.76 Mt CO₂eq. *Agriculture* is the largest contributor to the overall emissions at 38.4% of the total (excluding LULUCF) or 23.3 Mt CO₂eq.

Agriculture is Required to Reduce GHG Emissions by 25% by 2030

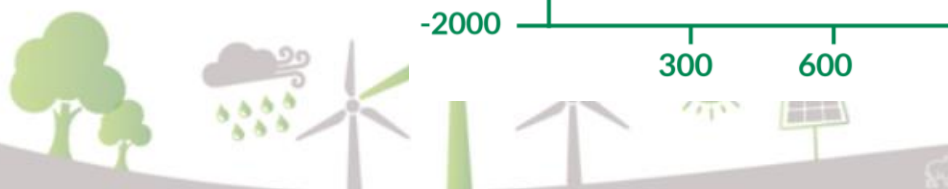
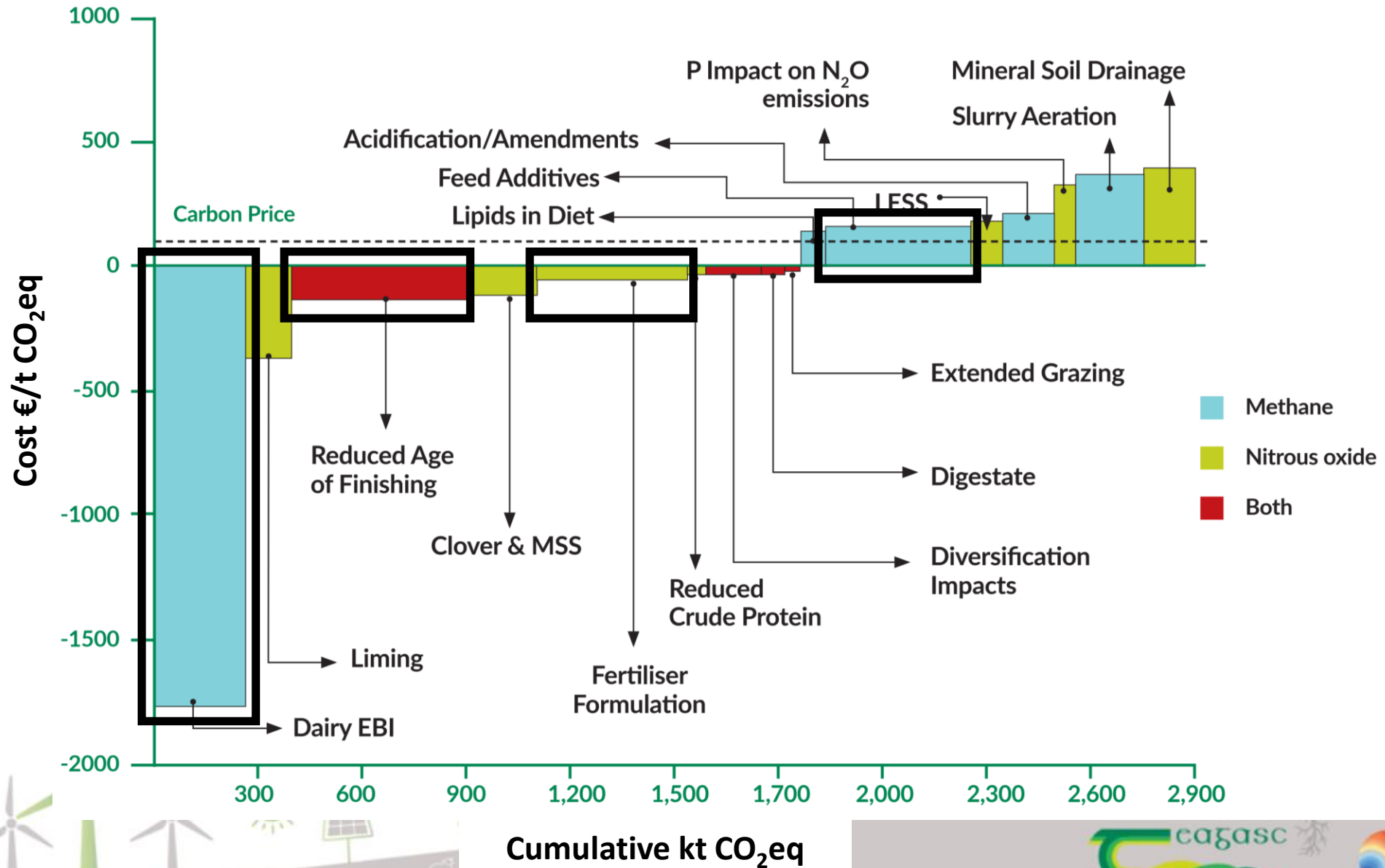


What strategy is Ireland pursuing to make livestock farming more sustainable or climate-friendly?



- Yes, it is possible
- It is very challenging
- Critical now to achieve phase 1
- **2 key asks of Teagasc**
 - Develop more technologies
 - Support farmers with adoption

Agriculture Marginal Abatement Cost Curve





Climate Action Strategy - 3 Key Pillars

Signpost Advisory Programme



Available to all farmers



Enhanced advisory & training support



“Know my Number - Make my Plan”

supported by the Sustainability Digital Platform



Engage with 50,000 farmers by 2030

Sustainability Digital Platform



New Secure Online platform



Facilitating Whole Farm sustainability assessment



Farmer & Advisor Understand emissions profile

National Centre for Agri-food Climate Research & Innovation



New Virtual Centre



Accelerate & co-ordinate Climate Research & Innovation Programmes



Providing leadership, nationally & internationally

Pillar 1: Signpost Advisory Programme



Available to all farmers



Enhanced advisory & training support



“Know My Number – Make My Plan”
- supported by the Sustainability Digital Platform



Engage with 50,000 farmers between now & 2030

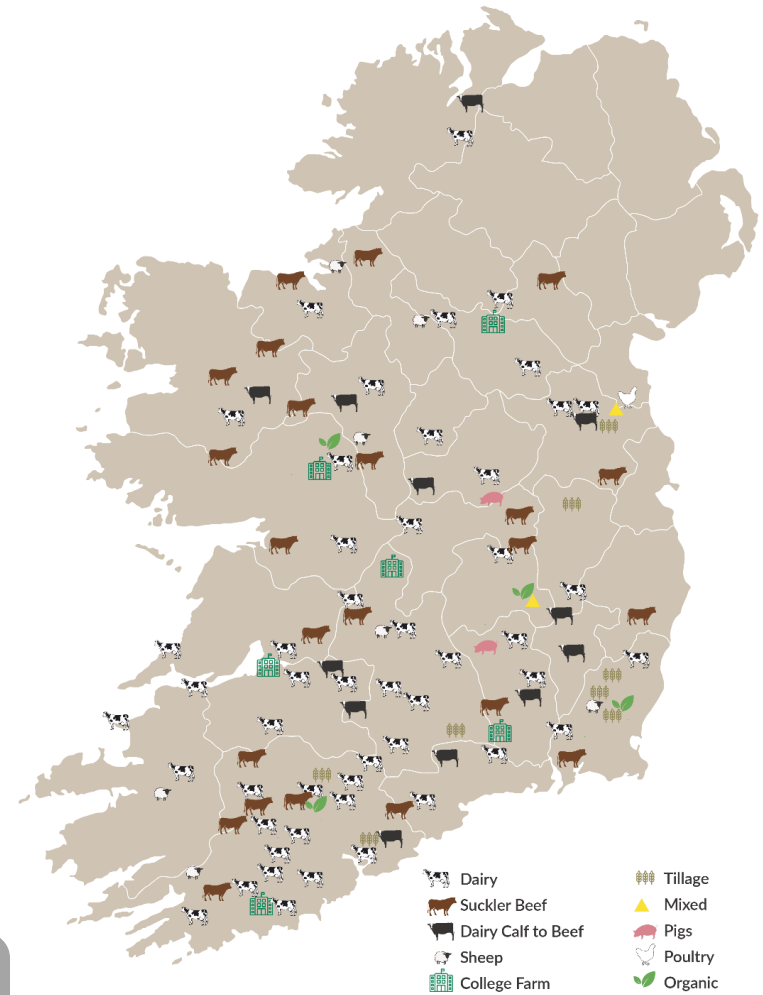
Building on existing Signpost Programme



120 Farmers
Signpost Demonstration Farmers

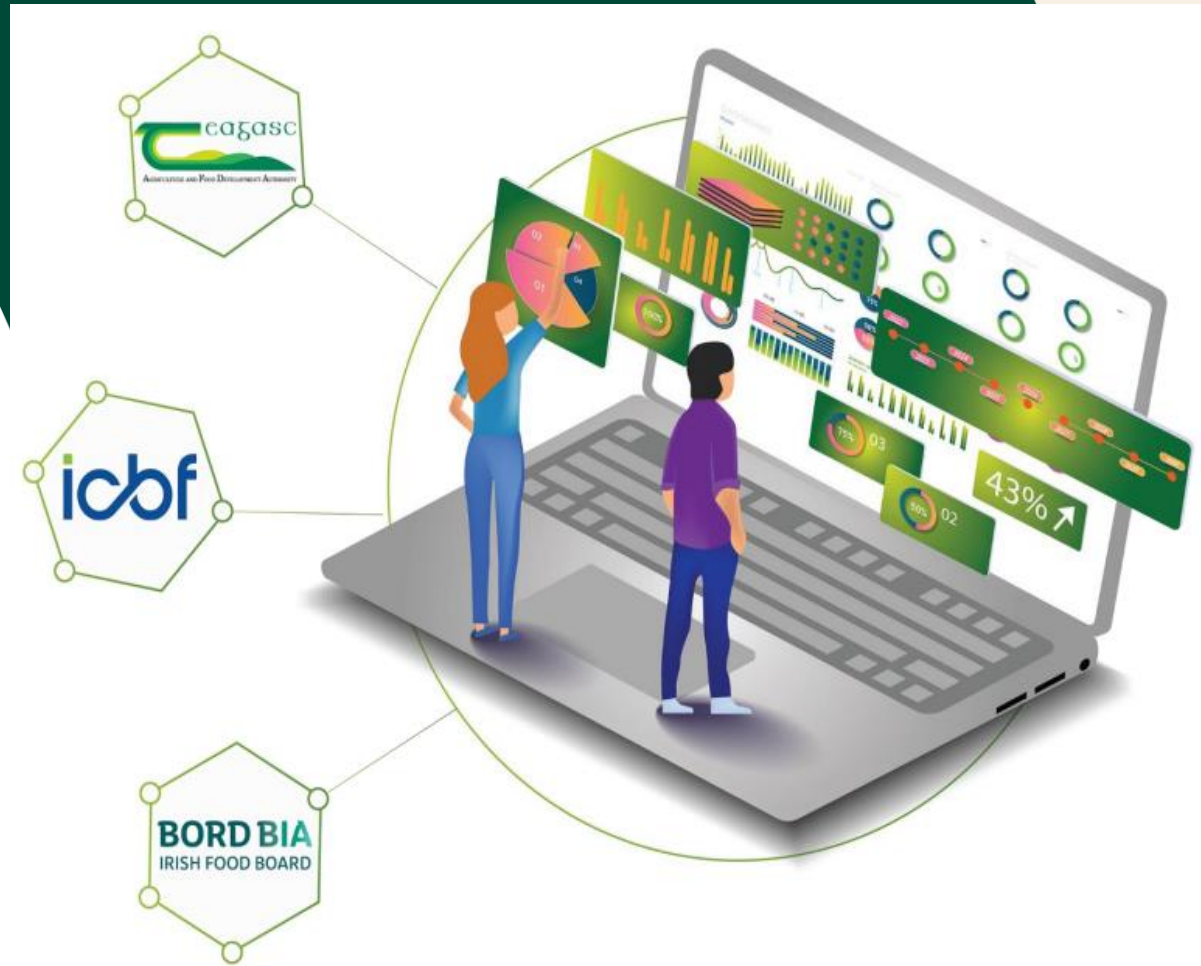
62 Partners
consisting of farmers, industry, state bodies, farm organisations & media

Existing supports will continue for all farmers while the individual support in the New Signpost Advisory Programme is rolled out on a phased basis



Pillar 2: Sustainability Digital Platform

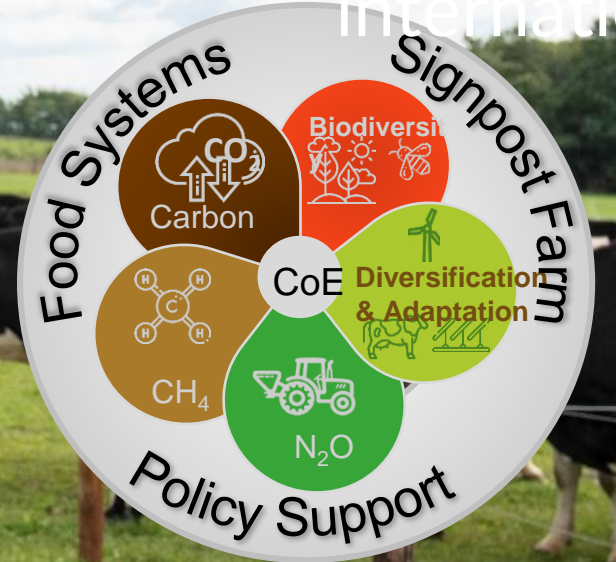
- Farmers are requesting guidance and support to deliver improvements.
- Maximises use of existing databases in the agri sector (verified data).
- Opt in, - All subject to **farmers permission**.
- **Scientific oversight** for development of **robust and accurate** system.
- **No duplication** for farmers, - one source of the truth.
- **Freely available to all farmers.**



Pillar 3: National Centre for Agri-Food Climate Research & Innovation



A Virtual Centre that will coordinate research across Teagasc, nationally and internationally



Key areas of Action in the Teagasc Strategy



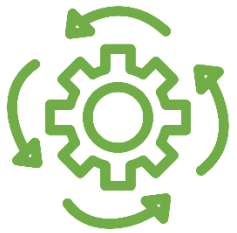
Advantages of the Virtual Centre in Climate Change



Better able to **inform national policy** with regards to agriculture climate mitigation options



Better position to develop **national and international collaboration**



Greater efficiency in terms of the use of resources- human, facilities and data platforms



Difference in Agri. Activity between 2018 vs. 2030

	2022 '000 head	2030 '000 head	Difference (%)
Total Cattle	7,132	6,785	-5%
Dairy Cows	1,568	1,692	+8%
Suckler Cows	887	632	-29%
Total Sheep	5,223	4,656	-11%
Total Pigs	1,676	1,629	-3%
Total Poultry	19,795	20,911	+6%
Mineral N Fertiliser (tonnes N)	399,000	300,000	-25%



Overall Summary

- Develop the technology and efficiency pathway - RESEARCH
- Support farmers to travel that pathway – KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER
- Both essential, neither has primacy
- We need a fast start
- Without widespread transformation at farm level, we face tough regulation
- Additional resources will deliver early and cumulative action to help more

farmers climb the “climate mountain”

