

| DPTC PRESENTS:

# CIRCULAR DAIRY SUMMIT 2024



HARNESSING OPPORTUNITIES FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

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24 OCTOBER | THE OSPREY HOTEL, NAAS

# AGENDA



**09:30**

**Welcome from the Chair**

Ivan Yates - Broadcaster and Former Minister for Agriculture

**Ministerial Address**

Martin Heydon - Minister of State at the Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine

**Opening Remarks from Host**

Dr Anne Marie Henihan - Centre Director, DPTC

**10:00 – 10:30**

**Advancing the Circular Bioeconomy: Innovations and Future Directions in Dairy Processing - Research Showcase**

**10:30 – 10:50**

**Innovative Flagships: Pioneering Solutions for Dairy in the Circular Bioeconomy**

**10:50 – 11:20**

**Panel Discussion**

Future Innovation Requirements to Support the Irish Dairy Achieve Sustainability and Circular Goals

**11:20 – 11:50**

**Coffee, Exhibition Area and Networking**

**11:50 – 12:20**

**Road Map for the Future Decarbonising Ireland: Learning from Northern Ireland's Anaerobic Digestion Journey**

**12:20 – 13:20**

**Panel Discussion**

Unlocking Potential: Policy Support for the Dairy Sector in the Circular Economy

**13:20 – 14:15**

**Lunch**

**14:20 – 15:30**

**Panel Discussion**

Navigating Opportunities and Challenges in the Circular Bioeconomy for Dairy Farmers and Processors

**15:30 – 16:20**

**Panel Discussion**

Shaping the Future: Market Design for a Circular Dairy Economy

**16:20 – 16:30**

**Closing Speech and Summit End**

## WELCOME FROM THE CHAIR



**Ivan Yates**

**Broadcaster and Former Minister for  
Agriculture**

## **MINISTERIAL ADDRESS**



**Minister Martin Heydon**  
**Minister of State at the Department of**  
**Agriculture, Food and the Marine**

## OPENING REMARKS FROM THE HOST



**Dr Anne Marie Henihan**  
**DPTC Centre Director**

# Advancing the Circular Bioeconomy - Innovations and Future Directions in Dairy Processing



**Professor Vincent O'Flaherty**  
University of Galway



**James Gaffey**  
CircBio



**Assoc. Professor David Styles**  
University of Galway

# RESEARCH SHOWCASE



**DPTC**  
DAIRY PROCESSING  
TECHNOLOGY CENTRE

**TECHNOLOGY  
CENTRE**  
SUPPORTED BY  
ENTERPRISE IRELAND

# Circular Bioeconomy Research in the Dairy Processing Technology Centre

Vincent O'Flaherty



Innovation  
in *Irish Dairy*  
Processing

# Pathway to Impact

- Industry needs clearly set out:– sludges, effluents, compliance risks
- Strong teams, good interaction and collaboration
- The development of strong collaborative ethos, trust and communication has accelerated progress and pathway to impact



*TRL 7 Demonstration*



**Energy and Water:** Energy, odour and water-efficient processing systems. Water recovery and re-use



**Nutrient Removal and Recovery:** from concentrated streams = new fertiliser products



**Valorisation of side streams:** to bio-economy feedstocks, raw materials or products, e.g. volatile fatty acids



**Valorisation of Sludge to Biogas/Biomethane:** displace fossil sources of energy and fertiliser



**Co-development:** pathways linked with associate members and stakeholder network



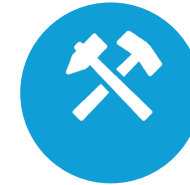
# Project impacts: Scalable solutions



Site-based process model, best practice guidelines for water and energy based on community of practice model



99%+ Phosphorus and 80% Nitrogen recovered upstream



Valuable platform chemicals potential food/feed ingredients produced at high-efficiency - volatile fatty acids



Pre-treatment to unlock 2X energy (as biomethane) during AD of effluent concentrates and sludges



Hydrothermal carbonization provides nutrient-rich material meeting EU Fertilizing Product Regulations



Reduce COD by 90% in concentrated streams - lower effluent costs, less sludge and pressure on infrastructure

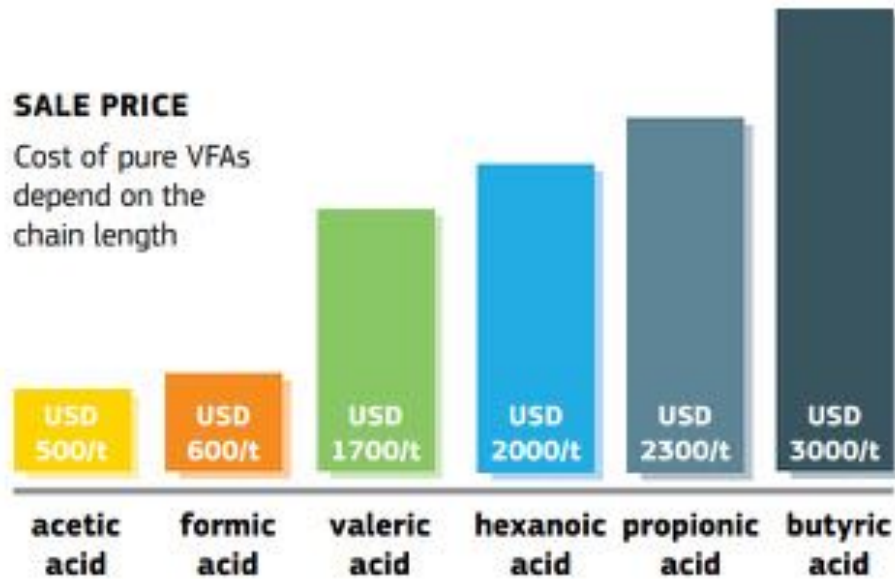


Compliance - target individual partner opportunities

# Volatile Fatty Acid (VFA) recovery: a bioeconomic opportunity

## SALE PRICE

Cost of pure VFAs depend on the chain length



EU commission expected VFA market value: US\$26.7bn by 2031



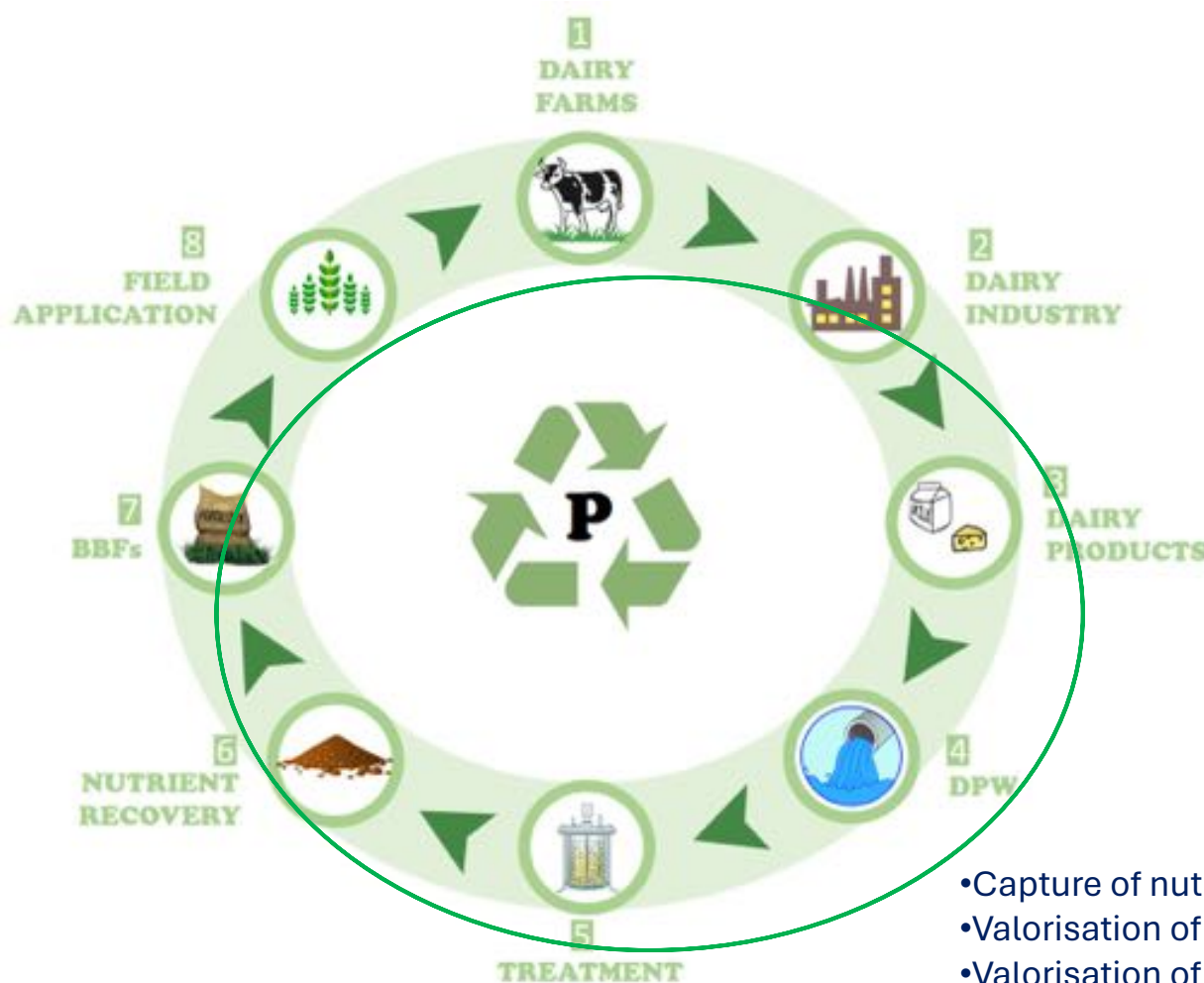
✓ The production of bio-based VFAs would provide a potential route for **valorisation of dairy side streams**

✓ Improve sustainability in dairy industries and contribute to **circular economy** and sustainable development goals

✓ VFA platform accelerates the transition from traditional production to the concept of biorefineries

# Sectoral impact

- Robust, long-term, regulatory compliance
- Cost-benefits through by-product valorisation
- Optimised energy efficient processing to reduce cost, carbon and energy footprints
- Transform effluent and sludges from cost burden to a valuable resource
- Quality of recovered products unique in a bioeconomy context
- **Need to integrate into wider bioeconomy initiatives**





**DPTC**  
DAIRY PROCESSING  
TECHNOLOGY CENTRE

**TECHNOLOGY  
CENTRE**  
SUPPORTED BY  
ENTERPRISE IRELAND

# Circular Bioeconomy Research in the Dairy Processing Technology Centre

Vincent O'Flaherty



Innovation  
in *Irish Dairy*  
Processing

# ***Farm Zero C & the role of Green Biorefinery in a sustainable dairy model***

James Gaffey

24.10.2024



bi**orbic**





# Farm Zero C

*Building a climate neutral dairy farm*





# Farm Zero C - Key Focus Areas



Life Cycle Assessment



Animal Emissions



Breeding and Animal Health



Soil and Grassland



Renewable Energy



Green Biorefinery and Anaerobic Digestion



Biodiversity and Natural Capital Accounting

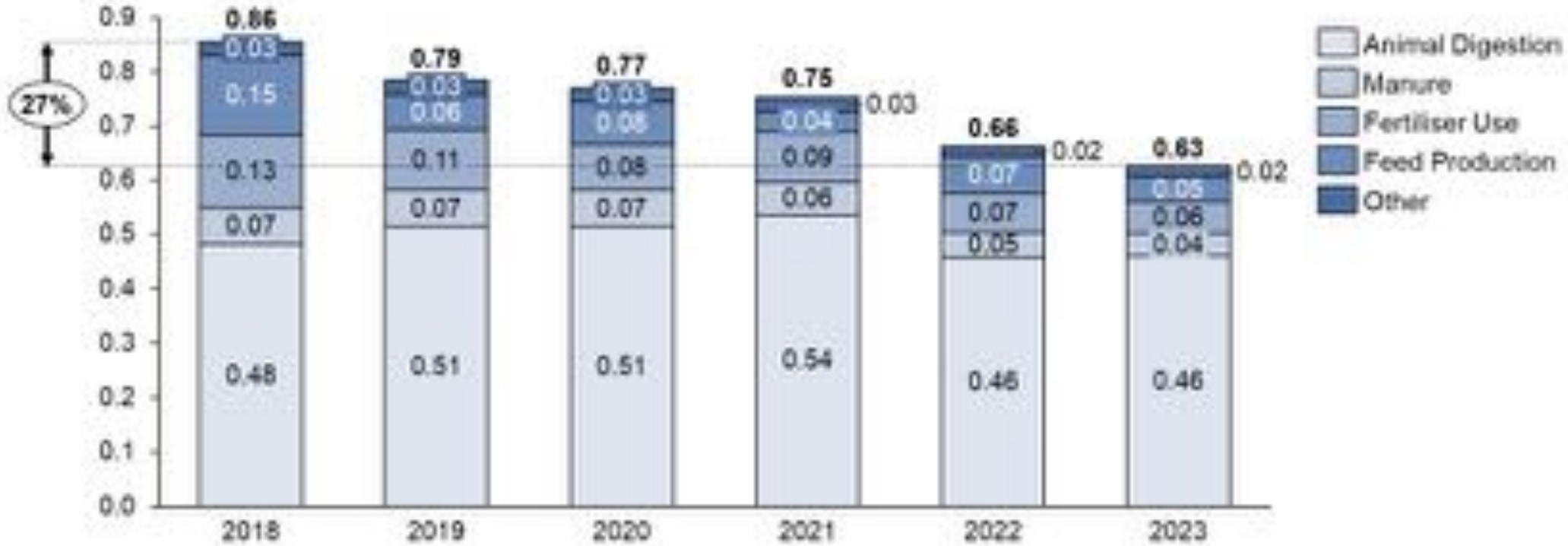


Water and Air Quality





# Farm Zero C – LCA findings



Vergara et al. 2024





# Farm Zero C - Key Focus Areas



Life Cycle Assessment



Animal Emissions



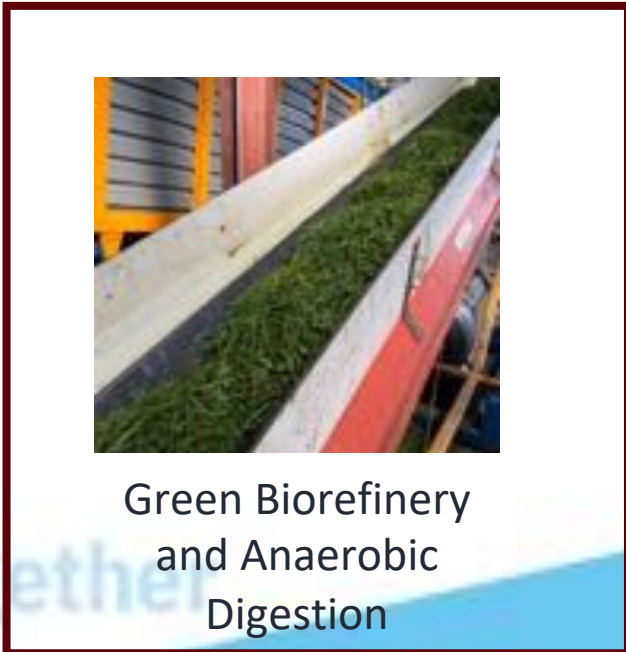
Breeding and Animal Health



Soil and Grassland



Renewable Energy



Green Biorefinery and Anaerobic Digestion



Biodiversity and Natural Capital Accounting



Water and Air Quality

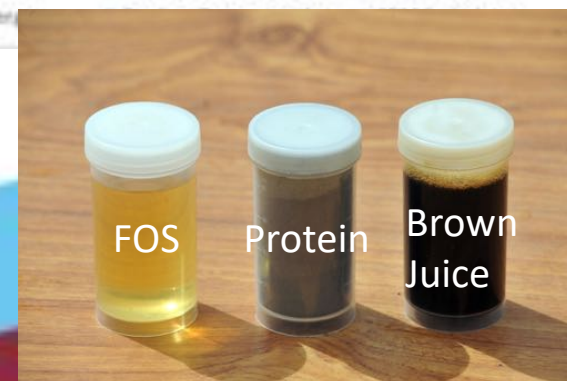
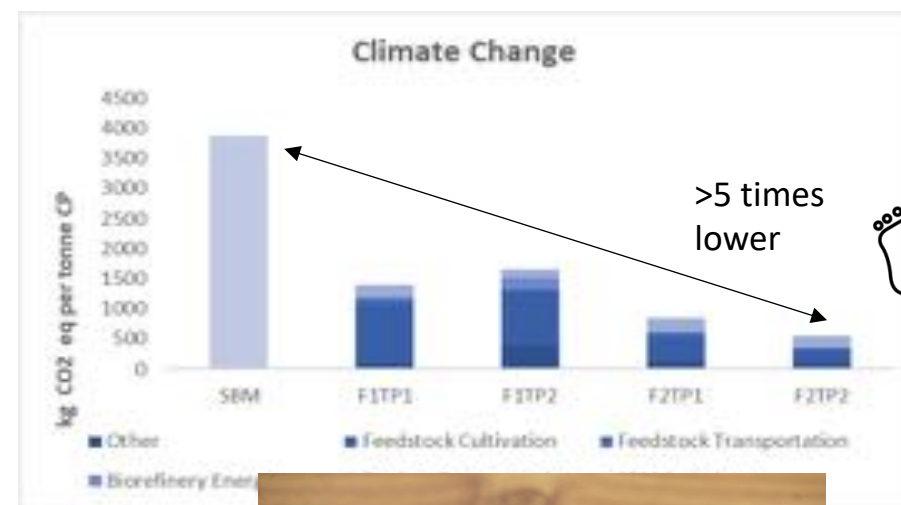
# What is green biorefinery?





# Our research findings

- Biorefinery pulp appears to successfully replace grass silage in dairy diets (*Serra et al., (2023), Costigan et al., (2024)*)
- Extracted protein concentrate has replaced 50% of soybean meal in pig diets (*Ravindran et al., (2021), Gaffey et al., (2023)*)
- Grass-based FOS showed comparable performance to on-the-market prebiotics (*Menon et al., (2024)*)
- *Brown juice residues shows good potential to produce biogas/biomethane – for use within process* (*Ravindran et al., (2022)*)



# TRL advancement to pilot & demo scale

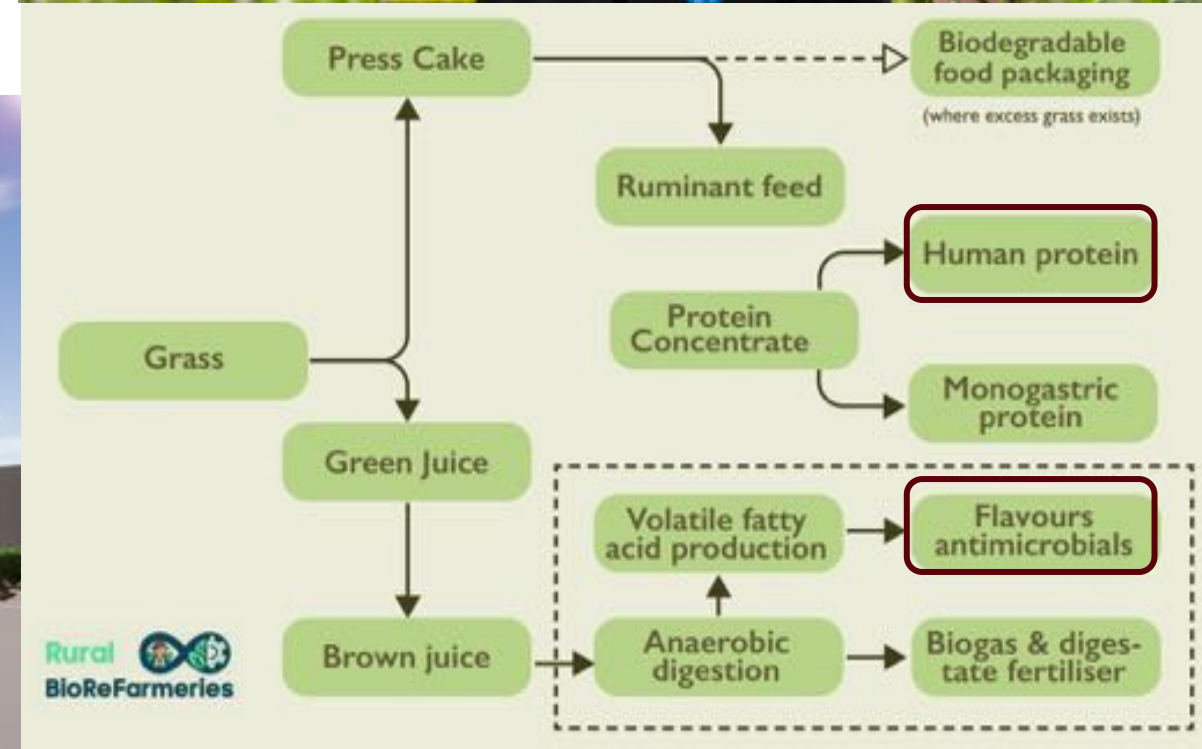
Press release

## Ministers McConalogue and Heydon announce €3 million for integrated anaerobic digestion and green biorefining demonstration initiative



# MTU to lead €9m farm-based biorefinery demonstration

Aisling O'Brien  
May 17, 2024 8:00 am







THE FUTURE IS GREEN

*Thank you!*



The Future is now!

# Thank You!

For more information, please email [james.gaffey@mtu.ie](mailto:james.gaffey@mtu.ie)

James Gaffey

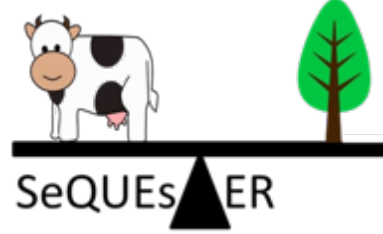
24.10.2024







OLLSCOIL NA GAILLIMHE  
UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY



# Visioning sustainable and resilient dairy exports

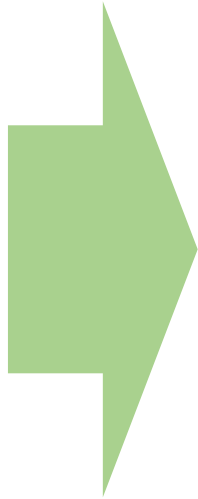
David Styles, University of Galway



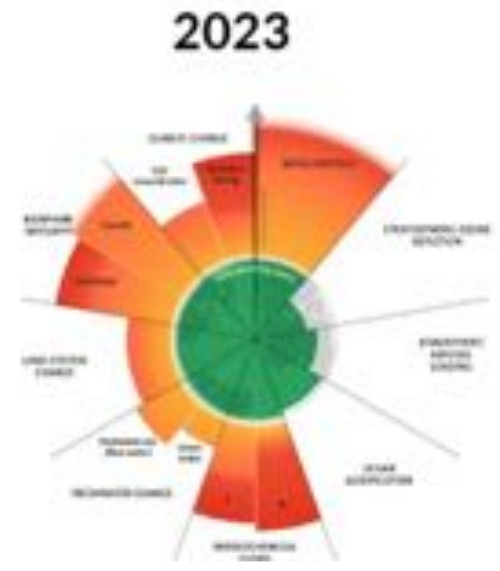
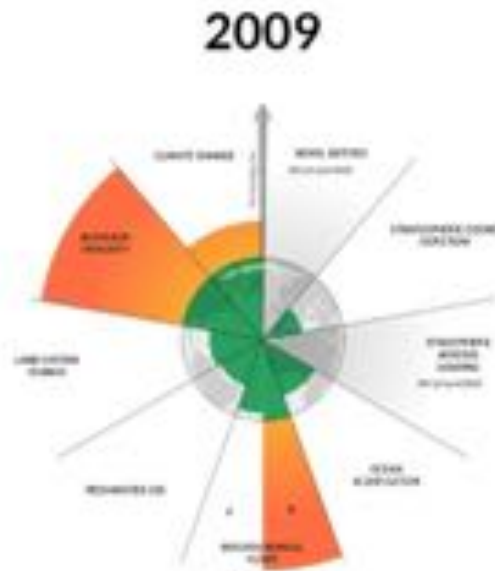


# Why vision?

- Resilience relates to diversity and redundancy (**≠efficiency**)
- Sustainability is absolute (e.g. “Net Zero”)
- How much of which systems fit together in a sustainable & resilient future?

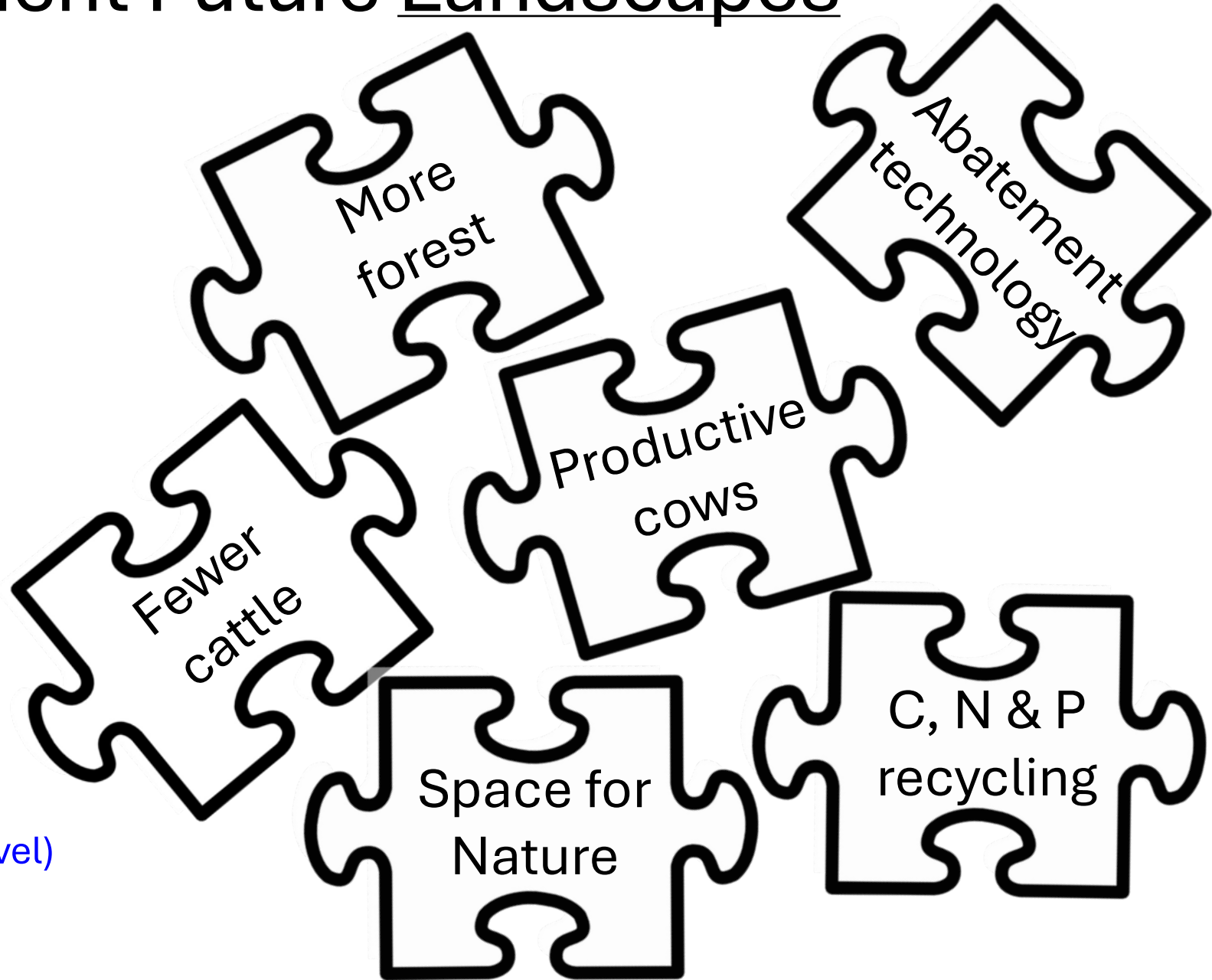
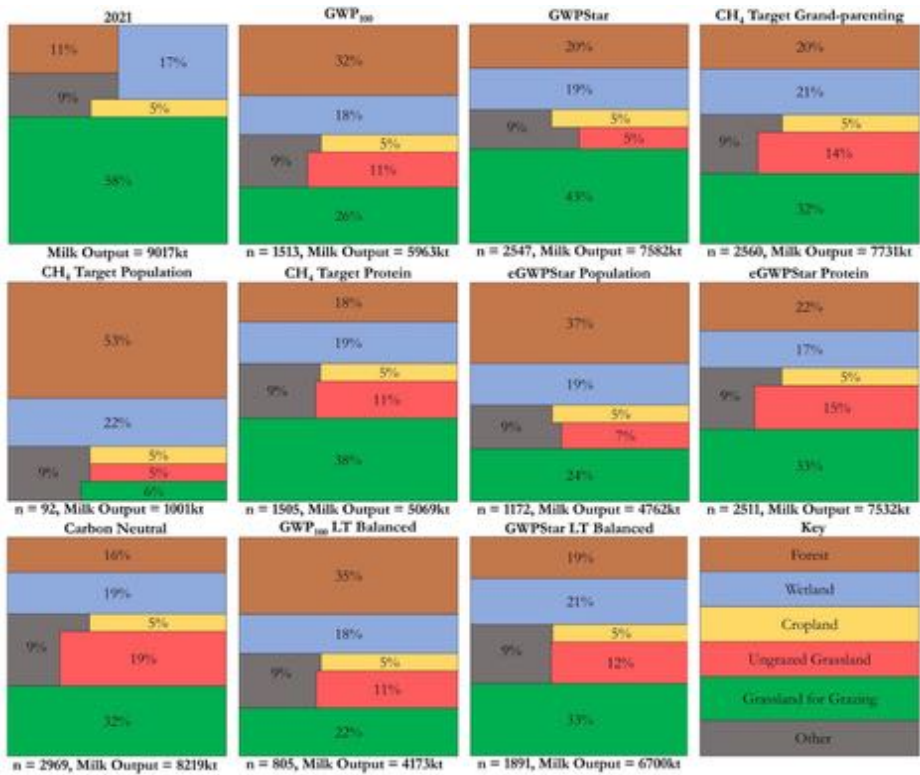


We need to move beyond footprints!





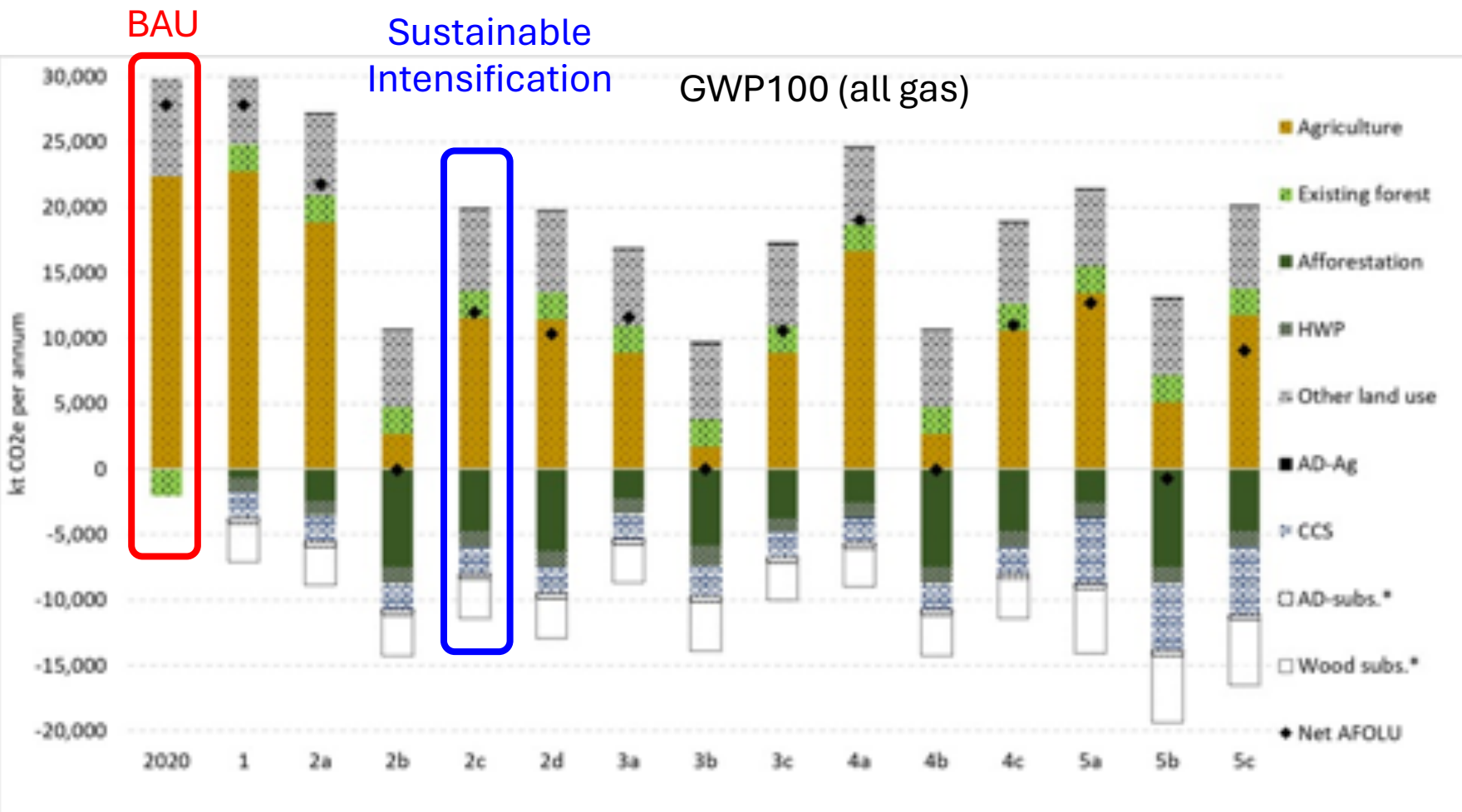
# Sustainable & Resilient Future Landscapes



Multiple targets, various scales

- Efficient value chains & farms
- Climate neutrality (national, global level)
- Water quality (catchment level)
- Biodiversity (farm & landscape level)

Sc	Milk protein	Beef & sheep protein	Pig & poultry protein	Crop protein	Grass protein	Bioenergy	Wood	Grassland	Accounted land*	Available land	Concentrate feed	GWP100	GWP100 ex CH4	Ammonia	N to water	P to water
	kt	kt	kt	kt	kt	TWh	M m <sup>3</sup>	kha	kha	kha	kt	kt	kt	kt	kt	Kt
BAU	346	176	132	0	0	14.9	6.6	3,977	4,167	0	4541	27,840	7,515	111	149	6.05
SI	393	115	132	0	0	14.5	6.4	2,210	2,784	<b>1,216</b>	3788	11,978	<b>-346</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>4.34</b>



- Afforestation: 16 kha/yr
- 90% peat bog restoration; 50% organic soil rewetting
- **1.6 M dairy cows (+28% milk per cow)**
- **160 k suckler-beef**
- **640 kt protein (no reduction)**
- c.14.5 TWh bioenergy
- 1.2 M ha spared (for Nature and/or bioeconomy)

# Anaerobic digestion an enabling technology...IF...

- Reduce manure management emissions... (IF deployed in regions that can maintain animals within climate constraints)



- Efficient nutrient recycling...
- Comply with Nitrates Directive limits... (IF digestate managed as (pellet) biofertiliser)



- Mitigate energy emissions... (IF grass-clover feedstock, fugitive emissions controlled, efficient displacement)
- Contribute to negative emissions... (IF biomethane combusted in facilities with CCS)





# Pioneering Solutions for Dairy in the Circular Bioeconomy



**Stephen Napier**  
Irish Bioeconomy  
Foundation



**Stewart Gee**  
Ireland Land Agri-Food  
Deep Demonstration

# INNOVATIVE FLAGSHIPS



## Irish Bioeconomy Foundation (IBF)

*... Growing the Irish Bioeconomy Together...*

**National Bioeconomy Campus  
(former Lisheen Mine)  
Killoran, Lisheen (Moynes)  
Tipperary E41 R622, IE**

# Discover the Power of the Circular Bioeconomy

In a world facing pressing environmental challenges, the bioeconomy emerges as a vital pathway towards sustainability. This book offers a comprehensive introduction to the concept, exploring how biological resources can be harnessed to drive economic growth while preserving our planet's health.

"This book aims to be a guide, shedding light on the untapped potential of the bioeconomy a potential that holds the promise of a harmonious coexistence between humanity and our planet"

-Jennifer Holmgren



What is the Circular Bioeconomy



# What is the Circular Bioeconomy

Mario Bonaccorso



Foreword  
Jennifer Holmgren  
Introduction  
Irish Bioeconomy Foundation

The bioeconomy can transform society and help to mitigate and adapt to climate change as well as reverse biodiversity loss.

-Kevin O'Connor

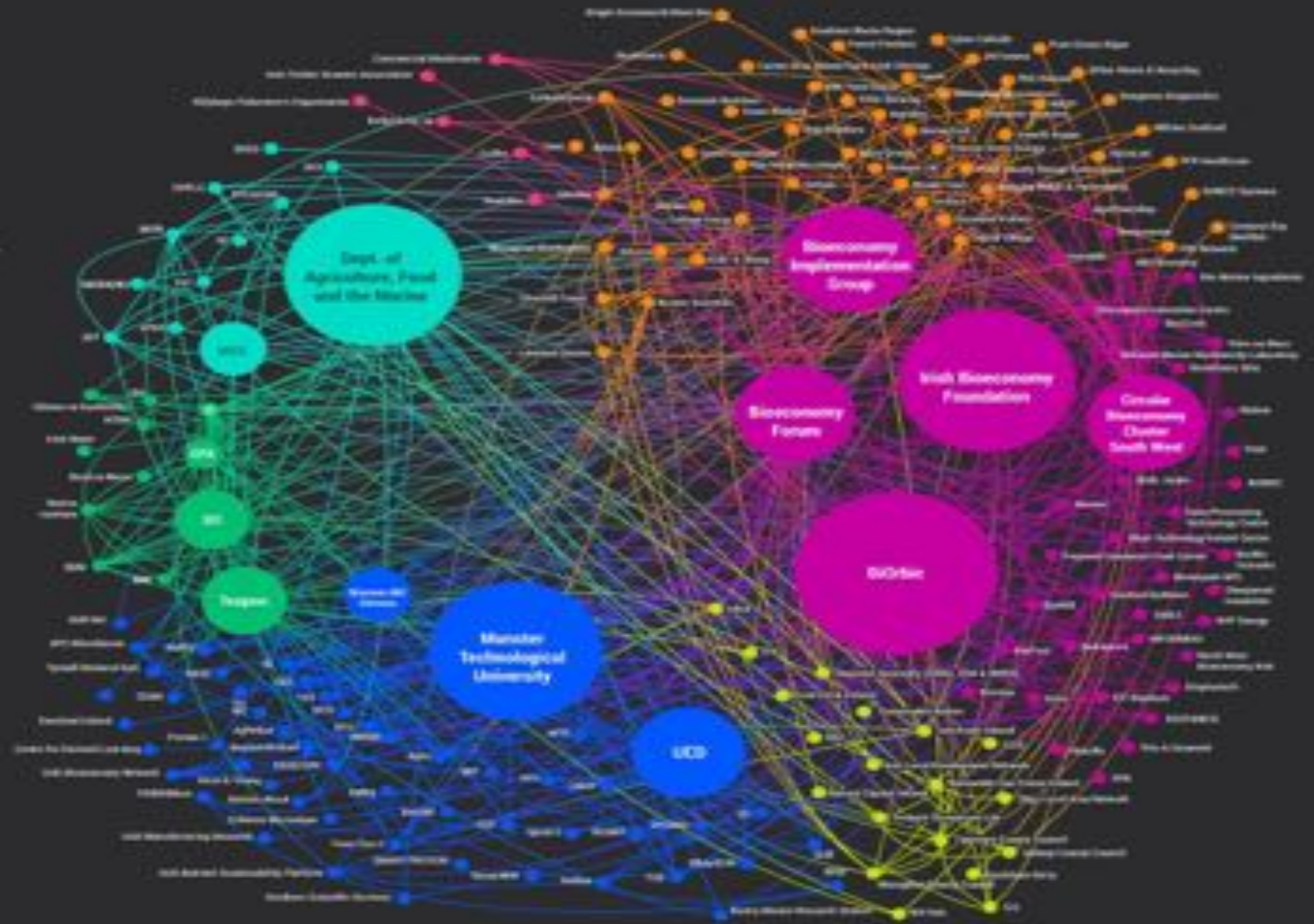




# Ireland's Bioeconomy

Network Analysis Diagram (July 2022)

## Sectors



- National Bioeconomy Campus -



VEDANTA ZINC INTERNATIONAL – ‘Among the world’s finest examples of environmentally sensitive mine closure and rehabilitation.’





INTER-DISCIPLINARY RESEARCH



INDUSTRIAL SCALE UP

ENTREPRENEURIAL GROWTH



TRAINING HUB



STAKEHOLDERS  
Farmers, Producers,  
Gov't Departments, NGOs



DISSEMINATION



SME SERVICES



SOCIETAL KNOWLEDGE AWARENESS

### BIOECONOMY CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE SCALE UP PILOT FACILITY

LISHEEN, CO. TIPPERARY

#### INDUSTRIAL SCALE UP

Starting with:

- Dairy Side Streams
- Dairy Sludge
- Organic Waste
- Forestry Waste Streams



#### TRAINING HUB

- ETE
- Cellulose
- Lignin-based
- Chemicals
- Training Partners



#### DISSEMINATION

- Knowledge Transfer
- North-Regional Connections
- Information Services
- Policy Recommendations



#### SME SERVICES

- Plant Facility
- Test & Test
- Training
- Access to Finance



Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland



Arna chomhchistiú ag  
an Aontas Eorpach

Co-funded by the  
European Union



Tionól Réigiúnach an  
Oirthir agus Lár Tíre  
Eastern and Midland  
Regional Assembly

"The BioScaleUp project is co-funded by the Government of Ireland and the European Union through the EU Just Transition Fund Programme 2021-2027."

# Biomethane for Carbon and Community



Comhairle Contae Thiobraid Árann  
Tipperary County Council



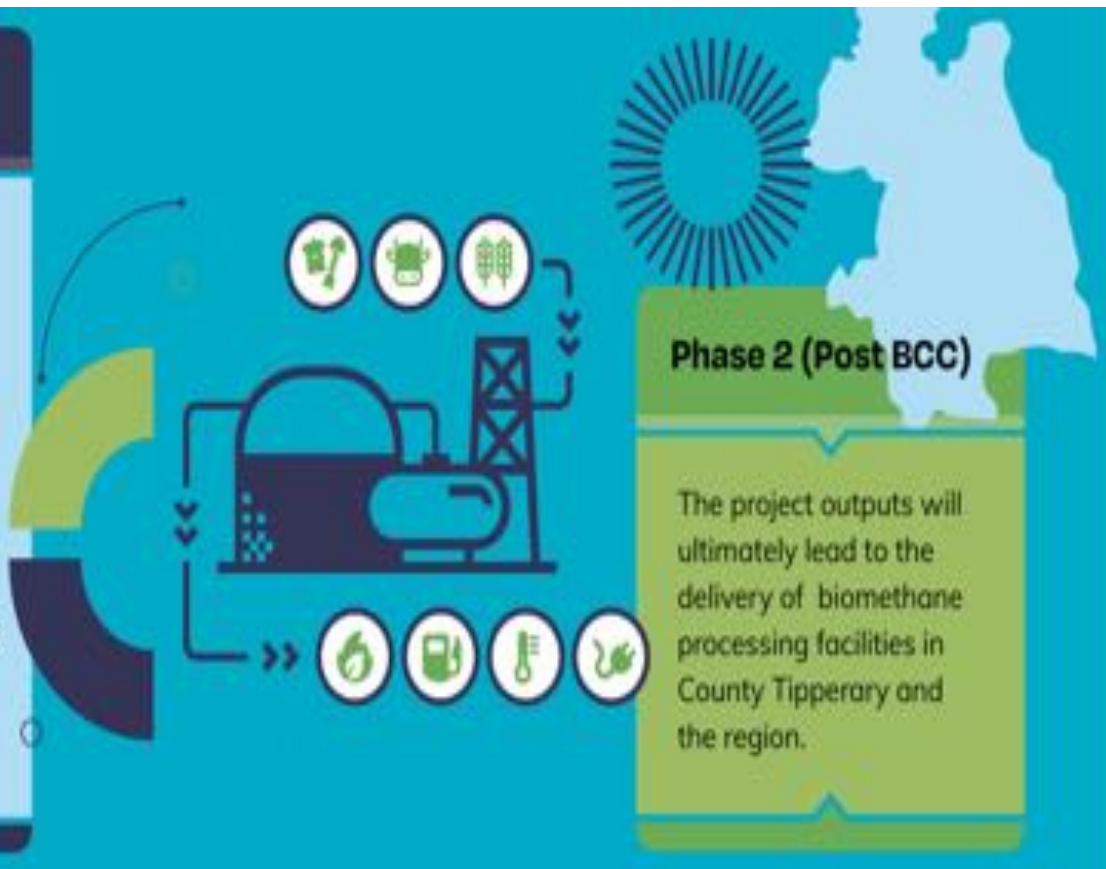
TUS



TIPPERARY  
energy  
AGENCY

## Phase 1 (BCC)

This Capacity Building and Research phase will see a team of dedicated staff working with and developing synergies with the community, farmers, the private sector and the Government to enable the development of biomethane in Tipperary and the Region.



## Phase 2 (Post BCC)

The project outputs will ultimately lead to the delivery of biomethane processing facilities in County Tipperary and the region.



Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland



Arna chomhchistiú ag  
an Aontas Eorpach

Co-funded by the  
European Union



Tionól Reigiúnach  
Oirthir agus Lár-Tíre  
Eastern and Midland  
Regional Assembly



pobal

government supporting communities



## Deep Demonstration

Sustainable food systems in Ireland



Co-funded by the  
European Union



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

# Deep Demonstration partnership of climate-resilient food systems in Ireland

EIT Climate-KIC & Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

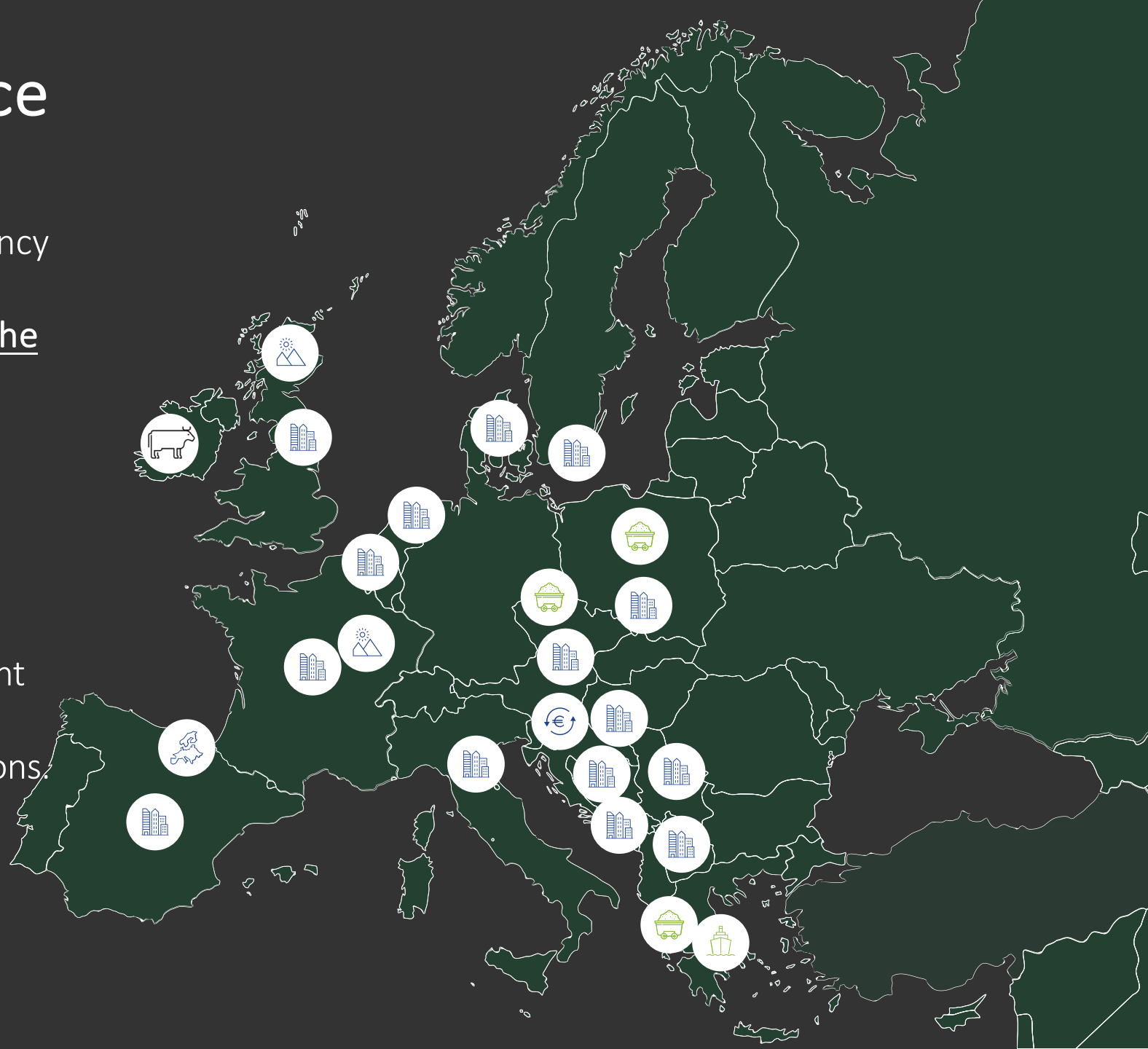
 [climate-kic.org/SustainableFoodIreland](https://climate-kic.org/SustainableFoodIreland) |  [@ClimateKIC](https://twitter.com/ClimateKIC) |  [Climate-KIC](https://www.linkedin.com/company/climate-kic)

# Climate KIC at a glance

- Europe's leading climate innovation agency and community supporting countries, regions, cities and industries to **bridge the gap** between climate commitments and reality.

## Systems Approach

- Achieving large-scale impact requires a different approach: **systems thinking**, joint programming, joint funding and blended finance to catalyse whole system transitions.





# An integrated approach

## Systems Innovation:

- Identify the dots that need connecting
- Amplify existing
- Ensure multiple perspectives
- Co-create a portfolio of interconnected initiatives

## Four key components

- Innovation Scanning
  - Policy
  - Technology
- Capability building
- Financial resources
- Learn by doing



Energy

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Health and wellbeing

---

Transport / Logistics

---

Space for nature

---

Community

---

Economic Return

---

Jobs

---

Raw Materials

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Food

---

Skills

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Water

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Resilience

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Building materials

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Policy

---

Innovation

# The Deep Demonstration Portfolio

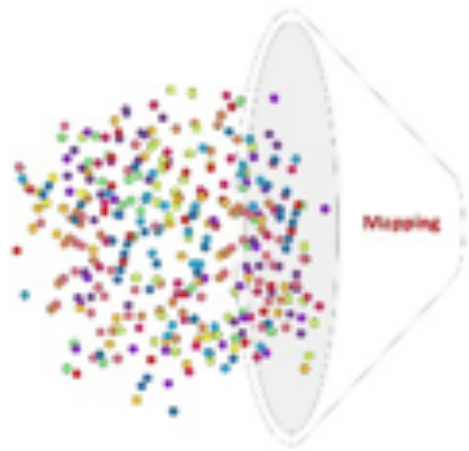
Deep Demonstration

Sustainable food systems in Ireland



275 project ideas

7 interconnected flagship areas, of which 4 have been prioritised



FLAGSHIP 1 | Vision 2050: re-imagine Ireland's land and agri-food system | ACTIVE



FLAGSHIP 2 | Foster innovation and investment in new value chains to diversify the sector



FLAGSHIP 3 | Promote circular bioeconomy models in regions and multiple value chains | ACTIVE



FLAGSHIP 4 | Diversify incomes through a carbon farming and nature credit framework | ACTIVE



FLAGSHIP 5 | Produce and certify climate-neutral beef



FLAGSHIP 6 | Accelerate emission reduction and sustainability in dairy farms | ACTIVE



FLAGSHIP 7 | Grow and diversify the tillage sector

Long term focus: 2050

More strategic  
Regional and sector level

Shorter term focus: 2030

More practical  
Value chain level

# Dairy Flagship

Deep Demonstration

Sustainable food systems in Ireland



- Narrative shift needed
  - A common, long term vision for a holistically sustainable, future fit dairy system in Ireland.
- Key Outcomes
  - Medium and long term implications of delivering sustainable dairy on processors, farmers and policy makers are understood.
  - Cross value chain collaborations are identifying and resolving barriers to achieving sustainable dairy.
  - All stakeholders are committed to scaling this new normal for sustainable dairy.





# Bioeconomy Flagship

- Partnership with ICOS and AtkinsRealis
- Next Step: Feasibility/Priming Study on developing a network of biorefineries across Ireland.
  - Biomethane & green biorefineries
  - Shared services
  - Technical, financial, raw material resources
  - Ownership models
- Strategic and coordinated national approach to ensure value is shared.

Deep Demonstration

Sustainable food systems in Ireland





## Deep Demonstration

Sustainable food systems in Ireland



Co-funded by the  
European Union



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

# Thank you!

Contact us for more information and follow us for updates:

 [climate-kic.org/SustainableFoodIreland](https://climate-kic.org/SustainableFoodIreland) |  [@ClimateKIC](https://twitter.com/ClimateKIC) |  [Climate-KIC](https://www.linkedin.com/company/Climate-KIC)

# Future Innovation Requirements to Support the Irish Dairy Sector Achieve Sustainability and Circular Goals



**Professor Vincent  
O'Flaherty**  
University of Galway



**Stephen Napier**  
Irish Bioeconomy  
Foundation



**James Gaffey**  
CircBio



**Stewart Gee**  
Ireland Land Agri-Food  
Deep Demonstration



**Assoc. Professor  
David Styles**  
University of Galway

# FUTURE INNOVATION

COFFEE: 11:20 – 11:50



# SPONSORS





# Unlocking Potential: Policy Support for the Dairy Sector in the Circular Bioeconomy



**Conor Mulvihill, Chair**  
Dairy Industry Ireland



**Dr Keristena Grewan**  
Ornuu



**Matthew Halpin**  
Department for Food,  
Agriculture and the Marine



**PJ McCarthy**  
Renewable Gas  
Forum Ireland



**Professor JJ Leahy**  
University of Limerick

# POLICY SUPPORT

LUNCH: 13:20 – 14:15



## SPONSORS



## SESSION 4

# Navigating Opportunities and Challenges in the Circular Bioeconomy for Dairy Farmers and Processors



**Conor Ryan, Chair**  
Arrabawn Co-op



**Ciara Beausang**  
Teagasc



**Brugha Duffy**  
Farmer, Co. Meath



**John Brosnan**  
ICOS



**Paul Murphy**  
Climeaction



**Karina Pierce**  
University College  
Dublin

# OPPORTUNITIES & CHALLENGES



# Shaping the Future: Market Innovations for a Circular Dairy Economy



**Dr John Garvey, Chair**  
Kemmy Business  
School



**Fiona McAteer**  
LeBruin Private



**Lucy Ryan**  
Bank of Ireland



**Fiona McCabe**  
Enterprise Ireland



**Ian Marshall**  
Queen's  
University Belfast



**David Kennedy**  
Bord Bia

# MARKET DESIGN

## **CLOSING REMARKS FROM THE HOST**



**Dr Anne Marie Henihan**  
**DPTC Centre Director**

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would extend our heartfelt thanks to our chair, Ivan Yates, and to all of our speakers and panellists for their invaluable contributions today.

Our gratitude also goes to the members of DPTC and all stakeholders who participated in our surveys and workshops.

Special thanks to the team who brought the stakeholder analysis report to fruition.

We look forward to continuing our collaboration with you in the future.



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

## OUR INDUSTRY MEMBERS



## OUR ACADEMIC MEMBERS



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

## OUR ASSOCIATE MEMBERS



Innopharma  
technology



## OUR COLLABORATORS



Renewable Gas  
Forum Ireland



# SPONSORS







# DPTC *2024* Annual Conference

*Researchers Driving the  
Future of Dairy Processing*

*November 12  
Osprey Hotel • Naas*