

Presentation on Competitiveness to ENRD Workshop

Alternative and Innovative Ways of Increasing
Competitiveness in RDP's

Brussels – June 4th 2019

Gerry Gunning
Rural Development Executive
Irish Farmers' Association (IFA)



Competitiveness an objective in the RDP. Why?

- Farm Income under threat.
- Farmers running harder to stand still.
- Standards rising and failure of market orientation policy.
- Efficiency and competitiveness go hand in hand.

RDP 2014-2020

- In Irelands RDPs Competiveness a key objective along with:
 - Climate change.
 - Improving Biodiversity.
 - Resource efficiency.
 - Social inclusion.
 - Local development.

Competitiveness in Ireland's RDP

Objectives:

- To restructure and modernise 10% of holdings.
- 3% of holdings to benefit from Young Farmer measures [6% in total].
- Better access to farmland.
- RDP measures underpinned by domestic fiscal incentives.
 - Such as land leasing, partnerships, stock relief.

Measure – M4

- Targeted Agriculture Modernisation Scheme (TAMS) – Farm Investment Scheme.
- Grant Aid across all sectors with additional provision for young farmers.
- Aimed at efficiency on farms: economic performance, animal health and welfare issues and improving environment.
- Represents about 10% (€395m) of overall Budget.

Knowledge Transfer M1

- Objective to optimise efficiency by adopting new technologies and best commercial practice.
 - better grass utilisation, financial and risk management, animal health and welfare, soil management, encouraging innovation and new ideas.
- Efficient use of inputs – addressing climate change.
 - Fertiliser application rates on total grassland area over a ten year period were on average nearly 36% lower for agri-environmental scheme participants compared to non-participants.
- Farmers get access to the most recent research that can improve competitiveness.
 - 20,000 farmers in 1,100 groups (Public & Private) – 3 Year Programme.
 - Farm plan adopted with a qualified facilitator and veterinary practitioner.
 - 5 meetings/year including technical events.
 - €100m allocated – to cover cost of participation and professional input.
 - Training also a key element of Agri-Env and BDGP Scheme (M10)

Breeding, Welfare & Environmental Efficiency M10

- Beef herd: Beef Data and Genomics (BDGP).
 - Recording to get greater efficiency.
 - Produce more with less.
 - Climate change dividend.
 - €258m allocated with 24,000 farmers participating.
- Sheep Welfare Scheme
 - Greater efficiency in production methods and improved animal welfare practices.
 - €100m allocated – 20,000 farmers participate.

Advisory - M2

- Important to have an advisory service that is well trained in new innovations and up to date research.
- Continuous Professional Development (CPD) important.
- Digitalisation an important tool to bring about competitiveness.
- Smart Farming – input by advisory service in optimum usage of fertiliser and chemicals.

Collaborative farming – M16

- Assisting start ups
 - €8m provided.
- Partnerships and share farming.
 - 1,014 Registered Farm Partnerships have been paid a total of €1.33m to date, in the first 6 tranches of the Collaborative Farming Scheme.
- Contract rearing.

Getting more from the market place.

- Negotiating power of farmers needs to be enhanced in the food supply chain – limited impact to date.
- Organics is an option but marketing strategy required.
- Broadband availability still a major problem in many remote rural areas.
- Leader programme plays a role in supporting competitiveness.

CAP Post 2020

- New Strategic Plan for P1 and P2.
- Opportunity for MS to enhance competitiveness
 - Important 3 of the 9 CAP objectives relate to this.
- Measure in CAP plan 2020-2027 contain measures which are enhanced to reflect this.
- Young Farmers measures vital.
- Farmers need to get more from the marketplace particularly as EU Budget under threat.

THANK YOU