

# National Contact Points NCP

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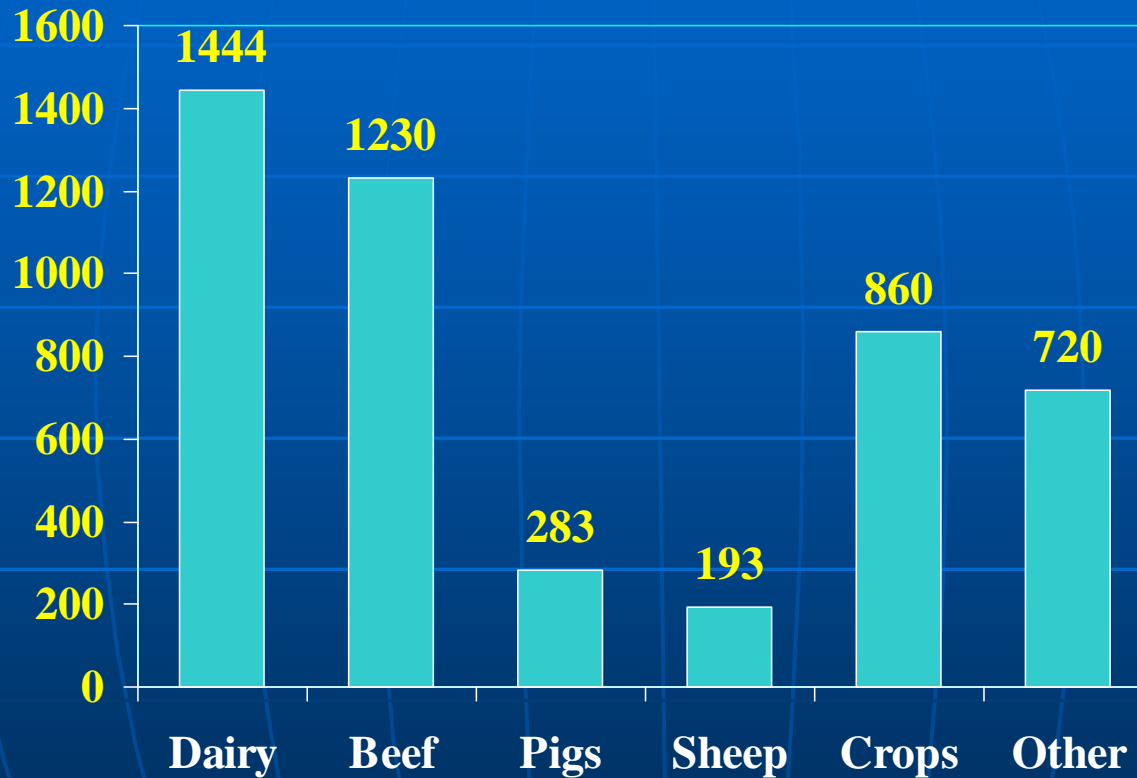


THE DEPARTMENT OF  
**AGRICULTURE & FOOD**  
AN ROINN TALMHAÍOCHTA AGUS BIA

# 1. Agri-Food in Irish Economy

- **Key role in the Irish economy**
  - **9 % GDP**
  - **9 % Total Employment**
  - **18 % Of all Industrial Jobs**
  - **8 % Total Exports**
  - **20 % of Net Foreign Earnings**

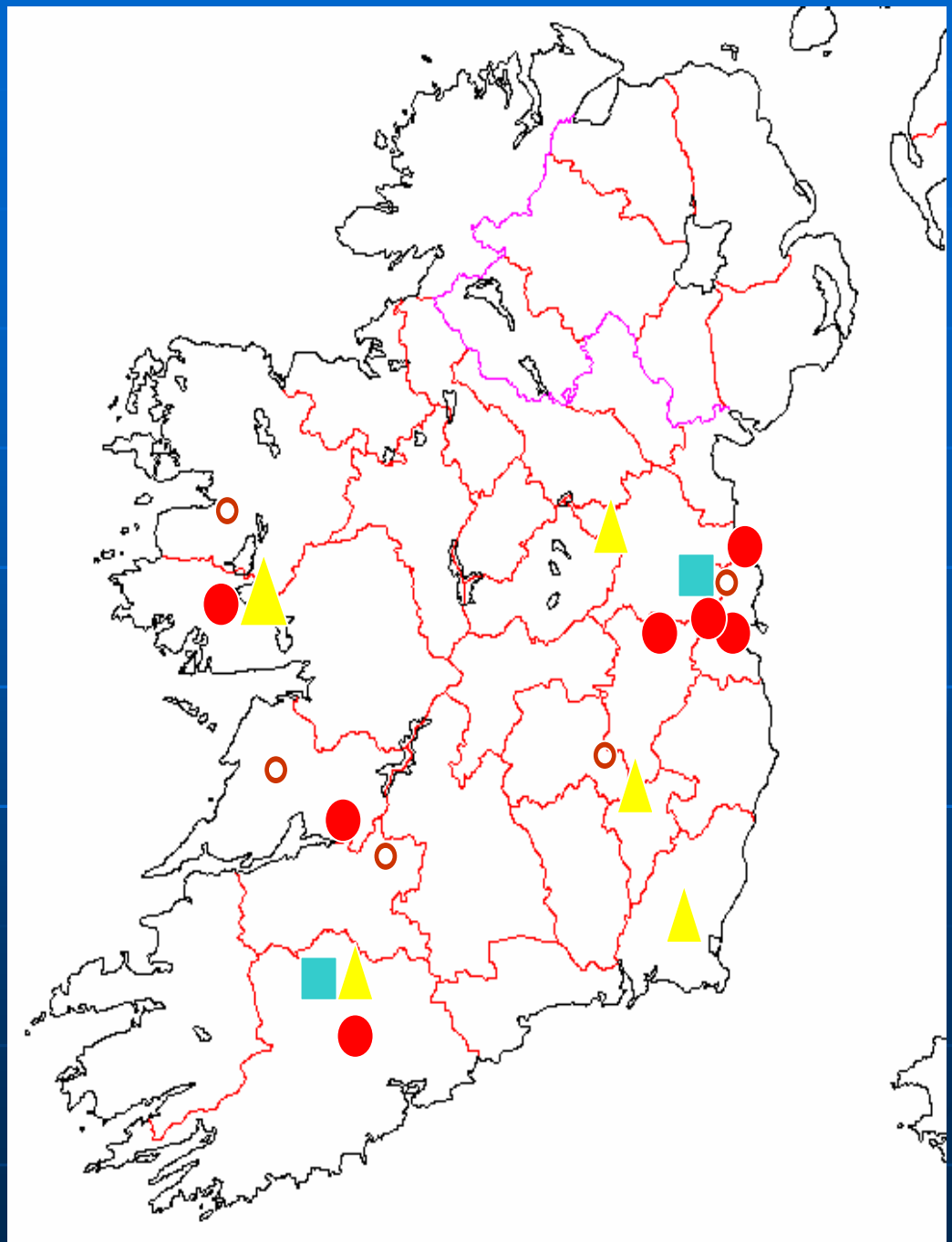
# Agricultural Outputs €M



# Agri-Food Research

- **TEAGASC** - State Body - Research, Advice, Education
  - Research Centres - *Animal, Crop, Food, Plant BioTech, Food BioTech, Rural Economy*
  - Research Spans Whole Food Chain
- 7 Universities - *Agriculture, Food Veterinary, Biotech*  
Strong Partnerships Teagasc - Universities - Industry





# Priorities for Agri-Food Research

- **Provide a Scientific Foundation to Support**
  - *Competitive, Innovative, Sustainable, Food Sector*
  - *Food Safety and Consumer Protection in Product / Process Development*
- **Public R+D Important**
  - *Agri Food Industry R+D Low*
- **Develop a Knowledge Based Bio-Economy**
  - *Lisbon Agenda*

# **What Are National Contact Points**

# NCP

- **A Supporting Link Between**  
*EU - National Research*
- **A Variety of Types . . . NCP's work in**
  - *Ministry, University, Research Centres, Agencies, private Companies*
- **Listed on CORDIS** *by Country and Research Programme Area*

# NCP Role

- **INFORM & ASSIST** Potential Participants in Framework
- **PROMOTE PARTICIPATION** in FP6 /7 to Your Research Community
- **SIGNPOSTING** – *Feedback To EU on Problems*
- **NCP - A Source of Knowledge and Assistance**

# Actions to Inform

- Updates to Researchers - eMail Database
  - *Regular Updates on Call Drafts / Developments*
  - *Partner Searches*
- Spread Awareness of Other Sources of Info
  - *Cordis, other Web Sites, SCAR, National*
- Inform Myself
  - *Attend Brussels Meetings, Conferences . . .*
  - *Tips from Evaluators – if I know any*

# Actions to Inform

- *Before / At Time of Each Call . . .*
- Information Meetings in Res Centres, Univs
  - Current State of Play – *Whats in the Call*
  - EU Needs & Thinking - *Sustainability, Citizen Benefit*
  - Vision of Call - *Interpret Focus of Call Text*
  - Identify Areas where we have Capability to *Participate*

# Actions to Inform

- **Stress Scope of Partnerships Required**
  - *European, Other, INCO, SME's . . .*
- **Stress Context of Evaluation**
  - *Relevance, Impact . . . Good Science*
- **Explain Instruments** – *NoE, IP, STREP, SSA*
- **Deadlines** - *Closing Dates*
- **Future Trends** - *Lisbon Agenda, Bio-Economy, Technology Platforms, ERA Objectives*

# Actions - Motivate Researchers

- **Present Success Outcomes of Previous Calls**
- **Point to Benefits of Involvement**
  - *Not the Money !*
  - *Improve Knowledge - New Contacts / Networks*
  - *An International Benchmark / Recognition*
  - *Prestige - Cutting Edge Research*
- **Encourage to Join Evaluator Database**
- **Invite Commission Speaker**

**Personal Contact Best Motivator**

# Actions – Proposal Preparation

- Be Available to Support via Personal, Phone, eMail . .
  - Discuss Content, Partnerships
  - Any vital features . . . *INCO, SME, etc*
  - Full Compliance with Call Text – *No More, No Less*
  - Focus - *Citizen Benefit, European Outlook*
  - Consider Evaluators – *Keep Evaluator in Mind*
  - Encourage to Get Expert Help – *Too Much for ONE to Know - Issues of Science, Finance, Management*

# Examples

- **Meetings with Consortia**
  - *Influence on Focus, Partnerships, which helped to get Funding*
- **Support to Recent**  
*Beef Dairy and other Projects in Call 4*
- **Young-Train - 3 Attempts**

# Actions - Feedback Input

- **At Information Meetings**
  - *Encourage Comment & Research Ideas to EU*
  - *What are our Priorities / Needs*
  - *What are our Capabilities / Strengths*
  - *What Do we Want in the Draft Programme*
- **Present the Ideas / Feedback at EU Meetings**

# FP6 - Irish Areas of Participation

- Food safety
- Contaminants/Residues
- Antimicrobial resistance
- Risk Assessment
- Genomics
- Gene/Nutrient Interaction
- Supply Chain /Traceability
- Nutrition
- Animal welfare
- Animal diseases
- Prion diseases
- GM plants
- Functional Foods

# Ireland Success

- **3 Calls – Submitted 2 IP as Co-ordinator**
  - *1 Funded IP - Lipgene*
  - *Partner in 35 Funded Projects*
- **Call 4 - Co-Ord of 2 IP - Beef / Dairy Bio**
  - *Beef will be Funded + Partnerships incl Pork*
- **Lead ERA-Net - Sustainable Livestock Production from Grassland**
- **Partner in Other ERA-Nets incl Food Safety**

# Summary

- **NCP** - *To Promote, Assist, Link to EU*
- A Source of Support / Knowledge for Researchers
- Understand EU Research Needs and Objectives
  - *SME's, INCO, Lisbon Agenda, Bio-Economy, etc*
- Follow Future Trends - *Whats Next*
- Enhance Your Country's Chances in Framework

# Contact

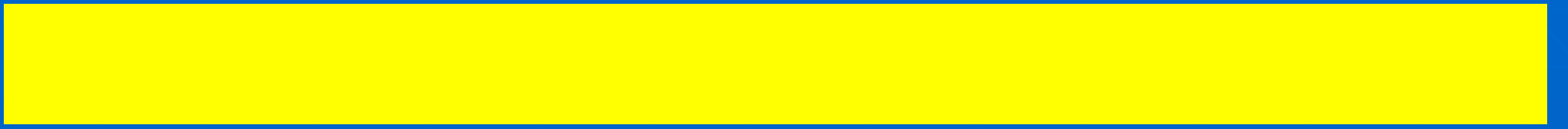
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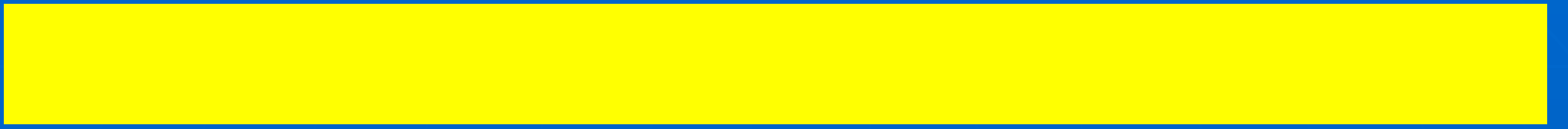
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# Food Safety Challenges

- Reduction in level food borne contaminants
- Achieve a multi-disciplinary / integrated approach to food safety involving all stakeholders in the food chain
- Safety of new and novel foods and innovative foods which are less processed
- Assure safety foods produced on global market and imported into Ireland
- Meeting requirements of the new EU regulations

# Food Safety Research Areas

## .. MicroBiological – *Bacteria, Parasites, Viruses*

- *Control these pathogens by a Farm to Fork Safety Approach*
- *Integrate research on pathogens in food chain with those causing illness in humans*

## ■ Chemical Residues

- *Known and Emergent Residues in the Irish food Supply*
- *Develop and employ state of the art technology to extract /detect*
- *Link data in National Food Residue Database to Risk Assessment modelling for health risk*

# Ireland in Framework Progs

- Ireland Small
- Extra Funding Valuable, but
- Collaboration / Networks  
More Important
- Compliments National  
Programmes
- Sustains & Grows Research  
Teams