

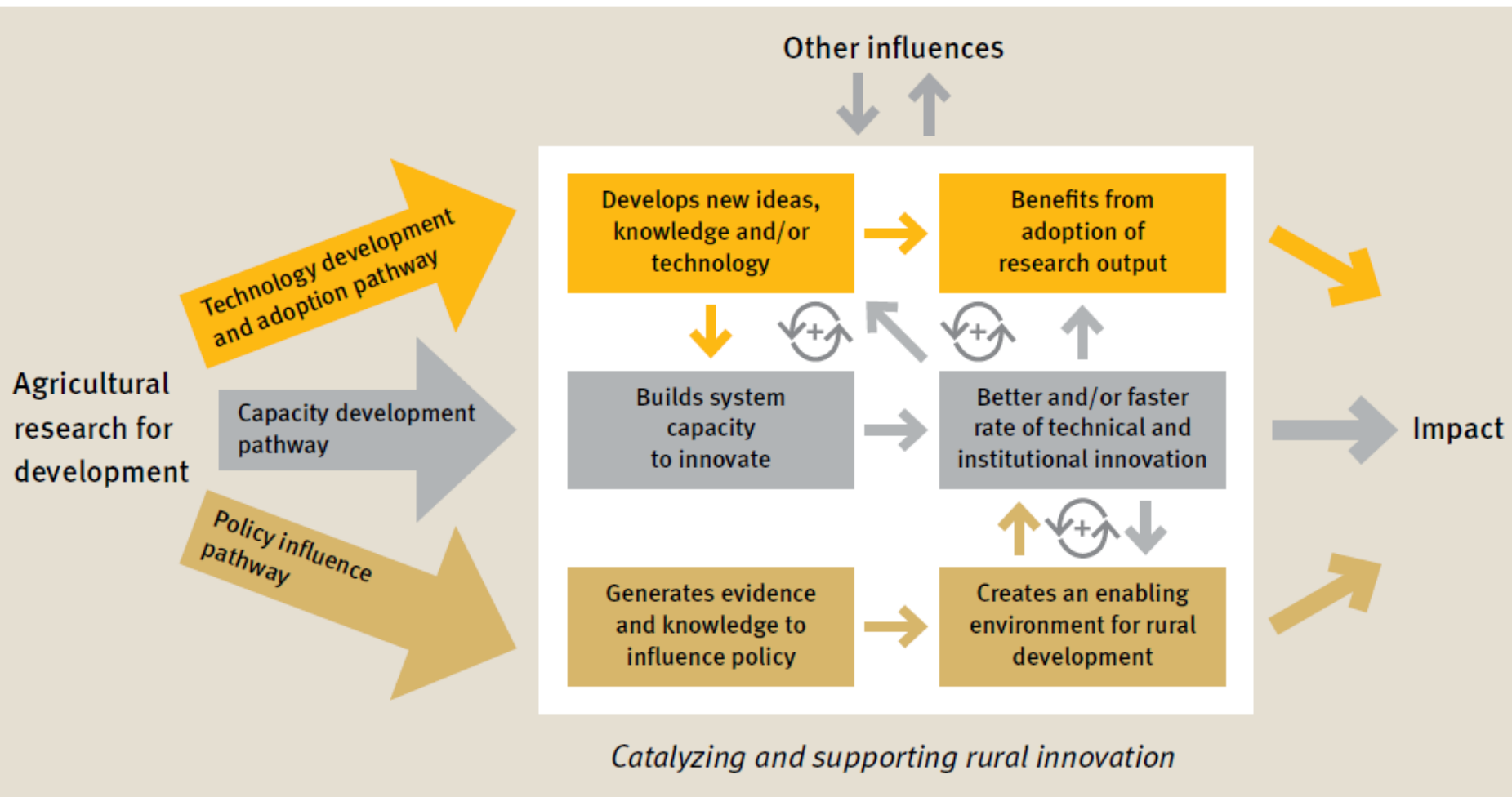
Programming Research and Innovation in an Integrated AKIS: The Irish Experience

Kevin Heanue, Jane Kavanagh, Michael Hennessy, Mark
Gibson, Teagasc
Joint SCAR Workshop, April 6th 2018, Rome

Outline

- R&I impact pathways
- Overview of Irish AKIS
 - Teagasc
- Actions
 - Stakeholder Consultative Groups
 - ConnectED
- Reflections & Summary

Research and innovation impact pathways



Source: EC 2017 Guidelines. Evaluation of innovation in rural development programmes 2014-2020 & Douthwaite et al., 2017



REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

Farmers' Support:
Services in European AKIS (PRO AKIS)

AKIS DIAGRAM

FARMING-BASED ORGANISATIONS AND NGOS

Irish Farmers' Association Irish Young Farmers Irish Shows Association LEADER local action groups

RESEARCH AND EDUCATION

Higher Education Authority

Universities

Main supplier(s) of advisory services:
Teagasc

Main clients:
commercial farms, semi-subsistence and part-time farmers, young farmers

Main topics of advice:
cross-compliance, (agri-) environment, livestock production

Main methods:
group and mass advisory methods; e.g. farm visits, group discussions

Large part of AKIS within a single organisation – Teagasc - coherent core

Strong links
Teagasc research and external research organisations
Teagasc advisory to stakeholders

Weaker links
External research and education organisations and stakeholders
Teagasc advisory and external advisory organisations

Main actors

- (a) public sector: Government Agencies (e.g. Teagasc branches);
- (b) education and research: Universities and Higher Education Institutes; Institutes of Technology, Research Foundations, Teagasc colleges/research centres, Private colleges, National Food Centre, etc;
- (c) extension: Teagasc; other government agencies
- (d) private sector: cooperatives, independent agricultural consultants, food chain actors;
- (e) FBOs and NGOs: e.g. Irish Farmers' Association, Irish Young Farmers, Irish Shows Associations

Cooperation between AKIS actors:

overall good levels of cooperation, although there are some strong (e.g. Teagasc advisors with Teagasc research) and some weak connections (e.g. external stakeholders and Teagasc extension) between stakeholders



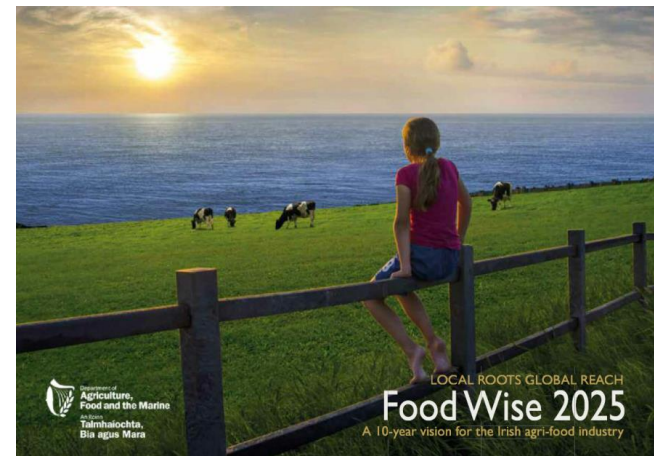
THEME (KBBE.2012.1)
Agricultural Knowledge
for an Inclusive Europe
Grant agreement for: C
Grant agreement no: 3



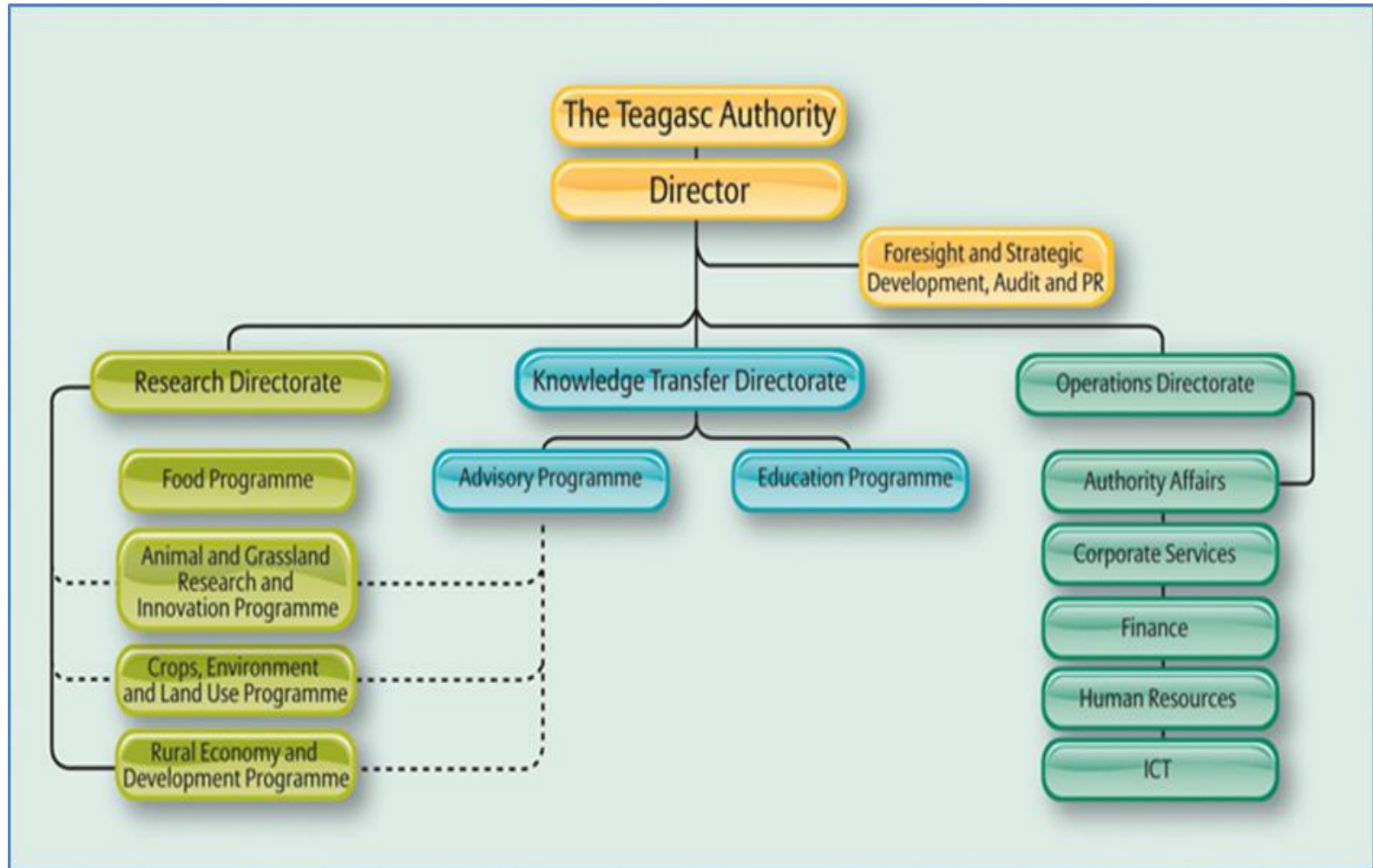
Teagasc Mission & Goals

To support science-based innovation in the agri-food sector and broader bio-economy so as to underpin profitability, competitiveness, and sustainability

1. Improve the **competitiveness** of agriculture, food and the wider bio-economy
2. Support **sustainable** farming and the environment
3. Encourage **diversification** of the rural economy and enhance the **quality of life** in rural areas
4. Enhance **organisational capability** and deliver **value for money**



Teagasc Organisation Chart



Location & Staff

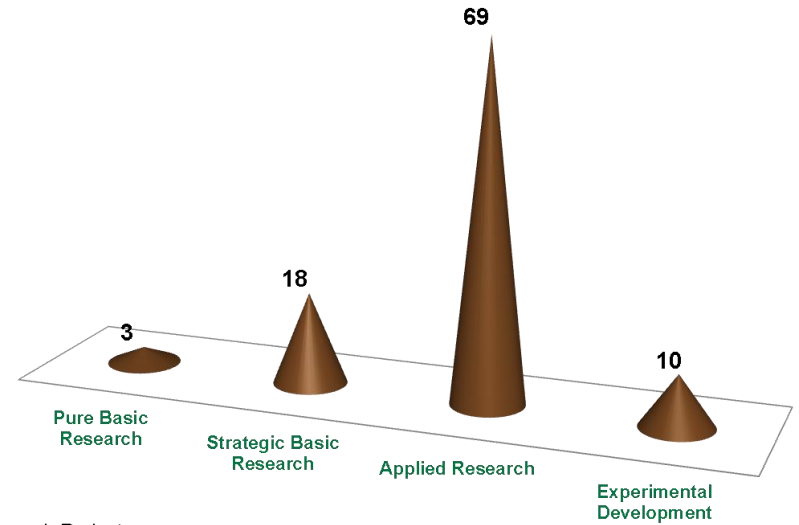


52 Advisory offices
4 Teagasc colleges
3 Private colleges
7 Research Centres

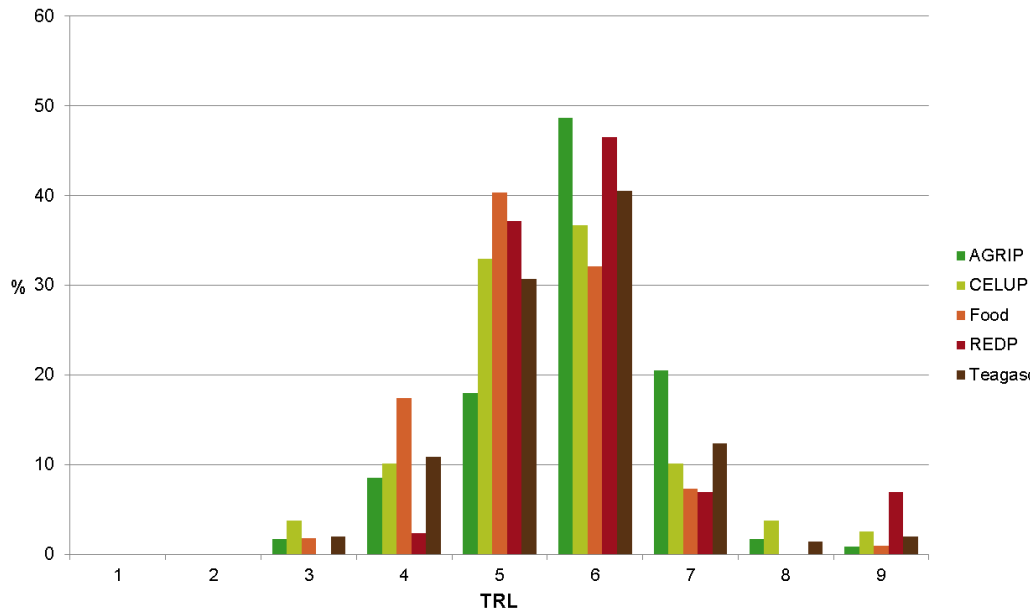
(1,228)	Perm.	Con.	Total
Researchers	115	115	227
Advisors	240	37	277
Education	53	32	85
Specialists	65	0	65



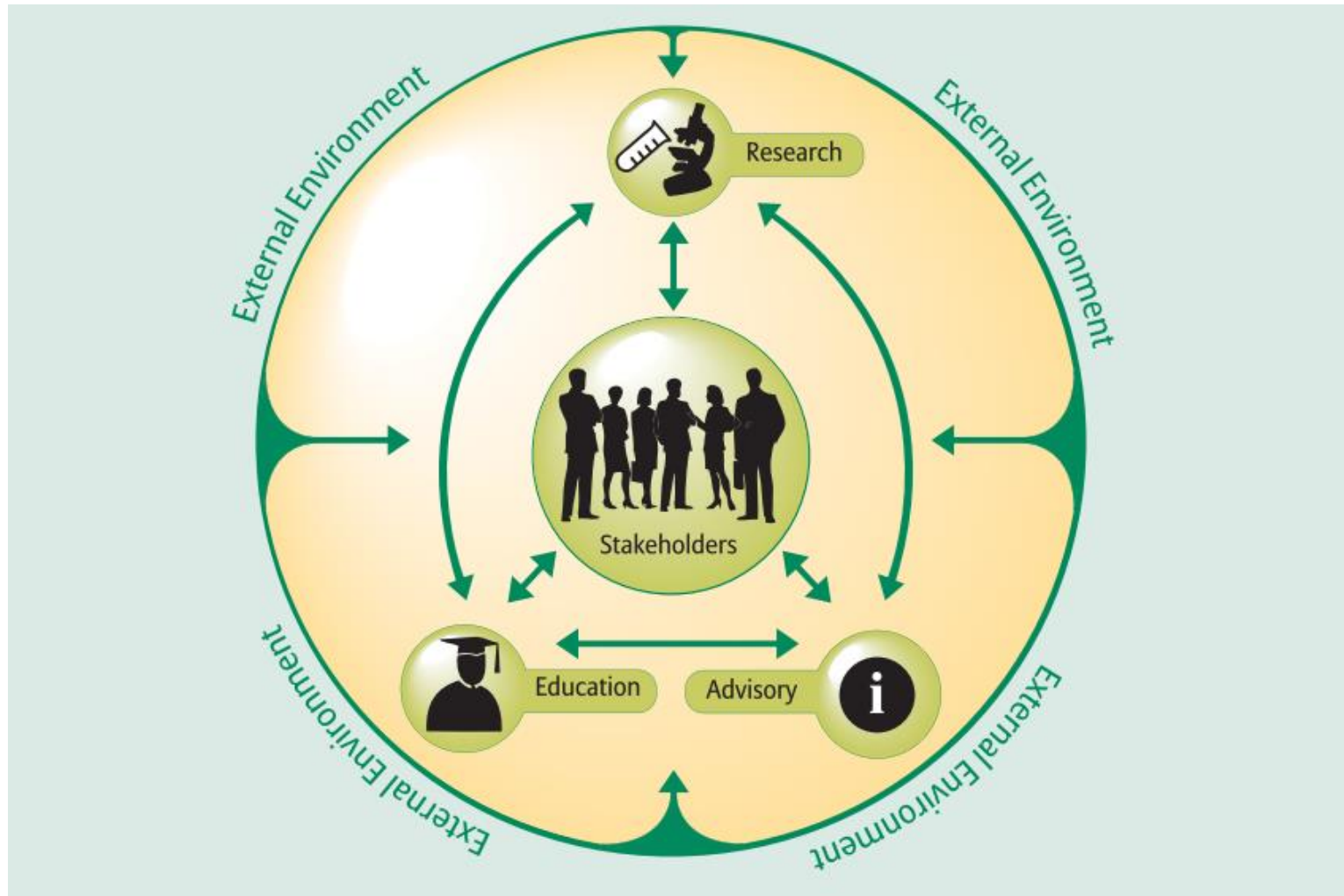
% of Teagasc Research Projects by Type of Activity



■ % Research Projects



Teagasc AKIS - Model of Innovation Support

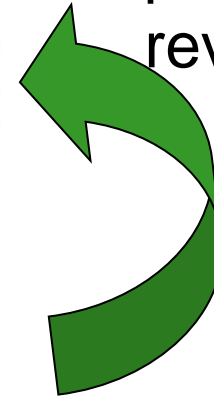


Integrating Research and Knowledge Transfer

Researchers create new knowledge



Stakeholders participate in programme reviews



Specialists mould this knowledge into information for farmers



Advisers work with farmers to implement the new technology

Stakeholder Consultation



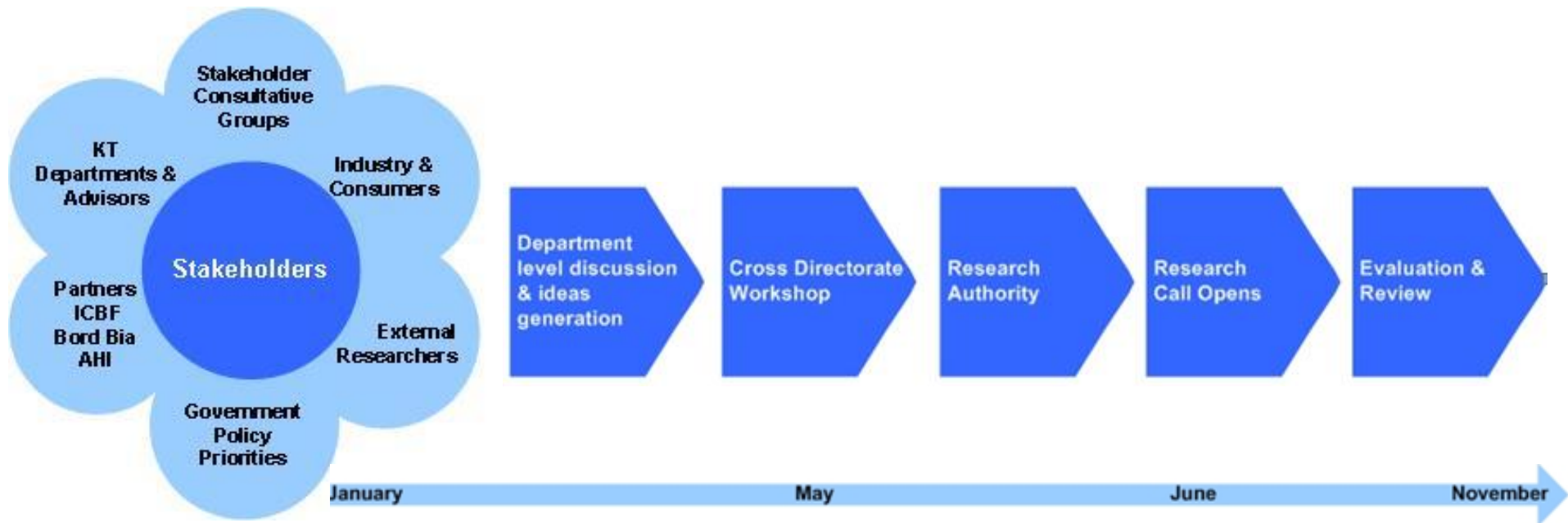
Stakeholder Groups

Agricultural Catchments
Agricultural Economics & Farm Management
Agri-Environment Stakeholder Group
Beef Stakeholder Group
Cut Foliage Stakeholder Group
Dairy Stakeholder Group
Education Forum
Forestry Stakeholder Group
Fruit Stakeholder Group
Mushroom Stakeholder Group
Nursery Stock Stakeholder Group
Pig Stakeholder Group
Rural Development
Sheep Stakeholder Group
Tillage Stakeholder Group
Vegetable Stakeholder Group



- 16 Stakeholder Groups
- National Stakeholder Conference
- Improve input from stakeholders

Process – consultation to projects



Focus on current problems and challenges

- Increased use of profit monitors
- Expansion of discussion groups
- Comprehensive public events programmes
- Development of specific activities in breeding and grassland management, in particular, the BETTER farm programme.
- New programme activities e.g. the Farm Financial Health Check, the share farming model, the Derrypatrick suckler herd.

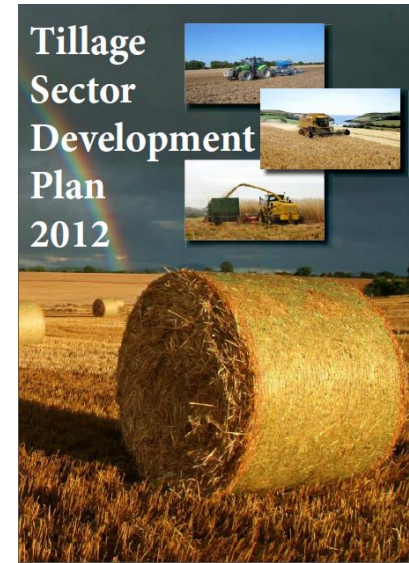
Focus on current problems and challenges

■ Tillage

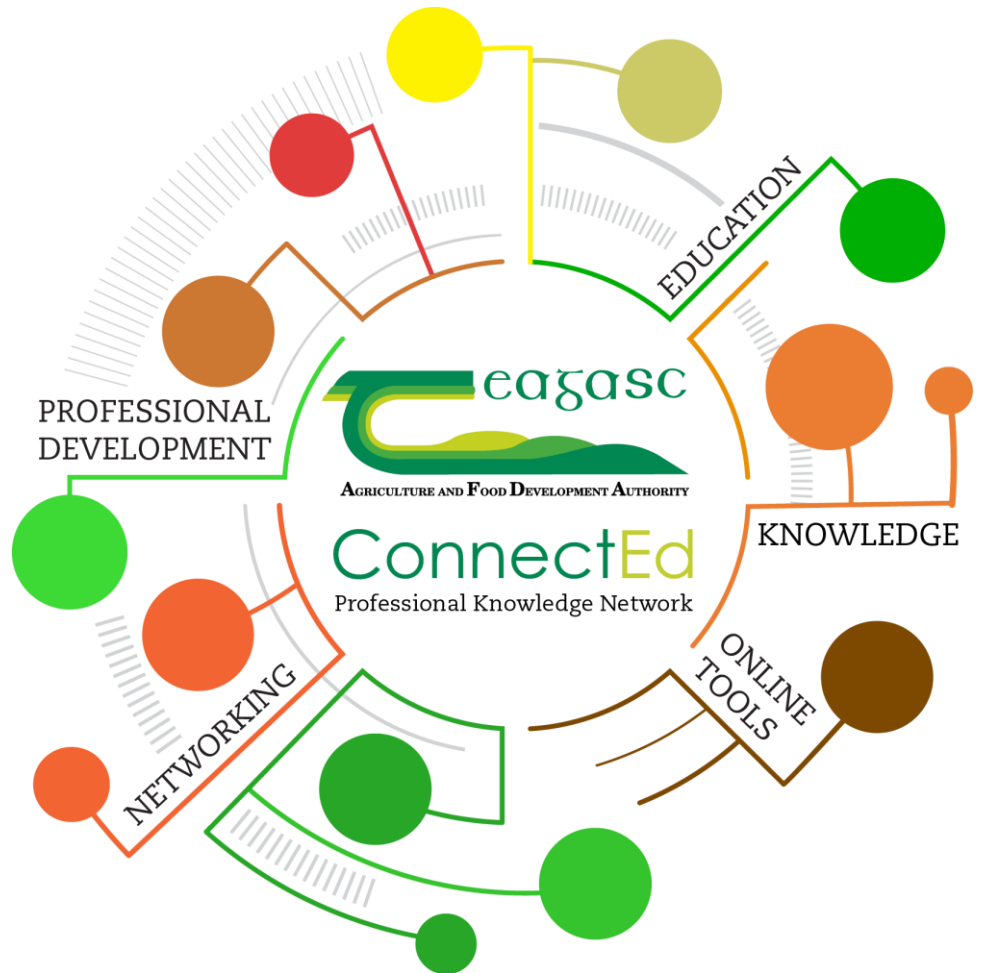
- Sustainable Use Directive
- Barley yields
- Tillage Sector Development plan

■ Dairy

- Labour issues in expanding sector
- Research project – “People in dairy”
- Associated Working Group
- Technical notes; policies and procedures; co-design of tools
- Industry Taskforce

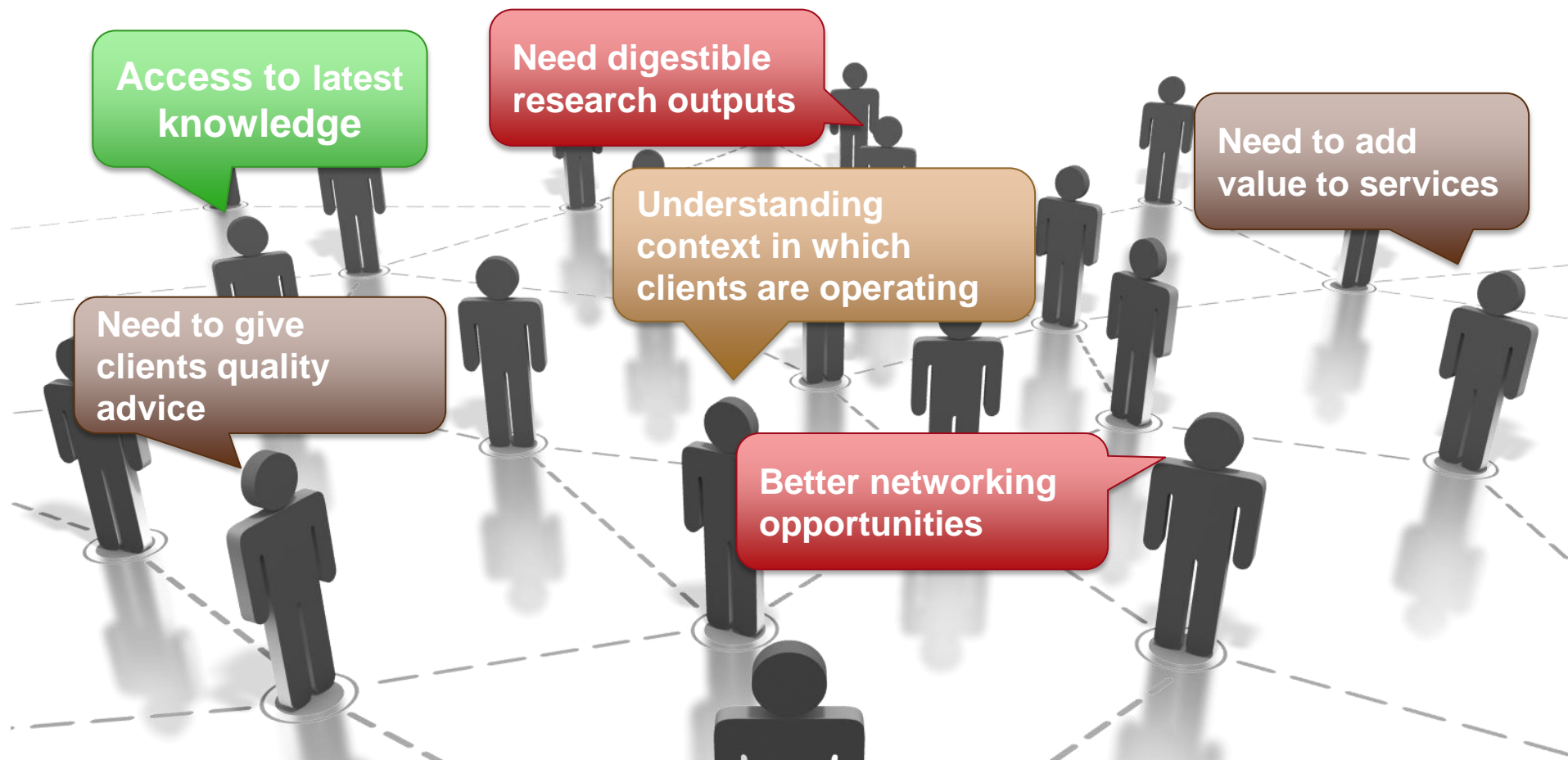


Teagasc ConnectED Programme



To extend Teagasc's research and knowledge transfer programmes to professionals and businesses operating within or supporting the Irish agri-food sector.

Feedback from stakeholders



Who is the programme aimed at?



Animal Health



Veterinary services



Agricultural consultants



Agri-food businesses



Accountants



Solicitors



Co-Operatives



Local authorities



Banking and financial



Insurance



Foresters



Professional services

ConnectEd Membership

- Professional Education – CPD, QQI
- Invitations to Teagasc events
- Teagasc publications by post:
 - Today's Farm, T-Research, Advisory Newsletters
- Seasonal Specialist Reports: Dairy, Beef, Crops
- Access to online tools & support desk
- Invitation to Regional ConnectEd Seminars

Reflection & Summary

- Impact pathways
 - **Capacity-development**
 - Technology development and adoption
 - Policy influence
- Challenges (AgriSpin, 2016)
 - Interaction with young farmers
 - Create space for farmer innovation and feedback
 - Devote attention to understanding farmer lack of best practice uptake
 - Solutions for part time farmers
 - Actively search for farmer entrepreneurs with new initiatives
 - Look at the marketing/consumer end of the value chain

Recommendations

- Multi-actor approach to problem/challenge identification & solution
- Focus on enabling and innovation outcomes
 - M&E
- Routine inertia/group think
 - Refresh and time limit participants