



UCD School of Agriculture  
& Food Science

# Achieving our Agricultural Climate Targets: Pathways for Success

Wednesday, 7th December 2022 | 09:00 – 16:00  
A&L Goodbody Lecture Theatre, UCD Sutherland School of Law

Kindly supported by:



#ucdagclimatetargets

# PROGRAMME

9.00-9.35	Registration, coffee and poster viewing
<b>9.35-9.50</b> Welcome & Opening Address	<b>Welcome</b> Prof. Frank Monahan   Dean of Agriculture and Head of School, UCD School of Agriculture and Food Science <b>Opening Address</b> Mr. Martin Heydon   T.D., Minister of State, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
<b>9.50-11.00</b> Session 1: Policy Landscape	Chairperson: Prof. Michael Wallace   Professor of Agriculture and Food Economics, UCD School of Agriculture and Food Science <b>Climate and agriculture: policy past, present and future</b> Dr Cara Augustenborg   Climate Change Advisory Council member and Assistant Professor in Landscape Studies and Environmental Policy, UCD School of Architecture, Planning and Environmental Policy <b>What the data is telling us</b> Ms. Mary Frances Rochford   Programme Manager, Climate Change, Environmental Protection Agency <b>Achieving our agricultural climate targets: the role of policy</b> Mr. Pat Murphy   Head Of Environment Knowledge Transfer, Teagasc <b>Reforming agricultural policies to support climate action: an OECD perspective</b> Dr Hugo Valin   Policy analyst, Climate change, Environment and Resources Unit, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) <i>Q &amp; A at the end of the session</i>
<b>11.00-12.10</b> Session 2: Farm level initiatives: Mitigation Measures	Chairperson: Dr Saoirse Tracy   UCD School of Agriculture and Food Science <b>Multispecies swards: a tool to address sustainability concerns in ruminant systems</b> Assoc. Prof. Helen Sheridan   Associate Professor in Farm Landscape Ecology and Agri-Environmental Policy, UCD School of Agriculture and Food Science <b>Digital agriculture as a tool for climate-smart arable farming</b> Prof. Kevin McDonnell   Professor of Crop Science & Biosystems Engineering, UCD School of Agriculture and Food Science <b>Climate Smart Forages</b> Dr Mary McEvoy   Technical Director, Germinal Ireland <i>Q &amp; A at the end of the session</i>
12.10-13.00	Lunch and poster viewing
<b>13.00-14.10</b> Session 3: Farm level initiatives: Knowledge Transfer and Behavioural Changes	Chairperson: Dr Stan Lalor   Teagasc <b>Agriculture's climate challenge – the farmers perspective</b> Dr James Breen   Assistant Professor in Agriculture and Food Economics, UCD School of Agriculture and Food Science <b>From knowledge transfer to co-creation of innovation - the challenge for advisory services</b> Assoc. Prof. Monica Gorman   Associate Professor in Agricultural Extension and Innovation, UCD School of Agriculture and Food Science <b>Co-ops supporting suppliers' sustainability journey</b> Mr. Thomas Ryan   Senior Sustainability Manager, Tirlán <i>Q &amp; A at the end of the session</i>
14.10-14.30	Coffee
<b>14.30-15.30</b> Session 4: Beyond the Farm Gate: Connecting consumers, industry and farm level initiatives	Chairperson: Dr Sinéad McCarthy   Teagasc <b>Personalised food-based dietary guidelines to support transition to a more sustainable healthy diet</b> Dr Aifric O'Sullivan   Assistant Professor in Human Nutrition, UCD School of Agriculture and Food Science <b>From farmers to consumer foods - how industry is working towards a more sustainable future</b> Dr Aoife Murphy   Sustainable Nutrition Manager, Kerry <i>Q &amp; A at the end of the session</i>
<b>15.30-16.00</b> Panel Discussion and Close out	Chairperson: Prof. Tommy Boland   UCD School of Agriculture and Food Science Dr Saoirse Tracy   UCD School of Agriculture and Food Science Dr Stan Lalor   Teagasc Dr Sinéad McCarthy   Teagasc

# SPEAKERS

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## **Dr. Cara Augustenborg**

Climate Change Advisory Council member and Assistant Professor in Landscape Studies and Environmental Policy, School of Architecture, Planning and Environmental Policy

Dr. Cara Augustenborg is an Assistant Professor in Landscape Studies and Environmental Policy at University College Dublin. She also serves as a Member of Ireland's Climate Change Advisory Council; a Member of President Michael D. Higgins Council of State; Presenter of 'Down To Earth with Cara Augustenborg' on Newstalk FM; and on the advisory committee for Teagasc's flagship agri-environmental programme, Signpost. Previously, she was appointed to the advisory councils of the Environmental Protection Agency and the National Dialogue for Climate Action by the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment and served as an adviser to the Cool Planet Experience's Climate Champion programme.

 @CAugustenborg

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## **Ms. Mary Frances Rochford**

Programme Manager, Climate Change, Environmental Protection Agency

Mary Frances Rochford is the Programme Manager with responsibility for Climate Change in the Office of Environmental Sustainability and a member of the EPA Senior Management Team since August 2018.

Her area of responsibility incorporates: Production of the National Green House Gas Inventories and Projections, Climate Science and International Engagement, Climate Adaptation, National Dialogue on Climate Action and Behavioural Insights.

Mary Frances has experience in policy and implementation of legislation in the areas of Green House Gas Inventories & Projections, Circular Economy, Sustainability, Resource Efficiency, Waste Prevention and Behavioural Change, Industry and Waste Enforcement, Local Authority Enforcement, Chemicals and Market Surveillance, Groundwater Protection, Contaminated Land, Waste Water and Drinking Water Enforcement.

Her broad experience in the area of environmental protection has demonstrated her ability to deliver within complex stakeholder interactions, building trust and relationships where diverse and competing priorities exist. She has extensive experience of public engagement on sensitive environmental issues and with public representatives, industry representatives, Government Departments, Agencies, Public Authorities, NGOs and media.

Mary Frances has represented the EPA in the areas of regulatory, guidance, research, and strategy development with multi-agency, national and international stakeholders.

 @MFRochford

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## **Mr. Pat Murphy**

Head Of Environment Knowledge Transfer, Teagasc

Pat Murphy leads the Environment Knowledge Transfer Programme in Teagasc. The programme provides advisory services to farmers to improve environmental sustainability of Irish agriculture, focussing on water quality, GHG emission, biodiversity, soil fertility and soil quality. Recently he has led the establishment of the Agricultural Sustainability Support and Advisory Programme in conjunction with industry and government partners. The programme works in conjunction with catchment assessment teams to assist farmers in reducing their impact on water quality in at risk catchments.

He has led the development of decision support systems including the Carbon Navigator, which focuses on increasing awareness of farmers to reduce emissions, and NMP Online which has been used to prepare nutrient management plans for 60,000 Irish farmers.

Pat graduated from UCD (B.Agr.Sc -Econ and M.Agr.Sc). In 2009 he completed an M.Sc. in Economic Policy Studies in Trinity College. He has worked with Teagasc for over 35 years in roles including farm management specialist and Assistant Director of Advisory Services.

 @TeagascEnviron

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# SPEAKERS

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## **Dr Hugo Valin**

Policy analyst, Climate change, Environment and Resources Unit, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

Dr. Hugo Valin is an economist with the OECD Trade and Agriculture Directorate, part of the team in charge of the Agricultural Policy Monitoring and Evaluation report, providing a comprehensive policy update every year.

This year report was focused on Reforming agriculture for Climate Change mitigation, a thematic part that Hugo co-led with colleagues. Prior to joining the OECD in 2021, Hugo was conducting research on the interface between food systems, land use and climate at IIASA (Austria), within one of the integrated assessment modelling team contributing to IPCC analyses.

 @OECD

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## **Assoc. Prof. Helen Sheridan**

Associate Professor in Farm Landscape Ecology and Agri-Environmental Policy, UCD School of Agriculture and Food Science

Helen is Director of the Agri-Environmental Sciences Degree Programme, School of Agriculture and Food Science, University College Dublin. She holds a B.Ag.Sc. (Agri-Environmental Sciences) and a PhD (Agricultural Ecology) from University College Dublin. Her teaching at under and post graduate level is in agricultural ecology and agri-environmental policy. Her research primarily focuses on enhancing the sustainability of ruminant production systems, with particular interest in the use of multispecies swards; the classification and management of farmland habitats and their associated biodiversity; and the design, implementation and monitoring of agri-environment schemes.

 @HelenBSheridan

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## **Prof. Kevin McDonnell**

Professor of Crop Science & Biosystems Engineering, UCD School of Agriculture and Food Science

Kevin McDonnell holds a joint appointment between crop science and biosystems engineering in UCD. His teaching and research areas focus on digital agriculture, mechanisation, sustainable energy & technologies. He is the principal investigator on a number of research projects including coordinating the EU Farm4More Life project and has a team of 8 PhD students and a senior research fellow. Additionally, Kevin works with external companies to develop their R&D capabilities and is involved with a number of international organisations including the UN's Global digital agricultural association and is their only European academic representative.

 @KevinMcDonnellP

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## **Dr Mary McEvoy**

Technical Director, Germinal Ireland

Mary graduated from Agricultural Science in UCD, before completing PhD in Teagasc Moorepark, focussed on examining the influence of animal, sward and management factors on the performance of dairy cows. Subsequently, she took up a position as Researcher in the Grassland Science team with Teagasc. Her research focus included the development of the Pasture Profit Index, examining plant/animal interactions which influence animal performance and investigating the effect of management on sward performance. Mary joined Germinal in 2014 where she is responsible for customer training and education, organising farm demonstrations, monitoring variety performance and advising grass breeders on the development of new varieties and breeding goals.

 @McEvoy\_M

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## **Dr James Breen**

Assistant Professor in Agriculture and Food Economics, UCD School of Agriculture and Food Science

James Breen is Assistant Professor in Agriculture and Food Economics in the School of Agriculture and Food Science at University College Dublin, Ireland. His research interests are predominantly in the area of farm-level modelling and specifically in the examination of the impact of alternative agricultural and environmental policies on Irish farmers. He has worked extensively with micro data from the Teagasc National Farm Survey to examine those factors which impact on farm performance and profitability. He obtained a PhD in Agricultural Economics from the University of Missouri.

 @ucdagfood

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# SPEAKER

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**Assoc. Prof. Monica Gorman**

Associate Professor in Agricultural Extension and Innovation, UCD School of Agriculture and Food Science

Dr Monica Gorman is Associate Professor in agricultural extension and innovation in UCD's School of Agriculture and Food Science. She has developed and coordinates postgraduate masters programmes for agricultural science graduates who want to work in farm advisory and agricultural education roles in collaboration with Teagasc and other actors in Ireland's AKIS. Monica has spent much of her career working on international development before returning to UCD to her current role where she is bringing her diverse experiences to bear in strengthening the attention to the social sciences in a school with a dominant natural science perspective and focus.

 @monicamgorman

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**Mr. Thomas Ryan**

Senior Sustainability Manager, Tirlán

Thomas Ryan is Head of Agri Sustainability and Customer Engagement at Tirlán, collaborating with colleagues and farm family suppliers to deliver the Co-op's sustainability strategy called Living Proof. He has degrees in Agricultural Science and Property Studies, and diplomas in Business Management and Corporate Governance. He previously worked with the Irish Farmers' Association and Kerry Group plc, serving as Director of recycling organisations; IFFPG and Farm Plastic Recycling Ltd. He also collaborated with the EPA, to develop and deliver the Smart Farming programme. He is an associate member of the Society of Chartered Surveyors of Ireland and a member of the Agricultural Science Association and Irish Environmental Law Association.

 @tirlan\_

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**Dr Aifric O'Sullivan**

Assistant Professor in Human Nutrition, UCD School of Agriculture and Food Science

Dr Aifric O'Sullivan (BSc, MSc, PhD) is an Assistant Professor at UCD School of Agriculture and Food Science, Principal Investigator at UCD Institute of Food and Health and Deputy Vice Principal (International) at UCD College of Health and Agricultural Sciences. Aifric's research aims to understand interactions between genes, environment, diet and metabolism that define nutrition phenotypes across the lifespan, with a view to informing personalised, sustainable, healthy nutrition strategies. Within this broad remit, one key research focus is vitamin D deficiency prevention. Recent and ongoing research projects are examining inter-individual responses to vitamin D supplementation and novel food-based strategies that will deliver sustainable improvements in vitamin D status in Ireland (NutriPlus and VitD-DPI). Another critical research goal is to foster the transition to sustainable healthy diets (SuHeGuide, MyPlanetDiet and PLAN'EAT). This ongoing research will show the nutrition and health implications of changing dietary patterns to be more sustainable, as well as informing recommendations, tools and interventions that will support dietary behaviour change to sustainable healthy diets in Ireland and Europe.

 @AifricOSullivan

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**Dr Aoife Marie Murphy**

Sustainable Nutrition Manager, Kerry

Aoife Marie joined Kerry in 2018. As Sustainable Nutrition Manager, her role involves assessing Kerry's global portfolio for sustainability impacts. Aoife Marie is passionate about science communication and manages the Kerry Health and Nutrition Institute, a non-commercial thought leadership platform which disseminates the latest insights in nutrition science for the food industry. She also provides nutrition expertise for Kerry's corporate partnership with the World Food Program, delivering sustainable nutrition to communities in Burundi. A graduate of University College Dublin with a PhD in Nutrigenomics, she has a keen interest in nutrition research and education. Before joining Kerry, Aoife Marie lectured on the BSc Food & Human Nutrition degree at Newcastle University in Singapore.

 @WeAreKerry

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