Session SB64 (2026)

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Facilitative, Multilateral Consideration of Progress

A compilation of questions to – and answers by – **Ireland**
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Title: Methane reducing feed additives

Question From Party: New Zealand

Question raised on: 08.04.2026 CEST

Question Category: Mitigation actions, policies and measures supporting NDC implementation

Question: In its first Biennial Transparency Report, Ireland reports that feed additives in cattle diets are expected to deliver a significant reduction in methane emissions in the agriculture sector by 2030. Could Ireland provide further information on its experience to date with the development, testing and uptake of feed additives, including remaining challenges related to large scale deployment, particularly in pasture based livestock systems?

Answer:

As part of Ireland's commitment to addressing climate change and reducing agricultural emissions, particularly methane emissions from livestock, the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine has been actively engaged in funding research on methane-reducing feed additives to ensure that methane-reducing strategies align with our broader goals of decarbonising the agriculture sector up to 2050.

The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine is fully aware of the need to reduce these emissions and has allocated substantial funding of €8.9 million to support research aimed at identifying effective methane reduction dietary solutions for beef, dairy and sheep systems both indoors and outdoors. Part of that research includes novel supplements to reduce methane production.

The Teagasc Marginal abatement cost curve published in 2023 showed that feed additives would play a significant role in GHG emissions reductions. A significant proportion (10-15%) of the GHG emissions reduction requirement of 5.75 million tonnes to meet the 2030 Climate action target required the use of feed additives to meet the required reductions. Currently there are no feed additives that have been approved for use in the national inventories in Ireland. In order for a feed additive to have impact it must have a consistent methane reduction potential, it must be able to be recorded within the national inventory in order to ensure that the impact is counted, there cannot be a negative animal performance effect and there can be no residue impact.

Irish ruminant based agriculture, is predominantly focused on grazing systems where animals graze across long grazing seasons. Ruminants are generally housed over the winter period when ground conditions and grass availability is limited. For both beef and sheep systems, once animals are turned out to grass they remain at grass for the full grazing season. For dairy animals they are generally milked twice daily and therefore are

brought to the milking parlour twice daily. Therefore any feed additive solutions developed to reduce methane emissions will need to be offered in a way that aligns the practical realities of pasture based systems in Ireland, for dairy, beef and sheep.

There has been and is a whole range of different studies on the use of feed additives in Irish pasture based systems. These include feeding different materials at different time periods across different feed carriers. The studies that have been shown to date have shown significant promise. For example feeding Bovaer to beef and dairy animals in indoor systems when mixed through the feed has shown a circa 20-30% reduction in enteric methane. Feeding Bovaer without mixing the material through the feed or through the day showed an enteric methane reduction of between 17% and 12%. When animals were fed Bovaer while grazing and offered the material twice a day, showed a 40% reduction in methane for a short period of the day and overall showed a 5% reduction in methane. Feeding asparagopsis (red seaweed) showed at 25% reduction in enteric methane albeit with small reductions in animal performance. Feeding calcium peroxide showed a 13% reduction in enteric methane but it was associated with a significant reduction in animal intake and performance. There has been lots of other studies that have shown no effect on enteric methane levels. Further research continues on practical additive deployment mechanisms that would provide more frequent access to the material in a field setting and also to develop mechanisms to slow down the release of the additive in the rumen. Further research continues on the impact of lipids on enteric methane as well as other enteric methane additives that are coming on stream.

Irish pasture based systems create an additional challenge to feeding additives when compared to indoor systems. However based on the research to date and the research being undertaken in Ireland and Internationally there is no doubt that feed additives will be available for pasture based systems in the future. However the key challenge of consumer acceptance is something that requires significant research in conjunction with intense programmes around food safety and residue measurement needs to be intensified. Secondly indentifying the mechanisms of how farmers would be renumerated for the investment in a feed additive requires further thought processes.

So, while we have made significant progress in researching methane-reducing feed additives, continued research and development will be crucial to ensuring that any recommendations are scientifically sound, economically feasible, deliver on food safety and are suitable for Irish farming practices.

Title: GHG Inventory methodologies and mitigation measures

Question From Party: Canada

Question raised on: 08.04.2026 CEST

Question Category: National inventory report

Question: What processes do you have in place to ensure inventory methodologies effectively reflect changes in activities/practices resulting from mitigation measures?

Answer:

Thank you for the question. Many mitigating measures directly impact the level of activity that is used to estimate Greenhouse Gas emissions in the national inventory, e.g the reduction in fossil fuel use in

the Energy sector. These are easily captured in Ireland's national energy statistics annually. Other mitigation measures in sectors such as Agriculture or Waste can be more difficult to reflect in the national inventory as they may require new or additional activity data collection or methodological developement, e.g new waste practices such as anaerobic digestion (AD) of organic wastes including animal manures.
Ireland's Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Emissions Statistics team is the national inventory agency. The EPA is also responsible for compiling national wastes statistics. The Emissions Statistics team works closely with our Waste Statistics team in compiling organic waste streams to landfill, composting and AD.
The Emissions Statistics team recently established a "*New Technologies Consultative Group*" to evaluate new and emerging technologies and their impact to the national GHG and air pollutant inventories and projections, e.g new inhibited urea fertilisers, slurry additives and feed additives for livestock. As these new technologies emerge, mitigation levels will be evaluated, and activity data will be collected on their use.

The EPA is also the regulatory body for the European Union Emissions Trading Scheme (EU ETS). All data collected for ETS regulation is available to the inventory team in order to report emissions at higher tier level, including all energy industries in the Energy Sector (CRT 1A1a, 1A1b and 1A1c). ETS data is also used to complete the cement sector emissions in combustion and process (CRT 1A2 and 2A) which has shown considerable decarbonisation since the introduction of renewable wastes in cement kilns. Fossil fuel use per tonne of clinker has reduced by almost 20 percent since the introduction of renewable fuels in 2012.

The Emissions Statistics team is represented on Ireland's *"National Environmental Research Coordination Group"* lead by EPA Research, which identifies research required for Air and Climate knowledge gaps.

Title: New technologies in GHG Inventory development

Question From Party: Canada

Question raised on: 08.04.2026 CEST

Question Category: National inventory report

Question: How have you been able to leverage new technologies such as artificial intelligence to improve GHG inventory development?

Answer:

Thank you for the question. Ireland has not used AI to prepare the National Inventory Report or improve the development of the Greenhouse Gas inventory to date.

Title: Utilizing Rio Markers for reporting on multilateral climate finance

Question From Party: Canada

Question raised on: 08.04.2026 CEST

Question Category: Financial, technological development and transfer, and capacity-building support

Question: In terms of multilateral climate finance, the report mentions that Ireland applies the Rio Markers for organizations where no imputed multilateral share from the OECD is available. Could Ireland expand on how this works in practice?

Answer:

Where there are no imputed shares available, Ireland applies the guidance and indicative tables for the Rio Markers to assess climate relevance (Rio Marker of 0, 1, or 2) and overall purpose of the organisation/ projects/ programme in receipt of the funding (adaptation, mitigation or cross-cutting). In line with the Rio Marker methodology, if climate is a significant aim of the funding, it will be marked 1 and 40% of the contribution will be counted as climate finance. If it is a principal aim of the funding, it will be marked 2 and 100% of the contribution will be counted as climate finance.

As of Ireland's 2022 reporting, the list of Organisations/ Funds to which this applies is set out below.

- Global Environment Facility (Marine environment and plastics pollution) - 40%
- Blue Action Fund – 100%
- ProBlue (World Bank) – 100%
- UNDP (Horn of Africa crisis responses) – 40%
- UN MPTF (Horn of Africa crisis responses) – 40%
- UNDP (Core) – 40%
- UNDP (Sustainability SDG Pipeline Builder Programme) – 100%
- Consultative Group on International Agriculture Research – 40%
- Systematic Observations Financing Facility – 100%
- European Development Fund – 40%
- UNICEF (Horn of Africa crisis responses) – 40%
- UNFPA (Horn of Africa crisis response) – 40%
- World Bank Food Systems Trust Fund – 40%
- UN OCHA (Horn of Africa crisis response) – 40%
- International Fund for Agricultural Development (Crisis Response Initiative) – 40%
- UNFCCC (Gender partnership) – 100%
- UN System Staff College (Torino Forum) – 100%
- FAO (Resilient communities) – 40%
- International Fed Of Red Cross And Red Crescent (Pakistan appeal) – 40%
- UNCBD – 40%
- UNECE (Aarhus Convention Rapid Response Mechanism) – 100%
- UNCLS – 100%
- FAO (Leap Partnership) – 100%
- FAO (Global Alliance for Climate Smart Agriculture Facilitation Unit) – 100%
- FAO (Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock) -100%
- UNEP (Stockholm Convention) – 100%
- UNFCCC (Trust Fund for Participation) – 100%
- UNEP (Basel Convention) – 100%
- UNECE (Aarhus Convention and PRTR Protocol) – 100%
- UNCCD – 40%
- UNEP (Minamata Convention) – 100%
- UNEP (Fund 1030) – 100%

Many of the above are considered to fall under the "earmarked", "non-core" or "multi-bi" OECD category to which, in line with EU guidance, Rio Markers may be applied.

Title: International cooperation to advance climate and environmental objectives

Question From Party: Canada

Question raised on: 08.04.2026 CEST

Question Category: Mitigation actions, policies and measures supporting NDC implementation

Question: Ireland has emphasized the importance of international cooperation in advancing climate and environmental objectives. Could Ireland elaborate on how international partnerships, capacity-building, or knowledge-sharing initiatives have supported its domestic climate action, and where it sees opportunities for deeper collaboration with likeminded partners?

Answer:

Ireland places strong emphasis on international cooperation as a cornerstone of effective climate action, recognising that domestic progress is both informed and strengthened by global partnerships.

International engagement has supported Ireland's domestic climate action in several key ways. Ireland's active participation in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement facilitates continuous knowledge exchange on policy design, transparency systems, and best practices, which directly informs national frameworks such as Ireland's Climate Action Plan and adaptation strategies. This has included Irish EPA officials taking on roles as expert reviewers under the BTR process, officials from our National Climate Delegation contributing to capacity building initiatives on gender-responsive climate action delivered by the Women's Environment and Development Organisation (WEDO), and Ireland's ongoing engagement with initiatives under the Global Climate Action Agenda / plurinational initiatives, such as COFFIS and the Beyond Oil and Gas Alliance.

Ireland also benefits from cooperation at the European Union level, including collaboration through mutual learning for capacity building and knowledge-sharing is built into the EU framework for policy implementation. Experts from Member States are actively encouraged and facilitated by the European Commission to discuss approaches to domestic climate action to identify solutions to common challenges and create a network for bilateral collaboration over time. Ireland has participated in such discussions under the remit of the 'Working Group 2', as well as ad-hoc workshops both in-person and hybrid. The presentation materials and participant notes are shared post-discussion with colleagues working in separate but complementary areas in the Department, and at times dedicated internal meetings to explore in detail.

Looking ahead, Ireland sees opportunities to deepen collaboration in several areas. These include scaling up joint efforts on climate finance and locally led adaptation, along with enhancing cooperation on transparency and data systems under the Enhanced Transparency Framework. Ireland recognises the value of continued peer learning with like-minded countries.

Ireland will also shortly co-host the Second International Conference on Transitioning Away from Fossil Fuels, key to which will be the sharing of best practice and identification of shared challenges and opportunities relating to the energy transition.

In this context, Ireland remains committed to strengthening international partnerships that deliver mutual benefits—supporting global climate ambition while reinforcing robust, evidence-based domestic climate action.