

Ireland's capacity to be world leaders

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Importance of the Agri-Food industry

- One of Ireland's largest indigenous industries
- Employs approx 170,000 people
- Worth >€8 billion annually
- Accounts for 36% of employment and 57% of exports from indigenous industries
- Every €100 m. of gross exports = €50 m. GNP

Why the need for a collaborative framework?

- Complementary strengths
- Each institute has developed their own resources to a very high standard
- The infrastructure (knowledge, database, breeding program) is now in place
- No research discipline can be fully effective in isolation
- National research funds are under increasing pressure

Objectives of workshop

- Bring together scientists, funding bodies, industry representatives
- Evaluate current level of expertise and gaps in knowledge or critical mass related to animal breeding
- Focus on genetic traits where progress based on traditional selection methods has been less than optimal

Hoped for outcomes from workshop

- A clear indication of obstacles hindering the continued momentum of animal breeding in Ireland
- A framework for future research needs to ensure Ireland develops a world-class critical mass in animal breeding
- Drive science-based innovation in the agri-food industry

How will success be measured?

- Quality and quantity of scientific output essential and necessary
- But not sufficient
- Success must ultimately be judged by industry impact
- Hence the imperative of building an effective innovation pipeline
- My hoped for economic impact ...

Effect on genetic gain

