

Doing more with less

Scottish Parliament CPG on Rural Policy –
7th June, 2022

Speakers



- Rhoda Meek
- Andy Dean
- Dr Ruth McAreavey
- Professor Andrew Barnes
- Alexander Pirie
- Professor Davy McCracken

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Derwent Cottage

Mannal House

Andy Dean

Dr Ruth McAreavey

Northern Ireland: Community Led Local Development



Ruth McAreavey
Professor of Sociology



Delivering a New Rural Policy Framework in NI

01

DO MORE OF

- Building community power and trust
- Placing people at the centre of the process
- Community asset building
- Calculated risk taking
- Inclusive programme design
- Recognising and valuing local knowledge

02

KEEP DOING

- Supporting rural communities and rural networks
- Grassroots involvement
- Collaboration
- Delegating decision making

03

START DOING

- Effective monitoring and evaluation
- Animation and capacity building
- Knowledge exchange
- Developing a place-based approach
- Working in wider partnerships
- Targeted interventions to bring in new actors
- Strategic programme development and oversight
- Creating multiple entry points
- Regular review of participation of Section 75 groups
- Aligning expectations
- Programmatic innovations e.g. capturing impact beyond monetary value

04

LESS OF

- Predominance of civil service and local government structures
- Prioritising product over process
- Focus on spend
- Excessive bureaucracy and audit
- Uneven relations (council, social partners, DAERA, men-women)
- Council-centric approach
- High barriers to entry
- Inflexibility in programme priorities and administration
- Marginalisation of Section 75 groups

05

STOP DOING

- Centralised decision making
- Assuming that one size fits all
- Grant programming
- Using intimidating meeting processes
- Decision making behind closed doors

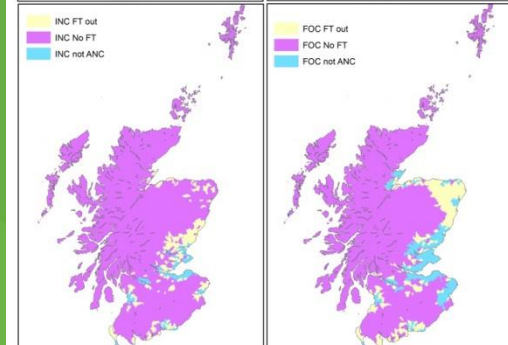
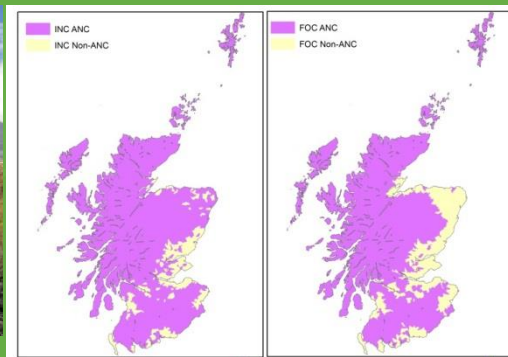
Based on The Starfish Model
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You had council sort of, maybe slipping projects in that they would have been wanting, that's what worries me going forward.

It's not just good enough to have the 50/50 or the 51/49 approach, it's important that the people who actually sit on the board from the social and community and economic sector are strong individuals or have within themselves the knowledge that they have as much power or in terms of decision making as the elected members.

Trust & unequal power

Prof Andrew Barnes



Doing more with less

Andrew Barnes

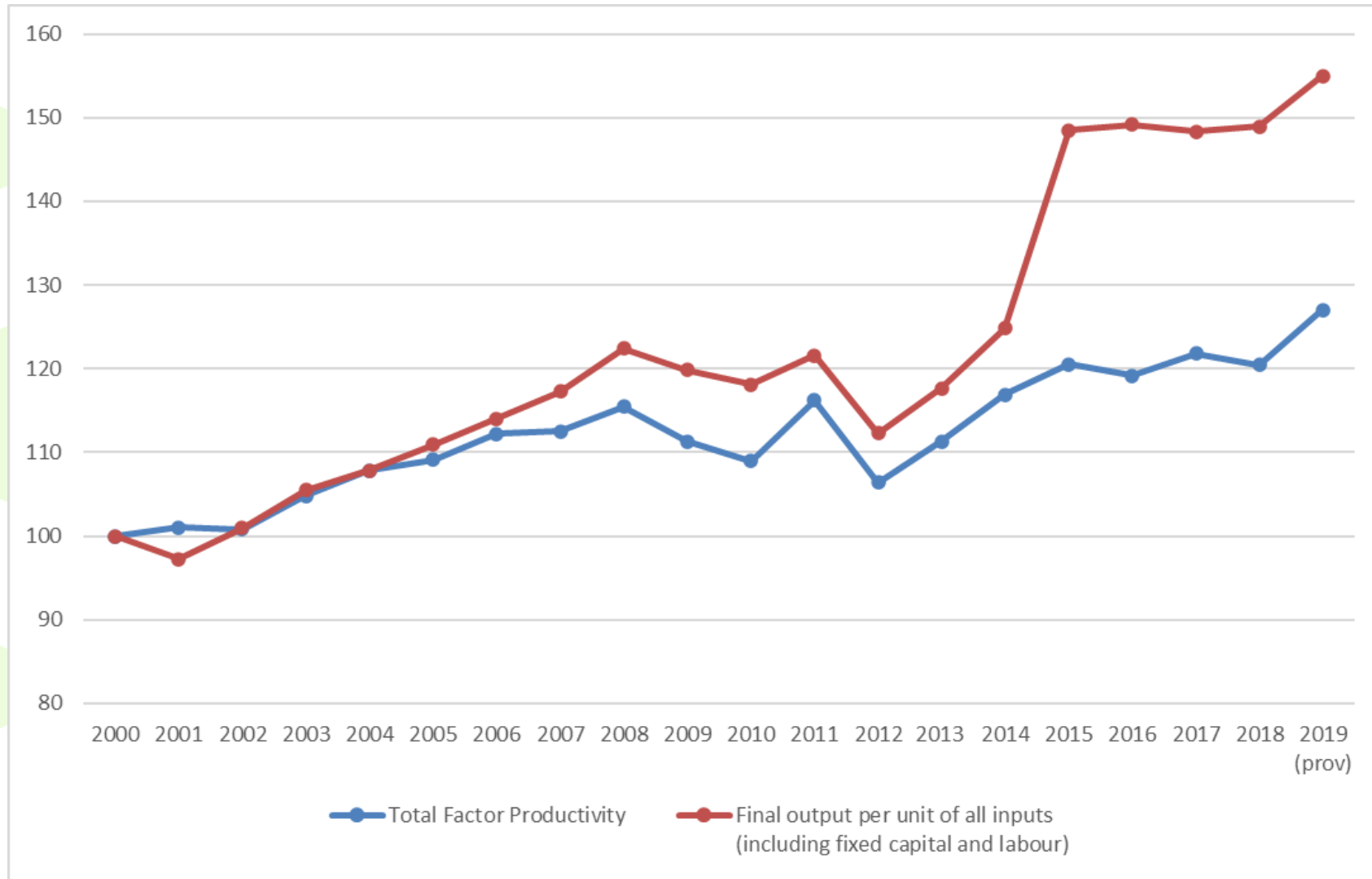
Professor of Rural Resource Economics

Head of Rural Economy, Environment and Society

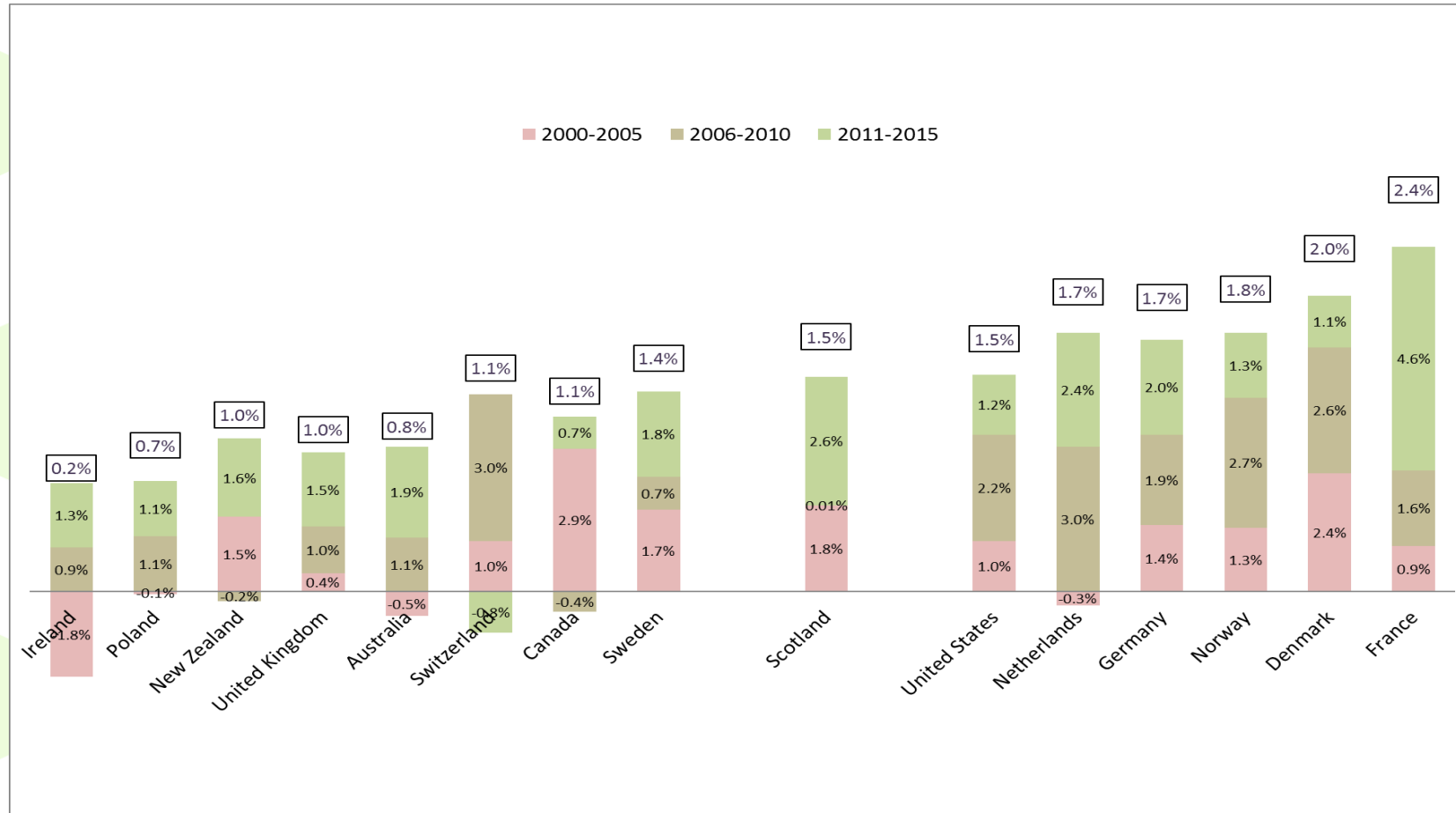
Department, SRUC

Leading the way in Agriculture and Rural Research, Education and Consulting

Scottish Total Factor Productivity

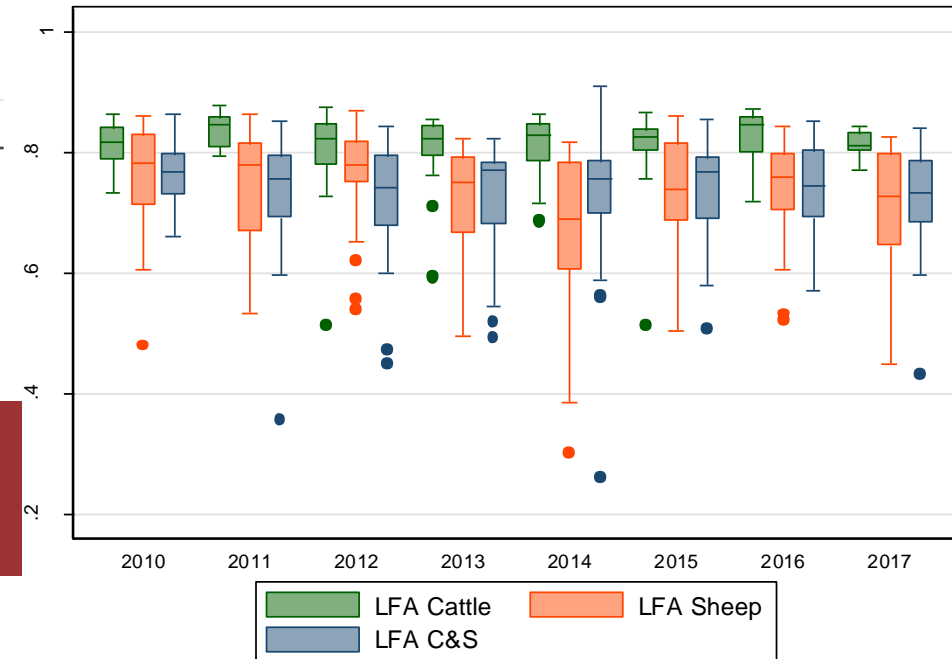
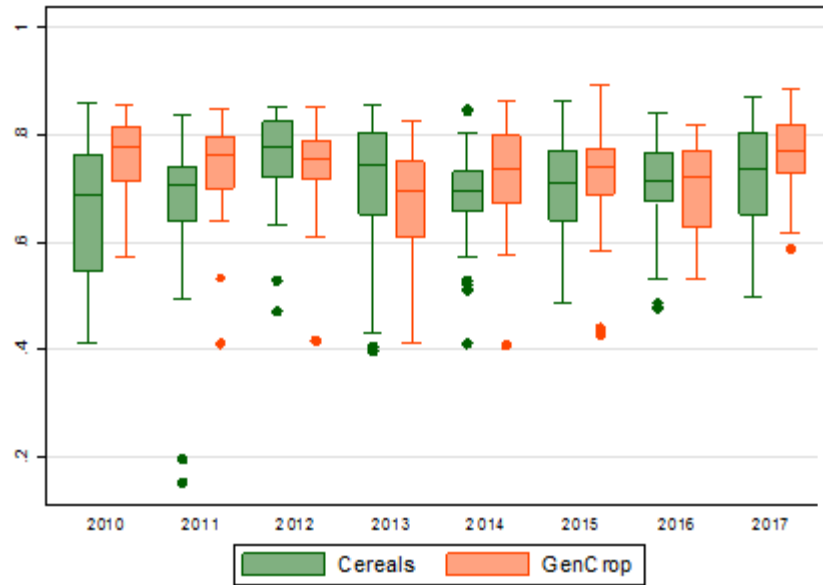


Comparative Productivity Performance



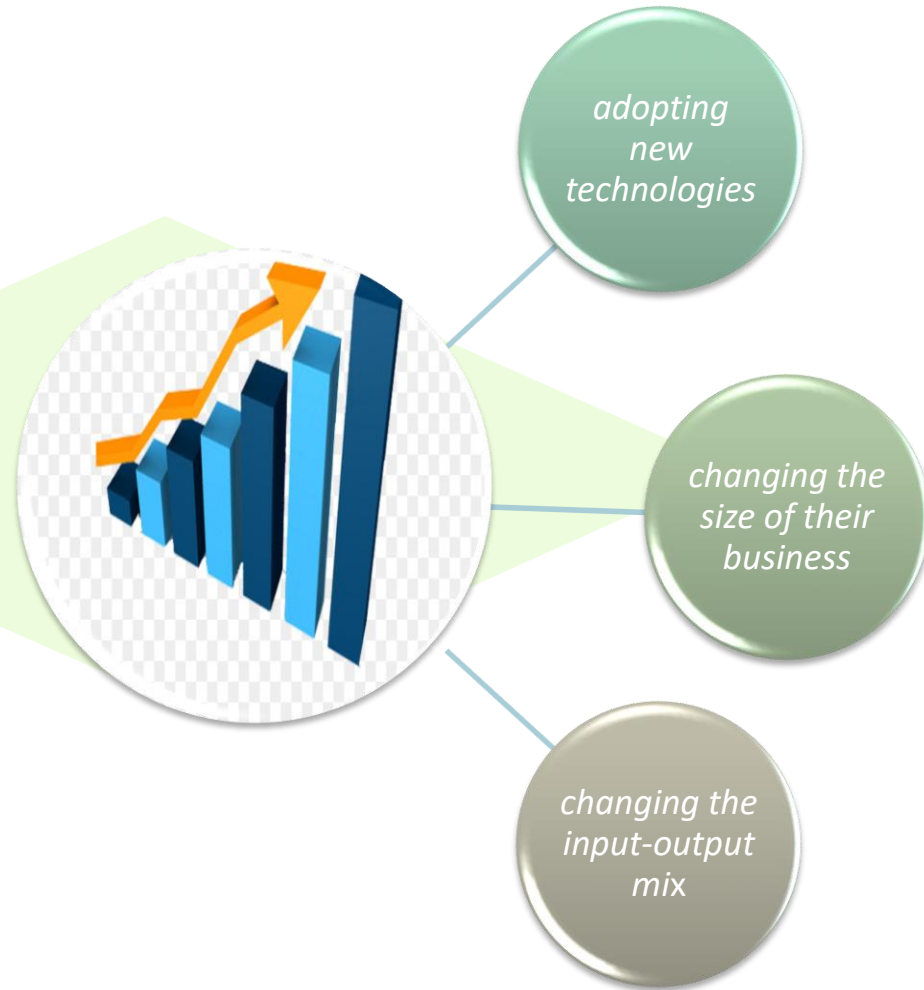
Source: Fuglie et al. (2012), USDA (2017); ERS, 2017

Recent performance shows variances

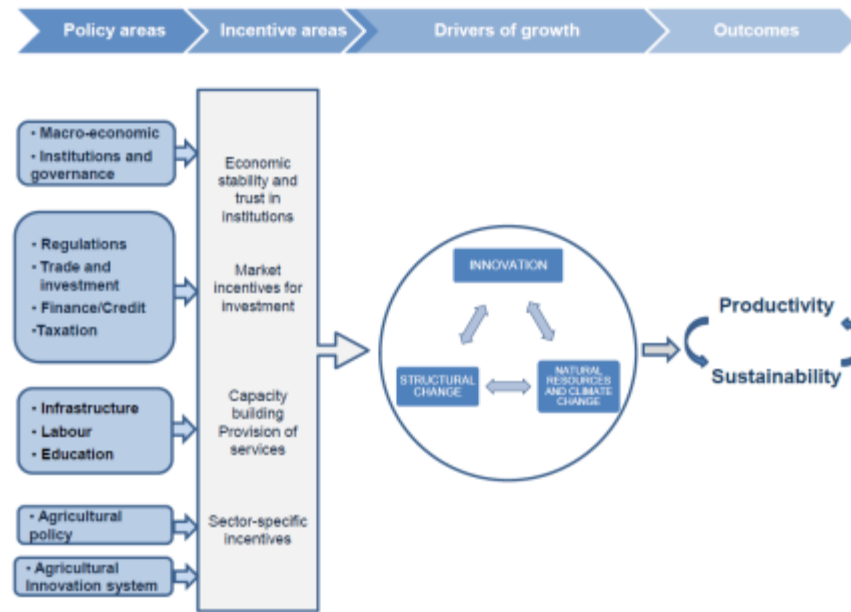


Significant drivers of best performance:
Age, Attitude, use of subsidies, Land Classification, Education and Succession

How can a farm meet 'best practice'

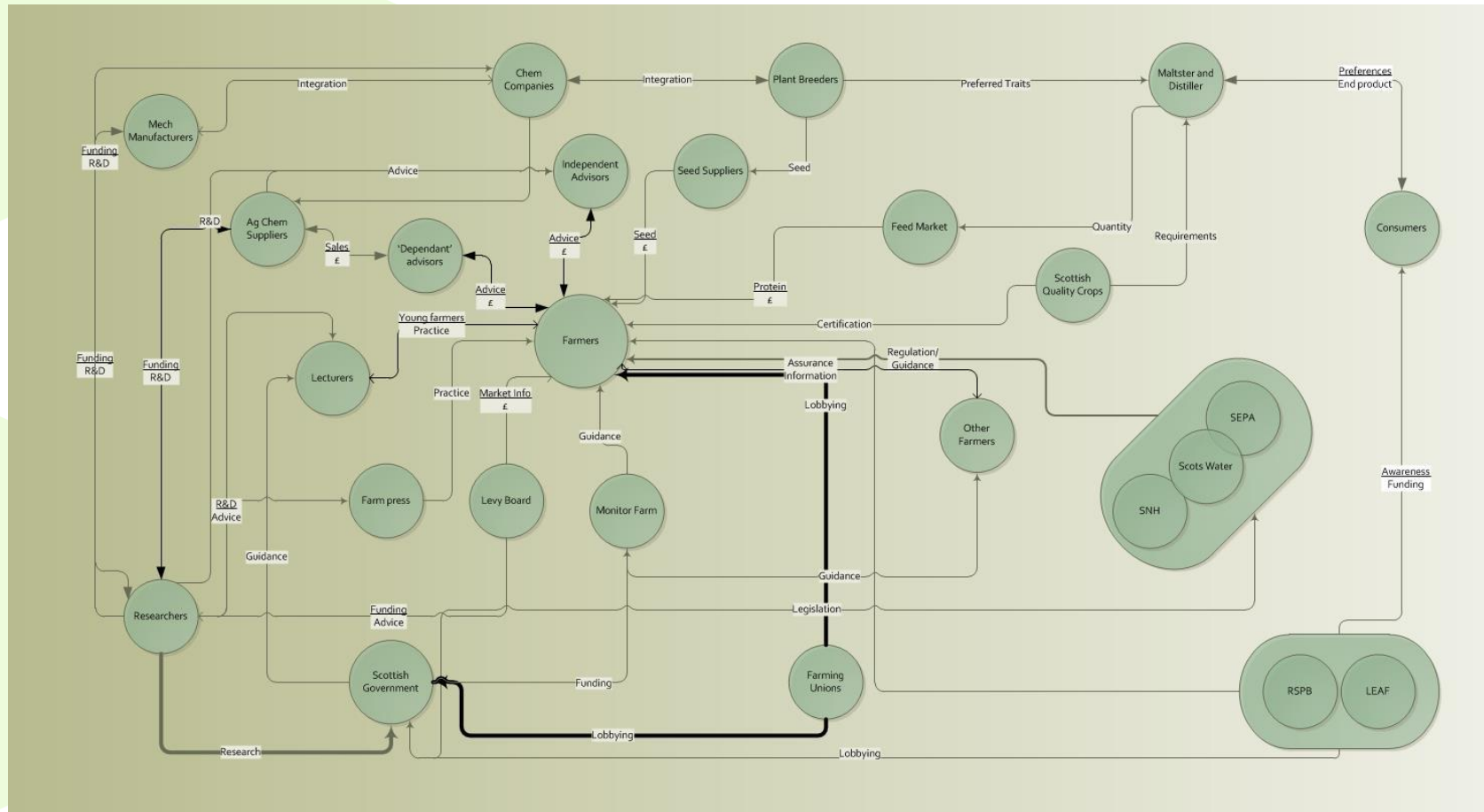


Types of Government Interventions



- **policy interventions**, such as removal of support, provision of advice, education and research engagement for change,
- **technological interventions**, such as adoption of new technologies or techniques, or applying alternative approaches to uplift productivity, and
- **management interventions**, which include farmer decision making and farm planning in terms of the ability to switch the mix of inputs and outputs, or increase in scale.

Key Point Complex Supply Chain

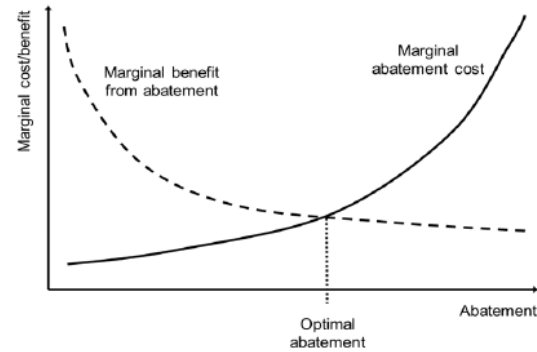


Source: Barnes et al (2017)

Key Point Win Wins

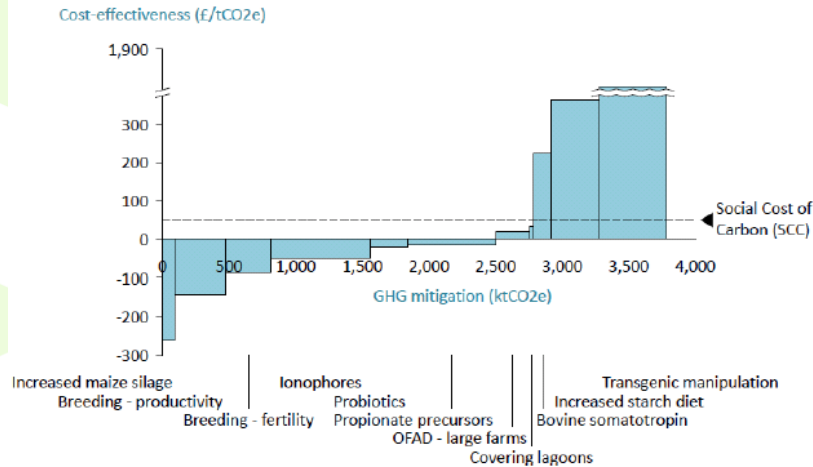


Figure 3. Marginal abatement costs and benefits
 For a given technical measure, optimal pollution abatement occurs where the marginal cost of abatement equals the marginal benefit, i.e. where the two curves cross



Source: Pearce and Turner (1990).

Figure 4. Example of marginal abatement cost curve (MACC) for UK dairy mitigation measures



Note: OFAD: on-farm anaerobic digestion.

SRUC have identified and measured the cost-effectiveness of over 300 'win-win' measures

Source: MacLeod et al (2015, p12)

Alexander Pirie

Net Zero Arran

Alexander Pirie

What is Net Zero Arran.

Net Zero Arran was launched in late 2019 with the goal of quantifying the island's agricultural carbon footprint and developing a strategy for improvement. The group has grown year and year since the launch and now has the support of 35 businesses on the island.



Impact.

Since the launch of the group each member has undertaken a least one carbon audit, some are on their second and some, their third. We benchmark emissions against output and have seen the carbon footprints for beef herds on the island reduce by 0.18kg CO₂e per kg output and flocks on the island reduce by 3.45kg CO₂e per kg output.

How has this been done.

Using our own carbon calculator and with data from each business involved we identified areas for improvement that were common across businesses on the island and have taken collective action where possible to tackle these. The key being that actions are farmer driven and specific to local issues.

Future plans.

Rush pasture control and management. Grassland management meets conservation. Promoting pollinators at farm scale.

Are buying groups right for Arran? Maximising flock and herd performance. Managing conservation conflicts. Farm plastics collection and recycling.

Summary.

To date, the group has found real traction, with great buy-in and feedback, the carbon auditing has given us a great foundation to inform decision making and continuing it allows us to track progress at farm level and at a group level. There is lots to be done but we are engaged, excited and raring to go! Thank you for your interest tonight and I welcome any questions you have!



Thank You

Prof Davy McCracken