



The Signpost Programme

Leading climate action by Irish farmers



THE SIGNPOST PROGRAMME



Overview

1. The Signpost Programme explained
2. The role of demonstration farms
3. Knowledge brokers
4. Industry collaboration

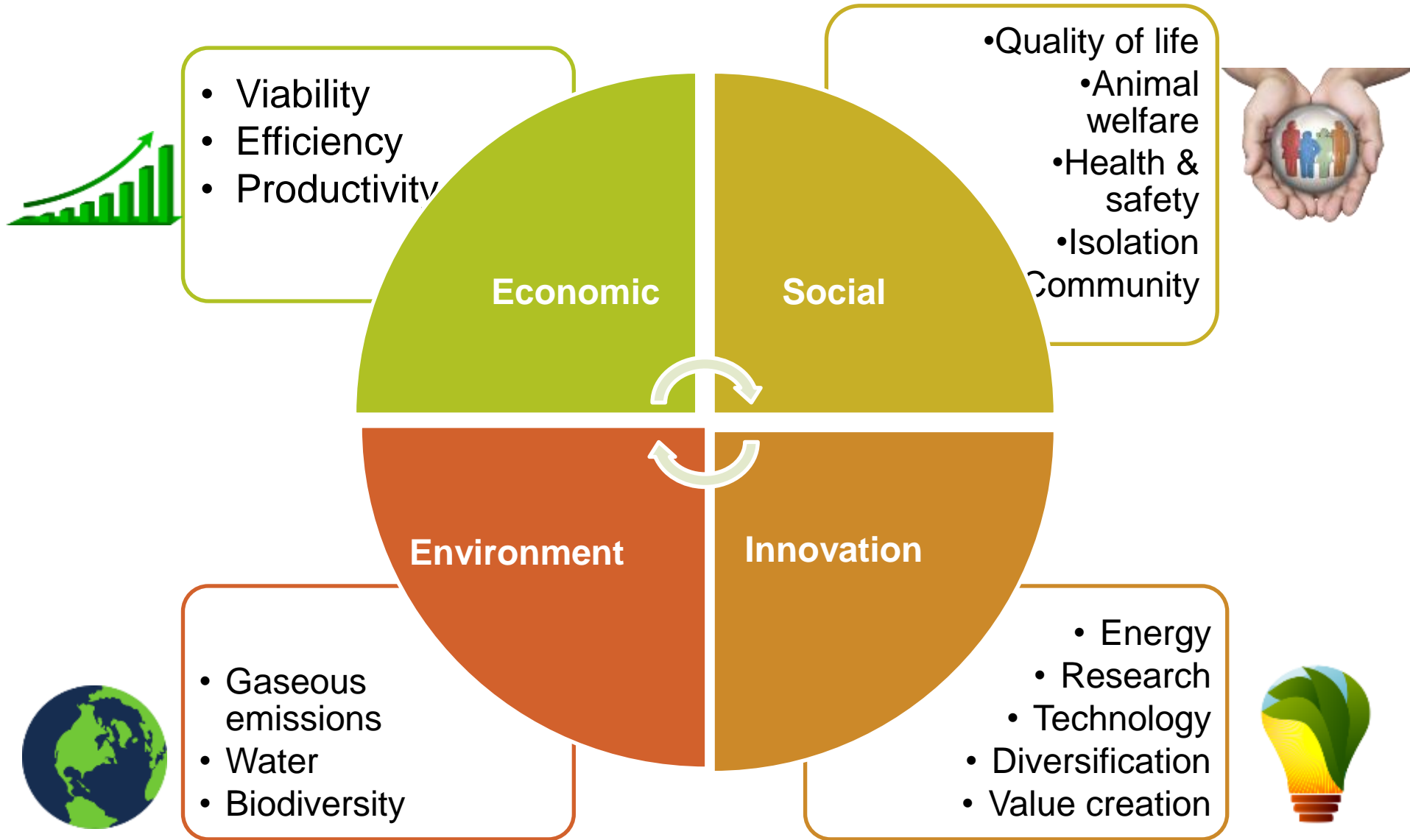
Signpost Programme

Signpost Programme

- A Teagasc-led, whole of industry initiative to support and enable farmers reduce gaseous emissions
- Network of 117 Signpost demo farms
- Two guiding principles
 - whole of industry alignment
 - build on existing initiatives, while avoiding duplication



Sustainability – A Holistic Concept



Signpost Industry Partners



Partners



Government, State Agencies and Sponsors



Supporters



Programme Objectives

- Lead and support the transition
- To reduce agricultural emissions in line with national policy objectives,
- Ensure that there are no unintended consequences
- Promote farming practices and systems which can improve margins
- Build national capability and capacity
- Be a trusted knowledge source and broker

The Programme – 3 pillars



Signpost
Farmers



Advisory



Research



1. Signpost Farms (117 farms)



- 📍 Dairy
- 📍 Beef
- 📍 Dairy Calf to Beef
- 📍 Sheep
- 📍 College farm

Dairy	55
Suckler Beef	21
Calf to Beef	16
Sheep	8
Tillage	6
College Farms	6
Poultry / pig	2
Organic (Incl above)	3

Demo farms

Demo farmers have a major role to play in the application of scientific findings and the spreading of best practices and innovative farming approaches



Farmers learn from other farmers...
the Signpost Farmers are champions for climate action.

Success Factors for Signpost Demo Farms

- Farmer selection
- Clarity of objectives
- Project adviser to support/ encourage/ challenge the demo farmers
- Multi-actor approach (working with various programme partners)
- Multi year commitment
- Local events/ local messaging

2. Advisory Campaign

How will Signpost work?

Technology adoption
at farm level:

- Awareness
- Understanding
- Motivation
- Implementation
- Validation



3. Soil C Sequestration and The National Carbon Observatory Network

NASCO

- All Signpost farms will be part of the NASCO
- Deep soil sampling (1m) to measure soil C
- Above ground C stocks also to be measured
- Aim to model soil C sequestration across all sites
 - will include farm specific data plus data from C Flux towers



Knowledge Brokers

Knowledge Brokers

“Innovation is an idea put into practice with success!”

“At the moment, it takes on average twenty years for a new research project to be practically applied in agriculture.”

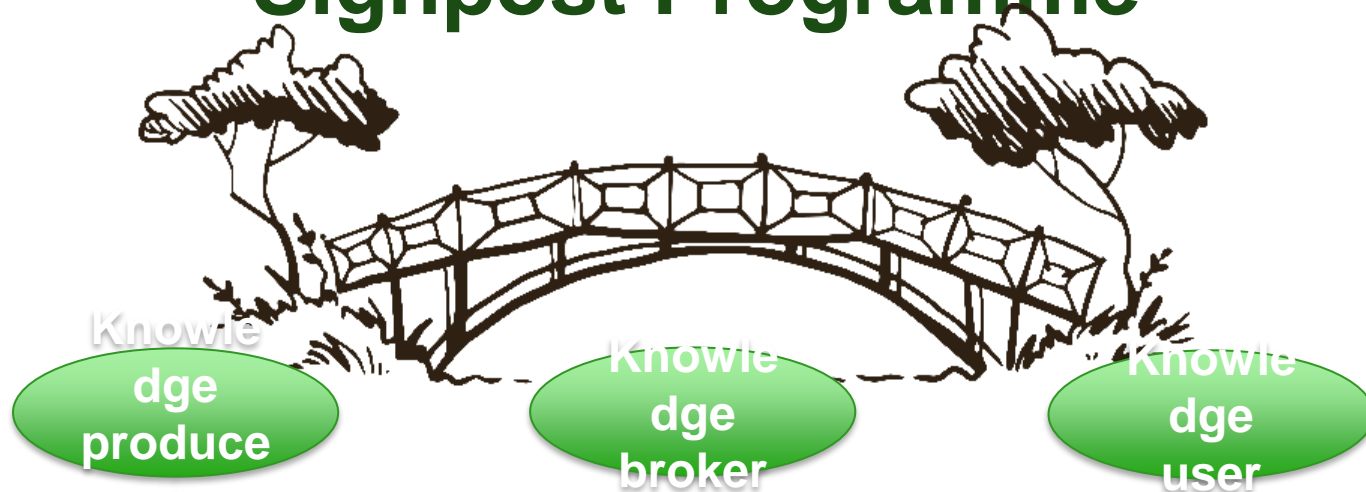
“Enabling behaviour change and encouraging technology uptake and practice change isn't simple”

“There is a need for effective programmes that support adoption and behaviour change.”

“Complex agricultural innovations require a collaborative approach for successful innovation.”

“Knowledge brokers required to bridge the gap.”

Science to Practice: Signpost Programme



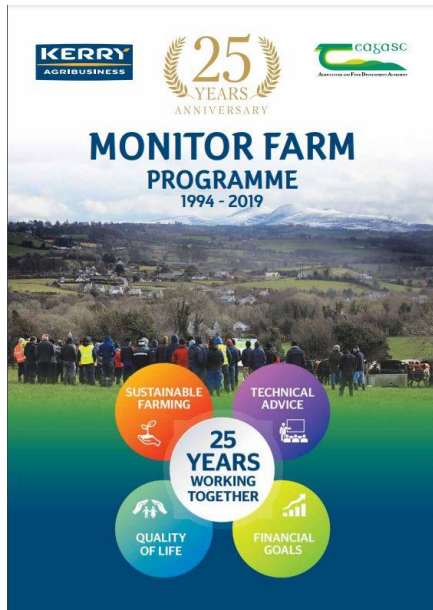
- Environmental and production research
- Marginal Abatement Cost Curve (MACC)
- Future research

- The Signpost Programme team

- Advisers and other actors
- Farmers

Industry Collaborators

Industry Collaborations



“Help to maintain extension relevance”
“Ensure that all participants – farmers, industry partner and Teagasc – are better equipped to face the future”