

Key Findings from the Irish Commission on Generational Renewal in Farming

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Generational Renewal in European Farming

Virtual Seminar

November 19th 2025





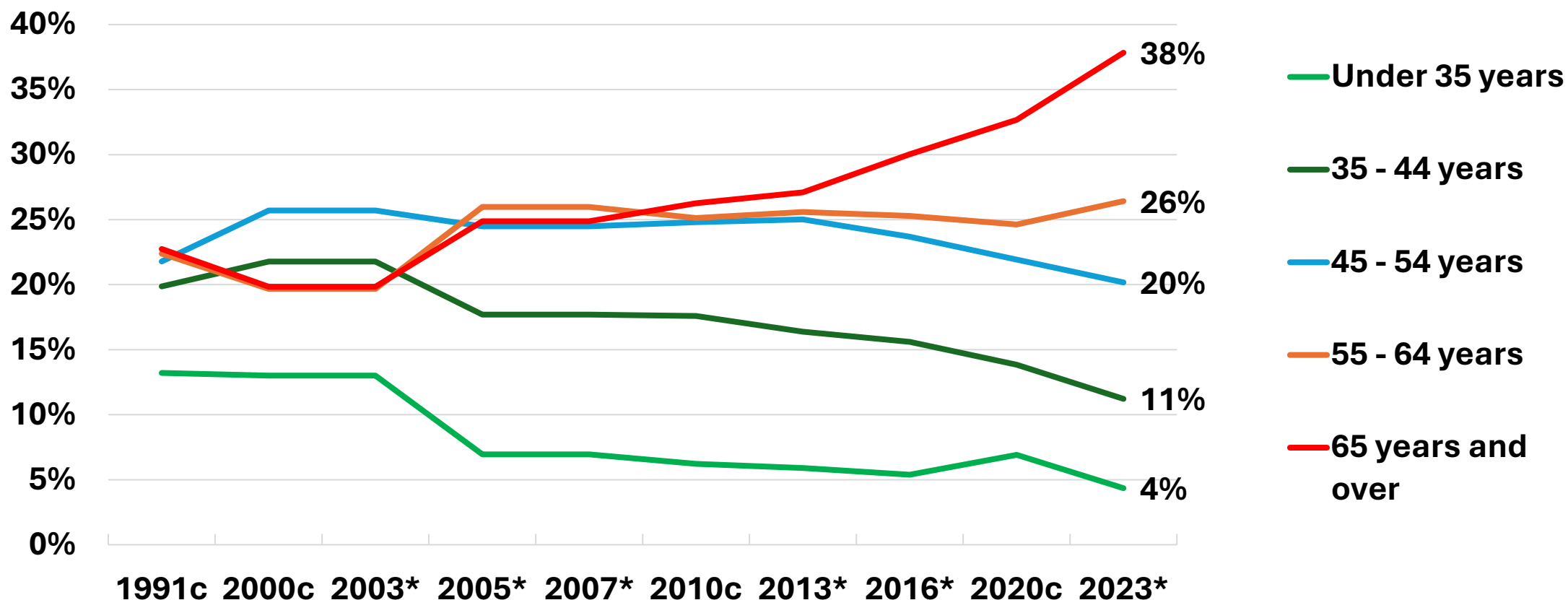
[Link to Full Report](#)

Background

- Commission established October 2024
- Legal, economic, social & administrative factors
- Public consultation & Stakeholder engagement
- Report published September 2025
- Ministry implementation group established

Context

Share (%) of Irish Farms by Farm Holder Age Group, 1991-2023



Source: CSO (Years C=Census, *=Farm Structures Survey)

% Share of Farm Holders Aged 65 or over

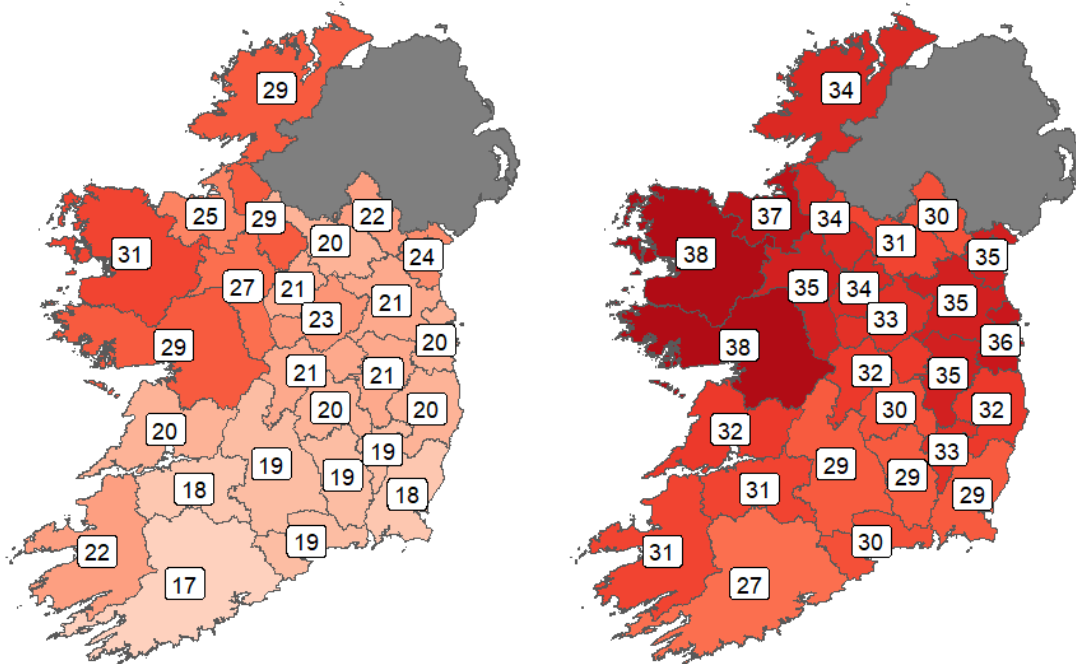
% Share of Farm Holders Aged 35 or under

1991

2020

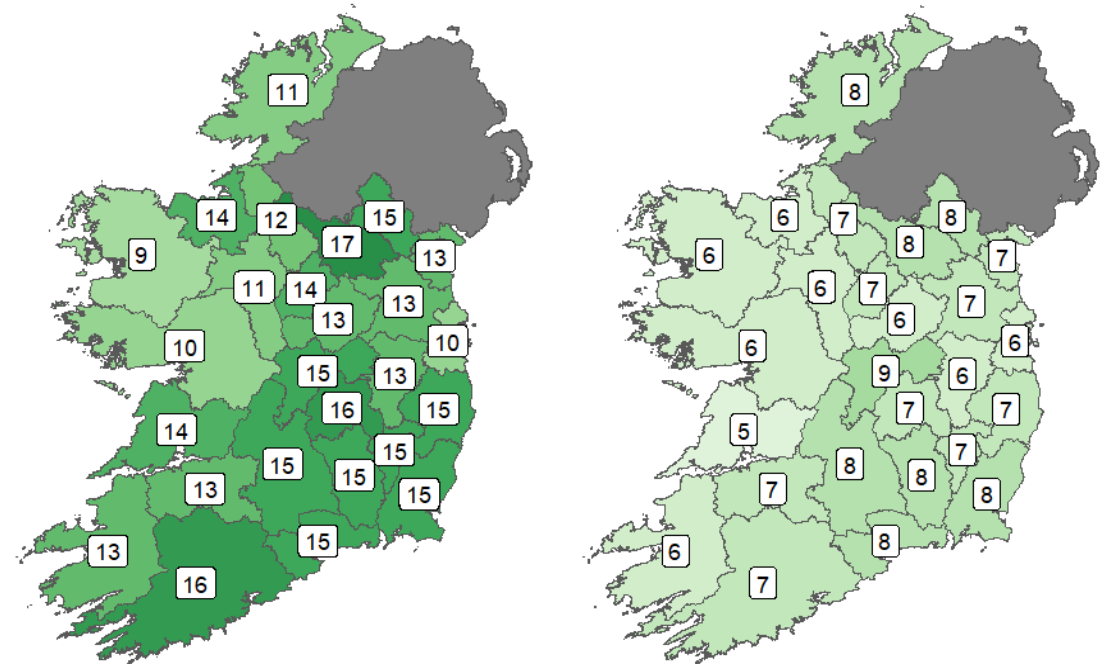
1991

2020



Population over 65 (%)

15 20 25 30 35 40



Population under 35 (%)

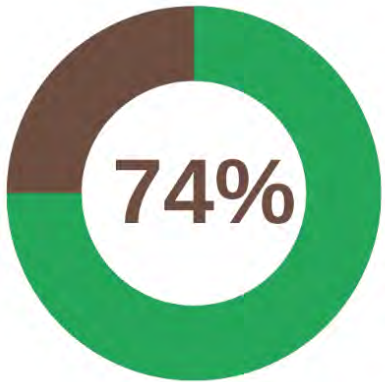
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Source: CSO

Insights from the National Farm Survey



average farmer age



Main farm operator
>20 years

Farms with an identified successor

* Farmer aged over 60 years

Dairy

62%

Cattle Rearing

68%

Cattle Other

58%

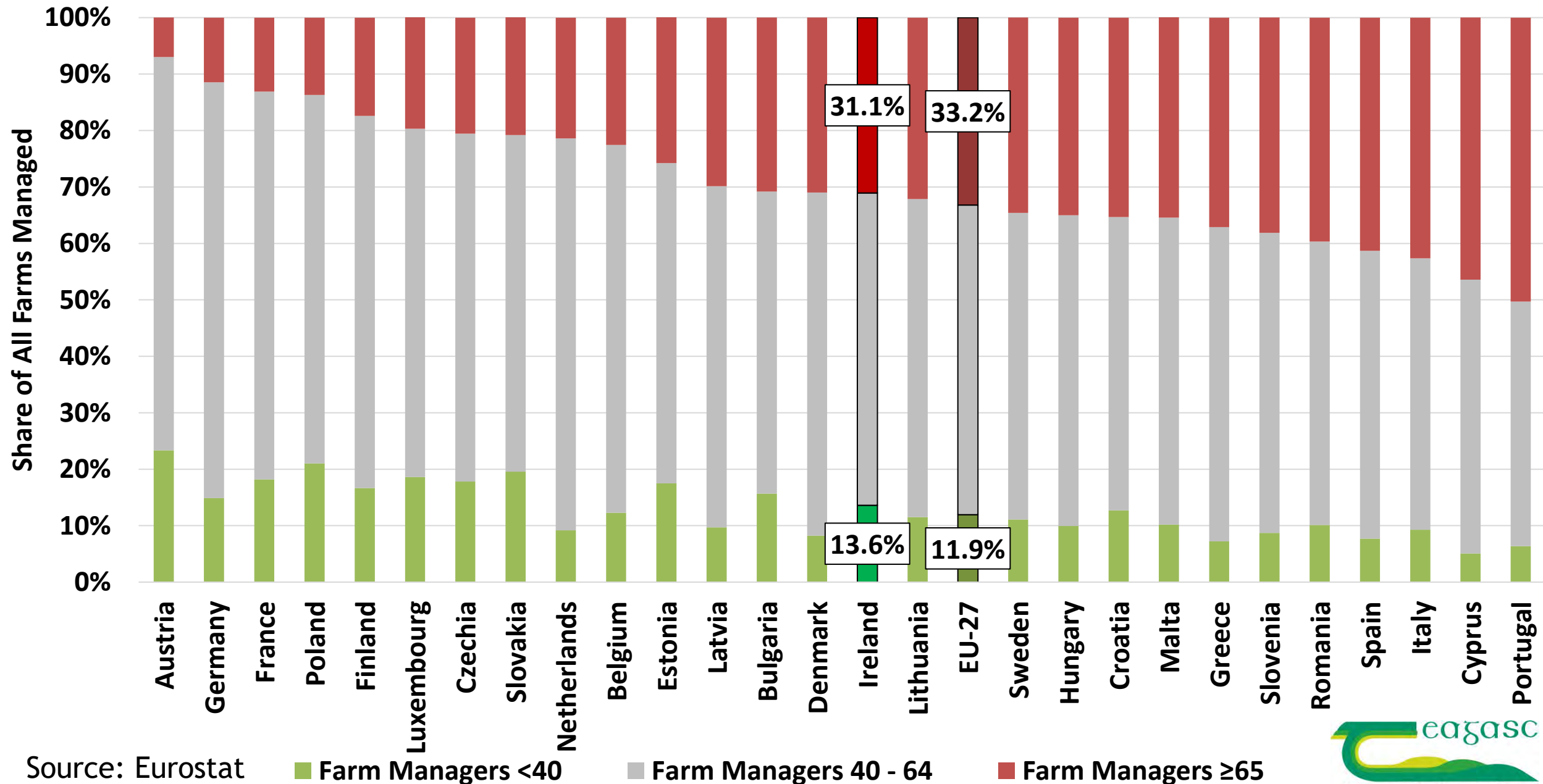
Sheep

68%

Tillage

36%

Share of Farm Managers by Age Group across EU MS 2020



Broad Research and Stakeholder Insights

Succession drives innovation:

Technology adoption, viability, sustainability

Structural Barriers persist:

Access to
land/finance/labour.
Lack of managerial control.

Family dynamics matter:

Emotional attachment,
identity, life expectancy
pensions, life-stage, values.

Tax complexity inhibits planning;

Reliefs and grants underused
due to lack of awareness/fear.

Farming perceived as **less attractive:**

Viability, volatility challenges
attractive non-farm economy,
quality of life .

Context specific -

challenging for policy design
e.g. Farm system differences
Family/Non-Family transfer

*See report for references

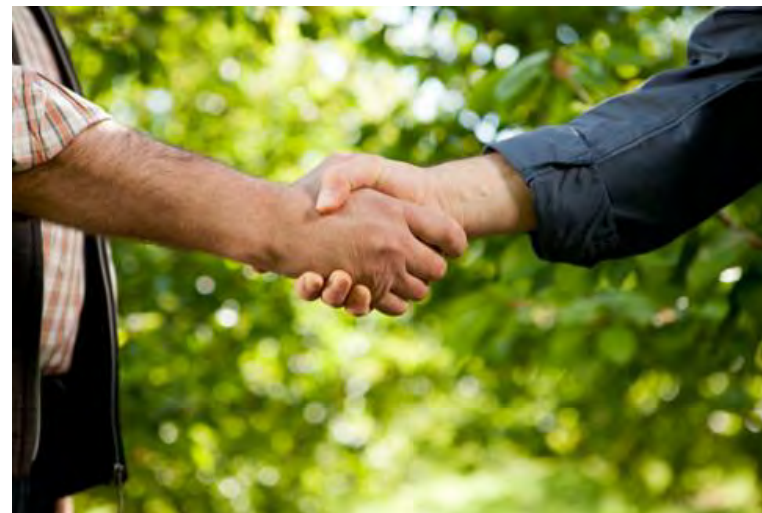
Overview of Existing Supports

- Main mechanisms:
 - CAP (3% of direct payments to young farmers)
 - National Reserve
 - TAMS (YFCIS)
 - Taxation reliefs
 - Collaborative Farming Grant Scheme (RFPs & SFPs)
 - Succession Planning Advice Grant
 - Education and Advisory activities
 - Targeted loan schemes
- But: limited demographic impact so far.



Commission Recommendation Themes

- CAP
- Taxation
- Pensions
- Advisory Services
- Collaborative Arrangements
- Education & Training
- Access to Credit & Land
- Gender Balance
- Attractiveness of the Sector



Key Recommendations - CAP

- **Increase total CAP support** for generational renewal
- **Young Farmer**
 - Introduce an **Establishment Payment**
 - **Retain existing supports** with additional conditionality
- **Incumbent Farmer**
 - Introduce a **Generational Renewal payment** - payable on transfer of the farm
 - Consider new 'older' farmer supports e.g. community-based peer networks
- **Succession Planning**
 - **Retain existing financial supports** - integrated more closely with advisory services
 - **Succession Planning** - compulsory element on Ministry funded KT programmes

Key Recommendations - Pensions

- Support for **age/pension conditionality** on basic area-based income support but,*
 - preferably as an **optional** measure for Member States with flexibility in implementation
 - stakeholder **consultation** required
- **Address inequities in PRSI coverage** – family members, transitional arrangements
- **Automatic pension enrolment** – provide for self-employed, including farmers.
- State and stakeholder representative organisations need to **raise awareness**
 - Retirement planning and Pension provision
 - Improve and align information on broad ranging supports – long term care, social welfare etc.

** Note that support for this recommendation was not unanimous*

Recommendations – Advisory & Education

- **Teagasc advisory services**

- Dedicated Generational Renewal programme
 - Transferring the Family Farm Clinics
 - Multi Actor Succession Teams (MAST)
 - Review and promote guidance documents/templates
 - Engage with broader AKIS and associated rural professionals

- **Agricultural Education**

- Prioritise generational renewal in the curriculum
- Support graduates in terms of succession
- Continued Professional Development for farmers
- Promotion of agriculture in schools

Other Recommendations

- Retain existing **tax supports**
 - Broaden eligibility conditions
- Expand **access to credit** – in conjunction with financial providers
- **Improved access to land**
 - Nationwide “Land Mobility Service”
 - options for landowners and opportunities for young farmers and new entrants
- Promote **collaborative arrangements**
 - Reduce administrative burden and increase financial support
- **Improve attractiveness** of the sector
 - Multi-Stakeholder role
- Improve **gender balance**
 - Targeted policy, taxation, legislation



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THANK
YOU