Departmental Response to the Consultation on the draft DAERA Innovation Strategy

Sustainability at the heart of a living, working, active landscape valued by everyone.





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1. Background

- The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) is implementing a Science Transformation Programme. This programme aims to ensure that science secured and used by DAERA will be innovative, collaborative and transformative and will support a healthy and sustainable economy, environment and rural community; help deliver the Programme for Government (PfG) outcomes, help meet UN Sustainable Goals and contribute to a sustainable, living, working, active landscape valued by everyone.
- As part of the Science Transformation Programme, a DAERA Science Strategy
 Framework has been developed. This will guide how DAERA can optimise its
 use of science to help deliver Departmental and PfG objectives. The Innovation
 Strategy derives from the Science Strategy Framework
- DAERA has developed proposals for an Innovation Strategy to guide how it can
 encourage and support innovation by the Department and in agri-food,
 environment, marine and fisheries, forestry and rural communities to achieve
 economic, environmental and social benefits across the breadth of DAERA's
 remit.
- Through implementation of the Innovation Strategy proposals, DAERA aims to create an enabling environment for innovation to flourish and to enhance the impact of knowledge generation and science investments. This will further help deliver Departmental, PfG, New Decade, New Approach objectives and contribute to international agreement commitments including UN Sustainability Goals.
- A public consultation to seek views on the draft DAERA Innovation Strategy proposals was undertaken from 9th January to 5th March 2020.
- A total of 23 responses were received from a range of organisations and individuals (See Annex A). The responses received varied:
 - Some respondents answered all the questions posed;
 - A number of respondents answered only those questions they considered to be of relevance;
 - A small number chose not to answer the questions posed directly but gave their opinions and general comments on the consultation document.

- Respondents were generally supportive of its proposals. Of the 23 respondents 19 or 83% stated that they welcomed the draft DAERA Innovation Strategy. Some general comments include:
 - 'We welcome the commitment from DAERA to develop an Innovation Strategy for Northern Ireland building on the recently developed Science Strategy.'
 - 'We welcome the ambition in the strategy to develop an innovation ecosystem which delivers for the environment, society and rural economy.'
 - While there is a clear need for such a strategy it is our opinion that the draft strategy which has been circulated needs significant alteration.'
- Respondents often indicated they would have preferred to see greater acknowledgement or consideration given to sectoral issues, for example, issues relating to the environment or the agri-food sector.
- This document summarises the main issues raised by respondents as a result
 of the Public Consultation and provides proposed revisions to these issues.
 The final version of the DAERA Innovation Strategy will incorporate the agreed
 revisions from the Public Consultation and also the DAERA Internal
 Engagement process.
- The Department would like to express its thanks to all those who have responded to this consultation. As noted above, many responses to the draft Innovation Strategy Public Consultation related to sectoral issues and whilst these may not have resulted in changes to this high level strategy, they will be fed into and considered in the development of policy and operational strategy that will follow its finalisation. We also intend to engage further with stakeholders during the implementation process.

2. Responses and Confidentiality

- 2.1 This synopsis of responses includes a list of names of organisations that responded but not the names, addresses, or other contact details for individuals who responded. None of the responses below are attributed to any individual or organisation.
- 2.2 As stated in the consultation document, any information provided in response to the consultation, including personal information, may be subject to publication or disclosure in accordance with access to information legislation (primarily the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the Data Protection Act 1998 and the Environmental Information regulations 2004).
- 2.3 Under the General Data Protection Regulations, for those responses that contained personal information, such as individuals' names, addresses and email addresses, DAERA is duty bound to tell you that we will store your information securely and will only share information where it is necessary to for DAERA to carry out lawful business activities and only then with the person's approval to do so.

3. Departmental Response

Part 1: Draft DAERA Innovation Strategy

Question 1: What are your views on the strategic context identified?

The high-level strategic context for the DAERA Innovation Strategy was outlined in the DAERA Science Strategy Framework. The Innovation Strategy provides a summary of innovation specific drivers. This is supported by a comprehensive Science and Innovation Strategies - Background Evidence document that was made available as part of the consultation process.

Summary

- 18 respondents replied to this question.
- Generally, there was agreement that the strategic context was appropriate.

Departmental response to main issues

UK Innovation Survey

It was highlighted by one respondent that one of the justifications for the need for an Innovation Strategy was attributed to the UK Innovation Survey 2019 findings that Northern Ireland is the least innovative region of the UK. This survey applies to businesses over 10 employees so excludes many of the SME innovative food businesses and is therefore unrepresentative of the situation in Northern Ireland. DAERA will ensure the reference to the UK Innovation Survey is contextualised and the availability of statistics relating to small business innovation is explored.

Review of Strategic Context

A small number of respondents suggested that the strategic documents referred to should be reviewed, particularly for agri-food, and should include reference to the proposed Food Promotion Body, the proposed Livestock Industries Data Hub and the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Implementation Partnerships. Several respondents advised that additional reference should be made to the environmental strategic drivers

(including those associated with Climate Change, Biodiversity, Water Quality, and Sustainability). Also additional reference should be made to the UN Sustainability Goals and other international policies.

DAERA will revise the Science and Innovation Strategies – Background Evidence document to include further reference to emerging strategic drivers and sectoral strategies.

Veterinary Reference

One respondent advised that the Veterinary Profession should be referenced. DAERA will ensure that the Veterinary Profession is referenced within the strategy.

The need for an Innovation Strategy

Question 2: What are your views on the need for an Innovation Strategy within DAERA?

The need for a DAERA Innovation Strategy was informed by SWOT analyses which consider the innovation position in both DAERA business areas and the sectors for which DAERA has responsibility.

Summary

- 17 respondents provided an answer to this question.
- The majority of respondents agreed that an Innovation Strategy is needed.

Departmental Response to Main Issues

Definition of innovation

One respondent advised that the UK definition of innovation (which follows the EU wide definition adopted by Eurostat) is more appropriate for agri-food than the Innovate UK definition used. DAERA have used the same definition of innovation as that in the Northern Ireland Innovation Strategy 2014 – 2025 and do not anticipate any revision at this stage.

Strategy has an internal focus

A small number of respondents expressed concern that the strategy focuses on internal DAERA at the expense of a wider external perspective. The Innovation Strategy Mission 'An innovation ecosystem delivering for the environment, societal wellbeing and the rural economy' communicates the wide scope of the strategy. Also SWOT analyses were completed and will be acted on for both innovation within DAERA and also the areas within DAERA's remit. After consideration no revisions are anticipated.

Barriers to innovation

Question 3: What are your views on the barriers to innovation identified?

The Innovation Strategy document provides information on the common barriers to innovation within the UK and Northern Ireland.

Summary

- 16 respondents replied directly to this question.
- The majority of respondents concurred with the barriers to innovation listed.

Departmental Response to Main Issues

Barriers to innovation in DAERA

A small number of respondents cited the prevailing culture within Civil Service as a barrier to innovation with risk aversion and silo working highlighted. DAERA identified these issues within the SWOT analysis for innovation within DAERA and will include them within the Innovation Strategy.

Barriers to innovation in the areas within DAERA's remit

Other barriers to innovation suggested by respondents were:

- Poor broadband in rural areas;
- The need to engage more with key players outside DAERA;
- Lack of time and resource in SMEs;
- The long timescale involved in investigating/developing/trialling and implementing new technologies.

Examples of barriers to innovation in the areas within DAERA's remit will be provided in the Innovation Strategy and a review and report on the barriers to innovation for businesses across the sectors in DAERA's remit is to be completed as part of the Innovation Strategy. Barriers suggested by respondents will be considered in the review

Innovation Themes

Question 4: What are your views on the innovation themes prioritised ie Big Data, Artificial Intelligence and Transformative Bioeconomy?

The Innovation Strategy proposes the prioritisation of development of innovation in the utilisation of Big Data, Artificial Intelligence and Transformative Bioeconomy.

Summary

- 16 respondents provided a response to this question.
- Some 69% of respondents were broadly in agreement with the themes or did not make comment and an additional 22% accepted the themes with some modifications.
- 9% of respondents disagreed with the innovation themes identified and proposed the goals of promoting integrity (including environmental sustainability and animal welfare), efficiency and quality with regard to agri-food would be more appropriate.

Departmental Response to Main Issues

Clarity around Transformative Bioeconomy

While the majority of respondents who provided written responses to this question did not indicate that the three themes identified were inappropriate, many comments were received in relation to this question particularly with regard to Transformative Bioeconomy. Respondents suggested Bioeconomy be better defined with more emphasis on Circular Economy/Sustainable Bioeconomy/Marine Bioeconomy/Bioenergy. While the Innovation Strategy remains a high level document, DAERA will provide some additional information/clarification on Transformative Bioeconomy.

Themes are limiting

A number of respondents indicated that they felt themes were potentially limiting and questioned why other areas were not selected eg robotics, genetics. DAERA will

provide clarification that the prioritisation of these themes aims to provide focus but will not exclude other areas of innovation where appropriate. The Innovation Strategy will also confirm that Big Data as a generic priority will include the Internet of Things (IoT).

Mission and scope

Question 5: What are your views on the innovation Mission and Scope?

The Innovation Strategy defines a Mission and Scope for implementation.

Summary

- 16 Respondents provided an answer to this question.
- 48% of were in agreement with the Mission and Scope.
- 52% of respondents suggested some amendments with regard to the Mission and/or Scope:

Departmental Response to Main Issues

Mission

A number of comments relating to the Mission were received. Suggestions were made that the Mission was unclear and needed to be redrafted; it should address needs of all and not just agri-business and include the speed and transformative nature of change. It was also suggested by one respondent that the protection, conservation, restoration and enhancement of the environment and sustainable use of resources, energy, water and waste should be included. A comment of note was the suggested inclusion of societal health and wellbeing. In response to these comments DAERA will revise the Innovation Strategy Mission statement within the Innovation Strategy and include societal health and wellbeing.

Scope

Comments received relating to the Scope include:

- Scope should reflect commitment to a joined-up approach with other departments and agencies;
- Need to consider mitigation as well as adaptation to climate emergency;
- Should be extended to the wider rural community;
- Worry that conservation and environment are at the end of the list;

- Some redrafting would provide clarity – needs to be easily comprehended by all.

DAERA will revise the Scope to reinforce that all areas under DAERA's remit are covered by this strategy including Veterinary, Biodiversity, Climate Change, Waste Management, Natural Environment, Rural Activities, Ecosystem Management.

Principles - What, why and how

Question 6: What are your views on the principles behind what, why and how DAERA will support innovation?

The principles defined in the DAERA Science Strategy Framework apply to the Innovation Strategy. The Innovation Strategy also provides additional principles specific to innovation. The principles provide information on what DAERA will support, why DAERA will support it and how DAERA will seek to optimise the value of its investment in innovation.

Summary

- 16 respondents provided a response to this question.
- 78% of respondents were broadly in agreement with the principles provided.
- Some 22% of respondents made suggestions for change.

Departmental Response to Main Issues

Changing the Principles

Some respondents suggested linking Principles to Prosperity Agreements; extending Principles to include Circular Economy and Zero Waste and removal of barriers between commercial productivity and environmental success.

DAERA has considered the suggestions and no revisions will be made at this stage.

Goals

Question 7: From your perspective, are the goals appropriate?

The Innovation Strategy proposes three goals together with the objectives to achieve them and the activities associated with each of the objectives.

Summary

- 13 respondents replied to this question.
- 77% of respondents were largely in agreement with the goals in their current format or made no comment.
- 23% either only partially agreed or did not agree with the goals. The majority of these comments related to Goal 3.

Departmental Response to Main Issues

Goal 3 Measurement

The majority of comments from respondents related to concerns about the appropriateness of Goal 3 and the 'extremely ambitious' targets. Another comment relating to Goal 3 stated - 'by 2025, NI will be in the top 50% of UK regions' at exploiting opportunities in the utilisation of big Data, Artificial Intelligence and the Transformative Bioeconomy in the sectors within DAERA's remit. This is not currently measured for any region in the UK so the benchmark is inappropriate. DAERA will revise measurement of Goal 3.

Other respondents suggested that investment should not be prioritised in Big Data, Artificial Intelligence and Transformative Bioeconomy. DAERA will stress that while the Innovation Strategy prioritises these themes to provide a focus, it will not exclude other areas of innovation where appropriate.

Question 8: From your perspective, are there any goals missing?

Summary

- 10 respondents replied to this question.
- 61% were content with goals while 39% felt goals were missing.

Departmental Response to Main Issues

Missing Goals

Respondents suggested the following additions to goals:

- Add in wider Circular Economy, sustainable consumption and zero waste;
- Add priority support for the agri-food sector;
- Add goal to make Northern Ireland agri-food Carbon neutral by 2040;
- Goals of improving integrity, efficiency and quality of our food production systems should be added;
- Add goals to ensure the consideration of the environment, natural habitats and biodiversity;
- Add in 'to engage with innovation providers from within businesses across all sectors and from research organisations to drive and support collaborative approaches'.

DAERA will review and revise the three Goals to highlight Internal focus, External focus and Measurement.

Question 9: From your perspective are there any goals that are more important than others? If yes, which are they?

Summary

- 10 respondents provided an answer to this question.
- 30% of respondents identified Goal 2 as the most important.
- One respondent suggested both Goal 1 and Goal 2 were most important.

The responses were considered by DAERA and no revisions are anticipated.

Innovation Champion

Question 10: What are your views on the proposal to establish a Senior Civil Service led resource to champion and govern innovation culture?

DAERA proposes to establish appropriate senior and dedicated resource to champion and govern the development of an innovation culture.

Summary

- Responses to this question were received from 12 respondents.
- 87% of respondents stated their agreement with the need for an Innovation Champion or did not make comment;
- 13% of respondents did not agree with the need for an Innovation Champion.

Departmental Response to Main Issues

Appointment of an Innovation Champion

The majority of respondents were in favour of the appointment of an Innovation Champion. A small number of respondents suggested that if an Innovation Champion was to be appointed, they should be from outside DAERA and have industry experience. DAERA has considered the comments and no revisions are anticipated at this stage.

Learning for staff

Question 11: What are your views on the proposal to implement a programme of innovation learning for DAERA staff?

The Innovation Strategy proposes to define and implement a programme of learning for DAERA staff to ensure DAERA has the capability and capacity to support innovation.

Summary

- 10 respondents replied to this question.
- The vast majority of respondents expressed their support for a programme of innovation learning for DAERA staff or didn't make comment on this question.

Departmental Response to Main Issues

Learning should start at an early stage

A small number of respondents suggested a programme of innovation learning for rural businesses would be appropriate and that learning in innovation and creativity should start at an early age. Within the Innovation Strategy the scope for learning will be broadened with encouragement of innovation and creativity instilled in children from an early school age.

DAERA Innovation Unit

Question 12: What are your views on the establishment of an internal DAERA Innovation Unit?

The Innovation Strategy proposes to establish and grow an 'open innovation' culture within DAERA through the establishment of an internal Innovation Unit.

Summary

- 11 respondents replied to this question.
- 91% of respondents stated their support for an Innovation Unit or did not comment directly on this question.

Departmental Response to Main Issues

Concerns about Innovation Unit

A very small number of respondents were concerned that this unit may become isolated within DAERA and that Innovation Unit staff should be recruited from outside Civil Service. While these issues will be considered at implementation stage, DAERA do not anticipate any revision to the proposal to establish an internal DAERA Innovation Unit.

DAERA Digital Innovation Hub

Question 13: What are your views on the establishment of a DAERA Digital Innovation Hub?

The Innovation Strategy proposes the establishment of a Digital Innovation Hub to allow the importing and exporting of knowledge and insights from academia, the private sector, the third sector and the public.

Summary

- 9 respondents replied to this question.
- The vast majority of respondents welcomed or made no comment to the question regarding the establishment of a DAERA Digital Innovation Hub.

Departmental Response to Main Issues

Concerns about establishment of a Digital Innovation Hub

A small number of respondents stated their concerns about the establishment of a Digital Innovation Hub. One respondent expressed scepticism about the proposed Digital innovation Hub as the Livestock Industries Data Hub has never been progressed. Also the need for engagement with AgriMetrics was expressed.

DAERA do not anticipate any revision to the proposal for a DAERA Innovation Hub as part of the Innovation Strategy.

Barriers to innovation

Question 14: What are your views on mechanisms to identify and mitigate barriers to innovation?

The Innovation Strategy proposes to establish and grow networks and support mechanisms with other government bodies and funders and together explore key issues which present potential barriers to innovation and identify mitigations to better facilitate innovation.

Summary

- 11 respondents replied to this question.
- All but one of the respondents who commented on this question were positive on principle about the Innovation Strategy mechanisms to identify and mitigate barriers to innovation.

Departmental Response to Main Issues

Insufficient detail

A few respondents made comment on the approach to identifying and mitigating barriers to innovation. These include:

- Relatively little detail on this within document;
- DAERA should continue to encourage open dialogue with external agencies regarding barriers to innovation;
- More details on how barriers to innovation would be identified particularly for micro sized enterprises and small farms would be welcome;
- There should be a cross departmental approach.

The Innovation Strategy is a high level document and as such DAERA does not anticipate any revisions to the mechanisms to identify and mitigate barriers to innovation within the strategy. However further consideration of these issues will be given at implementation stage.

Innovation Communication and Promotion Plan

Question 15: What are your views on the implementation of an Innovation Communication and Promotion Plan?

The implementation of an Innovation Strategy Communication and Promotion Plan aims to raise awareness and generate interest in the role of innovation.

Summary

• 10 respondents provided an answer to this question.

Departmental Response to Main Issues

The vast majority of respondents who made comments regarding the implementation of a Communication and Promotion Plan, welcomed the initiative, some considered the Plan as essential to the implementation of the Innovation Strategy. DAERA does not anticipate any revisions to the Innovation Strategy at this stage.

Rural Innovation Support Service

Question 16: What are your views on the establishment of a Rural Innovation Support Service?

The Innovation Strategy proposes to establish and grow a Rural Innovation Support Service (RISS) to support collaboration and encourage an innovation culture.

Summary

• 11 respondents answered this question.

Departmental Response to Main Issues

Support for an RISS

87% of respondents expressed their support for the establishment of a RISS, or made no comment. A small number of comments were received including:

- Should there be an environmental/sustainable innovation support service too?
- Should be carried out by a third sector organisation;
- Yes, to a small support unit but not another front-line service.

DAERA does not anticipate any revisions to the proposal within the Innovation Strategy at this stage.

Innovation related learning

Question 17: What are your views on DAERA promoting and encouraging participation in innovation related programmes of learning at FE and HE levels?

The Innovation Strategy proposes to make available, promote and encourage participation in programmes of learning at FE and HE level, for both new entrants and Continuing Professional Development.

Summary

- 11 respondents answered this question.
- All comments received from respondents were generally supportive.

Departmental Response to Main Issues

Comments received

While comments made by respondents were favourable and DAERA does not anticipate any revisions to the Innovation Strategy, a small number of comments of particular relevance were received. These include:

- Learning programmes should include sustainable future and environmental knowledge;
- The syllabuses of agri-food courses at CAFRE, UU and QUB should be reassessed to ensure they are equipping farmers, advisers and processors of the future in the skills they need;
- Innovation needs to be an integral part of technical/business learning, not a separate add on component.

Support and funding

Question 18: What are your views on the identification of barriers to innovation, and exploring how these can be mitigated through support and funding mechanisms?

The Innovation Strategy proposes to identify barriers to innovation with a view to exploring how these can be mitigated, including through providing support and funding mechanisms.

Summary

• 11 respondents answered this question.

Departmental Response to Main Issues

The majority of comments received from respondents indicated agreement on the identification of barriers to innovation and support and funding mechanisms. DAERA does not anticipate any revisions to the proposals at this stage.

Task Forces

Question 19: What are your views on the establishment of Task Forces to identify opportunities in Big Data, Artificial Intelligence and Transformative Bioeconomy?

The establishment of discrete Task Forces involving relevant departments, experts and industry/sector stakeholder representatives to explore opportunities and develop proposals for exploiting Big Data, Artificial Intelligence and Transformative Bioeconomy is proposed as an objective of the Innovation Strategy.

Summary

- 11 respondents replied to this question.
- 87% of respondents were in general agreement with the establishment of Task Forces or had only limited reservations. Generally, these were associated with the themes.

Departmental Response to Main Issues

Task Forces too restrictive

A small number of respondents expressed that they did not agree with the establishment of Task Forces to identify opportunities in Big Data, Artificial Intelligence and Transformative Bioeconomy; the scope of the Task Forces is too restrictive. As previously stated in Question 7, DAERA will stress that while the Innovation Strategy prioritises these themes to provide a focus, it will not exclude other areas of innovation where appropriate. DAERA does not anticipate any revisions on the establishment of three Task Forces.

Question 20: What are your views on the prioritisation of DAERA R&D funding to Big Data, Artificial Intelligence and Transformative Bioeconomy projects?

The Innovation Strategy proposes the prioritisation of DAERA R&D project funding to the utilisation of Big Data, Artificial Intelligence and Transformative Bioeconomy.

Summary

- 10 respondents answered this question.
- 83% of respondents either generally agreed or made no comment on the prioritisation of DAERA R&D funding to Big Data, Artificial Intelligence and Transformative Bioeconomy projects.

Departmental Response to Main Issues

Big Data, Artificial Intelligence and Transformative Bioeconomy too restrictive

Some 17% of respondents disagreed with the prioritisation of R&D funding for these areas. The respondents stated that they felt they were too restrictive and skewed towards business success. DAERA has highlighted that while the Innovation Strategy prioritises these themes to provide a focus, it will not exclude other areas of innovation where appropriate. DAERA does not anticipate any revisions to the prioritisation of funding to Big Data, Artificial Intelligence and Transformative Bioeconomy.

Benefits of implementation

Question 21: What are your views on the benefits of implementation and on how we can measure benefits delivered?

The Innovation Strategy describes the benefits of strategy implementation together with methods of obtaining evidence of progress.

Summary

- 11 respondents provided an answer to this question.
- The majority of respondents who made comment were in broad agreement with the benefits of implementation and on how benefits can be measured.

Departmental Response to Main Issues

A number of comments were received from respondents. These include:

- Proposed measures are not appropriate as the UK Innovation Survey will not pick up innovation within the bulk of DAERA customers (Agri-food not included in survey);
- Benefits outlined are primarily of internal benefit to DAERA, external benefits will be paramount. Concern that environmental issues will not be included;
- Inclusion of baseline information would be useful;
- Target for Northern Ireland position within UK by 2025 (Goal 3) needs to be stated with more clarity;
- Measures proposed will measure adoption but not financial benefit.

Within the Innovation Strategy DAERA will place more emphasis on the realisation of benefits to implementation of the Innovation Strategy across all areas of DAERA's remit. Also the reference to the UK Innovation Survey will be contextualised and the availability of statistics relating to small business innovation will be explored. In line with comments received the target for Goal 3 will be revised.

Part 2 - Rural Needs and Equality Considerations

Question 22: Are there any considerations on rural needs you wish to raise at this point? Do you have any evidence that would be useful to the Department? If so, please describe this evidence and provide a copy.

No additional points relating to Rural Needs were made by respondents.

Question 23: Are there any considerations on equality that you wish to raise at this point? Do you have any evidence that would be useful to the Department? If so, please describe the evidence and provide a copy.

A comment was made here by one respondent. It stated:

The GEM UK Report confirmed that the female Total Early Stage (TEA) in NI is 4.3% compared to a male rate of 8.7%. In 2017 females in NI were half as likely to be entrepreneurs as males. The UK government aims to increase the number of female entrepreneurs by half by 2030, equivalent to nearly 600,000 additional female entrepreneurs. The rate of entrepreneurs aged 18-24 years old also lags behind other groupings in NI. Increasing the funding directed to these groups, supporting new childcare provision in rural areas and support through mentoring and collaboration networks would help to overcome barriers to entrepreneurship and innovation for these priority groups.

4. Next Steps

Publication of the Strategy

The final strategy will be published and made available on the DAERA website, as will this Departmental Response.

5. Annex A – List of Respondents

	Group or individual
1	AFBI
2	AgriSearch
3	Antrim and District Angling Association
4	arc21
5	BHS (British Horse Society of Ireland)
6	BVA (British Veterinary Association)
7	Ener Chem Solutions
8	Private individual
9	Leave No Trace Ireland
10	LCCC (Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council)
11	Private Individual
12	
13	Mid Ulster District Council
14	NIFDA (Northern Ireland Food and Drink
	Association)
15	Nilga (Northern Ireland Local Government
	Association)
16	,
17	\
18	Rural Action
19	Six Mile Water Trust
20	UFU (Ulster Farmers Union)
21	UKRI (UK Research and Innovation)
22	•
23	Water Management Unit and Regulation Unit of
	Resource Efficiency Division of NIEA



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