

Rec No	Recommendation	Response	Lead	Other Partners	Action	Date	RAG Status	Explanation of RAG: Actions carried out / Highlights / Risks
Market Share								
1	Establish a single Agri-Food Marketing Organisation for Northern Ireland to consolidate all marketing and promotional activities for the industry with a clear food promotion strategy. This organisation must explore opportunities to work with Bord Bia and Scotland Food and Drink in areas of mutual interest and where joint programmes would enable access to EU funding streams.	The Executive will work with the AFSB to carry out a comprehensive assessment of agri-food marketing and promotional activities and identify options for improved delivery. This will include exploring opportunities to work with Bord Bia and Scotland Food and Drink in areas of mutual interest and where joint programmes would enable access to EU funding streams.	DETI	InvestNI / DARD / Industry	Complete a review of current agri-food marketing structures in consultation with stakeholders and make recommendations to Ministers, including proposals for any necessary interim arrangements.	Dec 2014	Amber	The AFSB considered the Project Board's Strategic Outline Case (SOC) examining potential options and endorsed the Scotland Food and Drink model. The AFSB have committed to develop the proposal for the new agri-food marketing body. In March 2015 the DETI Minister announced a new industry-led body would be established, welcomed by DARD Minister. DETI has engaged SIB to develop an Outline Business Case (OBC), work to support recruitment of a Chief Executive and development of an initial business plan for the new body. Work is progressing on these three strands, and discussions on are ongoing to develop appropriate marketing support for the business planning element.
2	The Executive must provide additional resource to advise and negotiate on market entry and build relationships with new markets e.g. through Ministerial visits to key markets, at least two each year.	The Executive is working with the agri-food industry to identify any gaps in the current resource provision. Resources will be secured to replace or supplement existing products in order to advise and support companies on market entry and help them build relationships in new export markets. Ministerial support will be provided in respect of trade missions and visit programmes.	DETI / InvestNI	DARD / AFSB	i) A Marketing Group comprising Invest NI, DARD and industry stakeholder organisations has been established to implement this recommendation.	In place	Amber	The marketing group will be superseded by the marketing body established under Rec 1 above.
					Activities being undertaken include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of a comprehensive overview of support available to food businesses in respect of market entry; • Programme of Ministerial attendance at international food events; • Appointment of a Global Food marketing Advisor to develop sales and marketing leads; • Appointment of a Food Marketing Advisor to cover opportunities in the Republic of Ireland; • Appointment of an additional market resource to cover France, Italy, Germany and Spain market places. 	Ongoing	Green	Ministerial attendance at international food events is ongoing. Since the launch of the Strategy to date (30/9/15) Invest NI has delivered 280 financial and advisory projects to food companies to help with market entry and market growth, offering £2.96 million assistance leveraging £10.8 million of total planned investment. Invest NI has also delivered a programme of marketing events and workshops which have attracted 1020 participants from the food sector. This includes meet the buyer events and sector specific trade missions, exhibitions and workshops as well as multi-sector territory specific events. Activities specific to the last 2 quarters (March - Sept 2015) include: Meet the Buyer events with Reynolds Foodservice, Wabel, NISA, Wood's Foodservice, FDEA, Tesco Taste NI. 3 Exhibitions attended - NISA, London Produce Show and Hospitality & Fine Foods Dublin. Since the launch of the Strategy to date (30/9/15) Invest NI has issued 440 press releases to trade press on behalf of NI food and drink companies. This has resulted in an average PR value of £1.84 million to date (free PR coverage for those clients). Other activities being undertaken include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Invest NI represented NI at the UK Export Forum in London on the 15th July 2015. This forum was chaired by the DEFRA Minister and is responsible for implementation of the UK export growth strategy for Food & Drink. The strategy has identified a number of export market opportunities. 2. Invest NI marketing team has met with DARD officials to discuss market entry issues and export certification in relation to red meat and poultry; 3. Invest NI has submitted a comprehensive programme of marketing activity for Year of Food.
					ii) Discuss with UK Export Certification Partnership Group and DEFRA officials opportunities identified by assessment of industry needs.	Ongoing	Green	Meeting with Australian CVO at OIE in Paris 2014. Opening of NIB Beijing early 2015. DARD Ministerial visit to China June 2015. DARD Veterinary technical expert (VTE) in partnership with Defra policy lead on Philippines Mission in 2015. Additional resources in place following re-prioritisation of VS work. Four official visits to China on behalf of the DARD Minister completed in 2014. Additional industry support for market access negotiations required going forward. Update of activity to 26 June 2015: Further visit to China in preparation for the Chinese pork approval inspections. A veterinary trade mission to the Philippines took place in March 2015 to negotiate access for beef exports as per industry's priorities. Two inspections by Chinese officials focussing on pig meat exports hosted in April. Minister O'Neill visited China in June 2015 to maintain momentum on the negotiations. A veterinary trade mission to South Africa took place in May 2015 which amongst other issues progressed lamb exports and poultry exports. MEWG meeting on 18 May 2015 and 2 September 2015 reaffirmed industry priorities. Update at 20/11/15- DARD veterinary officer travelled to Washington in November 2015 and met with key US government contacts to discuss progressing our application to export beef. Approval to export beef to Canada agreed. Total beef markets open now stands at 64 (4 of which are for supply to Armed Forces only).
	Additional veterinary resource has also been allocated to export work to provide direct assistance to DEFRA via Japan, Australia & China face to face contacts.	DARD	Defra					

3	Help fund the significant cost of market intelligence and statistics especially in consumer food markets.	The Executive will help fund the significant cost of securing and disseminating suitable/relevant market intelligence and statistics to the agri-food industry, especially in relation to consumer food markets.	DETI / InvestNI	DARD / Industry	<p>A Marketing Group comprising Invest NI, DARD and industry stakeholder has been established to implement this recommendation.</p> <p>Issues being addressed include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessing the current provision of market intelligence and analysing the needs of the agri-food sector. Developing a process for identifying and disseminating market intelligence on a rolling basis. 	In place Ongoing	Green	The marketing group will be superseded by the 'Northern Ireland Food Marketing Association Ltd'. Invest NI has access to research for all major food sectors. Sector reports analyse market sizes and forecasts, and examine strengths, weaknesses and key trends. Other reports examine current trends or key themes – for example the 'Global Gluten-free Food Market', 'Consumers' Food Safety Concerns' (Mintel, due to be published in May). One of our resources is geared towards start up businesses, while Plimsoll reports (updated quarterly) allow companies to benchmark themselves against others in their sector. Clients can make an appointment to view the reports in full, or, if they are based outside Belfast, Invest NI will respond to any requests by sending short extracts from its reports or company databases, as appropriate. Invest NI also holds monthly clinics in Derry and Omagh, if that is more convenient for the company making the enquiry. In addition, Invest NI is currently working with CAFRE to ensure their clients can access Invest NI resources, as appropriate. Invest NI has recently also purchased a number of market research reports e.g. Global market for Gluten Free; Desserts Market in Western Europe and are costing the purchase of additional reports. Invest NI Business Information Centre delivered a presentation at the NIFDA conference in September 2015 highlighting the resources held by the Centre on Food Sector intelligence.
4	Government must remove barriers to export such as charges for Export Health Certificates (EHCs) and explore the potential to achieve separate certification for Northern Ireland animal health status and identify areas where collaboration with authorities in the Republic of Ireland can hasten market entry.	<p>EHC charges were deferred on 28 Nov 2013, pending EU decision on an EU-wide charging regime.</p> <p>The Executive will explore:</p> <p>i) potential to achieve separate certification for NI animal health status, bearing in mind the real risk of markets not recognizing or accepting a regional approach; and</p> <p>ii) areas where collaboration with authorities in the ROI can hasten market entry.</p>	DARD	FSA	<p>Discuss with UK ECP Group and DEFRA officials to establish risks/ benefits of approach.</p> <p>Continue to collaborate with ROI through a number of channels, including the NSMC, and build on specific opportunities to:</p> <p>i) learn from successful ROI market access inspections;</p> <p>ii) Work towards sharing of Food Animal Information on a cross border basis;</p> <p>iii) Participate in twice yearly meetings of the N/S Dairy International Exports Working Group</p>	Complete Ongoing	Complete Green	<p>EHC charges were deferred on 28 Nov 2013, pending EU decision on an EU-wide charging regime.</p> <p>Continuing liaison with UKECP, Defra and ROI. For example DARD/DAFM meeting 3 Dec 2014 on dairy and liaison with DAFM in preparation for the USDA beef inspection. Worked closely with DEFRA to open alternative markets for poultry industry in Africa and non EU countries which represented key priorities for the industry. Worked with DEFRA and InvestNI agreement was secured to remove a barrier clause for exports to Dubai, a key market for high quality beef exporter. Regular liaison with the ROI continued including drawing on their experiences of the Filipino systems audit in preparation for the one planned for NI. INI/DARD meeting 19 May 2015 facilitated discussion on joined up approach to assisting industry in taking advantage of existing markets whilst new ones are being pursued. Worked closely with ROI to draw on the lessons they learned when agreeing US beef approval. Working with Defra on renegotiating pork exports to South Korea to ensure barrier clauses not introduced. NSDIEWG meeting took place 25 June 2015 discussions focussing on joint support for dairy exports. Meetings held with INI and FSA aimed at formalising roles in meat exports as a first step. Also discussion with INI re utilising their in-market resource to progress accessing Japan for cooked poultry meat Update at 20/11/15- Next NSDIEWG scheduled for December 2015. Continuing to work with ROI counterparts to draw on lessons learned from their approval to export beef to the US.</p>
5	Government must strengthen our brand perception through eradication of animal disease, such as TB, Brucellosis; deliver swiftly on an all-island plant health framework, and extend current industry-led approach on BVD to Johne's and other production diseases.	<p>The Executive has established a government/industry TB Strategic Partnership, tasked with developing a comprehensive TB eradication strategy.</p> <p>The BR testing programme to eradicate the disease and achieve Officially Brucellosis Free status in NI continues, and regular meetings are held with DAFM colleagues to share information and explore areas of co-operation.</p>	DARD	Industry	<p>i) Establish a government/ Industry TB Strategic Partnership.</p> <p>ii) Develop a joint TB long term eradication strategy;</p> <p>iii) Implementation of TB eradication strategy;</p> <p>iv) Eradicate brucellosis in cattle;</p>	Complete 30 September 2015 From 01 Oct 2015 March 2015	Complete Amber Amber Green	<p>TBSPG has continued to gather evidence from public consultation and from meetings with experts and researchers. Interim report issued for public consultation on 30 June 2015</p> <p>TBSPG has commenced evidence gathering and has issued an Interim Report (published on 30 June 2015) for public consultation (which closed on 4 September 2015). The TBSPG had intended to produce their long term TB Eradication Strategy and Action/Implementation Plan by 31 December 2015 however given the complexity of the issues and the need to carry out robust cost/benefit analysis this has now been deferred with the agreement of Minister until late Spring 2016.</p> <p>The TBSPG had intended to produce their long term TB Eradication Strategy and Action/Implementation Plan by 31 December 2015 however given the complexity of the issues and the need to carry out robust cost/benefit analysis this has now been deferred with the agreement of Minister until late Spring 2016.</p> <p>There has not been a confirmed outbreak of brucellosis since 28 February 2012. We submitted an application to the EC for OBF status. This application was approved at the SCoPAFF Committee meeting in Brussels on 9 September 2015 and the decision was published in the Official Journal of the EU on 6 October 2015. DARD continues to roll out progressive reductions in the Brucellosis Eradication Programme, such as increasing the age animals are tested and reducing the frequency of testing. EU legislation requires that surveillance testing remains in place for 5 years post OBF.</p>

				v) Seek Officially Brucellosis Free (OBF) status in 2015/16	March 2015	Green	See above - Rec 5 (iv)	
				vi) Meet regularly with DAFM	Ongoing	Green	Meet at least twice a year.	
All-island Plant health	DARD continues to work with DAFM to implement the All-Island Plant Health and Pesticides strategic work programme.	DARD		vii) Implement the All Island Plant Health and Pesticides strategic work programme	Ongoing	Green	Progress continues on the all-Ireland strategic plant health and pesticides working programme. The All Ireland Chalara Strategy is being delivered and reviewed in line with current risk levels. Joint research on risks associated with the movement of ash has been completed and a European expert on Chalara fraxinea was invited and recently gave talks and site visits in both north and south. The current policy to eradicate and contain the disease is constantly reviewed through the All Island Plant Health Strategic Work programme. The all-Ireland strategic plant health and pesticides working programme is being revised for mid 2015-17. A stakeholder engagement strategy will commence in November coordinated by a dedicated Plant Health Policy official recently appointed.	
				viii) Contribute to the establishment of a Plant Health consultative forum consisting of a broad range of industry stakeholders	Mar-15	Green	The Plant Health Stakeholder forum comprises representatives from the following organisations/industry groups: (1) Ulster Arable Society (cereals); (2) Horticultural Forum (horticultural food production and horticultural nursery stock/flowers/christmas trees); (3)UFU Potato Committee (seed and ware potatoes); (4)ConFor (forest industries); (5) Agri-Food Strategy Board, Arable and Horticultural Sub Group; and (6) The Association of Landscape Contractors(hard and soft landscaping/turf grass).	
Production diseases	The Executive continues to provide funding to Animal Health & Welfare NI (AHWNI) to assist them to develop an eradication programme for BVD and a Johne's control programme; and will continue to work with stakeholders to help them develop industry-led initiatives to tackle production diseases that have significant economic impact at farm level as part of an overall herd health programme.	DARD	Industry	ix) Continue working with AHWNI in relation to their BVD and Johne's programmes.	Ongoing	Amber	Officials continue to work with AHWNI to facilitate the introduction of BVD Legislation which is now expected in early 2016	
				x) Consider any further representations from industry on initiatives to tackle production diseases.	Ongoing	Green	Previously Vet Service held some early explanatory engagement with PigRegen and advised that a Pig Health Strategy should be developed showing how the industry intended to proceed. More recently, the industry has produced a draft strategy document which has yet to be fully considered by the Department. The Department is also supporting the development and roll out of the voluntary Johne's Disease Control Programme by AHWNI.	
6	Government must improve the marketing/branding of the local seafood product, particularly through the highlighting of key unique selling points, including provenance, and the acceleration of voluntary labelling and certification of fish products with appropriate support.	The Executive is working with the fish processing and aquaculture industry to identify and develop a range of initiatives to improve the marketing/branding of the local seafood product. The Executive will also work with the industry to help identify the barriers to undertaking voluntary labelling and certification.	DETI / InvestNI	DARD / Industry	A Fish & Aquaculture Sub-group (comprising Invest NI, DARD and industry) will consider implementation of this recommendation. The Sub-group will consider options for improving the marketing and branding of the local seafood product.	Sub-Group in place	Green	Since the Launch of the Strategy Invest NI has delivered 32 financial and advisory projects to fish processing companies to date (30/09/2015) to help with market entry and market growth, offering £233,701 assistance leveraging £889,453 of total planned investment. Invest NI has also delivered a programme of marketing events and workshops which have attracted 44 participants from the fish processing sector.
				Following MSC Certification in July 2013, the Bottom Grown Mussel Fishery is currently undergoing its first surveillance audit.	Complete	Complete	Action Complete (Sept 2014) Future actions identified at Rec 105 (ii)	
				An announcement on the MSC Certification process for the Irish Sea Herring Fishery is expected before the end of the summer.	Awarded August 2014	Complete	The MSC Certification for Irish Sea Herring Fishery was Awarded in August 2014	
Working Together								
11	Industry will work with Government to capture key statistics for the total supply chain, including use of agency labour and details of the animal feed and rendering sectors.	DARD Size & Performance of NI Food & Drinks Processing Sector Report now contains estimates for the use of agency labour within the sector.	DARD	Industry/ DETI/ InvestNI	Further work will be carried to explore the availability of data from existing data capture mechanisms and publish additional analyses if possible.	July 2015	Green	Work on the additional statistics has been completed, however a problem has arisen with publishing the new statistics as this would create a risk of disclosure with respect to individual firm data (when the raw data is collected firms are given assurances that individual firm data will not be disclosed). We have contacted the firm affected and are seeking permission to publish the additional stats (despite the disclosure risk).
Sustainable Growth								
18	AFBI/DARD/Northern Ireland Environment Agency and industry must develop an economically viable model for sustainable production, delivering on improved on-farm profitability from more efficient use of resources.	Links to 7, 12 & 20 The Executive will support industry in developing economically viable models for sustainable production, delivering on improved on-farm profitability from more efficient use of resources through a range of measures, including: research; knowledge exchange, education and life-long learning initiatives; and financial support measures	DARD	AFBI/ NIEA/ Industry	i) A Farm Business Improvement Scheme has been included in the draft Rural Development Programme 2014-2020, which includes 'Knowledge Transfer through Business Development Groups'.	From 2015/16, subject to EC approval and funding	Green	The European Commission approved the 2014-2020 Rural Development Programme on the 25th August 2015. The first phase of the Farm Business Improvement Scheme was opened on the 9th November 2015 for applications to Business Development Groups (BDGs). The target is to enrol 1500 farmers on BDGs in the 2015/16 year.

					ii) commission relevant R&D projects from AFBI;	Annual subject to Funding	Green	Work continues to progress the commissioning of the 2015/16 DARD-directed AFBI research programme. 2015 DARD Postgraduate Studentship Scheme has been launched, interviews held and 12 studentship offers have been made. Timing of the next RCF tranche is currently under review.
					iii) award relevant postgraduate studentships;			
					iv) co-fund relevant industry projects under the Research Challenge Fund;			
					v) Launch a further tranche of the Manure Efficiency Technology Scheme.	Complete	Complete	103 letters of offer issued in 2014; 74 projects completed under Tranche 3. Tranche 3 of METS successfully concluded, and it is proposed to continue METS in next RDP as part of FBIS.
19	Government must ensure a robust scientific base for the measurement of greenhouse gas emissions to promote Northern Ireland as a low carbon location for food production within Europe.	The Executive is supporting UK wide Greenhouse Gas and Land Use Emissions inventories designed to reduce uncertainty in the way GHG emissions are measured. The Executive will continue to support research under DARD's Evidence and Innovation Strategy to improve the understanding of GHG emission levels for local food production systems.	DARD	AFBI	i) Part-fund GHG Inventory project- £100k in 14/15 and £10k in 15/16. ii) Part-fund Land Use Inventory project- £80k in 14/15, £80k in 15/16 and £80k in 16/17.	To conclude by 2017	Green	UK Inventory Projects (LULUCF and Agri) - proceeding to plan. Defra and Decc are in lead for the UK). Work is ongoing to bring projects to a close in 2016.
					iii) Commission relevant AFBI R&D projects	Annual		See text at Rec 18 (ii) above
20	Government must commission research into measureable, best practice systems for sustainable intensification on-farm, building upon previous work to underpin and promote sustainability as a cornerstone of the Northern Ireland Plc brand and learn from Bord Bia experience with the Origin Green brand.	Links to 7 & 12 and 18. The Executive will continue to support research under DARD's Evidence and Innovation Strategy to promote the sustainable economic development of the local agri-food industry.	DARD	AFBI/ Industry	i) Commission relevant AFBI R&D projects; ii) award relevant postgraduate studentships; and iii) co-fund relevant industry projects under the Research Challenge Fund. □	Annual, subject to funding	Green	Work continues to progress on the commissioning of the 2015/16 DARD-directed research programme. 2015 DARD Postgraduate Studentship Scheme has been launched, interviews held and 12 studentship offers. Timing of the next RCF tranche is currently under review.
	Research centres must develop the capability to:	The Executive will ensure that these headings will be fed into DARD's Evidence and Innovation Programme, targeting DARD funded AFBI research to meet the needs of the industry. CAFRE will lead on knowledge transfer and adoption of relevant technology to farm businesses.	DARD					
	- translate genetic improvements in ruminant livestock to the Northern Ireland grass based system;	Genetic improvement is one of the areas included in an existing AFBI research project aimed at improving sustainability, economic performance and competitiveness of the dairy sector and supported under DARD's Evidence and Innovation Strategy.	DARD / CAFRE	AFBI/ InvestNI/ Industry	i) Conclude the existing AFBI research project; and	Ongoing	Amber	There has been some slippage in the delivery of this research project. The project has been important in developing a DNA biobank for research to underpin genetic improvement programmes including new important traits.
					ii) deliver knowledge exchange, education and life-long learning initiatives to transfer the relevant technology to farm businesses, including via 'Knowledge Transfer through Business Development Groups' as part of the draft Rural Development Programme 2014-20.	From 2015/16, subject to EC approval and funding	Green	Incorporation of training programmes to gain genetic improvement is planned to be delivered through Business Development Groups. The European Commission approved the Rural Development Programme on the 25th August. The first phase of the Farm Business Improvement Scheme was opened on the 9th November 2015 for applications to Business Development Groups (BDGs). The target is to enrol 1500 farmers on BDGs in the 2015/16 year.
21	- to assist industry in translating the research for monogastric improvements into practical, deliverable outcomes ;	Nutrient use in relation to pigs and/or poultry is included in 3 AFBI research projects currently supported under DARD's Evidence and Innovation Strategy. The Executive will consider further AFBI research proposals in relation to feed input and quality in relation to pigs and laying hens.	DARD / CAFRE	AFBI/ InvestNI/ Industry	i) Conclude existing research projects; ii) lead on knowledge exchange, education and life-long learning initiatives to transfer the relevant technology to farm businesses; and iii) Commence new projects, where appropriate.	Mar 2015 (2 projects) Mar 2016 (1 project) From 2015 Apr 2015	Green	Existing research projects are progressing as per milestones. Knowledge transfer is being undertaken as part of the R+D projects - CAFRE will take forward further when projects have been completed. New project proposals have been reviewed for DARD-directed AFBI research programme and prioritised projects will be commissioned, subject to affordability.

	- support the R&D necessary to deliver improved human health through developments in animal nutrition	This is a long term ambition that would be difficult to measure in the short term; however the Executive will support research to deliver improved human health.	DARD	AFBI/ InvestNI/ Industry / DHSSPS	Consider the scope to support relevant research and knowledge transfer activities.	From 2014	Green	Healthy Eating Project Team has been established with membership from CAFRE, UU, QUB, AFBI, NIFDA and FSA. The project team continues to make good progress and has set out a terms of reference and identified key strategic areas for further development
22	Government must develop a strategic regional land management policy to determine the most productive use of our limited land. This should identify areas best suited for specific agricultural use whilst maintaining and enhancing environmental sustainability	The Executive will work in partnership with the agricultural industry to develop an agricultural land use strategy. This strategy will seek to determine how to optimise production efficiency and balanced environmental outcomes from our agricultural land.	DARD	NIEA/ DOE/ Industry	i) Commence development of an agricultural land use strategy. ii) Conclude work with publication of strategy. □	Sept 2014 2016	Green	Agri Land Use Expert Working Group has been established comprising farmers, environmentalists, agri-food supply chain representatives and government. The group held its first meeting in December 2014 and has continued to make good progress throughout 2015. The group has almost completed a "Sustainability Matrix" exercise identifying the key issues relating to land management in NI. They remain on course to agree a final report in 2016.
23	New Agri-Environment Schemes must be aligned with the sustainability agenda for agriculture, including the promotion of increased woodland, and promote biodiversity within our production systems as part of our overall brand image. This should incorporate clearer recognition that, in some instances, producers are being rewarded for the production of public goods as well as food.	The Executive is working in partnership to develop new agri-environment schemes. These will help increase woodland, halt loss of biodiversity, improve and protect the aquatic environment, mitigate against climate change and deliver public goods.	DARD	DOE/ NIEA	Develop a new Agri-Environment Scheme (AES) – the Environmental Farming Scheme - as part of the draft Rural Development Programme 2014-2020.	From 2015/16, subject to EC approval and funding	Green	The European Commission approved the Rural Development Programme on the 25th August 2015. Scheme development advancing with stakeholder engagement. Aim to open new Scheme in 2016, subject to business case approval and IT systems being in place.
24	Government must accelerate extension of the gas network into the West of Northern Ireland to reduce our carbon footprint and cost base and identify ways of improving security of supply in the wider market place.	The Executive continues to work with the Utility Regulator, the natural gas industry, and other stakeholders to progress extension of the gas network. Up to £32.5 million of financial support for new gas networks in the West has been agreed.	DETI	The Utility Regulator and the natural gas industry	i) Formal award of new gas conveyance licences	Dec 2014	Green	During 2014, the Utility Regulator completed a licence competition and announced Mutual Energy and Scotia Gas Networks (SGN) as "preferred licence applicants" for taking gas to the West. New licenses were awarded to Mutual Energy and SGN by the Utility Regulator on 11th February 2015. Works to connect Strabane to gas commenced in November 2015, and aim is to have new main gas networks to connect specified towns in the West in place by end of 2017.
					ii) Commencement of initial works to provide new gas networks subject to completion of design scheme, planning and other consents being obtained	2015/16		
					iii) Installation of main high pressure pipelines	2016/17		
25	Government must review incentives for renewable energy and ensure policies are complementary to the Agri-Food industry rather in competition with it.	The Executive will continue to review incentives for renewable energy. Renewable incentives are reviewed by technology, not sector, but government will seek to ensure wider renewable policies take account of potential competition with the agri-food industry.	DETI	DARD	i) Review and consult on Renewable Obligation Certificate (ROC) banding levels for small scale technologies (wind, hydro, solar photovoltaic, anaerobic digestion).	Mar 2015	Green / Amber	Consultation on small scale ROC levels completed. Consultation proposed no change to existing ROC levels for AD, wind and hydro but a reduction for solar PV. Consultation response issued end January. A Closure Order to close the Northern Ireland Renewables Obligation (NIRO) to onshore wind in 2017 was introduced in September 2015. Consultation ended in October 2015 on closure of the NIRO to onshore wind in 2017.
					ii) Introduce any changes from 01 April 2015.	April 2015 if applicable		
26	Government must fast track a solution for poultry waste into energy, recognising the environmental benefits and remove a key uncertainty over the growth of the Agri-Food industry in Northern Ireland.	The Executive will continue to work with industry in its efforts to secure a solution to meet EC requirements and the needs of the industry. DETI and DARD have undertaken a Small Business Research Initiative (SBRI) project to progress the development of innovative solutions for the utilization of poultry litter. This SBRI project has successfully progressed the development of several technologies and has been followed up with a £12m loan scheme to co-fund the development of two demonstrator plants.	DETI	DARD / InvestNI / DOE / Industry	Sustainable Use of Poultry Litter (SUPL) loan scheme is open for expressions of interest from mid-July to October 2014.	Oct 2014	Green	The first call for expressions of interest under the Sustainable Use of Poultry Litter (SUPL) loan scheme closed in October 2014 and applications are being assessed. A second call for expressions of interest was announced on 16 December 2014 and was open until 24 April 2015. Applications are being assessed and there is ongoing engagement with interested parties.

28	There must be a doubling of draw down of European funding in support for Agri-Food innovation over the next three years (2014-2016).	The Executive's Barroso Taskforce Working Group has identified an increase in drawdown of EU funds by 20% by 2015 as one of its objectives. DARD has appointed an NI contact point, based at AFBI to facilitate businesses and researchers in applying for EU funding for agri-food related work.	DARD	DETI / InvestNI / NIEA Industry	Continue the work of the NI contact point.	Ongoing	Green	NICP is in place. Based in AFBI, but with a region-wide remit the NICP is helping to increase awareness of new opportunities and facilitating the establishment of consortia to bid for EU funding.
29	All Agri-Food innovation funding must be under the control of one dedicated executive and board which must work closely with Matrix to ensure consistent policy across the industry. This organisation would align strategic industry priorities with R&D provision within the local innovation infrastructure.	The Executive accepts there is a need for better alignment of advice and support on innovation to reduce risk of duplication and increase industry awareness of where to get the appropriate support. However, we need to ensure that all sectors are included or have access to innovation funding in some way. We will establish a new Open Innovation support service to facilitate greater collaboration, commercialisation and enhanced knowledge exchange between companies and other bodies (e.g. funding bodies) across all NI sectors, including agri-food. This will improve signposting and information provision.	DETI	DARD / Industry	Establish the Open Innovation Centre	Dec 2014	Red	Appraisal completed and need identified but not taken forward due to budget pressures. Proposal to be considered as part of the next Programme for Government.
30	Bureaucracy must be reduced to enable the industry to get ahead of its competition in pursuing new opportunities. Government must work to convert this belief into a reality and as a first step open the Agri-Food Competence Centre for business without delay.	The Executive is working with the Agri-Food Competence Centre group which includes Queens University Belfast, University of Ulster, AFBI and a number of large food processing companies to progress and part fund the establishment of a new Agri-Food Competence Centre. CAFRE can assist the Agri-Food Competence Centre with knowledge transfer to the food industry.	DETI / InvestNI	CAFRE	Work closely with the Agri-Food Competence Centre steering committee to progress the Agri-Food Competence Centre proposal. A budget of £5m and business plan has been identified by InvestNI. The business plan is being developed by the industry consortium with advisory support from InvestNI. ☐	Ongoing – timeframe dependent on industry presenting a proposal.	Green	Invest NI has secured approval from DETI for funding for a new Agri Food Competence Centre made up of £5million of research and development assistance from Invest NI and a £1.7million investment from industry partners. Hosted at Queen's University, Belfast the new Competence Centre will draw upon the research capabilities of Ulster University (UU), Queen's University, Belfast and the Agri-food and Biosciences Institute (AFBI). The centre's primary focus will be on improving the international competitive position of the NI Agri-food sector through innovation and co-operative research. The Centre will provide a platform for companies who would like to pursue research projects in areas such as packaging, shelf-life, waste minimisation and food security which will support the development of our local food industry to compete strongly in export markets. It will also assist in maximising the benefits of the Agri-food knowledge and skills that already exist in NI. The Agri-Food Quest Competence Centre Manager took up post at QUB on 18th August and the project will officially commence on the 1st October 2015. The website has recently launched www.agrifoodquest.com Invest NI sponsored the NIFDA conference on 23rd September to promote innovation in the food industry and also included a focus on the new Competence Centre. ☐
Skills								
31	All Agri-Food skills and entrepreneurship development must be the responsibility of a single dedicated group which must match provision to requirements.	The Executive accepts there is a need to work with relevant industry representative bodies to ensure alignment of advice and support on entrepreneurship and skills, to reduce risk of duplication and increase awareness by industry of where to get the appropriate support. The Executive will work with industry to identify the specific needs of each sector and identify how they can best be addressed. Membership of the Future Skills Action Group has been widened to include representatives from Lantra, Ulster Farmers Union and Northern Ireland Agricultural Producers Association. All members will work collaboratively on skills issues across the agri-food sector.	DARD	DEL/DETI/ InvestNI/CAFRE Industry ☐	i) Invite AFSB to work with relevant industry representative bodies to determine policy and align strategic priorities with industry needs, combined with improved signposting and information provision to the industry. ii) Take account of stakeholder views on agri-food skills provision in developing DARD's forthcoming Education Strategy.	Ongoing	Complete	Action Complete: Future Skills Action Group is the mechanism to take this forward and it meets on a regular basis and includes the key stakeholders.
33	There should be a significant increase in training places in Agri-Food at all levels. Industry will commit to provide placements for all industry trainees including farm apprenticeships/farm management development opportunities for those currently being trained in CAFRE, as an integral part of their development.	The Executive agrees that provision of training places needs to be matched to industry demand. Training places need be aimed at all areas of the sector from on the farm through to manufacturing and processing. Evidence of level of demand must be clearly demonstrated. The Executive will work with industry to identify the specific needs of each sector and identify how they can best be addressed.	DARD	DEL/ DETI/ CAFRE/ Industry	i) Develop a DARD Education Strategy, taking appropriate account of the evidence base and industry views on skills needs and gaps.	By 2017	Green	DARD has continued to add to the evidence base for development of the education strategy.

		CAFRE has continued to increase the number of education / training places, both full and part-time in agriculture and food in line with industry demand. A particular emphasis has been placed on apprenticeships and part-time provision.			ii) Work with industry representative bodies to increase awareness.		Green	CAFRE has increased the number of education / training places, both full and part-time in agriculture and food in line with industry demand.
Better Regulation								
38	Regulators and Industry must engage in order to develop an agreed regulatory environment which adds value, is proportionate, informed and has a risk-based approach to regulation.	The Executive is undertaking a wider review of business regulation as part of the Economic Pact. This includes elements of the agri-food sector outside the scope of the NI Agri-Food Better Regulation and Simplification Review. This includes engagement with regulators and industry across all sectors to identify improvements that can be made to the regulatory environment and also take account of the outcomes of previous work in this area, such as the DARD BR Action Plan which was specifically aimed at reducing the regulatory burden on farmers. DoE will introduce primary legislation proposals to the Assembly to include an integrated regulatory framework following recent consultation. NIEA is engaging with NIFDA and others, through the DoE Better Regulation Board in relation to the Environmental Better Regulation programme and at an operational level.	DETI	DARD/HSENI/DOE/NIEA/FSA/Industry	i) DETI has established a Review Team and Advisory Panel to conduct a Review of Business Red Tape, which aims to report to the DETI Minister by Oct 2014. ii) Regulatory delivery is a key work strand of the Review. A new model for reviewing specific issues will be piloted with the agri-food sector. iii) Continue and develop regular engagement with the food and drink sector.	Oct 2014 Ongoing Ongoing	Green	Draft Executive Action Plan being prepared by an inter departmental group for Ministerial consideration.
39	Greater weight should be applied to Agri-Food applications reflecting the industry's strategic importance.	The Executive has worked closely with the industry and set up specific project arrangements to deal centrally with anticipated applications for poultry houses. Similar arrangements can be established for other proposals, where necessary.	DOE	NIEA/ Industry/ District Councils	Establish similar arrangements for other sectors to deal centrally with anticipated applications, where necessary.	As needed	Green	The former arrangements that were put in place by DoE Planning for central processing of poultry houses ended prior to the transfer of planning powers to local councils on 1 April 2015. Relevant planning applications have now transferred to individual councils for processing and determination. Regular meetings held by NIEA with the broiler industry to discuss relevant issues relating to their expansion plans and help co-ordination of applications eg. PPC permits. NIEA communication with other poultry/pig sectors as appropriate.
40	A Code of Practice must be developed for implementation of regulations that impact industry.	The Executive is undertaking a wider review of business regulation as part of the Economic Pact. This includes engagement with regulators and industry across all sectors to identify improvements that can be made to the regulatory environment and also take account of the outcomes of previous work in this area.	DETI	DARD/HSENI/DOE/NIEA/FSA/Industry	DETI has established a Review Team and Advisory Panel to conduct a Review of Business Red Tape, which aims to report to the DETI Minister by October 2014. Regulatory delivery is a key work strand of the Review. A new model for reviewing specific issues will be piloted with agri-food sector.	Oct 2014 Ongoing	Green	See Text at Rec 38
42	Government must work with the industry in practical and proportionate regulation to ensure consumer value rather than cost to the industry.	In working with the industry, the Executive must be cognisant that regulations are concerned with consumer protection etc	DETI	DARD/HSENI/DOE/NIEA/FSA/Industry	DETI has established a Review Team and Advisory Panel to conduct a Review of Business Red Tape, which aims to report to the DETI Minister by October 2014. Regulatory delivery is a key work strand of the Review. A new model for reviewing specific issues will be piloted with agri-food sector.	Oct 2014 Ongoing	Green	See Text at Rec 38

43	Government must revise current planning and IPPC application procedures and priorities to ensure the speed of successful processing of Agri-Food applications is equal to, or better than those in Great Britain. This revision should also put strict limits on the time taken by other Northern Ireland Departments which are consultees to the process.	Links to 39 The Executive will optimise procedures to deliver efficient processing of applications.	DOE	NIEA	i) Cross-divisional team established to deal with poultry house applications.	Complete	Complete	ACTION COMPLETE: Relevant Parts of Planning Act (NI) 2011 commenced and statutory timeframes for response set out in subordinate legislation i.e. Planning (General Development Procedure) Order (NI) 2015 which came into operation on 1 April 2015
		For IPPC permits, advertisement, consultation and determination timescales are specified in Regulations. These and other procedural aspects can be reviewed as part of the Better Regulation Programme. The Planning Act (NI) 2011 will empower DOE to prescribe in subordinate legislation a time period within which a statutory consultee is required to provide a substantive response to a planning consultation request.			ii) Fully commence the Planning (NI) Act and associated subordinate legislation	April 2015	Complete	
44	Government departments must benchmark their application of legislation and standards internationally to identify best practice in cost effective regulation.	The Executive has agreed new Regulatory Impact Assessment guidance, which incorporates a greater emphasis on evidence informed decision making and cost/benefit analysis, and is now being used by all Departments.	DETI	DARD / DOE	Complete the review of Regulatory Impact Assessment guidance and publish for Departments to use.	Complete	Complete	The EU BAT Reference document on Intensive Agriculture is currently at draft stage with likely publication mid 2016. Upon publication of the associated BAT conclusions document, permit reviews will be implemented. Implementation of the BAT conclusions through permit reviews across the EU will ensure consistency in the regulatory approach. Regular communication & meetings continue to be held with cross-border and other UK Regulatory Bodies to discuss and compare permitting and compliance in the Agri-Food Sector. Draft primary legislation is complete and has been introduced to the Assembly (June 2015).
		DoE's environmental better regulation work will take appropriate account of recent developments in Scotland under the Regulatory Reform (Scotland) Bill and best practice elsewhere.	DOE	i) Produce proposals for a programme for benchmarking permitting and compliance approaches; ii) Introduce primary legislation proposals to the Assembly to include an integrated regulatory framework. □	Dec 2014 Dec 2014	Green		
45	The NIEA must develop an advisory arm similar to the successful model developed and implemented by The Health and Safety Executive (Northern Ireland) which encourages compliance by a partnership approach rather than by prosecution.	Many of NIEA's regulatory roles are licence based, which is a fundamentally different regulatory model to that of HSENI. NIEA will develop proposals for enhancing advisory activity through its partnership and stakeholder working.	NIEA	DOE	i) Provide Effluent Treatment Plant training for the dairy and slaughtering sectors ii) Complete a compliance assistance programme for the dairy and slaughtering sectors delivered by Business in the Community iii) Enter into Prosperity Agreements with key agri-food sectors or companies.	Oct 2014 Dec 2014 March 2015 □	Green	ETP training completed on 30/9/14, 1-2/10/14. Prosperity Agreement signed with Linden Foods/Linery Ltd on 21/8/14. Prosperity Agreement being finalised with John Thompson & Sons animal feed mill. Ongoing discussions about potential PA's with other Agri-Food companies.
46	Information required for regulation and control must be gathered using agreed protocols and be as efficient as possible.	This issue is being examined across all sectors as the wider review of business regulation being taken forward as part of the Economic Pact (Building a Prosperous & United Community).	DETI	DARD/HSENI/DOE/NIEA/FSA	i) DETI has established a Review Team and Advisory Panel to conduct a Review of Business Red Tape, which aims to report to the DETI Minister by October 2014.	Oct 2014	Green	See Text at Rec 38
					Regulatory delivery is a key work strand of the Review. A new model for reviewing specific issues will be piloted with agri-food sector.	Ongoing		

47	Government must identify £250m over three years to fund financial and advisory development support for a new Farm Business Improvement Scheme. The objectives of the scheme would be to improve competitiveness and productivity in primary production, through increased efficiency, upskilling on farm, farm modernisation and a commitment to working with supply chain partners to improve performance. The support would be tiered to reflect the degree of engagement in business planning, physical and financial performance management, utilisation of performance recorded breeding stock, business improvement activities and so on.	The draft NI Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 includes a Farm Business Improvement Scheme, designed to help improve competitiveness and productivity in primary production, through increased efficiency, upskilling on farm, farm modernisation and a commitment to working with supply chain partners to improve performance. The final content of the RDP will depend on approval by the EU Commission.	DARD	RDD / CAFRE	i) A Farm Business Improvement Scheme has been included in the draft Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 ii) Bid for the additional funding needed to deliver these measures, taking account of the uptake capacity of industry.	From 2015/16, subject to EC approval and funding As appropriate	Green	The proposed FBIS will consist of a package of measures aimed at knowledge transfer, cooperation, innovation and capital investment. These proposed measures have been included in the RDP 2014-2020, which was formally approved by the EU Commission in August 2015. It is intended to roll out the FBIS in a phased way, subject to the necessary business case approvals. The first phase comprises the knowledge transfer schemes, which has started with the launch of Business Development Groups (BDGs) on 9 November. Work is ongoing on the business cases for the remaining elements of FBIS including the business case for capital support component.
48	Government must review and identify the key factors within the regulations governing Single Farm Payment, inheritance, income tax, land tenure and conacre that prevent more effective use of agricultural land.	The Executive will commission research to investigate how land tenure, especially the conacre system, impacts on the effective use of agricultural land, as part of the DARD Evidence and Innovation programme.	DARD	DFP/DETI	Commission research on the impact of the conacre system.	2015/16, subject to research capacity.	Amber	AFBI no longer has capacity to complete research, however significant discussions ongoing within the industry on this subject. Next steps will be determined as a result of these discussions.
49	Government must put in place a facility to provide "security of last resort" to meet the Bank security requirement for those partners in a sector scheme who are seeking to invest as part of their commitment to their supply chain partners.	The Executive will consider how access to finance can be improved in situations where security is an issue. However, schemes are in place and under development that could be adapted. The Executive announced the introduction of an Agri-Food Loan Scheme on 6 October 2013 with the first (Broiler) phase of the scheme opening in March 2014. The scheme operates in partnership with banks but Executive loans are subordinated to the bank debt thereby enabling the investment to proceed where banks might otherwise have had concerns about security. □	DFP	DETI / DARD	(i) Consider how access to finance can be improved;	Ongoing March 2015	Green	As part of their ongoing engagement with the local banking sector, the Finance and Enterprise Ministers met with each of the local banks in the first quarter of 2015 to discuss a number of banking and access to finance issues. The Joint Ministerial Taskforce (JMT) was established during the last Parliament and considered access to finance issues (last meeting on 2nd February 2015). Progress has been made on Task Force priorities to encourage the effective operation of the British Business Bank; promote the effectiveness of national finance initiatives; and secure the availability of local bank lending data for NI (which was published for the first time on 2 July 2014). Data for Q1 2015 was published in July. Postcode lending data for borrowing by individuals and businesses in NI was published for the first time in April 2015 with a further release published in October 2015. The Access to Finance Implementation Panel is nearing completion of its work programme. It is currently preparing its final report which will focus on progress made against the four recommendations outlined in its Interim report in June 2014, including progress on establishing the 'Northern Ireland Banking Committee'. The British Business Bank is also becoming more involved locally and keen to ensure that its national lending programmes are available in and suit the NI market better
			DETI	DFP	(ii) Examine the potential to extend the Agri-Food Loan Scheme to other sectors	March 2015	Green	The first phase of the Agri- Food Loan Scheme (AFLS) for broiler production opened for business in March 2014. The scheme has been acknowledged by the industry as an enabler in helping farmers to consider and secure financing options, to allow continued industry expansion. Uptake under the scheme has been lower than initially anticipated, with 10 loans now approved at total Invest NI commitment of c.£2.8m, with the first loan expected to be drawn down imminently. The industry continues to engage with the Planning service to assist in this expansion, with the SUPL scheme seeking to provide a sustainable outlet for treatment of poultry litter, which would assist the planning process in future.
50	Government must expand the scope and funding and simplify the Agri-Food Processing and Marketing Grant (PMG) and the European Fisheries Fund (EFF) Programmes to maximise uptake within EU rules. Rates should be on a par with other UK regions and the Republic of Ireland. Locally set criteria should be reviewed with industry.	The draft Rural Development Programme 2014-2020, includes proposals for an Agri-Food Processing Investment Scheme (AFPIS). The rates of support under the AFPIS will be based on local need and proportionate to the size of the RDP in NI. The final content of the RDP will depend on approval by the EU Commission	DARD	InvestNI	An Agri-Food Processing Investment Scheme has been included in the draft Rural Development Programme 2014-2020.	From 2015/16, subject to EC approval and funding.	Amber	The European Commission approved the Rural Development Programme on the 25th August 2015. Preparatory work on scheme design and the OBC for AFPIS is ongoing but progress has been constrained by loss of key staff and other competing priorities e.g. the dairy crisis. Additional assistance has been commissioned from the Strategic Investment Board.

		<p>The Executive will seek to simplify the application process for European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) within the scope of the relevant EU Regulations.</p> <p>We have undertaken public consultation on behalf of DEFRA on the UK Operational Programme for the EMFF.</p>			<p>A Fishing Industry taskforce has been established which will consider among other things the investment priorities for the new EMFF. The Taskforce preliminary report will be made to the Minister.</p>	December 2014	Green	EMFF Operational Plan reflecting industry investment priorities submitted to EC for approval - expected October 2015
51	Government must retain the Selective Financial Assistance Scheme to support investments in large businesses outside the scope of the PMG Scheme.	<p>Under the revised Regional Aid Guidelines for 2014-2020, finalised in June 2013, support is still available for large enterprises, although with significant restrictions (relating to "initial investments or the diversification of existing establishments into new products or new process innovations"). The UK Government has also confirmed that NI will retain its 100% assisted area status post 2013, at least in the medium term. The revised RAG for 2014-2020 came into force from 01 July 2014.</p>	DETI	InvestNI	<p>Continue to seek clarification from the EC on the Regional Aid rules for large companies.</p>	Autumn 2014	Green	<p>The revised Regional Aid Guidelines took effect from 1 July 2014. Guidance has been sought on the interpretation and application of these guidelines. Invest NI can continue to provide Selective Financial Assistance (SFA) to large enterprises only where it supports "new economic activity" at a project level. This restricts the amount of SFA support that Invest NI can provide to Large Companies. However Invest NI will continue to support large food companies through a range of other financial and non-financial support e.g. Grant for Research & Development, Marketing support, skills growth support and a range of advisory products.</p> <p>Since the launch of the Strategy to date (30/09/15) Invest NI has delivered 7 SFA projects to large companies from the food sector that fall outside of PMG (over 250 employees), offering £16 million assistance to lever over £280 million of total planned investment.</p>
52	Government must create a specific expert resource with an objective of securing 0.5% share of the [EU] innovation funding programme.	<p>The Executive announced the introduction of an Agri-Food Loan Scheme on 6 October 2013 with the first (Broiler) phase of the scheme opening in March 2014.</p>	DETI	DARD / AFBI / Universities	<p>Commence the NI Contact Point work programme.</p>	Ongoing	Complete	Action Complete
53	Government must engage with "Capital for Enterprise" (CfEL) and participating Northern Ireland banks to promote the Enterprise Finance Guarantee scheme to the Agri-Food industry and encourage greater uptake. A "Sources of Finance", including European sources, reference guide should be compiled and promoted to Northern Ireland businesses.	<p>The NI Executive is continuing to address access to finance for business through the work of the Joint Ministerial Taskforce and the Access to Finance Implementation Panel. A range of actions are being taken forward in relation to the effectiveness and uptake of national initiatives including British Business Bank Programmes such as EFG, as well as delivery of alternative sources of funding such as the Invest NI Access to Finance initiative.</p> <p>While the Economic Pact contained an Action Point for a pilot extension to the EFG Scheme aimed at addressing loan affordability, the British Business Bank concluded that it would be more beneficial to consider alternative options that were not previously available, such as the Investment Programme and Wholesale Guarantees scheme.</p>	DETI	DFFP	<p>Government will continue to work with stakeholders to improve and promote access to finance options for business, including the agri-food industry.</p> <p>For business this includes national and EU funding sources, as well as Invest NI access to finance funds. For Agri Food specifically, this includes the formation and rolling out of the Executive's Agri-Food Loan Scheme.</p>	Ongoing	Green	<p>Officials continue to engage closely with BBB counterparts to ensure that Business Bank programmes operate effectively and are promoted in NI. The last meeting was held on 7 July 2015, with the next scheduled for early December 2015</p>
54	Government must agree with the UK Government on devolving the power to vary Corporation Tax in a timely and affordable manner.	<p>The 'Building a Prosperous and United Community: One Year On' document published in July 2014 indicated that the Government remains committed to making a final decision on the potential devolution of corporation tax no later than the 2014 Autumn Statement.</p> <p>If a decision to proceed with devolution is made then the Government remains on track to introduce a stand-alone Bill with the aim of it becoming law in this Parliament.</p>	DFFP	DETI / OFMDFM	<p>Take forward work on devolution of Corporation Tax in line with the commitment in the 'Building a Prosperous and United Community' document.</p>	Autumn 2014	Green	<p>The Corporation Tax (Northern Ireland) Bill passed into law in March 2015. As part of the Stormont Agreement the NI Executive committed to a commencement date of April 2018, and a NI rate of 12.5% subject to implementation of key measures to deliver sustainable finances for NI. Officials continue to engage with HMT/HMRC to prepare for the new devolved regime.</p>
55	Government must commission a review of the impact of current lack of tax relief available for agricultural building allowances and develop a case for the introduction of 300% capital allowances for capital investment in the Agri-Food industry. This	<p>The 'Building a Prosperous and United Community' document includes a commitment to examine the potential for devolving specific additional fiscal powers by autumn 2014.</p>	DFFP	DARD / DETI	<p>The Executive is examining a range of taxes to consider whether devolution could result in any clear economic benefit for Northern Ireland</p>	Autumn 2014	Green	<p>Advice and draft Executive Paper with Minister for consideration.</p>

	Investment in the Agri-Food industry. This review should consider the potential of achieving this by designating all of Northern Ireland as an Enterprise Zone for tax purposes and expanding the relief available within the Zone to include first year allowances on expenditure incurred in relation to agriculture buildings.				Consider the Economic pact proposal on Enterprise Zones and how this might be implemented in NI.	Autumn 2014	Green	FM/dFM have written to HMT regarding the designation of a pilot Enterprise Zone in NI.
56	Government must examine the bureaucracy surrounding access to funding, identify best practice in the UK or Europe and bring forward proposals to simplify the process.	The Economic Pact document indicated that the UK Government and the Executive would create a Joint Ministerial Taskforce to consider banking and access to finance issues. An independent Access to Finance Implementation Panel has been established to take forward the recommendations made by the Economic Advisory Group.	DFP	DARD / DETI	i) Appoint a joint Ministerial Taskforce ii) Consider banking and access to finance issues.	In place Ongoing	Green	(i) and (ii) The Joint Ministerial Taskforce (JMT) was established during the last Parliament and considered access to finance issues (last meeting on 2nd February 2015). Progress has been made on Task Force priorities to encourage the effective operation of the British Business Bank; promote the effectiveness of national finance initiatives; and secure the availability of local bank lending data for NI (which was published for the first time on 2 July 2014). Data for Q1 2015 was published in July. Postcode lending data for borrowing by individuals and businesses in NI was published for the first time in April 2015 with a further release published in October 2015. The British Business Bank is also becoming more involved locally and keen to ensure that its national lending programmes are available in and suit the NI market better. The Access to Finance Implementation Panel is nearing completion of its work programme. It is currently preparing its final report which will focus on progress made against the four recommendations outlined in its Interim report in June 2014, including progress on establishing the 'Northern Ireland Banking Committee'.
57	Government must put in place an Agri-Food Fund to support rapid investment in the industry.	The Executive announced an Agri-Food Loan Scheme on 6 October 2013. The first phase of an Agri-Food Loan Scheme for broiler producers opened in March 2014, and discussions are ongoing with the banks and industry to gauge the potential to extend the scheme other sectors. The Scheme will operate for a limited time only.	DETI	DFP	Examine the potential to roll out the Scheme to other sectors.	Mar 2015	Green	See text at Rec 49 (ii) above
Food Fortress								
59	Electronic tagging must be introduced as quickly as possible and Government and industry databases extended to include advanced testing data which may include genome and DNA records.	The EU Regulation supporting EID in cattle came into force on 17 July 2014. The next stage is to make EU implementing legislation setting out detailed standards for EID. The Executive will work closely with industry partners on all aspects of Cattle EID including the policy formulation, legislation and how it will be implemented on the ground. The NIFAIS Programme team is committed to ensuring that the new Northern Ireland Food Animal Information is 'cattle EID ready'.	DARD	Industry	i) Consider a range of technical issues including national databases, tag approval and ISO standards ii) Work with Industry to progress the underpinning of databases to suit the needs of DARD and the Industry; and iii) Liaise with industry representatives and colleagues in the south of Ireland. iv) Commence operation of NIFAIS.	Ongoing Ongoing Ongoing January 2019	Green Green Green Green	Currently awaiting draft EU tertiary legislation setting out technical standards for EID. We now do not expect to get technical standards until mid 2016. As noted above, technical standards for EID are now not expected until mid 2016 at the earliest. Liaison ongoing with DAFM policy (north/south on EID on 9 October 2014) and veterinary colleagues, UFU and stakeholders engaged with at an early stage. Integrated into the Statement of User Requirements for Phase II of NIFAIS; NIFAIS Contract expected to be awarded January 2016 for completion by December 2018
60	Government must provide financial support to accelerate R&D and collaborative uptake initiatives making Northern Ireland a world leader in safe food production.	Links to 28, 29 & 52	DARD	DHSSPS / FSA / Invest NI / Industry/CAFRE	Work together to: • scope out the R&D and initiatives already being undertaken on safe food production; • identify gaps; and • prioritise funding to fill gaps.	Ongoing From 2015/16, subject to funding.	Green	Work continues to progress the commissioning of the 2015/16 DARD-directed AFBI research programme. 2015 DARD Postgraduate Studentship Scheme has been launched, interviews held and 12 studentship offers have been made. Timing of the next RCF tranche is currently under review.
61	The Institute for Global Food Security must be commissioned to review the Northern Ireland supply chain and identify further risks and opportunities for collaborative improvement in food assurance.	The Executive will work collaboratively with the Institute for Global Food Security (IGFS) through established arrangements, such as the Food & Feed Incident Management Group (FFIMG) and the FSA Industry Liaison Group (FILG), taking into account the work commissioned by the Department of Health and Defra.	FSA	DARD / Industry	Work with IGFS and take appropriate account of current work in relation to the UK food chain.	Ongoing	Green / Amber	Project in scoping phase to assist the dairy industry to rationalise HACCP plans and sampling programmes to provide assurance across dairy industry.

62	Research must be commissioned immediately to determine more cost effective application of advanced science based testing and thereby to ensure this does not become a barrier to rapid adoption and implementation.	There may be scope for large scale screening and/or composite testing for specific animal disease or for certain food or feed contaminants. However, we would need to ensure that new techniques are fully compliant with relevant legislation and export requirements and that any additional screening works to the benefit of industry. The Executive will continue to support research to promote the sustainable economic development of the local agri-food industry. There are also opportunities for industry led research through the Research Challenge Fund.	DARD	FSA / AFBI / QUB / Industry	Work with the industry and research institutes to identify and where appropriate commission suitable research proposals.	Annual	Green	Work continues to progress the commissioning of the 2015/16 DARD-directed AFBI research programme. 2015 DARD Postgraduate Studentship Scheme has been launched, interviews held and 12 studentship offers have been made. Timing of the next RCF tranche is currently under review.
Beef & Sheep								
63	Producers must be encouraged to place more emphasis on commercial/performance attributes, e.g. Estimated Breeding Value in the selection of breeding stock.	The Executive will work with AFSB to develop and deliver a technical programme to improve adoption of EBV technology.	DARD / CAFRE	Industry	i) Develop a joint programme on EBV adoption. ii) There is ongoing discussion with industry to develop a joint training programme to encourage EBV adoption. The initial delivery of this programme will be through 'Knowledge Transfer through Business Development Groups' elements of the Farm Business Improvement Scheme included in the draft Rural Development Programme 2014-2020.	2015/16 From 2015/16, subject to EC approval and funding	Green	The first phase of the Farm Business Improvement Scheme was opened on the 9th November 2015 for applications to Business Development Groups (BDGs). The target is to enrol 1500 farmers on BDGs in the 2015/16 year.
66	Industry and Government should develop an action plan to double the number of beef and sheep farms actively engaged in physical and financial performance recording over the next five years.	The Executive will work with AFSB to identify the current position and measures to increase the number of farmers benchmarking. This recommendation could be linked to the Business Development Group proposal as part of the RDP2014-2020	DARD / CAFRE	Industry	i) Develop measures to increase benchmarking. ii) CAFRE is currently developing a programme 'Knowledge Transfer through Business Development Groups' within the Farm Business Improvement Scheme within the draft Rural Development Programme 2014-2020.	2015/16 From 2015/16, subject to EC approval and funding	Green	Increased number of farmers benchmarking is planned as an integral component to be delivered through the Business Development Groups (BDGs). The first phase of the Farm Business Improvement Scheme was opened on the 9th November 2015 for applications to BDGs. The target is to enrol 1500 farmers in the 2015/16 year.
67	Support to the red meat sector must be maximised by securing a meaningful level of coupled support in the current CAP review negotiations.	Following careful consideration of stakeholder views and analysis, the Minister announced the decision not to make use of coupled payments on 26 June 2014. This option will be kept under review.	DARD	Rural Stakeholders	N/A	Complete	Complete	Action Complete
69	The uptake and further development of BovIS as an on-farm management tool within the beef sector must be encouraged and its potential development within the sheep sector should be considered including the mandatory registration of sires.	The Executive will work with AFSB to develop and deliver a technical programme to improve adoption of BOVIS. Industry support is required to promote uptake.	DARD / CAFRE	AFBI / Industry	i) Develop and deliver a technical programme to improve adoption of BOVIS. ii) Development of the technical training / promotional programme is ongoing and it is proposed to deliver via 'Knowledge Transfer through Business Development Groups' element of the Farm Business Improvement Scheme included in the draft Rural Development Programme 2014-2020.	2015/16 From 2015/16, subject to EC approval and funding.	Green	Incorporation of BOVIS is planned as an integral component to be delivered through Business Development Groups (BDGs). The first phase of the Farm Business Improvement Scheme was opened on the 9th November 2015 for applications to BDGs. The target is to enrol 1500 farmers in the 2015/16 year.
70	A new Land & Buildings Improvement Scheme, compatible with Single Farm Payments, must be introduced, to repair/replace or install new field drainage systems or buildings damaged through	The Executive will examine the scope to include support for land and buildings improvement in proposed agri-food investment schemes within the NIRDP 2014-2020. The final content of the RDP will depend on approval by the FI Commission	DARD		A Farm Business Improvement Scheme has been included in the draft Rural Development Programme 2014-2020.	From 2015/16, subject to EC approval and funding.	Green	See text at Rec 47 above

	systems of earnings damaged through weather.	approved by the EC Commission.			A Land Management Programme has been included in the draft Rural Development Programme 2014-2020.		Green	The European Commission approved the 2014-2020 Rural Development Programme on the 25th August 2015. Training and support for Nutrient Management and Land Management will be delivered via the Business Development Groups under the Knowledge Transfer measure of the NIRD.
71	Government and industry must work together to support a range of animal health and welfare measures, including an industry action plan to target a 15% reduction in livestock mortality rates by 2020, an agreed strategy to deliver a significant reduction (and ultimate eradication) of bovine TB and achievement of Brucellosis-free status.	The Executive has established a government/industry TB Strategic Partnership, tasked with developing a comprehensive TB eradication strategy. The Strategy will include an action plan outlining how it will be implemented, funded and lead delivery organisation for each element.	DARD	Industry	i) Establish the government/industry TB Strategic Partnership.	Complete	Complete	See Text at rec 5(i) above
					ii) Develop the joint government/industry TB long term eradication strategy.	By 30 September 2015	Amber	See text at Rec 5(ii) above
					iii) Start implementation of the TB long term strategy	From 01 October 2015	Amber	See text at Rec 5(iii) above
					iv) Progress work on the proposed Test and Vaccinate or Remove (TVR) research in NI.	Ongoing	Green	Initial year (2014) fieldwork successfully completed and year 2 (2015) fieldwork almost completed. TVR wildlife intervention research project will continue until 2018.
					v) Eradicate brucellosis in cattle.	By March 2015	Green	See text at Rec 5(iv) above
					vi) Seek Officially Brucellosis Free (OBF) status.	By 31 March 2015	Green	See text at Rec 5(v) above
72	Government and industry must work together to speed up the implementation of the TSE roadmap thereby improving access to new markets particularly third countries.	Changes to the TSE Regulations are directed by the European Commission via the TSE Roadmap 2 and NI cannot move ahead of the adoption of any EU legislation on TSE controls. The Executive will work with Defra to encourage early changes as and when science allows further relaxation of controls.	DARD	FSA / Industry	i) Liaise with Defra and EU to feed in to any proposals to change TSE controls.	Ongoing	Green	DARD continues to liaise with Defra on TSE proposals. A public consultation on various TSE proposals is scheduled for early 2016. DARD will consider the implications of the Commission decision to amend Annex V of the TSE Regulations (EC 999/2001) regarding Specified Risk Material (SRM) controls. Officials are currently assessing the benefits of an application for BSE Negligible Risk status on a regionalised basis. DARD officials are, and will continue to engage with the industry and officials from the FSA on this issue.
					ii) Implement all EU changes to TSE controls.			
Dairy								
74	Government and industry must encourage greater uptake of innovation and product development by processors, in particular develop infant formula products/ingredients.	The Executive will continue to encourage and support food processors to increase innovation in the sector. Invest NI will also focus on opportunities in the Dairy sector.	DETI / InvestNI	Industry	i) Encourage and support food processors to use the current range of innovation support;	R&D activities on an individual company basis are ongoing.	Green	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invest NI has delivered 6 advisory projects in the Dairy Sector to date (30/09/15) to support innovation. A Best Practice Dairy Visit to Chicago was completed in October 2014 and has identified a number of opportunities for the sector. 20 representatives from producers and processors in the Dairy sector participated in a programme of company/farm visits in the USA; visiting the innovation centre for US Dairy; attendance at World Dairy Expo in Wisconsin and researching opportunities with presentations/lectures from USA sector experts.
					ii) continue to work with dairy processing companies in the development of R&D in their businesses; and			
				iii) be proactive in identifying potential opportunities for the sector; and				
				iv) Work with Invest NI's overseas offices in China and the USA (and elsewhere as identified in discussion with the industry) to research trends and opportunities for selling into new markets, and/or for FDI.		Green	Invest NI hosted a group stand and a trade visit to Food Hotel China in November 2014. In June 2015 and Sept 2015 the Minister hosted dinners for Inward buyers from Lebanon, Taiwan, Kuwait and UAE organised in conjunction with the Dairy Council as part of two 3 day inward visit programmes.	
76	Government and industry must increase participation in benchmarking and widely publicise the results.	The Executive will work with AFSB to identify the current position and measures to increase the number of farmers benchmarking. This recommendation could be linked to the Business Development Group proposal as part of the RDP2014-2020	DARD / CAFRE	Industry	i) Develop measures to increase benchmarking.	2015/16	Green	See text at Rec 66 above
				ii) CAFRE is currently developing 'Knowledge Transfer through Business Development Groups' within the Farm Business Improvement Scheme included in the draft Rural Development Programme 2014-2020.	From 2015/16, subject to EC approval and funding			
Poultry & Eggs								

78	An urgent solution and interim arrangements must be agreed immediately for the treatment of poultry litter.	The Executive will continue to work with industry in its efforts to secure a solution to meet EC requirements and the needs of the industry. DETI and DARD have undertaken a Small Business Research Initiative (SBRI) project to progress the development of innovative solutions for the utilization of poultry litter. This SBRI project has successfully progressed the development of several technologies and has been followed up with a £12m loan scheme to co-fund the development of up to two demonstrator plants	DETI	DARD / DOE / Industry	Sustainable Use of Poultry Litter (SUPL) loan scheme is open for expressions of interest from mid-July to October 2014.	Oct 2014	Green	See text at Rec 26
79	Government must inject pace and commitment into the action plan in this area to secure growing demand in Great Britain.	The Executive will continue to work with industry in its efforts to secure a solution to meet EU requirements and the needs of the industry. DETI and DARD have undertaken a Small Business Research Initiative (SBRI) project to progress the development of innovative solutions for the utilization of poultry litter. This SBRI project has successfully progressed the development of several technologies and has been followed up with a £12m loan scheme to co-fund the development of up to two demonstrator plants. The Executive will continue to work with industry in its efforts to secure a solution to meet EU requirements and the needs of the industry.	DETI	DARD	Sustainable Use of Poultry Litter (SUPL) loan scheme is open for expressions of interest from mid-July to October 2014.	Oct 2014	Green	See text at Rec 26
80	Government must put in place a proportionate advisory team to service poultry farming development.	CAFRE has an existing Poultry Technologist, based at Greenmount Campus and has the role of developing people working in the local Poultry industry and in the adoption of best practice through knowledge and technology transfer.	DARD / CAFRE		Liaise with industry to determine need, and identify means to address any need.	2015/16	Green	Approval has been granted to put in place a Senior Intensive (pigs and poultry) Technologist which was requested by industry. Additional member of staff now in place to lead the pigs and poultry provision at CAFRE
81	Government must put in place a dedicated support scheme to assist rapid investment in this sector to ensure an integrated approach with all relevant Departments/Agencies such as DOE and Invest NI.	The Executive announced an Agri-Food Loan Scheme in October 2013. The first phase of the scheme, for broiler producers, opened in March 2014.	DETI	DFP	Examine the potential to roll the scheme out to other sectors.	Mar 2015	Green	See text at Rec 49 (ii) above

Drinks & Beverages

82	Government must recognise the impact of the largest companies within the sector and ensure its future success by engaging regularly with them to safeguard their position in Northern Ireland and to create opportunities for further growth. This programme must be supported by a business solutions strategy focused on sustainability and capability development.	The Executive recognises the impact large drink processing businesses have within the sector and Invest NI is continuing to engage with them regularly and assess opportunities for further growth and to encourage the creation of three new export focused brands into the marketplace.	DETI / InvestNI		i) Establish an Industry / InvestNI Sector Sub-group	2014/15	Green	It has been agreed that InvestNI will work directly with the industry to bring forward recommendations 82 and 83. Since the launch of the Strategy to date (30/09/15) Invest NI has delivered 209 financial and advisory projects to the drinks and beverages sector, offering £2.57 million total assistance, leveraging £11.4 million of total planned investment. Of this £340,817 assistance was offered to large companies in the sector, leveraging £2 million of total planned investment.	
					ii) Undertake a full sector review to identify opportunities and actions to facilitate further growth of this sector, in consultation with the industry	2014/2015			The Collaborative Network of Artisan producers continues to progress and a workshop was held in July 2015. A further meeting of the Collaborative Network is planned for 12/11/15. Invest NI has secured approval for a Beers, Wines and Spirits (BWS) category mentoring and development programme to provide insight into the structure and dynamics of the GB BWS sector, including marketing support and category management.
					iii) Seek out projects which will introduce (at least three) new export focused drink brands into the marketplace	Completed			Invest NI has worked with the industry to support the creation of 9 new export focussed brands. These include Fulcrum Beer, Long Meadow Cider, Echlinville Whisky, Dunville Whisky, Shortcross Gin, Yardsman Lager, Maggies Leap Indian Pale Ale, Rowlock Indian Pale Ale and Ruby Blue Vodka.

84	Alcoholic beverage licensing laws, as they affect alcohol producers, must be reviewed to create a level playing field with Great Britain.	The Executive will examine this issue as part of a wider review of the law on the sale and supply of alcohol in NI.	DSD		Following representations from DSD the Home Office issued revised guidance to licensing authorities in England and Wales. The guidance makes it clear that producers from Northern Ireland may apply for a personal liquor licence to any licensing authority in England and Wales.	Complete	Complete	
					Investigate difficulties faced by local liquor producers selling their products in NI	2016	Green	Minister has asked officials to develop a paper outlining options for changes to the law that will assist local liquor producers market and sell their products.
Bakeries & Snacks								
86	Government must provide direct funding for innovation with priority given to new projects designed to build export potential, reduce costs, create efficiencies and encourage collaboration.	The Executive will continue to provide funding support for innovation in the 'Bakeries & Snacks' sector. In particular Invest NI will focus on areas of shelf-life extension to assist exporting, process innovation and co-operative distribution models.	DETI / InvestNI		i) Help businesses identify opportunities for growth and innovation, and improve uptake of current R&D and innovation schemes;	Ongoing	Green	Invest NI is working directly with the Industry to bring forward this recommendation and is undertaking a sector review to identify opportunities and actions to facilitate growth of this sector. A baseline review of current Invest NI support for the Bakeries and Snacks sector has been completed to establish gaps/level of uptake. Since the launch of the Strategy to date (30/09/15) Invest NI has delivered 201 financial and advisory projects to encourage innovation in the Bakery & Snacks Sector, offering £1.26 million assistance and leveraging £2.88 million total planned investment. This includes assistance of 11 Grant for R&D projects and 37 Innovation Vouchers. Grant for R&D Assistance offered to date totals £474,808 leveraging £1.2 million total planned investment for the Bakery & Snacks Sector.
					ii) Develop tailored sector specific schemes in relation to R&D and innovation;	Rollout during 2014		
					iii) Gauge interest in sectoral workshops on innovation topics and shelf life extension.	Ongoing		
88	Energy costs must be reduced, with support from organisations, including the Carbon Trust.	The Executive will work with the industry and the Regulator to examine the drivers for energy costs, options for their reduction and the impact of any changes to cost structures across the wider consumer base.	DETI	Utility Regulator/ Industry	Energy costs are determined by the market subject to regulation in some areas. Measures to ensure prices for all consumers are no higher than necessary will include completion of further analysis to identify the drivers of electricity prices in the Industrial and Commercial sector.	Ongoing	Green	<p>Industry reports state that energy prices are currently at their lowest level for six years. Electricity and gas costs are principally made up of wholesale energy, network, and supply costs. These costs are determined by the market and subject to regulation in some areas. Wholesale market arrangements continue to evolve, with priority work underway to redesign wholesale electricity market arrangements to comply with the EU objective of markets integration across Member States. This work includes examination of wholesale cost drivers including electricity capacity payments. At networks level, analysis completed by the Regulator and DETI shows that NI electricity network charges are lower than those in GB and Irish markets. The incumbent electricity and gas suppliers are regulated at retail level. Recent electricity analysis by the Regulator has confirmed that market arrangements at domestic, small business and large energy users levels are competitive given market size and other constraints. The Regulator has reported that a reduction in the regulated electricity tariff and subsequent reductions in standard tariffs offered by other suppliers will mean that annual savings of between £32 and £50 to domestic customers and approximately £200 per year for small businesses are now available. The Regulator's analysis also concludes that electricity prices paid by these customers will now be lower than the EU-15 median, approximately 5 % lower than the GB average and 19% lower than those in the RoI. On 13 October 2015 the Utility Regulator announced further choice for electricity consumers following market entry by two new suppliers and full market entry by another existing supplier. On 1st October 2015 SSE Airtricity reduced gas prices by 10% in Greater Belfast and <i>firmus energy</i> reduced gas tariffs by 5% for its 10 Towns area outside Belfast. Gas prices in NI are considered to be among the lowest in the EU-15. Arrangements above ensure that pricing impacts remain under watch or are being tackled through existing work-streams.</p> <p>Since the launch of the strategy to date (30/09/15) Invest NI has delivered 175 financial and advisory projects to improve energy and resource efficiency. This includes 41 financial and advisory projects specifically to the Bakery & Snacks Sector with £150,377 total assistance offered, leveraging £502,274 of total planned investment.</p>

Pigs - all of these recommendations fall to industry
Arable Crops, Fruit & Vegetables

95	Government and the sector must undertake research to assess the opportunities to grow and process crops on an all-island basis to achieve the scale necessary to invest in processing capacity.	The Executive will support research to promote the sustainable economic development of the local agri-food industry. There are also opportunities for industry led research through the DARD Research Challenge Fund.	DARD	AFBI / InvestNI / Industry	Consider the scope to: (i) commission relevant R&D projects from AFBI; (ii) award relevant postgraduate studentships (iii) co-fund relevant industry projects under the Research Challenge Fund.	Annual, subject to funding	Green	Work is progressing on the commissioning of the 2015/16 DARD-directed research programme. 2015 DARD Postgraduate Studentship Scheme has been launched. Timing of the next RCF tranche is currently under review.
96	Government must develop a support scheme to encourage investment in the planting of new orchards and replanting of existing orchards together with other crops that require high investment but have long delay before viable production is achieved.	The Executive is supporting ongoing research into planting density at AFBI Loughgall and will consider the opportunity for knowledge transfer.	DARD / CAFRE		i) Consider the opportunity for increased knowledge transfer from the findings of research undertaken at AFBI, Loughgall.	From 2015	Complete	Knowledge and Technology Transfer is delivered at AFBI Loughgall on an on-going basis with CAFRE and AFBI staff.
					ii) CAFRE is currently developing 'Knowledge Transfer through Business Development Groups' within the Farm Business Improvement Scheme included in the draft Rural Development Programme 2014-2020.	From 2015/16, subject to EC approval and funding	Green	See text at Rec 18(i) above
97	Structured and focused capital funding for the construction of specialist buildings, including protected growing structures such as glasshouses and polytunnels, must be put in place, where such activity would result in improved competitiveness and productivity in growers' businesses.	Links to 47 The Executive will examine the scope to include support for construction of specialist buildings etc in proposed agri-food investment schemes within the NIRDP 2014-2020. The final content of the RDP will depend on approval by the EU Commission.	DARD	Industry	The proposed Farm Business Improvement Scheme, including a capital investment element, has been developed as part of the draft Rural Development Programme 2014-2020.	From 2015/16, subject to EC approval and funding	Green	See text at Rec 47 above
98	Government must review how research for the arable crops and production horticulture sectors is prioritised and funded.	The Executive will continue to support research to promote the sustainable economic development of the local agri-food industry. There are also opportunities for industry led research through the Research Challenge Fund.	DARD	InvestNI	i) Undertaken as a component within the review of DARD's Evidence and Innovation Strategy. ii) Commission relevant R&D projects; iii) award relevant postgraduate studentships; iv) co-fund relevant industry projects under the Research Challenge Fund.	March 2015 Annual, subject to funding	Green	Work continues to progress the commissioning of the 2015/16 DARD-directed AFBI research programme. 2015 DARD Postgraduate Studentship Scheme has been launched, interviews held and 12 studentship offers have been made. Timing of the next RCF tranche is currently under review.
99	Government must increase development work with growers to support agronomy training and enterprise benchmarking to encourage efficiency, profitability and business competitiveness.	The Executive will work with industry to deliver appropriate training and identify measures to increase the number of farmers benchmarking.	DARD / CAFRE	Industry	i) Identify current position and measures to increase benchmarking. ii) CAFRE is currently developing 'Knowledge Transfer through Business Development Groups' within the Farm Business Improvement Scheme included in the draft Rural Development Programme 2014-2020.	2015/16 From 2015/16, subject to EC approval and funding	Green	See text at Rec 66 above
100	An All-Island Plant Health Policy must be agreed during 2013 and vigorously implemented.	DARD continues to work with DAFM to implement the All-Island Plant Health and Pesticides Strategic Programme.	DARD		i) Implement the All Island Plant Health and Pesticides Strategic Work Programme	Ongoing	Green	See text at Rec 5(vii)
					ii) Contribute to the establishment of a Plant Health consultative forum consisting of a broad range of industry stakeholders.	March 2015	Green	See text at Rec 5(viii)

101	Support must be provided to assist the development of better integrated production and marketing along the arable crops and commercial horticulture supply chains.	Links to 7 The draft NIRD 2014-2020, includes schemes to help develop better integrated food supply chains. The final content of the RDP will depend on approval by the EU Commission.	DARD	Industry	Develop and open a range of measures in the draft Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 to help develop better integrated food supply chains.	From 2015/16, subject to EC approval and funding	Green	See text at Rec 47 above
102	Government must reconsider the rating of certain farm buildings.	Farm buildings are not rateable. The exception is buildings used for domestic, retail leisure or manufacturing purposes.	DFP	DARD	Resolved and no further action required.	Complete	Green	Action Complete
Fish & Aquaculture								
103	Government must engage proactively with the relevant UK and EU authorities to address the uncertainty of supply, and there must be increased involvement of fishing representatives in discussions about quotas.	The Executive will continue to use the established process for regular engagement with UK and EU authorities and fishing representatives specifically relating to quota negotiations.	DARD	Industry	i) Continue to engage with the relevant authorities to address this issue. ii) Contribute to scientific assessments of fish stocks to inform European Commission fishing proposals	Ongoing Oct 2014	Green	DARD established Fisheries Taskforce to increase involvement of fishing represented in strategic discussions about fishing opportunities, TACs and quotas. Task Force has recommended a policy on future quota negotiations and fisheries science in its interim report. DARD has accepted the recommendation of the Task force and will implement this policy in future quota negotiations.
105	Access must be facilitated to sites, and opportunities fostered for the sustainable development of aquaculture both off shore and along the Northern Ireland coastline, e.g. by providing access to seed and grow mussels and oysters, and to maximise the opportunities presented by the harvesting of seaweed.	The Executive supports the sustainable development of the aquaculture sector, encourages improved competitiveness and innovation and will seek a level playing pitch for operators in terms of access to marine waters and space.	DARD	DOE / NIEA / FSA / Industry	i) Seek to ensure that the proposed NI Marine plan makes appropriate provision for the sustainable development of aquaculture and that aquaculture is fully taken into account in developing marine spatial plans through responses to consultations and attendance at the Inter-Departmental Marine Co-Ordination Group.	Achieved	Green	DARD has held a number of meetings with the IMCG on the Draft Marine Plan. The last meeting DARD held with DOE and NI Water was on 4 November. We continue to work closely with DOE on the Draft Plan before it goes out to consultation. We continue to support the aquaculture sector through the Aquaculture Initiative. The Aquaculture Initiative is funded by DARD through EFF (ca £180K) to promote and support aquaculture development in NI. There have been three meetings of the Aquaculture Steering Board to date this year, with the most recent meeting on 4 September 2015. Terms of Reference have been agreed and a Work Programme discussed. A Draft Business Plan was tabled at the meeting on 4 September and this will be discussed at the next meeting, which is scheduled to take place on 26 November.
					ii) Continue to support the Bottom Grown Mussel sector by undertaking annual seed mussel surveys.	Ongoing	Green	A Report on the 2nd Surveillance Audit on the Bottom Grown Fishery was published by SAI Global Assurance Services on 9 November 2015. The Report determined that the NI Bottom Grown Mussel Fishery, and the linked Ireland Bottom Grown Mussel Fishery, continues to operate a well managed and sustainable fishery and therefore certification of the MSC Principles and Criteria for Sustainable Fishery is awarded. The main seed fishery opened in southern waters on 5 September 2015. The fishery however remains closed in NI waters as surveys indicated there is no fishable quantities of seed.
					iii) Carry out consultation on proposals for a new Fisheries Bill which, among other things, would extend the scope of aquaculture licensing to aquatic species other than fish and shellfish, eg seaweed.	Complete	Complete	The issue was included in policy proposals on which the Department consulted between August and November 2014. The published target was met and the policy was included in final proposals for a new Fisheries Bill, which has been agreed by the NI Executive. (Due to the limited time before the end of the current mandate, the aquaculture provisions were not included in the Bill that the Executive agreed to introduce in the Assembly in order that the remaining provisions could have a better chance of passing through the Assembly in time for it to come into law during the current mandate. It is hoped that the aquaculture proposals will be taken forward in due course.)
106	New opportunities should be explored to harness the resource of Lough Neagh for alternative species.	The Executive is working with the inland fishing sector on a range of initiatives to support the sustainable development of the Lough Neagh fishery in light of pressure on eel stocks including the development of a Fishery Management Plan and also a Plan for Lough Erne.	DCAL	Industry	i) Commission stock surveys and review fisheries legislation and methods; ii) Develop a Fisheries Management Plan for Lough Neagh; iii) Complete stock surveys on Lough Erne; and iv) Develop a Fisheries Management Plan for Lough Erne.	Dec 2014 2015 Mar Complete 2015 Mar	Green	Stock surveys completed and results have informed development of fisheries management plans for Lough Neagh and Lough Erne. Draft plans now out for public consultation - closing date for comments by 4th Dec 2015. Engagement with both commercial and recreational Fisheries stakeholders is ongoing re the draft plans. The draft plans are scheduled to be finalised by end of March 2016

107	Potential sources of EU funding must be identified which could be used to support the catching, processing and aquaculture sectors.	The EMFF Regulation was made in May 2014. National allocations have been fixed and within the UK regional allocations have been determined. NI share of the €243m UK allocation is €23.51m. Of this, some €14.55m is to support industry and community led projects, €3.09m is available to assist with control and monitoring costs, and €5.87m is available for data collection.	DARD	DCAL / DEL / InvestNI	i) Undertake public consultation on behalf of fisheries administrations by DEFRA on the UK Operational Programme for the EMFF.	Complete	Complete	Action Complete
					ii) A Fishing Industry taskforce will consider among other things the investment priorities for the new EMFF. The Taskforce's preliminary report will be made to the Minister.	December 2014	Green	DARD established Fisheries Taskforce to increase involvement of fishing represented in strategic discussions about fishing opportunities, TACs and quotas
108	Government funding must be made available to aquaculture projects and catchers should be represented at trade shows, where appropriate, to help convey the clean, green, healthy nature of the local product.	The Executive will consider the potential to support aquaculture and sea fisheries attendance at trade shows within the scope of the new EMFF, where appropriate, to help convey the clean, green, healthy nature of the local product.	DARD	DCAL / InvestNI	i) Undertake public consultation on behalf of fisheries administrations by DEFRA on the UK Operational Programme for the EMFF.	Complete	Complete	Action Complete
					ii) A Fishing Industry taskforce will consider among other things the investment priorities for the new EMFF. The Taskforce preliminary report will be made to the Minister.	December 2014	Green	DARD established Fisheries Taskforce to increase involvement of fishing represented in strategic discussions about fishing opportunities, TACs and quotas. Task force will assist DARD in engaging sea fishing stakeholders.
				INI				
109	The value-added of seafood here must be increased by providing dedicated access to specialist seafood R&D services, including the DARD-funded research programme at AFBI.	The Executive will continue to support research under DARD's Evidence and Innovation Strategy which will consider specific proposals brought forward by the industry.	DARD	InvestNI / AFBI	Consult industry representative groups regarding possible research proposals.	Annual	Green	R&D priorities for the fishing industry are on the agenda for the Fisheries Taskforce.
				INI				
110	Government must recognise aquaculture as a legitimate, non-consumptive user of water. The NIEA must take a leading role in improving the quality of inland and coastal waters to support the production of the highest quality shellfish and in supporting fisheries and the sustainable development of aquaculture.	The Executive will continue to monitor and report on water quality and work with stakeholders to achieve improvement where required.	NIEA	DOE / DCAL / DARD	i) Implement the first cycle (2009 – 2015) River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs) which will lead to improvements in the quality of inland and coastal waters.	Dec 2015	Green	First cycle plans have led to improvements at individual element level and some changes in overall water body status level. Report progress of first cycle plans by end March 2016.
					ii) Develop and publish the second cycle (2015 – 2021) RBMPs.	Dec 2015		Consultation on draft 2nd cycle plans closed on 22 June 2015. Work on production of final 2nd cycle plans is on-going with the intention of publishing those 2nd cycle plans by Dec 2015.
111	Aquaculture must be recognised as an agricultural rather than an industrial activity, in line with planning appeals decisions. This is particularly important given the intention to develop a new planning policy document for the coast.	A terrestrial planning policy document for the coast is not currently under development or planned. Existing planning policy on the Coast (contained within the Planning Strategy for Rural Northern Ireland) is intended to be consolidated into the forthcoming draft single Strategic Planning Policy Statement.	DOE		i) Consult on a Strategic Planning Policy Statement. ii) Finalise the Strategic Planning Policy Statement iii) DoE will hold discussions with the aquaculture sector to consider a review of permitted development rights for buildings associated with fish farms.	Complete	Green	Work on the final SPPS completed in March and it will be published in near future following Executive Committee consideration. Meeting with Aquaculture reps held and further advice provided on Planning Policy including PDRs and EIA in the context of fish farming.
Animal By-Products								
113	The proposed single marketing organisation must include indigenous businesses seeking to develop export markets for human or pet food in its remit.	Links to, and is dependent on 1	DETI	Industry	Complete a review of current agri-food marketing structures in consultation with stakeholders and make recommendations to Ministers, including proposals for any necessary interim arrangements.	Dec 2014	Amber	See text at Rec 1

114	Invest NI must ensure that businesses involved in maximising the value of animal material, either through investment in further processing, new products or by accessing new export countries, must be supported in fast-tracking opportunities.	Links to the work under Recs 2 and 3. The Executive will work with businesses engaged in processing of animal material to help them maximise the value of their animal material, either through investment in further processing, new products or by accessing new export countries, are supported in fast-tracking opportunities.	DETI / InvestNI	DARD	i) Assess projects seeking support on a company-by-company basis; ii) Work with the industry to ensure they have access to market information in relation to opportunities for their products. □	Ongoing	Green	Invest NI continues to assess projects seeking support on a company-by-company basis. Invest NI is working with the industry to ensure they have access to market information in relation to opportunities for their products. Projects appraised for support as received. Since the launch of the Strategy to date (30/09/15) Invest NI has delivered 26 financial and advisory projects to animal by-product processors offering £1.16 million total assistance leveraging £3.5million of total planned investment.
115	Government must ensure the UK competition authorities adopt a supportive approach to any restructuring of the rendering industry where species/category specialisation will enable greater value to be captured for the Northern Ireland economy.	The Executive will liaise with UK Competition Authorities on this issue to ensure that a reasonable balance is struck between securing efficiencies resulting from greater specialisation and maintaining competition within the sector.	DETI		Liaise with the UK Competition Authorities, as appropriate.	As required	Green	As per Executive response we will liaise with the UK Competition Authorities as required.
Animal Feeds								
117	Government must support further R&D in the areas of nutrition for improvements in performance and health, both of animals and humans and for environmental sustainability.	The Executive will continue to support research to promote performance in the marketplace, animal health and welfare and a sustainable environment. There are also opportunities for industry led research through the Research Challenge Fund. The Health & Social Care R&D strategy is in preparation but we will aim to support R&D and innovation to bring measureable improvements to the health and well-being of the population	DARD	InvestNI	i) Commission relevant R&D projects; ii) award relevant postgraduate studentships; and iii) co-fund relevant industry projects under the Research Challenge Fund.	Annual, subject to funding	Green	Work continues to progress the commissioning of the 2015/16 DARD-directed AFBI research programme. 2015 DARD Postgraduate Studentship Scheme has been launched, interviews held and 12 studentship offers have been made. Timing of the next RCF tranche is currently under review
			DHSSPS		iv) Finalise the strategy and support R&D to promote human health		Green	"Research for Better Health and Social Care (2015-2025)" report now drafted following public consultation. Public Health Agency has considered draft report and produced related Action Plan with the aim of publication of both by end 2015 / early 2016 following Ministerial clearance.