



**Note of the Open Meeting of the Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute
(AFBI) Board
held at
AFBI Hillsborough
on Thursday 3 September 2015 at 11.00am**

Present – Board Members

Mr Colm McKenna, Chair
Prof William McKelvey,
Deputy Chair
Mr Ian Buchanan
Mr Colin Coffey
Mrs Sarah Havlin
Mr David Lindsay
Mr Bob McCann
Mrs Hilary McCartan
Mrs Maureen McKeague
Dr Cecil McMurray
Mr Ken Millar
Prof Patrick Murphy

In Attendance - AFBI Executive

Prof Seamus Kennedy, Chief Executive Officer
Mrs Lesley Hogg, Director of Finance and Corporate Affairs Division
Dr Stanley McDowell, Director of Veterinary Sciences Division

Mr James Adams, AFBI Secretariat

Apologies

An apology was noted on behalf of Dr Sinclair Mayne, Director of Sustainable Agri-Food Sciences Division.

Visitors

See Annex (attached)

Welcome and Introduction

The Chair, on behalf of the AFBI Board, opened the meeting with a word of welcome and stated that, as with last year's event, he was delighted to see such a large turnout including a number of elected representatives, industry and government stakeholders.

Last year the Chair had highlighted the importance of the Agri-Food industry to local economy which had been illustrated in the Agri-Food Strategy Board's "*Going for Growth*" report. While the last year had proven to be a difficult time for the Agri-Food industry, the Chair stated that many experts expect the current situation to improve in the medium term and, despite the current

situation, it is felt that there will still be opportunities for the Agri-Food industry to expand in an environmentally sustainable manner through effective applied research to drive innovation.

Although this view may appear counterintuitive given the recent announcement of cuts to AFBI's work programme, the Chair informed attendees that the severe pressures on public finances, which is likely to increase in the short to medium term, had forced AFBI to critically examine the most important elements to delivering its mission. The Chair stated that, collectively we must all become smarter in how we fund Agri-Food research to preserve scientific capacity in order to maintain a vibrant industry and for its part, AFBI will continue to aggressively target funding opportunities locally, nationally and internationally whilst continuing to make efforts to reduce its running costs.

In his closing remarks, the Chair informed attendees that the AFBI Board had met with a number of stakeholders over the last year and that they will be very keen to hear attendees views later today on how we can work together to provide world class science in support of the Agri-Food industry.

Report from the CEO

The CEO commenced his presentation with an overview of AFBI's role, structure and main activities as well as providing some background to the reasons behind the direction and aim of AFBI's 2020 strategy. In particular the CEO highlighted that, due to severe pressures on public finances and a major reduction in funding from DARD and other NICS departments, AFBI and DARD had worked closely over the past year to prioritise elements of the DARD work programme. With that in mind, AFBI's 2020 strategy illustrates AFBI's aim to "*Shrink to Grow*" from the following strategic scientific pillars:

1. Animal Health
2. Sustainable Livestock Systems
3. Plant Health and Crop Science
4. Food Safety: Microbiological and chemical
5. Environmental Protection
6. Fisheries and Aquatic Ecosystems
7. Agricultural and Food Economics

After detailing a number of changes to AFBI's work programme, the CEO concluded by informing attendees of a number of initiatives aimed at ensuring that AFBI has the right structure and internal mechanisms in place going forward. These will allow the Institute to increase its collaborations with universities and research organisations on both the national and international stage which will in turn allow AFBI to maximise its ability to avail of research funding opportunities.

Presentations

Following the overview from the CEO, the meeting proceeded with the following short presentations on a variety of AFBI work areas -

- Imperative of Maintaining Environmental Research to support the Nitrates Action Programme and Derogation in Northern Ireland Dr John Bailey
- Western Irish Sea Nephrops Grounds Under Water TV Survey
Or how much is mud worth? Dr Matt Service
- Improving pig productivity using precision science Dr Elizabeth Magowan
- Virus Vaccines in the Control of Animal Disease – Past Successes and New Approaches Prof Louise Cosby
- Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and the food chain Dr David McCleery

Question and Answer Session

The meeting concluded with a Question and Answer session during which a number of visitors took the opportunity to raise some relevant issues.

With there being no further business, the meeting was then closed. Visitors were invited to lunch and provided with the option of a guided tour of AFBI's Renewable Energy Centre.



AFBI OPEN MEETING

3 SEPTEMBER 2015

LIST OF ATTENDEES

NAME			ORGANISATION
Mr	Ross	Kane	A & L Goodbody
Mr	Seamus	McCaffrey	AFBI Board Past Member
Mr	John	Rankin	AFBI Board Past Member
Dr	Sam	Strain	Animal Health Ireland
Mr	Conor	Macauley	BBC
Ms	Elaine	Mitchell	BBC
Ms	Sam	McCloskey	CASE
Mr	Ben	McCloskey	CASE
Mr	Frank	Caddy	DARD
Mr	Brian	Ervine	DARD
Dr	John	Fay	DARD
Mr	Jim	Freeburn	DARD
Mr	Robert	Huey	DARD
Dr	Sam	Kennedy	DARD
Mr	Ian	McCluggage	DARD
Mr	Martin	McKendry	DARD
Ms	Perpetua	McNamee	DARD
Ms	Louise	Millsopp	DARD
Ms	Julie-Ann	Moorhead	DARD
Mr	David	Russell	DARD
Mr	Peter	Scott	DARD
Dr	John	Speers	DARD
Ms	Louise	Warde-Hunter	DARD
Mr	Alan	Warnock	DARD
Mr	Mike	Alcorn	Devenish Nutrition Ltd
Ms	Gill	Gallagher	Devenish Nutrition Ltd
Dr	John	Gilliland OBE	Devenish Nutrition Ltd
Mr	David	Bruce	DOE
Ms	Charlotte	Stewart	DOE
Mr	David	Garrett	Fane Valley
Mr	Derek	Shaw	Farmer
Mr	John	Gilbert	Germinal

Mr	Andrew	Baxter	Invest NI
Dr	Joanne	Coyle	Invest NI
Dr	Vicky	Kell	Invest NI
Mr	Paul	Malcolmson	InvestNI
Mr	Peter	McArdle	Invest NI
Ms	Debbie	Vance	Invest NI
Ms	Fiona	Walker	Invest NI
Mr	Ian	Wilkinson	Invest NI
Mr	Tom	Morrow	Irish Farmers Journal
Mr	Declan	Billington	John Thompson & Sons Ltd
Mr	Frank	Foster	Linden Foods
Mr	Andrew	Kennedy	Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council
Professor	Ian	Montgomery	Medical Biology Centre
Mr	David	McNarry	MLA
Mr	David	Jones	MLA attending with David McNarry
Mr	Alan	Johnston	Moypark
Ms	Elaine	Paisley	Moypark
Mr	Michael	Bell	NIFDA
Ms	Kathryn	McCamley	DETI
Mr	Marcio	Nopvaes	
Mr	Billy	Robson	President, RUAS
Mr	Wilfrid	Crawford	Nutriplan Group
Mr	Stephan	Durande	Queen's University Belfast
Mr	Henry	Kenny	Rathfriland Veterinary Practice
Mr	Ian	Duff	Ultimo Consulting
Dr	Lindsay	Easson	Ulster Arable Society
Mr	Cormac	McKervey	Ulster Bank
Mr	Ivor	Ferguson	Ulster Farmers Union
Mr	Geoff	McMullan	University of Ulster
Mr	Michael	Patterson	University of Ulster
Mr	Rodney	Corrigan	UUP
Ms	Sarah	Gribben	Visit Belfast

Signed: _____
(Chairperson)

Date: _____