

**atf**

animal  
task  
force

A European Public-Private Partnership

# 12<sup>th</sup> ATF Seminar

## 17 November 2022



Accelerating the Uptake of GHG Reduction  
Measures - The Youth Dimension

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**Livestock emissions  
and the COP26 targets**

The graphic features a photograph of a cow in silhouette against a bright, cloudy sky. In the background, industrial smokestacks are visible. A large, semi-transparent circular arrow graphic is overlaid on the image, pointing clockwise. The text "Livestock emissions and the COP26 targets" is written in a bold, black, serif font across the middle of the image.

Photo credit: Volker Hartmann/Getty Images

# Home farm experience

## Milking 100 dairy cows in NE Ireland on 50ha (grass based)

### Already in Place

- ▶ 100% Protected Urea (all P & K as straights)
- ▶ 100% Sexed Semen + high terminal beef
- ▶ All slurry LESS (contractor)
- ▶ Focus on EBI
- ▶ High clover (ongoing reduction in N)
- ▶ Some Multi Species Swards and Red Clover silage

### In progress

- ▶ More accurate kgs MS/kg BW breeding
- ▶ More Multi Species Swards (located on drought prone areas)
- ▶ More Red Clover Silage
- ▶ Potential for IVF to improve beef progeny (cost dependent)

# Different tradeoffs

## ▶ Easy wins/simple to reduce or replace

- ▶ Changes to Fert - Protect Urea vs CAN
- ▶ Improved utilisation of N via Manures
- ▶ pH soil management
- ▶ Improve beef value of dairy beef progeny
- ▶ Landscape features management - hedges/trees
- ▶ Data capture - Milk recording or cattle weighing and culling lowest performers/ensuring they don't breed
- ▶ Increasing longevity of cows & reducing involuntary culling - health improvement

## ▶ Smaller changes/investments needed

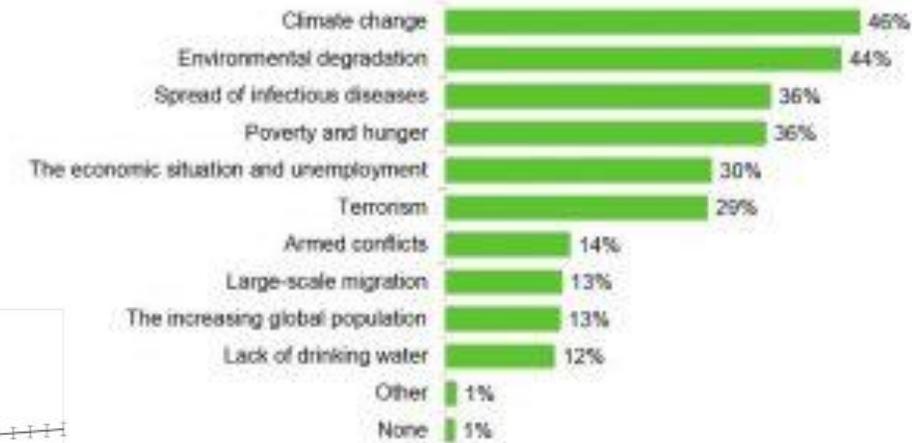
- ▶ Sexed semen - need good heat management
- ▶ Biological N fixation- integration of clovers in grazing swards/N fixing crops in crop rotation
- ▶ Precision farming- fertiliser spreader, GPS etc
- ▶ Tolerance of weeds or leaving aside areas
- ▶ Minimum tillage in grass/arable systems

## ▶ Bigger/costlier changes and investments

- ▶ Renewable energy - solar panels
- ▶ Ponds or rewetting Organic soils
- ▶ Biomethane/slurry storage upgrades/floating covers etc

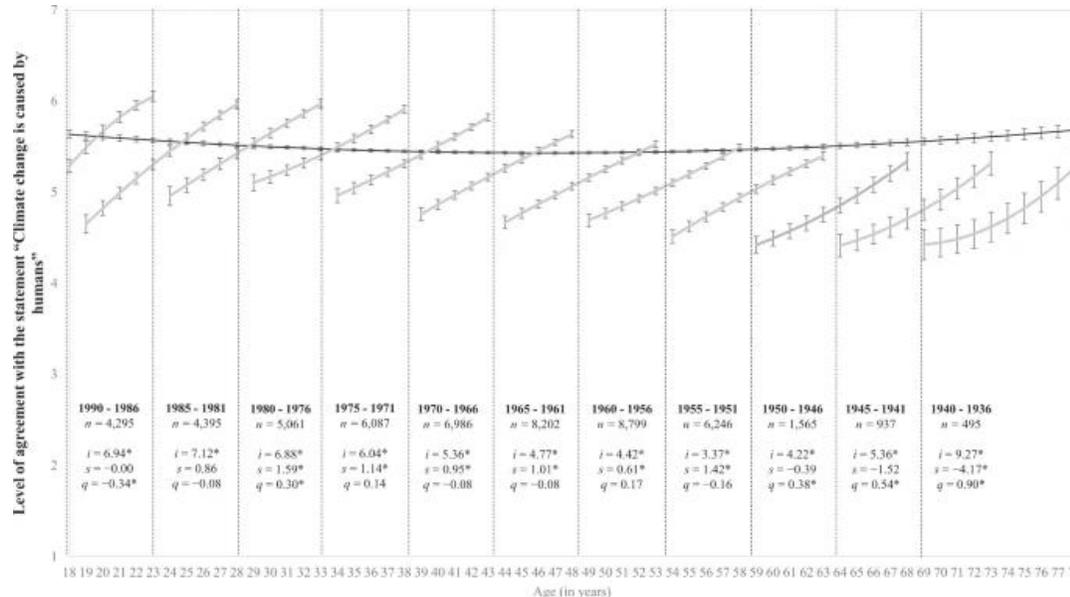
# Does age affect the uptake of measures?

- ▶ Consistently higher concern identified in younger age demographics - 46% of young Europeans (15-35) list it as the top priority above Covid 19 (36%) in 2021
- ▶ 88% of US young farmers attribute climate change in weather patterns
- ▶ Knowledge gap - **under researched area**
- ▶ Lack of focus on youth dimension in policy
- ▶ Single mention of youth in Farm-to-Fork Document



Milfont et al (2021)

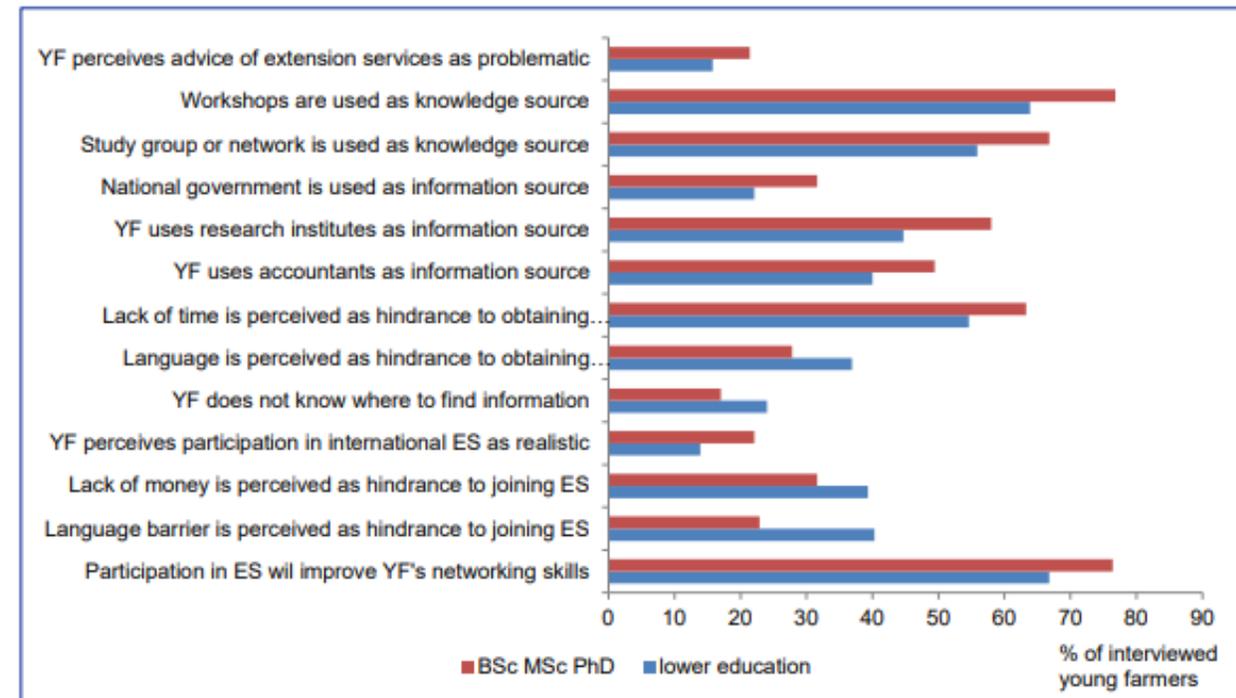
**Belief in anthropogenic climate change across age and five-year birth cohorts**



# Disconnection between Policy on Generational Renewal

- ▶ Young farmers are both more likely to be higher educated than their older counterparts
- ▶ More likely to engage with research institutions/workshops to source information

**Figure 4.30 The influence of education level on the issues indicated in the figure (% of interviewed young farmers)**



Source: Ecorys in cooperation with LEI and Aequator Groen & Ruimte, 2015.

# Conclusion

- ▶ Lack of policy consistency
- ▶ Missed optimisation of financial investment in implementing measures on young farmers farm
  - ▶ Potential need for tailored approach to schemes and extension work
- ▶ Greater potential return from engagement - **if** Generational Renewal is ensured