

**EXPOSURE VISIT FOR SEE SWG TECHNICAL GROUPS TO IRELAND
NOVEMBER 15TH TO 20TH 2015**

Purpose: Provide members of the SWG Technical Groups on Rural Development and Food Safety with first-hand exposure to the context, background, strategies and implementation practices of Ireland’s agri-food sector, especially in rural development and food safety.

Objectives:

- Understand the overall context of agriculture and food sectors in Ireland
- Examine how Ireland plans and implements strategy in relation to rural development
- Understand Ireland’s institutional and practical approaches to food safety management
- See how these approaches work on the ground through site visits
- Discuss opportunities for deeper co-operation either regionally or bilaterally to support SEE efforts to build capability and harmonize to EU legislation in these areas.

DAY 1 Sunday Nov 15th	Arrival and Welcome		
Daytime	Arrival of delegates to Dublin Airport, taxi transfers to Clontarf Castle Hotel		
Evening	Welcome dinner with SFSI		
DAY 2 Monday Nov 16th	Workshop – Ireland’s Agri-food Background and Strategic Approaches to Rural Development and Food Safety Venue: Enterprise Ireland HQ, Eastpoint Business Park		
Session 1 09.30-11.00	Setting the Context	Ireland’s agriculture and food sectors Role of DAFM Institutional structure – DAFM as Payments Agency Strategic planning process - <i>FoodWise 2025</i> – Ireland’s national plan	Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine (DAFM) / SFSI
Session 2 11.20-13.00	Legislation and Regulatory Approaches	Policy development and influencing at the EU level Harmonisation of national legislation Adopting new regulations	DAFM / food law specialist
Session 3A 14.30-16.00	Rural Development	Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 Key measures Monitoring and evaluation Inter-departmental co-ordination Teagasc’s role and activities in rural development	DAFM / Teagasc / R Howard
Session 3B Afternoon 16.20-18.00	Food Safety	Outline of the policy, legislation and enforcement functions of: - Food Safety Authority of Ireland - DAFM - Health Service Executive - Local Authorities - Sea Fisheries Protection Agency Procedures for negotiation and management of controls undertaken by Competent Authorities	FSAI

		Verifying the effectiveness of official controls		
DAY 2 Tuesday Nov 17th	Site Visits			
Morning	Visit to FBO - Meat Plant	Accompany DAFM Veterinarian Carrying out Inspections What to look at and control FBO's own control system	SFSI/DAFM	
Afternoon	Visit to Teagasc Food Research Centre, Ashtown	One of two national food research centres run by Teagasc, the Agriculture & Food Development Authority.	SFSI/Teagasc	
DAY 3 Wednesday Nov 18th	Site Visits			
All day	Leader Group Visit	Rural Development Local Action Group – understand systems and project approach, and visit specific projects. Focus on: - Enterprise development/job creation - Rural tourism - Infrastructure development	SFSI/R Howard	
DAY 4 Thursday Nov 19th	Workshop – Future Capacity Building in SEE Venue: DAFM HQ, Kildare Street, Dublin 2			
Morning	Moderated Workshop	Modalities for future capacity-building in SEE Key issues in rural development Key issues in food safety Wrap-up to include SFSI role in the delivery of Technical Assistance from Ireland	R Howard / SFSI	
11.30-11.45	Ministerial Meeting	Meeting with Simon Coveney, Minister for Agriculture, Food & the Marine	DAFM	
Afternoon	Agri-food development agencies of the Irish Government	The roles of - Teagasc - Enterprise Ireland - Bord Bia	Representatives of each agency	
Evening	Reception	Guests to include officials and private sector representatives		
DAY 5 Friday Nov 20th	Departure			
Group departs				