

Ulster Arable Society Annual Conference 2012

AFBI Hillsborough
17 February 2012

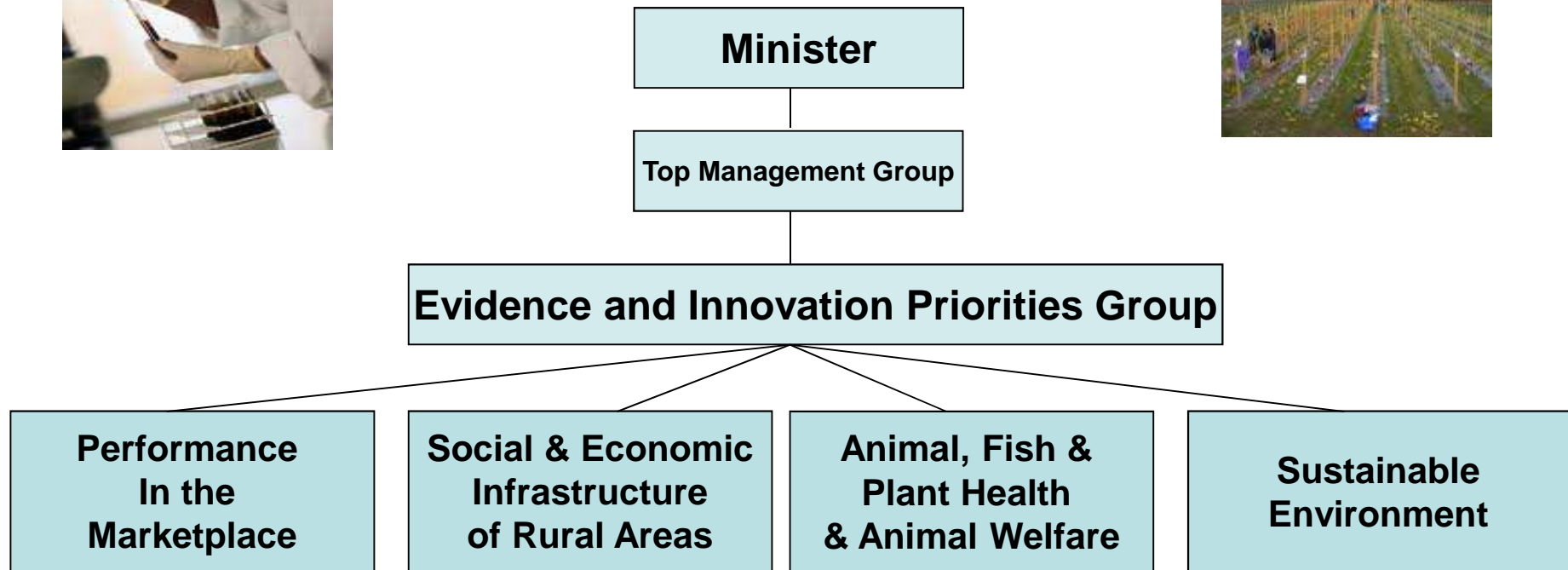
Keith Morrison
Director, Food, Farm and Rural Policy
DARD

Aim

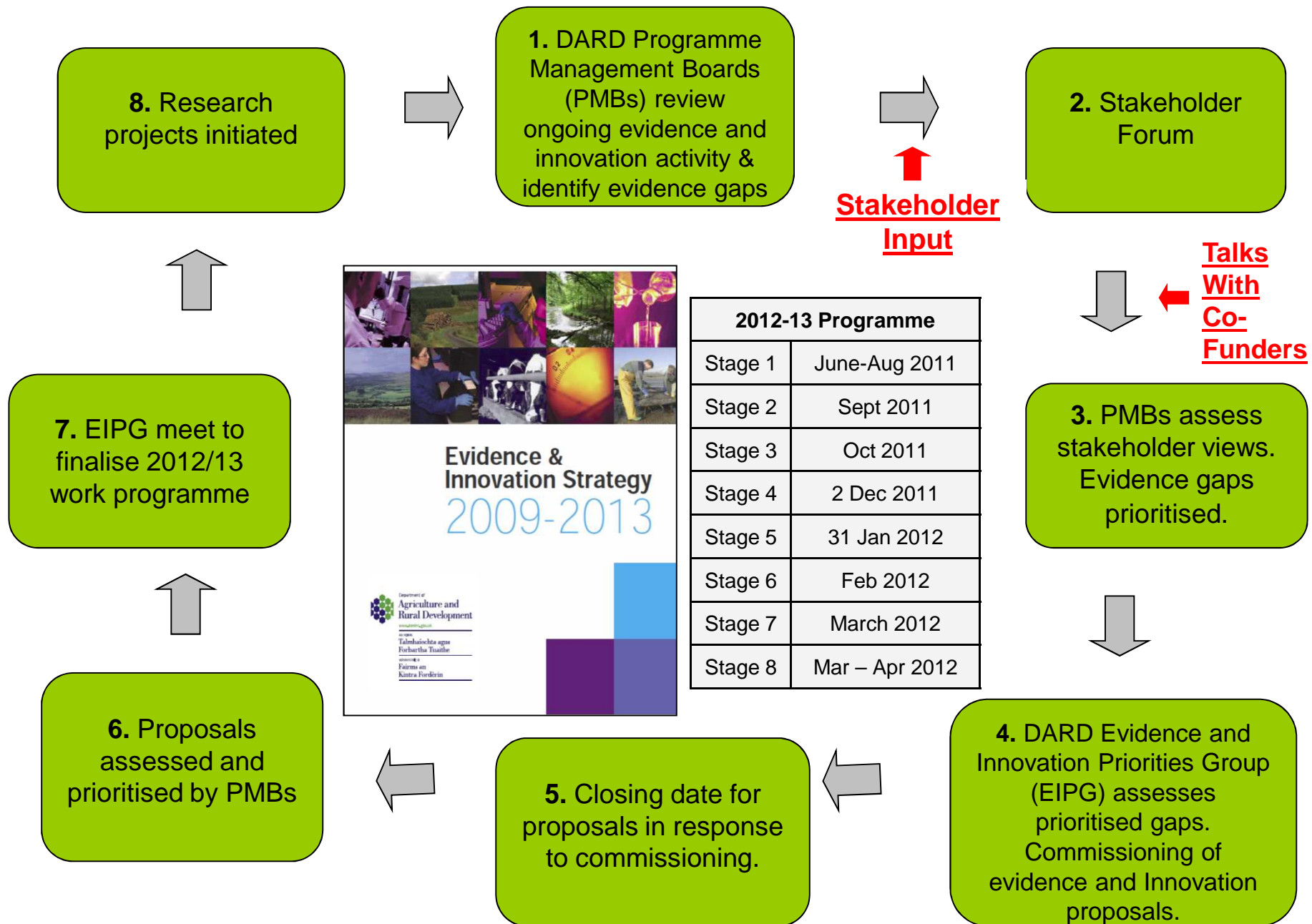
- Give an overview of DARD R&D commissioning process and gaps relevant to UAS
- Update you on DARD / DETI's agri-food strategy work
- Update you on the EU proposals for Rural Development and their relevance to the sector

R&D

Overview of DARD R&D Structures



DARD Process for Commissioning of Evidence and Innovation Activity



2012/13 Evidence Gaps

PMB 1 - Performance in the Marketplace

- Increased efficiency in production systems
- Soil and growing medium management
- Alternative uses for food and farm waste
- Identify best practice for sharing information / knowledge exchange
- Global food security challenges
- Production systems and food attributes
- Benchmarking local food supply chain

2012/13 Evidence Gaps

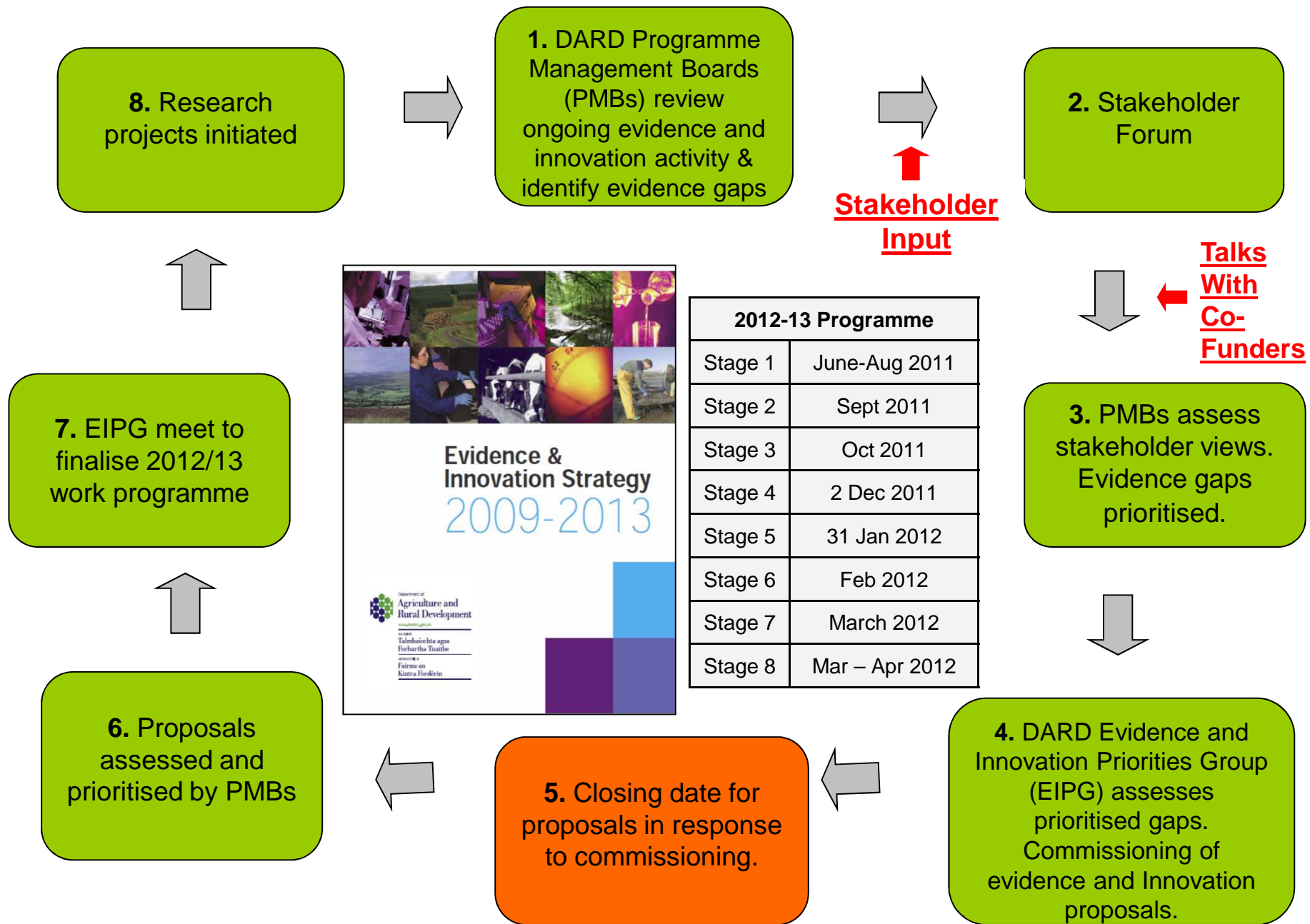
PMB 3 - Animal, Fish & Plant Health & Animal Welfare

- Biosecurity
- Epidemiology and pathology of emerging plant diseases
- Risk assessment of potential for the environmental transmission of *Dickeya Solani*

PMB 4 - Sustainable Environment

- Assessment of the sustainability of reduced phosphorous inputs on crop & livestock production
- Assessment of nitrogen fertiliser recommendations
- Examination of how DARD's policies contribute to ecosystem service delivery
- Pest management practice in Northern Ireland and implications of changes in EU pesticide legislation

DARD Process for Commissioning of Evidence and Innovation Activity



Agri-food Strategy

Agri-food Strategy Board

- Develop the existing strategy “Focus on Food” into a longer term strategic vision for the agri-food sector;
- Input to the development of annual operational plans setting out strategic targets and outcomes;
- Advise the DETI and DARD Ministers on the resources necessary to deliver the strategic outcomes; and
- Offer advice on issues relating to the agri-food industry in NI taking account of the views of the primary processing sector and the food manufacturing industry and reflecting the views of other industry stakeholder organisations.

Agri-food Strategy Board

- Independent chairperson
- Board industry led - up to 8 industry members plus senior civil servants from DARD / DETI / InvestNI
- Aim is to identify growth potential and develop a route map of how to get there
- Opportunities, challenges, barriers, growth targets, recommendations for action
- Want all sectors involved in process to ensure widest contribution to growth targets

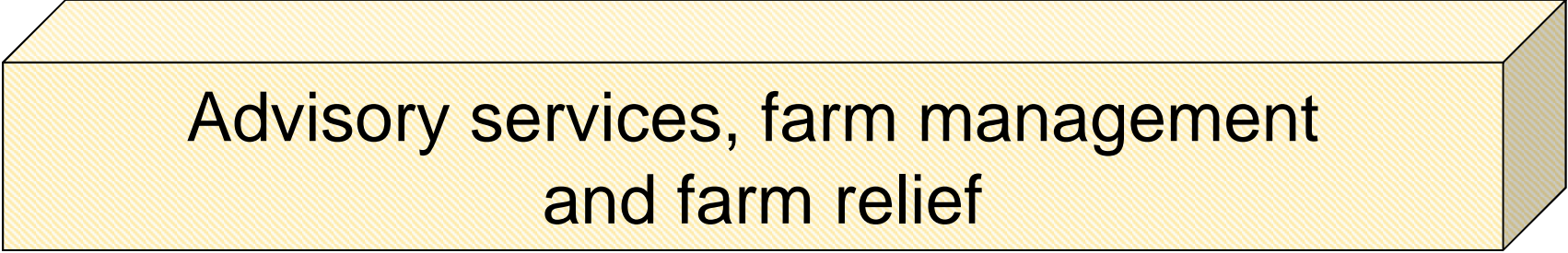
Rural Development

EU Rural Development Priorities

1. Knowledge transfer and innovation in agriculture, forestry and rural areas.
2. Competitiveness of agriculture and farm viability.
3. Food chain organisation and risk management in agriculture.
4. Restoring, preserving and enhancing, ecosystems dependent on agriculture and forestry.
5. Promoting resource efficiency and transition to a low carbon economy in agri-food and forestry sectors
6. Social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas.



Knowledge transfer and information actions



Advisory services, farm management
and farm relief




Investments in physical assets



Setting up of producer groups



Co-operation



Quality schemes for agricultural products
and foodstuffs



Risk management, income stabilisation
and natural disasters

Summary

- The sector is showing its importance / influence
- DARD grateful for the work UAS has done on helping shape the call to AFBI
- Some potential R&D for the sector coming through
- Opportunity to look at future development of the sector as part of our agri-food work and new Rural Development Programme

Thank you

Keith Morrison

Director of Food, Farm and Rural Policy

Department of Agriculture & Rural Development

Dundonald House

Upper Newtownards Road

Belfast

BT4 3SB

Tel: 028 9052 4193

Email: keith.morrison@dardni.gov.uk