



Initial Communications

Agriculture and Climate Joint Research & Technology Initiative Between Ireland and New Zealand – 2026 Call for Proposals

The 2026 Call invites larger, more comprehensive collaborative research projects addressing the Call mission

Aim and Scope

The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (Ireland) and the Ministry for Primary Industries (New Zealand) will launch a jointly funded call for research proposals to strengthen existing collaboration and address shared challenges in reducing greenhouse gas emissions from ruminant livestock systems under the second phase of the bilateral research partnership.

This second phase of the research partnership builds on the successful Joint Research Initiative between Ireland and New Zealand (2021-2024). This phase aims to accelerate action on aligned domestic priorities through international collaboration. This 2026 call will take a mission focused approach to the topic and introduce additional emphasis on the impact assessment criteria.

The call focuses on developing practical, farm-level strategies, tools and technologies that enable farmers to reduce agricultural emissions while maintaining productivity and competitiveness. Projects must demonstrate clear added value from the Ireland and New Zealand collaboration, leveraging complementary expertise, scale and shared resources.

Research proposals should target high- and medium-intensity grassland livestock systems and align with national agricultural climate policies. Outputs should contribute directly to agricultural greenhouse gas mitigation at farm level and, where possible, deliver co-benefits such as improved water quality, soil health, biodiversity, and overall farm sustainability.

Proposals must address the mission of “***Understand, quantify and evaluate the cumulative impact, interactions and implementation potential of greenhouse gases mitigation, including bundled or stacked mitigation approaches, in a pastoral bovine system over a full production cycle.***”

Funding and Eligibility

- Funding commitments for the 2026 call will come from MPI (New Zealand) and DAFM (Ireland).
- All Research Performing Organisations (RPOs) who qualify to receive funding from either DAFM or MPI are eligible to apply under the Joint Call.
- Research proposals must be jointly led, with one lead partner in each country.
- Balanced collaboration between Irish and New Zealand partners should be proposed, in so far as is practical.

- Proposals should seek an indicative funding split of approximately 50:50, with no partner exceeding 70% of total budget.
- Associated partners (including those not eligible for funding) may participate on a self-funded or in-kind basis, but:
 - Cannot receive funding
 - Cannot act as project coordinators
 - Do not count toward minimum consortium requirements

Submission process

Applications will be submitted through a single-step submission process. Prior to submission, opportunities will be available for applicants to have early discussions with their national contact point regarding their proposed project. Eligible joint project proposals will undergo evaluation by two expert panels: one assessing policy relevance and expected research outcomes and impact, and the other panel will assess scientific excellence of the work programme. Both panels will assess the experience and expertise of the project team as well as the quality of project implementation.

The call for proposals will be formally opened in June 2026, inviting submissions from eligible applicants.

Further Information

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This joint research call represents a strategic opportunity to deepen bilateral research collaboration and deliver impactful solutions for sustainable, low-emission ruminant livestock systems.