



Minister Coveney highlights strong growth in food exports at Chartered Surveyors Agricultural Seminar 'Growing into the Future'

Chartered Surveyors welcome €800m in supports for the Agricultural sector announced in the Public Capital Programme



(l-r) John Curtin, President Society of Chartered Surveyors Ireland, Simon Coveney TD, Minister for Agriculture, Marine and Food, John Dawson, Chair of the Rural Professional Group of the Society of Chartered Surveyors Ireland at the Society's Agriculture Seminar 'Growing into the Future'.

Monday November 14th 2011. The Minister for Agriculture, Marine and Food, Simon Coveney, T. D. has highlighted the strong growth in the Agricultural sector, particularly internationally, and said that food exports are expected to increase to €9bn this year from €8bn last year.

The Minister also said that the agricultural sector was in a process of transition and is a 'driving force of optimism' for the Irish economy.

Minister Coveney was speaking at the Society of Chartered Surveyors Ireland inaugural Agricultural Seminar 'Growing into the future'. Other speakers at the event included Matt Dempsey and Shirley Busted of the Farmers Journal, Gerry Boyle of Teagasc, Jim Power of Friends First and Shay Arthur of the Property Registration Authority.

The seminar was held the same day the Government announced details of the revised Public Capital Programme and the Society welcomed the fact that €800m in supports will be given to the agricultural sector over the next five years as part of the Programme.

Commenting on the announcement, John Dawson Chair of the Rural and Agriculture professional group of the Society of Chartered Surveyors Ireland said that "Agriculture is a vital sector of the Irish economy and the supports should provide a very welcome boost to the sector".

"Furthermore, the agricultural land sector is showing encouraging levels of activity based on strong commodity and livestock markets and it would appear that prices are stabilising following a severe decline, albeit access to finance remains a significant issue", Dawson said.