

## **Readout from CSA's Evidence Strategy Workshop**

**Dr. Stuart Wainwright**  
Strategy and Evidence Group

SAC Meeting  
28<sup>th</sup> October 2008

*CSA's Evidence Strategy Workshop 2008*

- Aims of the workshop
- How it worked
- Using the outputs
- Major messages
- Lessons learn

## CSA's Workshop 1-3 September 2008



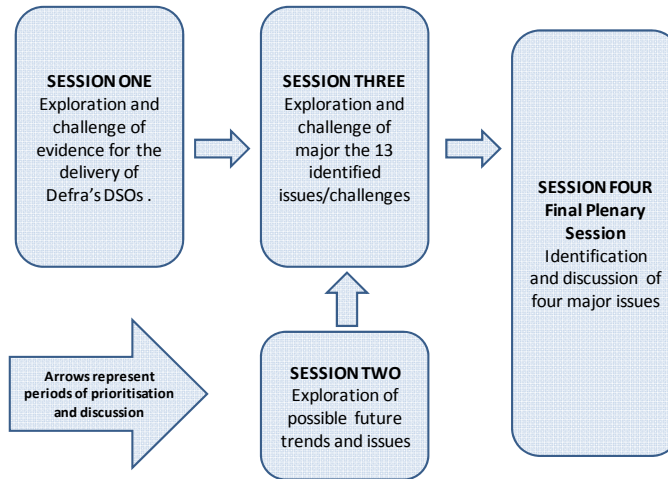
- Bring a new strategic level of challenge and scrutiny to bear on Defra's evidence activities and help identify the major issues facing the department
- Attended by 120 academics, interest groups, policy makers and specialists
- New form of engagement - very positive feedback

## Aims of the CSA's Workshop



1. Bring external advice and challenge to Defra's planned evidence activities with a view to determining what was right, what was missing and where links with other organisations could be made
2. Look to the future and identify opportunities and threats to Defra and determine if any new evidence activities need to be undertaken as a result
3. Identify major strategic evidence challenges facing Defra

## Major Stages of the CSA's Workshop



## A broad scope – what Defra does



## 13 Key Issues identified



1. Making effective use of social science
2. Level of activity on animal health
3. Impact of a changing environment on pests and disease
4. Sustainability of products and supply chains
5. Climate change impacts on the marine environment
6. Climate change – balance between mitigation and adaptation
7. Sustainable development into practical guidance
8. Food security and the impact of climate change
9. Developing more Technology, Innovation and Engineering Solutions
10. Whole system approach to Agriculture
11. Better flood management
12. Holistic approach to valuing Ecosystem Services
13. Urban and Rural Environments – interrelated issues such as flooding, energy and transportation

## Four Areas for Final Plenary



More focused discussion went into:

1. Food Security and Climate Change
2. Systems Approach
3. Innovation
4. Social research

## Outputs from Workshop



- Draft Workshop Report
  - major areas for consideration
  - final plenary write-up
  - Summary of 13 key discussion areas
  - Summary of DSO sessions
  - Summary of horizon scanning session
- More detailed capture of comments
  - 140 pages
  - Detailed write ups for each DSO
- Networks and contacts

## Using the Outputs



- Influence Defra's future evidence activities
- Inform the strategic direction of the department
- Inform developing relationship between DECC and Defra
- Act as steer for new Evidence Investment Strategy
- Open up new opportunities for partnership and collaboration
- Possible areas for Defra or SAC to explore in more detail

## Major Messages From the CSA Workshop



- Food Security and its relationship with climate change
  - Greater cross-organisation and policy coordination required
  - More evidence to underpin national risk assessment
- More effort to develop continuum of evidence between climate change mitigation and adaptation
- Developing whole systems approach:
  - Common 'currency'/evaluation
  - More evidence to build up certain models (marine, eco etc)
  - Turning knowledge of systems into practical guidance for policy makers
  - Marine a particular area for focus

## Major Messages From the CSA Workshop



- Making better use of innovation
  - Understanding levers in different sectors
  - Understanding behaviours of organisations and individuals in relation to innovation
  - Understanding if Defra needs to adapt its research effort to drive technological change
- Using a better understanding of social research and behaviours in policy making
- Clarify the roles of Government and industry in relation to agri-research
- Allowing time/space for different specialists to communicate
- Making more use of exploiting existing evidence

## Feedback on Workshop



- A new mechanism of engagement?
  
- Lessons to be learnt
  - Different approaches for different people (too many post-its)
  - Being constrained by DSOs
  
- Positive feedback
  - 100% of feedback confirmed that the event was informative
  - 93.3% of attendees offering feedback stated they had received sufficient information to participate at the event effectively
  - 73.7% agreed they had enough opportunity to put their views forward
  - The Monday evening "market place" could have been an event in its own right, and was very informative

## Over to you



- Any questions?
  
- What worked at the event and what didn't?
  
- Are the main issues reflected in the report?
  
- Are the major issues identified for consideration correct?
  
- Are there any issues that merit further exploration by SAC or Defra?