NEW ZEALAND
EMBASSY

Ministry for Primary Industries
Manatū Ahu Matua

# A Perspective from the Other Side

## New Zealand's experience in European programmes and participation in P2Ps

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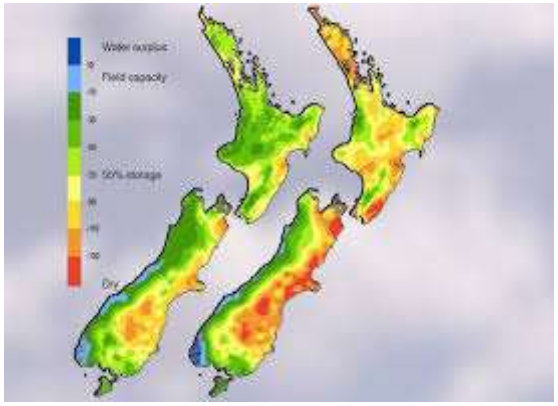
# Outline of presentation

- Background on New Zealand and our interest in R&D and P2Ps
- New Zealand's involvement in P2Ps and some of our experiences
- Key 'take home' messages
- New Zealand's GRA experience – what works and what are the limitations

# New Zealand's focus on R&D

- Small country with limited resources
  - Below OECD average investment in R&D
- Benefits in collaboration with others and sharing information and resources
- Economic, environmental, health and wellbeing, and social drivers similar to Europe
- Temperate agriculture similar to much of Europe
- But no agricultural subsidies or direct government support
- Focus on innovation, efficiency, productivity – research is key



# NZ involvement in European P2Ps

- Healthy Diet Healthy Life (HDHL)
  - Full Member
  - Involved in 3 projects
  - Lead CSA task on international alignment

- FACCE-JPI
  - Associate Member on Governing Board
  - Joint call on GHG mitigation with GRA in 2013
  - ERAGAS
  - FACCE-SURPLUS
  - Knowledge Network on Sustainable Intensification (KNSI)

# NZ – GRA – FACCE collaboration

- Joint call on GHGs in 2013
  - simple format, no central pool, no EU top-up
  - Worked well with NZ, Canada and US all involved in joint projects with FACCE-JPI members
- Associate Member of FACCE since 2016
  - Great to have a seat at the table
  - But processes need to be more open
- ERA-GAS in 2016/17
  - complex EU-centric requirements based around EU laws
  - Not possible for NZ (or US, Can) to sign up
  - Work-around developed for NZ

# GHG Nexus – GRA, ERA-GAS, SusAn

- Proposed process to involve GRA members as additional partners in projects of ERA-GAS and SusAn
  - Enlargement of existing projects (not new projects)
  - Enlargement could be any/all of the following:
    - Geographic coverage – more data from different regions
    - System coverage – e.g. rice residues as part of more general crop residue project, or additional animal species
    - Research focus, e.g. other feed additives beyond antimicrobials
  - Activities undertaken as part of a project enlargement will be funded/resourced separately from the existing arrangements in place (may be cash or in-kind).
  - Project proposals to be developed by ERA-GAS Project Coordinators and GRA members followed by peer-review process
- Aligns with aim to make Horizon 2020 “open to the world”

# New Zealand led HDHL project to expand engagement in Asia-Pacific region

- NZ is a member through New Zealand Health Research Council (HRC) and Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE)
- Co-leading a CSA funded project (2016-2021) to explore how non-European countries might best engage with the JPI - helpful to identify barriers and potential facilitators for engagement
- Survey with 6 Asia-Pacific countries - each revealed to have multiple levels of potential engagement but not particularly straightforward
- HDHL out of priority scope for some countries
- Perceived by some to be too ‘euro-centric’

# HDHL experience continued

- Reciprocal benefits and opportunities
  - Expanded focus for the JPI
  - Connectivity of NZ researchers
- Challenges?
  - Alignment of funding priorities, cycles and processes
  - Complexity of processes and huge reporting burden – HDHL is only one bit of our work among many yet takes up huge amount of time
  - Expanding the focus on European policy outcomes
  - Small country, limited resources, a long way away
  - But we are working to manage challenges given reciprocity (core to partnership)

# Key messages - alignment

- How to get alignment working optimally between the international, European and national levels?
  - Need for clear over-arching strategic framework and policy platform for alignment of research collaboration initiatives internationally
  - Platforms like G20 Agriculture Ministers can support alignment
  - International Bioeconomy Forum (IBF) could provide a vehicle for better coordination and scaling up of P2P collaboration internationally
- EC “top-up” creates positive incentives for collaboration but not always in a logical coherent manner
- Proliferation of JPIs and other mechanisms creates competition for research spend forcing countries to choose among competing and sometimes overlapping initiatives

# Key messages - internationalisation

- If serious about “internationalisation” then European processes need to become more open – at the moment there is a disconnect between intent and reality
- “Commission and the Member States are so fixated on each other that they both tend to forget about the wider international picture”
- Some of the administrative requirements placed on non-EU countries are overly onerous, particularly when we are not eligible for funding
- Need to better recognise the benefits arising from the involvement of non-EU partners and develop processes based on this duality rather than trying to extend rules and processes developed with only EU members in mind
- Recent changes to reduce administrative burden on third country partners are encouraging – need to be expanded and embedded in the next Framework Programme

# GRA Background

- Launched in December 2009, first Council meeting in 2011
- Brings countries together to find ways to grow more food without growing greenhouse gas emissions (i.e. emissions intensity goal):
    - Improve understanding, measurement & estimation of agricultural emissions
    - Find ways to reduce emissions intensity of agricultural production systems and increase potential for soil carbon sequestration, while increasing productivity and enhancing food security
    - Improve farmer access to agricultural mitigation technologies & best practices
- Membership is voluntary with no funding obligations
- Enable activities that would not have happened without the GRA
- 49 member countries and growing – more relevant now than ever

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# AT A GLANCE

**49** member countries

**4** Research Groups

- Paddy Rice Research Group
- Livestock Research Group
- Croplands Research Group
- Integrative Research Group

**20** Science Networks

**14** partner organisations

Over **3000** scientists involved in activities of the GRA

**44** international collaborative projects supporting the GRA

**50** fellowships awarded to recipients from **25** countries

**19** technical training workshops held

**12** technical guidelines, resource materials and databases produced








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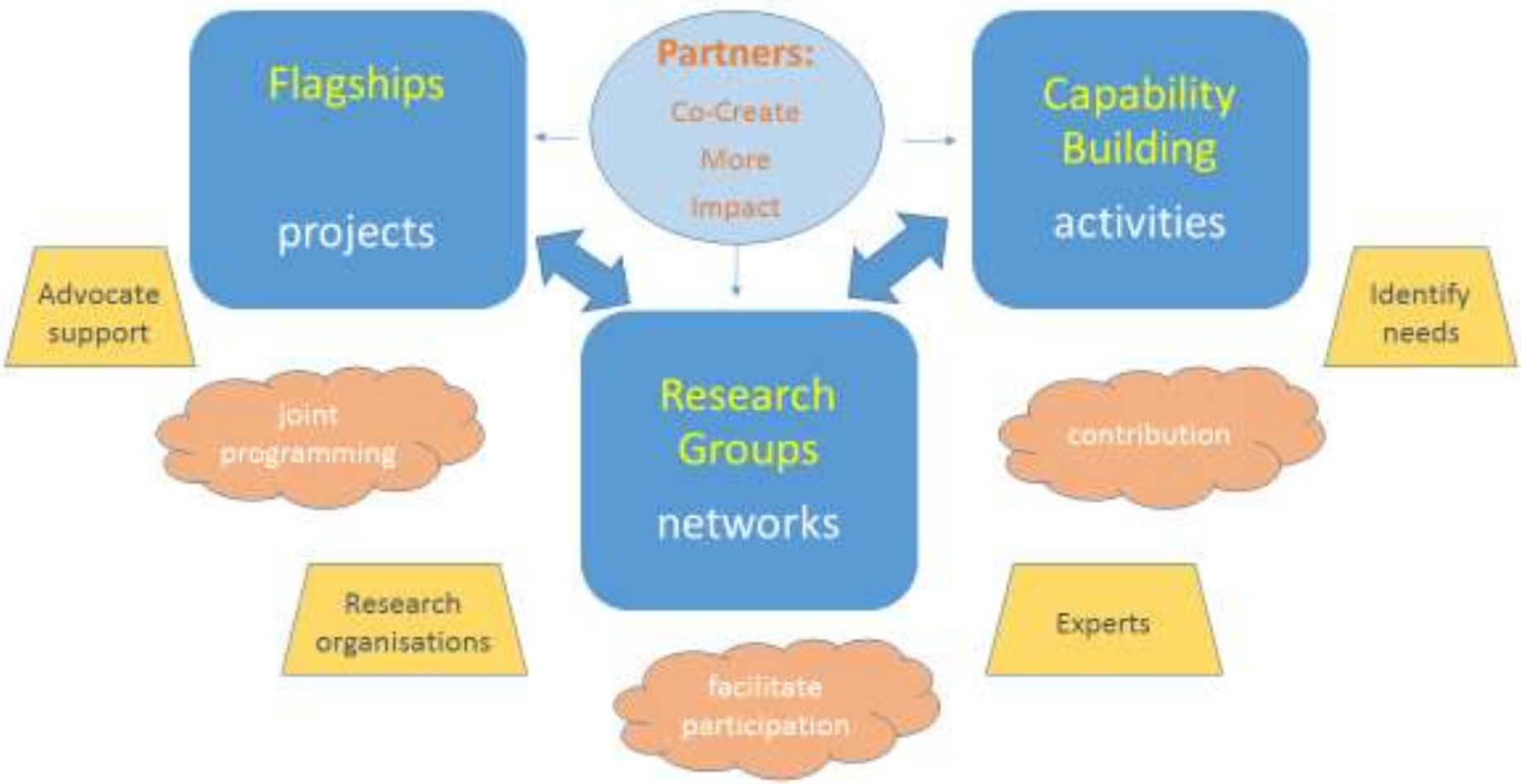
# Cooperation rather than obligation

- No joining fee or membership fee
- No mandatory reporting requirements
- No mandatory funding requirements (but many members have)
- Level of participation is up to each member and based on those areas of direct relevance to the member
- Only countries can join the GRA but individuals can sign up to the technical networks
- BUT – Alliance requires active engagement by members
- Greater engagement = greater benefits

# How the GRA works



# Success factors

- Inherent logic based on need for global solutions to a global problem
- Strong initial agreement on what needed to be done and strong Research Group leadership leading to early wins
- Voluntary commitments based around national priorities
- Makes use of existing research and in-kind contributions while looking for new ways of enabling and funding international research collaboration
- Provides opportunities at all levels of knowledge
  - Capacity building workshops, research fellowships
- Member led Research Groups and work-plans
- Connects government and scientists and farmers

# Lessons along the way

- Strong conceptual framework is essential from outset – the GRA Charter
- Link between policy and research at national level critical – mainstreaming the GRA within domestic programmes
- What members put in largely dictates what they get out – can't be passive
- Importance of communicating the right message to get buy-in
- Managing political issues takes time and slows things down but don't ignore

# THANK-YOU

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