



Taighde, Idirphlé, Comhairle
Research, Dialogue, Advice

Just Transition in Agriculture and Land Use

NESC Report Number 162

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Just Transition in Agriculture and Land Use (Report #162)

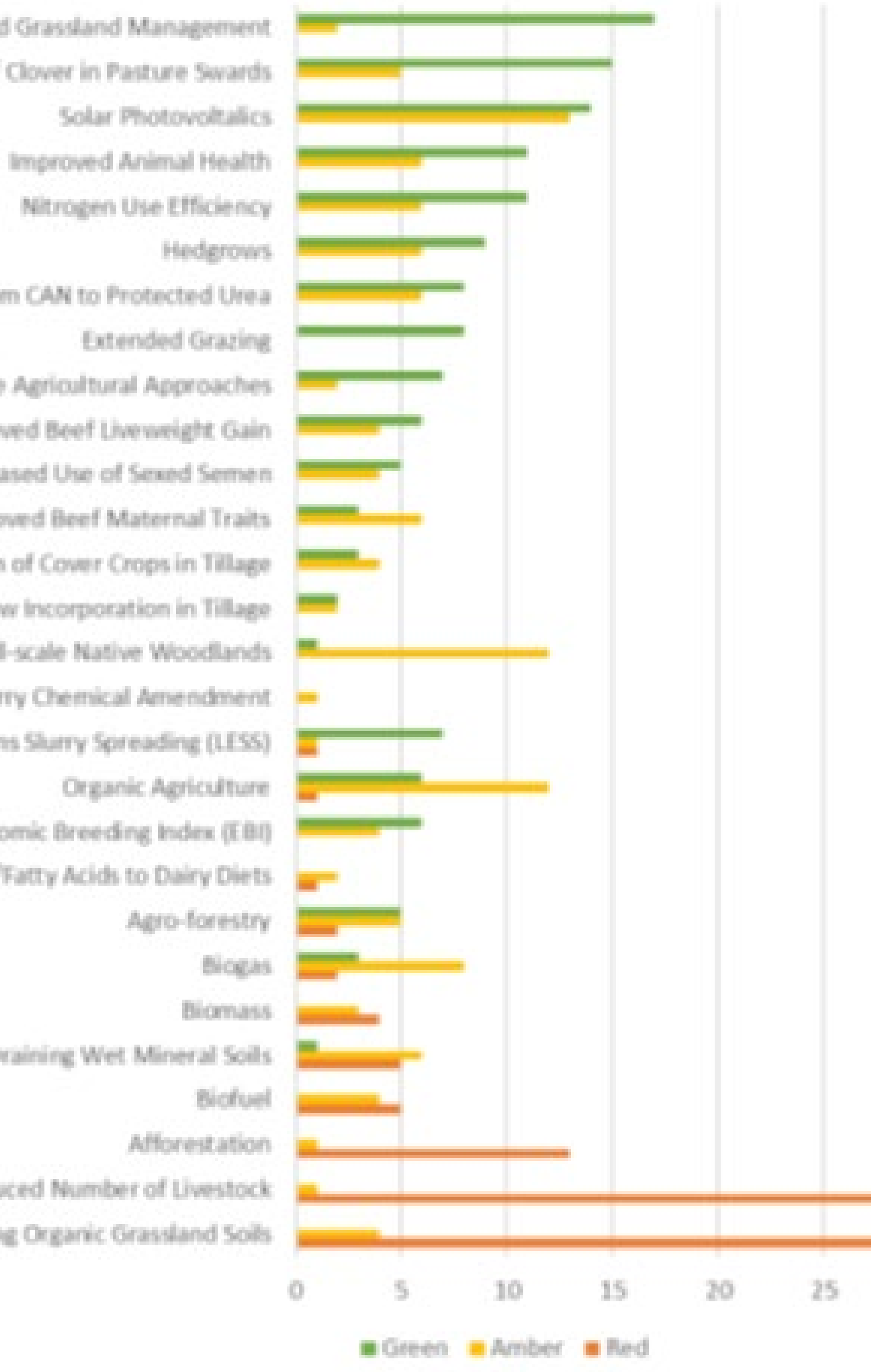
NESC was asked to consider just transition in agriculture and land use.

- × Not an exploration of what emission reduction targets should be.
- × Not an identification of new approaches or measures for mitigation.
- ✓ Explored how to achieve targets in a way that is socially inclusive, economically viable and environmentally sustainable.
- ✓ Explored the range of mitigation measures from social, economic and environmental perspectives, including farmer attitudes to barriers and enablers for wider uptake.
- ✓ Aimed to ‘walk the talk’ and focused on both process and outcomes, establishing a stakeholder group and engaging directly with farmers in an 18-month project.
- Developed an integrated framework of interventions, embedded in the four principles of just transition, to support uptake of measures to meet mitigation targets.

Tullamore - SF



Workshop Exercercise: assigning 'green', 'amber', 'red'



Considering Just Transition in Agriculture and Land Use

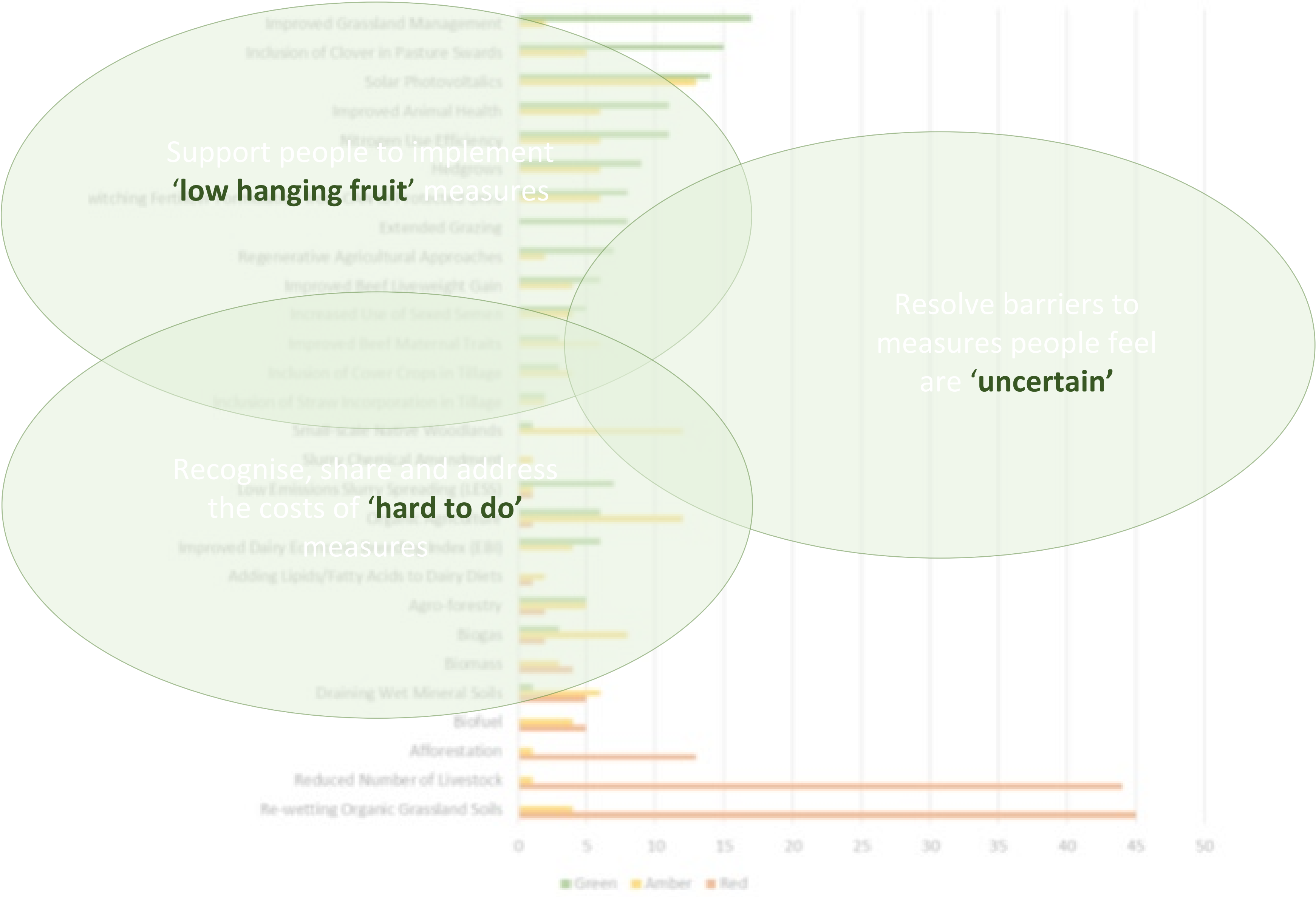
What is just transition? Fair process and fair outcomes. Four principles.

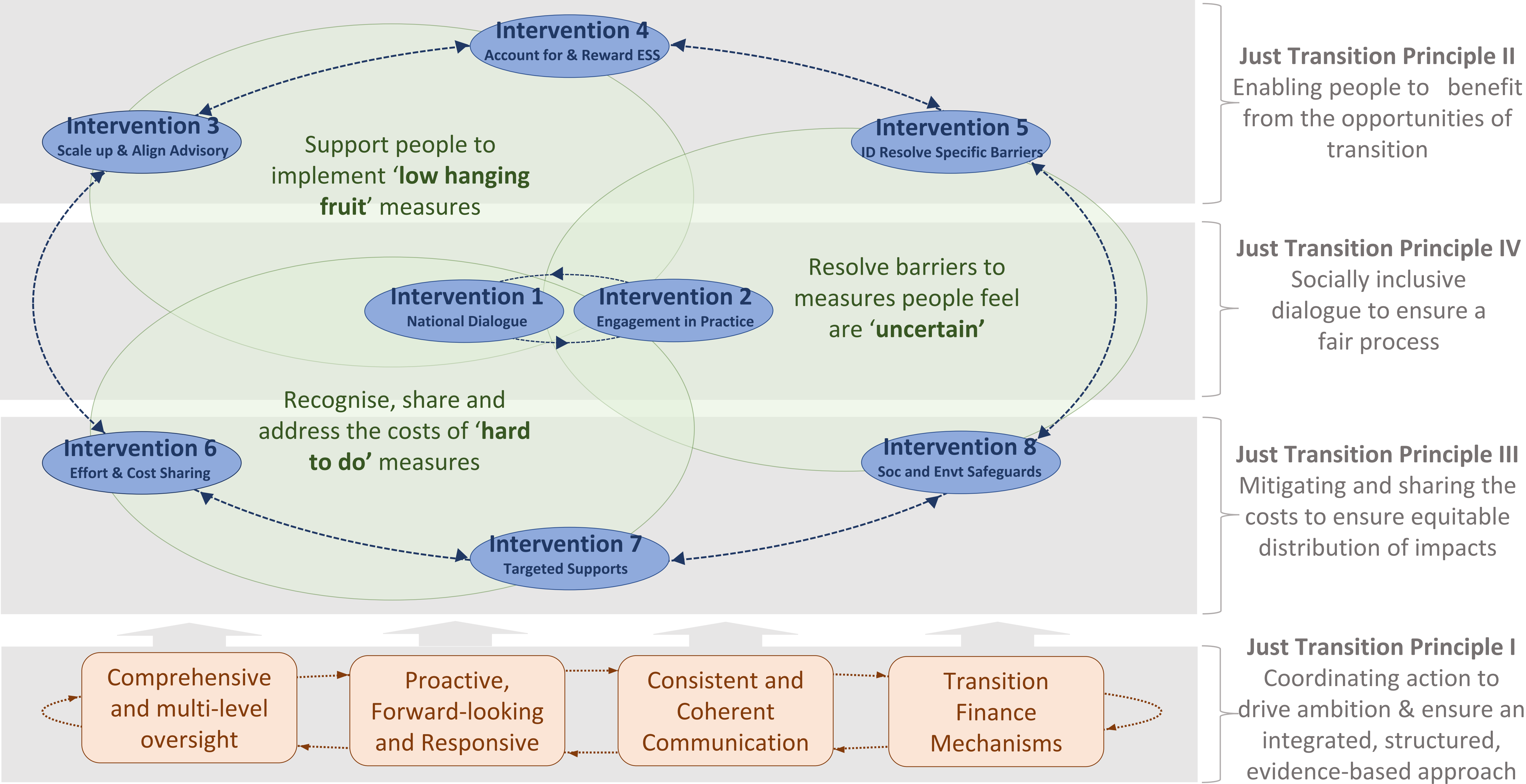
Just transition in the agriculture and land use sector should reflect characteristics that make it different to just transition in other sectors, such as energy.

- Complexity of the Agriculture and Land Use system: multiple transitions, uncertainty.
 - Individual farmers and small businesses.
 - Geographically dispersed rather than specific region, regional differences.
 - Cultural and social significance of land and agricultural practices.
- Agriculture can increasingly be part of the solution.
- Not a transition out of agriculture but a transition into making optimal use of land.

Framework and recommendations

Results of Workshop Exercise: assigning 'green', 'amber', 'red' dots to measures





Report & Recommendations went to Cabinet (July 2023)

Enhancing Socially Inclusive Processes

- deep and wide process of engagement; build on local and context-specific participation.

Enabling People to Benefit from the Opportunities

- Scale & fully align advisory with environmental objectives, ensure ecological expertise at farm level.
- Accelerate work on accounting for nature; significantly finance to reward farmers for ESS.
- Reduce uncertainty around diversification options.

Share and Mitigate the Costs of Transition

- develop a strategy for effort sharing based on research into distributional impacts.
- consider existing and potential effort-sharing mechanisms across the agriculture and land-use system.
- more robust standards and certification to support effort sharing along supply chains.
- examine and progress the spectrum of supports for those vulnerable to transition.
- robust screening of policies and more compliance with regulations to avoid unintended consequences.

Coordinating Action & Driving Ambition

- Priority theme for Just Transition Commission – which should be established asap.
- Recommendations should shape Land Use Review Process.
- Establish a Just Transition in Agriculture and Land Use Fund.

Conclusion:

- A fair and inclusive process is important for achieving fair outcomes – deep listening.
- Agreement is possible across different groups. *(e.g., NESC report agreed by farming organisations, the environmental pillar, trade union representatives, employer group representatives, the community and voluntary pillar and government departments).*
- An opportunities-led transition is vital for enabling people to benefit from transition.
- Recognising, fairly-sharing and mitigating costs – especially targeted at the most vulnerable is critical.
- There are actions that can be taken now – clear policy recommendations to government.