

Sectors such as agriculture and forestry serve as a sinkhole and suck out a great deal of the gases from the atmosphere.



Agriculture is not the villain

An American scientist has taken the negative narrative about the role agriculture plays in climate change and emissions, saying other sectors play a far bigger role. **Samantha Tennent** listened in during the Alltech One Virtual Experience.



Professor and air quality specialist at the University of California, Dr Frank Mitloehner says although agriculture does contribute to global warming, fossil fuels are the main culprit.

RESearch overseen by Dr Frank Mitloehner, professor and air quality specialist in the Cooperative Extension in the Department of Animal Science at the University of California, and Dr Myles Allen from Oxford University has shown that livestock-related greenhouse gases are distinctively different from greenhouse gases associated with other sectors of society.

Mitloehner explained the differences at the 2020 Alltech One digital experience and gave the example of Los Angeles and its population of 13 million painted an image of a concrete jungle, where Ireland portrays picturesque green countryside. But surprisingly Ireland has a greater carbon footprint than Los Angeles.

The unit used to describe greenhouse gases is carbon dioxide equivalents.

Los Angeles has emissions equivalent to 50 million metric tons, where the country of Ireland emits 60 million metric tons. But it does not seem to make sense when you consider the fossil fuel usage in both places he said.

"You have to think about gases, such as methane, are not just emitted, they are also reduced.

"They are sequestered. And a place like Ireland, with all the grass, with all the hedges, and trees, and so on, with the soils in agriculture and forestry, it sucks out a lot of greenhouse gases," Mitloehner explained.

"So, while the world is always thinking of how much greenhouse gases are emitted by different sources, they often don't consider that there are certain sectors of society such as forestry and