

30/05/2024

Frequently Asked Questions

I73.5 On-Farm Productive Investments €15,000 Scheme

Q1. What is the grant support rate of the scheme?

The grant finances 50% of the eligible cost up to €15,000.

Example 1: In case the eligible cost is €10,000 the grant amount will be €5,000

Example 2: In case the eligible cost is €40,000 the grant amount will be €15,000

Q2. Is it possible to have more than one investment in the same application?

An application can include more than one item; however the total grant will not exceed €15,000.

Q3. Who are the eligible applicants?

Farmers, whether natural or legal persons. They must:

- a) be registered as farmers on the Department of Agriculture database (IACS)
- b) have the agricultural holding registered on their name with the Agriculture and Rural Payments Agency (ARPA).
- c) be registered as farmers with Jobs Plus.
- d) have a valid VAT number.

In case of Livestock Farmers, the animals must be registered on the applicant's name with the Veterinary Regulations Directorate (VRD).

Q4. What is the difference between ‘full investment proposals’ and restrictive investment proposals’?

Proposals under the restrictive investment are limited to investments directly linked to the 1 tumolo of trees being planted or the 50 bee-boxes being introduced. On the other hand, there are no such restrictions in the case the applicant is eligible on the ground of the full investment proposal criteria.

Q5. What is the criteria for a full investment proposal?

In the case of **Crops** – Minimum area of 0.3 HA arable land (receiving subsidy on land ‘AGRICLAIM’)

In the case of **Productive trees** - a minimum 0.5HA

In the case of **Livestock** – a minimum 15,000 Standard Output

In the case of **Apiculture** - a minimum of registered 50 bee colonies.

Standard Output for Livestock and the area required for arable land or trees cannot be combined.

Q6. What is the criteria for a restrictive investment proposal?

A restrictive investment proposal refers to an investment made in only one category either trees or apiculture. The minimum area for this type of investment is of 1 tumolo meaning that the trees (investment) need to be over an area of 1 tumolo. Investment related to the trees being proposed for funding may also be funded.

In the case of an investment in apiculture, there is no criteria linked to the size of the agricultural holding, however the minimum investment is of 50 bee boxes. Any other investments related to the bee boxes being proposed for funding may also be funded.

Q7. If I have 0.3Ha of trees, am I eligible?

- If you have 0.3Ha of trees and you have at least another tumolo of land that is not planted with trees, that tumolo can be committed to tree planting and be eligible for investments related to trees. (Refer to Q6.)

Q8. If I have 30 bee-boxes, can I add another 20 and be eligible?

- One must either have 50 bee boxes at the start in order to be eligible for a full investment proposal or commit to investing a minimum of 50 bee boxes through the project. In this latter case, the investment will be restrictive.
- Adding a lower number of bee-boxes to reach 50 is not eligible

Q9. What investment is eligible for funding?

- Equipment and Machinery (example: Tractor, tractor implements)
- Building/restoration/conservation of on-farm infrastructure (example: Reservoir, Agri Stores)
- Trees, vines

Q10. What investment is not eligible for funding?

- Second hand equipment
- Irrigation systems
- Purchase or lease of lands
- Purchase of soil
- Actions that require a Planning Authority Permit and which permits to perform work (executable) are not in hand at the time of submitting the application.
- Investments related to Equidae.
- The above list is not exhaustive.

Q11. Can someone with land registered as AGRIDEC apply?

- AGRIDEC land means that the land is not registered for subsidies. Such land cannot be considered as a basis for eligibility under this investments call. **However**, for this first call under the Common Agricultural Policy Strategic Plan (CAP SP), land that is registered as AGRIDEC will be considered eligible subject to the following conditions:
 - a) the land has to be registered on the applicants name
 - b) land is subsequently registered as AGRICLAIM during the first ARPA request period in year2024(normally July and August).

The grant agreement will not be signed, and the grant award letter will be withdrawn if the land in question would not be registered as AGRICLAIM during this request period.

Q12. Can I apply for the I73.5 On-Farm Productive Investments main scheme whilst having an ongoing project under the €15,000 scheme?

- The main scheme is the On-Farm Productive Investments Scheme that will not have a capping of €15,000. Applying under the €15,000 scheme does not exclude an application under the I73.5 On-Farm Productive Investments main scheme.

Q13. Can I apply for the €15,000 scheme whilst having an ongoing project under the same scheme?

- Another application under 15,000 Scheme is allowed on condition that the first project under this same scheme has been closed.

Q14. Are investments in irrigation systems and photovoltaic panels eligible?

- Under this call, irrigation systems and photovoltaic are not eligible.

Q15. Are water pumps that will not be used for irrigation purposes considered eligible for funding?

- Water pumps used on agricultural holdings for irrigation purposes are not eligible.
- A pump shall only be eligible on livestock farms for cleaning purposes and for slurry pumping.

Q16. Are plastic sheeting and shades for greenhouses eligible?

- If the plastic sheeting and shades being introduced are of higher specifications when compared to current or previous installation then these are eligible.

Q17. Are peat bags eligible for funding?

- Peat bags are eligible for funding.

Q18. I am a young farmer would I be eligible to apply for the Young Farmer Scheme if I apply for this scheme?

- Currently the CAP SP states that farmers that apply for investment's Intervention are not eligible to apply for the Young Farmer's Scheme.

Q19. Can an individual use the VAT of a partnership?

- An individual can apply with a VAT number that is used for a partnership as long as the individual forms part of the partnership in question.

Other important notes:

1. Beneficiaries can only procure the items or services from the same suppliers and producers listed in the quotations submitted with the application.
2. In the case of indirect costs, an additional 7% will be given on every grant up to €15,000 in order to cover any additional indirect costs that might occur during the implementation period.

Please note that these FAQs do not replace the Intervention Guidelines, in case of doubt, the Measure Guidelines will always prevail.