



**An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara**
Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine

Horticulture Investment Aid Schemes Update

Sinead Mulcahy
12 November 2025

2026 Innovation & Diversification Schemes



SMEs

2026 Scheme of Investment Aid for
Innovation and Diversification in Horticulture
(Capital Investments)



2026 Scheme of Investment Aid for
Innovation and Diversification in Horticulture
(Feasibility / Desk Studies)



Primary
Producers
(Including
potatoes)

2026 Scheme of Investment Aid for Process
and Organizational Innovation in Horticulture
for Large Enterprises



2026 Scheme of Investment Aid for Innovation and Diversification in Horticulture (Capital Investments)



- This scheme is intended to assist in increasing innovation and/or diversification in horticulture by grant aiding capital investments in specialised plant and equipment.
- Eligible investments.
- Minimum investment amount which will be considered for grant aid is €10,000 ex VAT.
- Upper limit, per project, for investments under the scheme is €750,000.
- Grant aid rate 50%.
- Young Farmers and Registered Organic Growers shall be paid at a maximum rate of 60% subject to the specific eligibility requirements for each group being met.

2026 Scheme of Investment Aid for Innovation and Diversification in Horticulture (Feasibility / Desk Studies)



- Aimed at SMEs engaging in primary horticulture production that would like to innovate and diversify in the horticulture industry but need to carry out specific studies before doing so.
 - ✓ Fundamental studies,
 - ✓ Industrial studies,
 - ✓ Experimental development
 - ✓ Feasibility studies
- Applications must be made by the primary producer but can be in partnership with a Research Institution or another entity.
- Upper investment per project under the scheme is €500,000.
- Rate of grant aid varies depending on type of study ranging from 50% to 100%.
 - Small or medium enterprise
 - Public good
- Online application form.

2026 Scheme of Investment Aid for Process and Organizational Innovation in Horticulture for Large Enterprises



- Scheme is intended to assist in increasing process and organisational innovation in horticulture by providing grant aid to large enterprises active in the horticulture industry (primary producers).
- A process innovation is the implementation of a new or significantly improved production or delivery method. This includes significant changes in techniques, equipment and/or software.
- An organisational innovation is the implementation of a new organisational method in the firm's business practices or workplace organisation.
- The minimum investment which will be considered for grant aid is €10,000 excluding VAT.
- The upper limit, per project, for investments under the scheme is €1,000,000.
- Grant aid shall be paid at the maximum rate of 15% for eligible costs provided the applicant effectively collaborates with a SME(s) in the aided activity and the collaborating SME(s) incurs at least 30 % of the total eligible costs.

Innovation & Diversification Schemes



- Completed applications and all supporting documentation must be submitted by email to Horticultureinnovation@agriculture.gov.ie
- Ensure you complete the correct application form.
- Closing Date for applications: **Midnight on Friday 23 January 2026.**
- Online application form for Feasibility / Desk Studies Scheme.
- The claim for payment must be submitted to the Department no later than 01 November 2026.
- Limited Budget - Aid for each investment will be decided based on the availability of funds as well as the quality, scale and value for money of the proposals.

Further Information



General Queries:

Email: Horticultureinnovation@agriculture.gov.ie

Phone: 01 5058886

Technical Queries:

Email: Sinead.Mulcahy@agriculture.gov.ie

Phone: 086 0404493

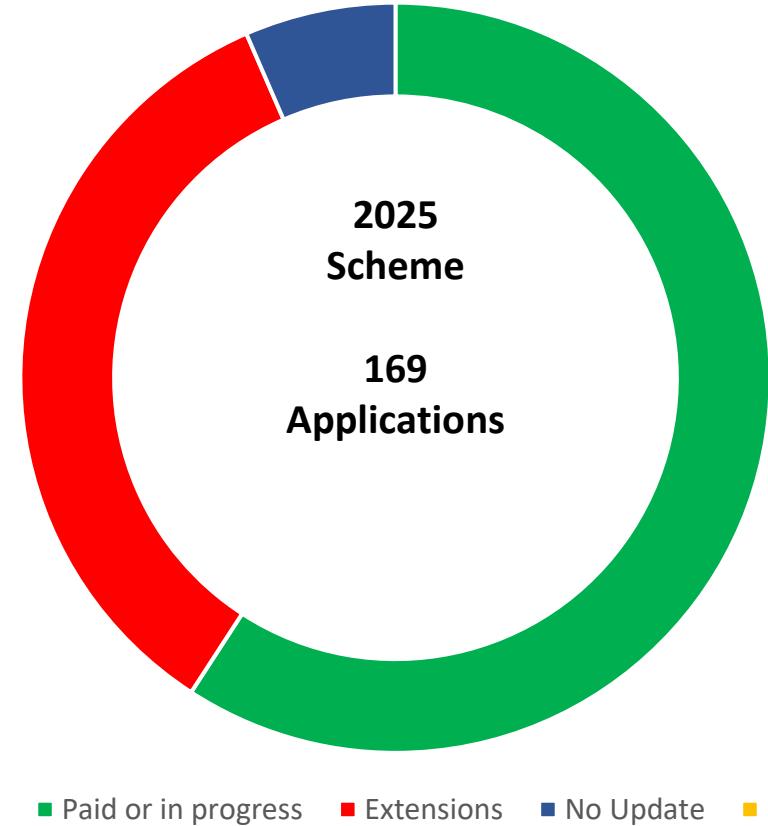
Information Webinar:

Thursday November 20th at 11.30 am.

Scheme of Investment Aid for the Development of the Commercial Horticulture Sector.



- 2025 Scheme Claims for payment currently being processed.
- A significant number of extension requests.
- 2026 Scheme open for applications.
- Aid for each investment will be decided based on the availability of funds as well as the quality, scale and value for money of the proposals.
- Priorities
- The deadline for receipt of completed applications is 5pm **on Friday 12th December 2025**
- Approvals to issue from late February / Early March 2026.





Thank You

