



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

# Horticulture Investment Aid Schemes Update

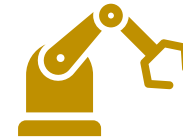
**Sinead Mulcahy**  
**12 November 2025**

# 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)



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



Primary Producers (Including potatoes)

# 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](mailto: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](mailto:Horticultureinnovation@agriculture.gov.ie)

Phone: 01 5058886

## **Technical Queries:**

Email: [Sinead.Mulcahy@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:Sinead.Mulcahy@agriculture.gov.ie)

Phone: 086 0404493

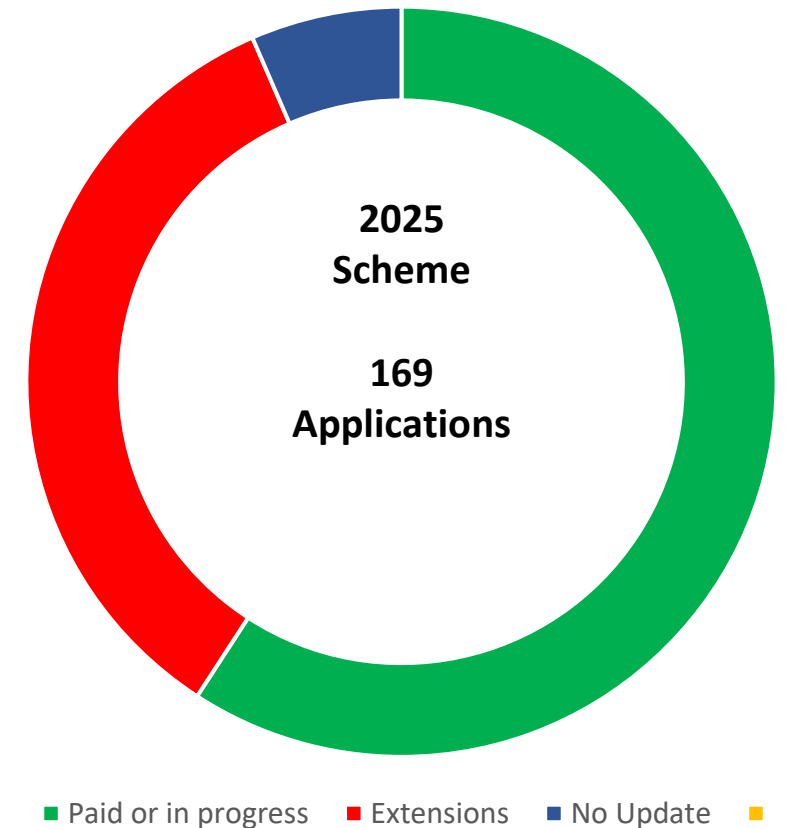
## **Information Webinar:**

Thursday November 20<sup>th</sup> 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

