



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

# **DAFM Research Programme**

**Research, Bioeconomy and Codex**  
**February 2025**

# About DAFM Research Funding



- **Thematic Research Strand** – Experimental research under broad thematic, cross cutting and mission orientated approaches to key RDI challenges.
- **International Outreach Strand** – Facilitates participation in competitive transnational calls, enabling researchers in Irish RPO's to share expertise and data.
- **Strategic Studies Strand** – Flexible, mainly addressing policy issues. Calls are frequently opened based on specific topics identified by DAFM to address short to medium term strategic/policy needs.
- **Industry Focused Strand** – Research Plus and Innovation Platform
- **Coordination and Support Activities** – Funds relevant support type activities relating to research undertaken by DAFM funded RPO based researchers.

# About DAFM Research Funding



- DAFM funds public good research through a competitive Call process with three stages of evaluation:
  - *STEP 1 – Eligibility Checks*
  - *STEP 2 – Expert Evaluation Panels*
  - *STEP 3 – Selection Committee*
- Funded research is in the range of Technology Readiness Levels 2-7
- **Only eligible RPO'S** (Research Performing Organisations) can apply for any of the funding opportunities.
  - *You can apply to become an eligible RPO on our website at*
  - [gov.ie - Research - Policy and Guidance Documents](#)
- Other organisations (Non-eligible RPOs) can partner on DAFM projects on an in kind or self-financing basis, and specialist activities can be brought into the project as external assistance or “sub-contracting”

# Recent funding



## 2023 National Thematic Call:

- A total of €46.46 million in research funding was awarded across 19 research institutes
- A total of 41 projects were awarded funding
- The conversion rate of proposals to funded projects was 37% (similar to HEU)
- Tranche 1: €24.2M, 20 projects
- Tranche 2: €22.26M, 21 projects
- *Covering: Climate change, water quality and biodiversity, animal welfare, bovine TB, ash dieback, organic agriculture, forestry, food health and nutrition, food safety, farmer mental health.*

## 2024 International Calls:

- *Total funding of €5.7 million for 12 projects under the European research ERANETS – Green ERAHUB and ICT-AGRI-FOOD – and the Agroecology Partnership.*
- *Funding of €2.2 million towards 3 projects under the joint Ireland and New Zealand 2024 Research Call*

# 2025 National Calls



- Calls expected to run in 2025 are:
  - **National Research Call**
    - In previous years the Call budget has been circa €20 million across 5 thematic areas that includes:
      - *Theme I: Climate Mitigation and Adaptation*
      - *Theme II: Agri-Environment, Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services*
      - *Theme III: Smart, Sustainable Animal & Plant Production, Health & Welfare*
      - *Theme IV: Bioeconomy, Rural Economy, Agri-Digitalisation & Data*
      - *Theme V: Safe, Nutritious and Sustainable Food Processing and Consumption*
  - **Policy and Strategic Studies Call**
    - Topics of the Call specification are developed in conjunction with policy Divisions in DAFM.
    - 2024 - €4 million for 21 new policy-focused research projects under the PSSRC

# 2025 International Calls



- International Calls expected in 2025 are:
  - *US-Ireland Research and Development Partnership*
    - Funding partner organisations are National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), within the USDA, the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) in Northern Ireland and DAFM. [gov.ie - Call Information: US-Ireland Research and Development Partnership](#)
  - *Horizon Europe Partnerships*
    - Agriculture of Data (AgData)
    - Animal Health and Welfare
    - Future Foods (Sustainable Food Systems) - [FutureFoodS](#)
    - Accelerating the sustainable farming transition: Agroecology, Living Labs and Research Infrastructures - [Agroecology Partnership](#)
  - *IE-NZ Joint Research Call*
    - [gov.ie - Research - International Research](#)

# The Bioeconomy



The Irish Bioeconomy Foundation, in collaboration with the Bioeconomy Implementation and Development Group, have produced a brochure signposting the main bioeconomy-related funding opportunities and supports available for stakeholders. Please view the document [here](#).

## National Piloting and Demonstration Funding Opportunities for the Bioeconomy:

- EU Just Transition Fund Bioeconomy Demonstration Initiative
- Shared Island Initiative

### Other options:

- [Circular Biobased Europe](#)
- [Biobased Industries Consortium](#)
- [European Circular Bioeconomy Fund](#)
  
- More Information at: [gov.ie - The Bioeconomy](#)
- Please contact [research@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:research@agriculture.gov.ie) or [bioeconomy@decc.gov.ie](mailto:bioeconomy@decc.gov.ie) for more information.

# Further information



For further information on any of the calls listed above, please visit: [gov.ie - Research and Bioeconomy](https://www.gov.ie)

- Open Calls
- News, Events and Media
- Policy and Guidance Documents

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