



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

# Horticulture Supports Overview

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# Presentation Outline



- Horticulture Supports Overview
  - 2025 Scheme of Investment Aid for Innovation and Diversification in Horticulture (Feasibility/Desk Studies).
  - 2025 Scheme of Investment Aid for Innovation and Diversification in Horticulture (Capital Investments).
  - 2025 Scheme of Investment Aid for Process and Organisational Innovation in Horticulture for Large Enterprises.
  - 2025 Scheme of Investment Aid for the Development of the Commercial Horticulture Sector
- Further Information

# Horticulture Strategy 2023 - 2027



- Food Vision 2030 called for a new National Strategy for Horticulture to leverage its potential for growth and contribution to climate change mitigation.
- The National Strategy for Horticulture 2023-2027 provides a road map for the horticulture industry, underpinning the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine's commitment to the horticulture industry and the many citizens who depend on it.
- Eight cross-cutting Key Strategic Actions (KSA) will drive change and growth across all the horticulture industry's sub sectors leading to environmental, economic and social sustainability.
  - KSA 8 - Support innovation and diversification



# Innovation & Diversification in Horticulture Schemes



- 2025 Scheme of Investment Aid for Innovation and Diversification in Horticulture (Feasibility/Desk Studies).
- 2025 Scheme of Investment Aid for Innovation and Diversification in Horticulture (Capital Investments).
- 2025 Scheme of Investment Aid for Process and Organisational Innovation in Horticulture for Large Enterprises.
- 2025 Schemes opened for applications in December & closed for on 07 February.
- Hope to reopen schemes for 2026 later this year but dependent on budget allocation.

# Innovation & Diversification in Horticulture Schemes

- **The 2025 Scheme of Investment Aid for Innovation and Diversification in Horticulture (Feasibility / Desk Study).**
- Scheme aim is to assist in increasing innovation and diversification by funding fundamental studies, industrial studies, experimental development and feasibility studies for public good and/or commercial advantage in all aspects of primary horticulture production (edible and amenity).
- Open to SMEs engaging in primary horticulture production that would like to innovate and diversify in the horticulture industry but need to carry out specific studies (feasibility/desk based) before doing so.
- Applications must be made by the primary producer but can be in partnership with a research institution or another entity e.g. consultant.
- Rate of grant aid depends on the type of study from 25% to 100%.
- No minimum investment amount but the upper investment per project under the scheme is €500,000.



# Innovation & Diversification in Horticulture Schemes

- **The 2025 Scheme of Investment Aid for Innovation and Diversification in Horticulture (Capital Investments).**
- Aim is to assist in increasing innovation and diversification in horticulture by grant aiding capital investments.
- Open to micro, small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) active in the primary horticulture production.
- Examples of eligible investments: processing and juicing/cider making equipment for apple growers / dehydrators to process mushroom or broccoli powders / automation equipment to improve the picking and processing (not packing) of produce.
- Grant aid shall be paid at the maximum rate of 50% and 60% for Young Farmers and Registered Organic Growers.
- The minimum investment which will be considered for grant aid is €10,000 excluding VAT.



# Innovation & Diversification in Horticulture Schemes

- **2025 Scheme of Investment Aid for Process and Organisational Innovation in Horticulture for Large Enterprises.**
- The scheme aims to encourage organisational and process innovation among large enterprises active in the horticulture industry, namely primary agricultural production.
- The schemes objectives are as follows:
  - To encourage primary producers to innovate in areas which can lead to increased efficiencies.
  - To encourage effective collaboration with other actors (SMEs) whose expertise and technologies can help to deliver improved performances and/or new or improved production methods.
- 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.



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

- Aim: To assist in the development of the horticulture sector, including beekeeping & seed potatoes.
- The Scheme is intended to assist in the development of the horticulture sector (including seed potatoes & beekeeping) by grant aiding capital investments in specialised plant and equipment.
- The Scheme is open to micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) active in the primary horticulture production sector.
- Aid will be payable at the maximum rate of 40% (at a maximum rate of 50% in the case of young farmers & licensed organic growers) on the accepted net cost of investments approved.





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

- The minimum investment which will be considered for grant aid is €7,500 excluding VAT.
- The upper cumulative limit, per applicant, for investments under the scheme over the period 2023 - 2027 is €5m (maximum grant aid €2m).
- Scheme is funded through the National Exchequer.
- This scheme falls under State Aid in accordance with the Guidelines for State aid in the agricultural and forestry sectors and in rural areas.
- 2025 Horticulture Budget is €8.5million.



# Eligible Investment Items

- The scheme is confined to new investments specifically related to horticulture.
- No specific list of eligible investment items.
- Related to primary production only (not processing).
- Examples of items grant aided:

Harvesting equipment

Irrigation equipment

Grading / packing lines

Planting Equipment

Polytunnels

Propagation Equipment

Renewable energy

Glasshouses

Specialized Tractors

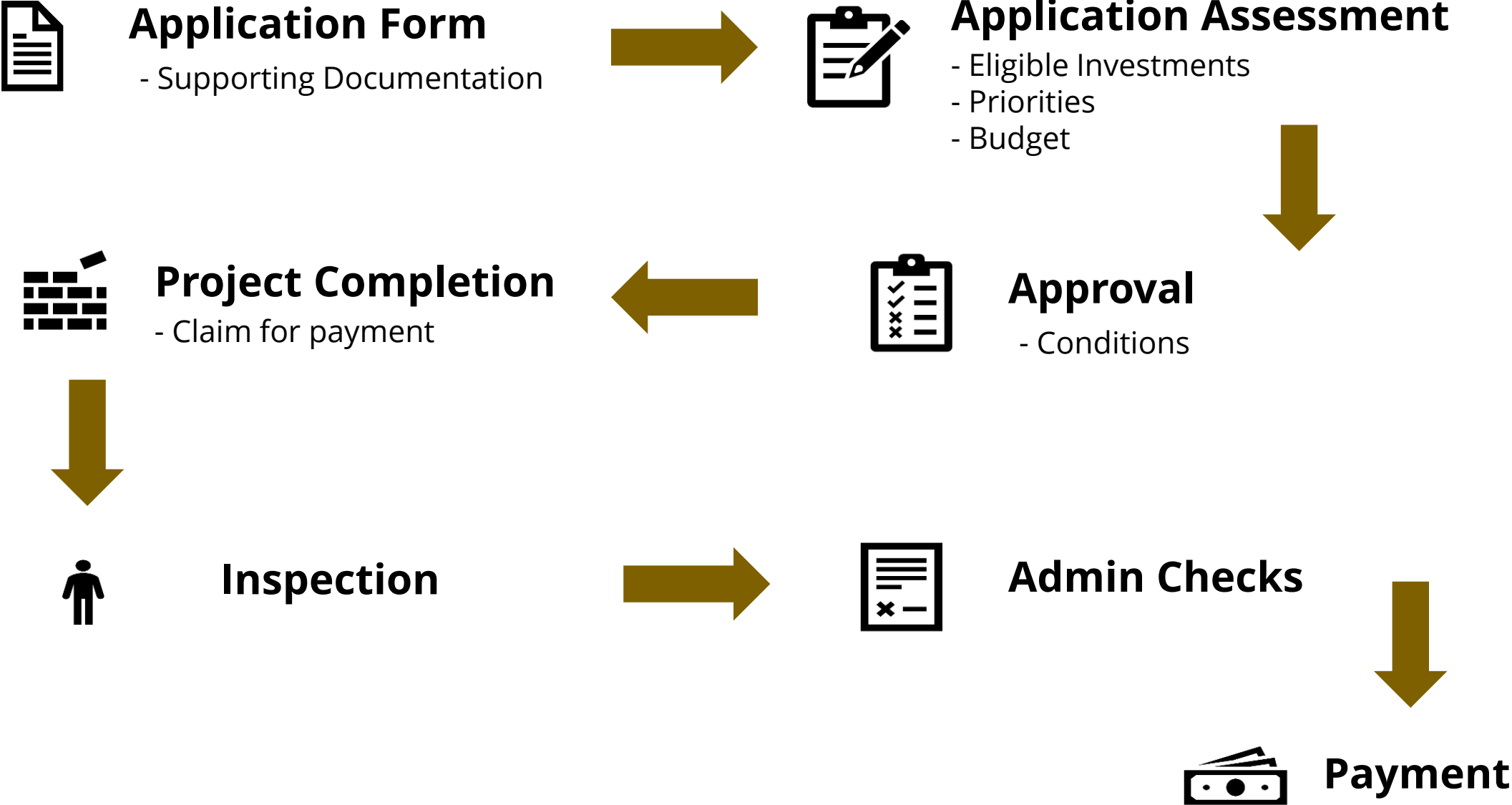
Frost Protection Equipment

Mushroom Tunnels

Automation upgrades



# Scheme Process



# Further Information



- **DAFM Website:**

[gov - Schemes and Payments \(www.gov.ie\)](http://www.gov.ie) (Horticulture)

- **Email:**

[Horticulturegrants@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:Horticulturegrants@agriculture.gov.ie)



**Thank You**

