

## Organic Farming Scheme

**The Organic Farming Scheme is funded under Axis 2 of the Rural Development Programme and delivered by DARD.**

**It aims to protect and enhance the rural environment and encourage and assist farmers to convert to organic farming to help meet consumer demand for organic produce.**

It provides payments to help them with the additional costs and loss of income that occurs during the conversion period to organic production.

Programme website [www.rdpni.info](http://www.rdpni.info) provides a full list of what is currently open for applications together with further details of each scheme/ programme and how to apply.

If you do not have access to the Internet or require additional information please contact us using the details below.

### What happens next?



When the Organic Farming Scheme is open for applications, you should contact us to register your interest and check your eligibility. This can be done using the details below.

If you are eligible for the Scheme, we will arrange to visit your farm. During this visit you will be given an overview of the Scheme rules, your land will be classified, and any documents relating to organic certification will be considered.

If your application is successful, you will be offered an agreement which you must sign and return to us. We will then send confirmation that you have entered an agreement and will provide you with a start date. The agreement will indicate the fields that will receive payment, and provide a breakdown of the payment for those fields.

Each land parcel entered will receive a maximum of five payments, provided Scheme obligations are maintained.

### Who can apply?



The Organic Farming Scheme is open to all farmers and land managers with a Business Identification Number (Business ID) and at least one hectare of horticultural land or at least three hectares of arable, improved and semi-improved land.

### What funding is available?



Annual payments vary according to farm size, type of land and crops grown.

### How do I apply?



Applications to the Scheme will be invited during specific periods. The opening and closing dates for schemes/programmes supported under the Rural Development Programme are advertised and promoted widely. The Rural Development