

Agricultural and Forestry Processing and Marketing Grant Scheme

The Agricultural and Forestry Processing and Marketing Grant Scheme is funded under Axis 1 of the Rural Development Programme.

It seeks to improve the economic performance and international competitiveness of the agri-food processing, horticulture and forestry sectors.

The scheme is delivered jointly by DARD and Invest Northern Ireland.

The key aims of the Scheme are:

- to improve the competitiveness of agricultural (including horticultural) and forestry products in the market place and benefit the primary producers providing the raw material for processing;
- to encourage greater integration and collaboration between producers and processors;
- to add value to agricultural products through the application of appropriate technology together with sound manufacturing processes; and
- to improve the application of appropriate technology in the forestry sector where the output is a renewable energy product.

In the case of the forestry sector the Scheme is limited to micro enterprises.

Projects must primarily (at least 90%) concern the processing and/or marketing of primary agricultural products or forestry products (fishery products are not included) covered by Annex 1 to the Treaty of Rome. Investments must fall within the following sectors:

- Red meat;
- Pig meat;
- Poultry meat;
- Eggs;
- Milk and milk products;
- Potatoes;
- Horticulture (including fruit and vegetables);
- Cereals;
- Forestry.

What funding is available?



The level of grant aid will vary depending on the size and turnover of the enterprise. The maximum grant payable is at a rate of 40% of eligible costs subject to a maximum of £500,000. In the case of forestry applications, the maximum grant available is £130,000.

Who can apply?



The Scheme is open to micro, small, medium and intermediate sized enterprises with fewer than 750 employees in the agricultural and horticultural sectors who are involved in processing and marketing including:

- processors;
- groups of producers who market their produce collaboratively; and
- individual producers who want to process and market their own produce.