



Guidelines
regarding the
Applications for Measures to improve
the Conditions for the Production and Market
of Apiculture Products
National Programme 2020-2022

1. Introduction

Beekeeping is a sector within the agricultural sector, the main functions of which are economic activity and rural development, the production of honey and other products and the maintenance of an ecological balance.

In view of the spread of disease of varroasis in several Member States and the problems which this disease causes for honey production, action by the European Union (EU) is necessary as varroasis cannot be completely eradicated and is to be treated with EU-approved products.

Given these circumstances and in order to improve the production and marketing of Apiculture products, a National Apiculture Programme is launched every three years whereby EU funds are sought in aid of beekeepers. The European Union provides 50% of the funds while the Maltese Government disburses the other 50% of the allocated funds.

2. Aid Measures

List of Measures

1. Technical assistance to beekeepers and groups of beekeepers
 - a) Organisation of seminars and workshops for the Maltese beekeepers (e.g. Training on better and more modern management of varroa and other diseases)
 - b) Purchase or subscription to apiculture literature (e.g. DVD's, course materials, presentations, and subscriptions to specialist beekeeping journals/magazines)
 - c) Production and distribution of informative material (e.g. website and other knowledge transfer tools)
2. Control of Varroasis
 - a) Purchase of treatment/s for Varroa and other diseases (e.g. strips, powder, sterilization)
 - b) Purchase of equipment to aid against Varroa and other diseases (e.g. Varroa flooring)
 - c) Research, testing of treatments and screening for varroa resistance and other diseases
 - d) Practical demonstrations and training to beekeepers by local and foreign experts
3. Rationalisation of Transhumance
 - a) Purchase of small equipment necessary for transhumance (e.g. belts, netting screens)
 - b) Research which leads to the identification of sites having the best foraging potential for nomadic bees and the planning of routes

4. Support for laboratories carrying out analyses of honey
 - a. Number of physico-chemical analysis of honey
 - b. Purchase of specialised research equipment
 - c. Amount spent on the physico-chemical analysis of honey samples

5. Support for the restocking of hives
 - a) Purchase of bee colonies, nuclei and queens in order to maintain the existing number of bee colonies
 - b) Purchase of queen breeding apparatus and equipment (e.g. breeder boxes, Queen cages, hair roller cages, specialised tweezers, Queen cups, etc.)

6. Cooperation with specialised entities to carry out research on the rearing of bees and apiculture products
 - a) Cost of research carried out on the improvement of the quality of the apiculture products through physico-chemical and microbiological analysis and studies related to the typification of the same products on the basis of botanical and geographical origin
 - b) Research carried out on bee diseases

3. Eligible beneficiaries

Anyone registered with the Directorate of Veterinary Regulation as well as bee associations, farmers' cooperatives and producer organizations can apply for these funds.

Beekeepers associations, beekeepers, farmer cooperatives and producer organizations which have already received aid on these same beekeeping measures from Commission Regulation (EC) No 1305/2013 dealing with Rural Development are not eligible.

4. Necessary Documents

- Copy of the Identity Card from both sides.
- Site Plan on which the location of the colonies is indicated. This site plan can be obtained from the same office from where the application can be submitted.
- For measures 1, 3, 4 and 6: invoice and fiscal receipt and proof of payment. The fiscal receipt needs to be issued from 1 August 2021 by no later than 31 July 2022 and will need to be accompanied by a copy of the encashed cheque image and/or copy of the bank transfer accordingly. In the case of cash payment, invoice and fiscal receipt will suffice
- For measure 4: number of the physico-chemical samples analysed.
- For measure 6: report on the research carried out will need to be attached to the application.
- In the case of an association, cooperative or producer organisation, a copy of the latest Statute signed by the president and the secretary; list of all committee members and a photocopy of their I.D. Card; Programme of Activities; and Financial Plan.
- VAT number in the case of a Competent Authority.
- In the case that this is the first time that you are applying for funding under this programme, or if there have been changes to your bank details, you are requested to

submit the Bank Payment Form. This can be access from the Agency’s website: <https://agrikoltura.gov.mt/en/arpa/Pages/applicationForms.aspx> or by requesting a copy at the Front Office.

5. Promotion of Measures

For those interested in applying, these measures will be published through:

- Advert in the Government Gazette
- The Agency’s website <https://agrikoltura.gov.mt/en/arpa/Pages/ARPAhome.aspx>

6. Allocated Funds

Beneficiaries will receive funding according to the information provided in their application.

In the case of measures 1, 3, 4 u 6, the money will be disbursed according to the receipts submitted with the application, provided that sufficient funds are available. If the amount of payment requests exceeds the amount of funds available then a points system will be introduced and the allocation will be distributed according to how many points the applicant has been given. Points will be awarded on the following criteria:

- How relevant the cost to the measure is;
- The relevance of training/research/study to the measure is;
- How much beekeepers will benefit from this action;
- The outcome of this action;
- How sustainable this action is.

VAT will not be eligible for payment on both local and foreign receipts.

In respect of measures 2 and 5, the funds will be disbursed according to the number of colonies declared by the applicant. The maximum amount that may be paid to the beneficiary may not exceed the annual cost of €13 per colony for measure 2 and €10 per colony for measure 5.

The total amount of funds allocated for these measures has been increased to €28,274.00. Under no circumstance may the amount of funds allocated by the EU and the Government of Malta exceed the totals indicated in this table.

Measure	Total	Government of Malta Contribution	EU Contribution
1. Technical assistance to beekeepers and groups of beekeepers a) Organisation of seminars and workshops for the	€5,485.44	€2,742.72	€2,742.72

<p>Maltese beekeepers (eg. Training on better and more modern management of varroa and other diseases)</p> <p>b) Purchase or subscription to apiculture literature (eg. DVD's, course materials, presentations, and subscriptions to specialist beekeeping journals/magazines)</p> <p>c) Production and distribution of informative material (eg. website and other knowledge transfer tools)</p>			
<i>Sub-total</i>	€5,485.44	€2,742.72	€2,742.72
<p>2. Control of Varroasis</p> <p>a) Purchase of treatment/s for Varroa and other diseases (eg. strips, powder, sterilization)</p> <p>b) Purchase of equipment to aid against Varroa and other diseases (eg. Varroa flooring)</p> <p>c) Research, testing of treatments and screening for varroa resistance and other diseases</p> <p>d) Practical demonstrations and training to beekeepers by local and foreign experts</p>	€16,504.92	€8,252.46	€8,252.46
<i>Sub-total</i>	€16,504.92	€8,252.46	€8,252.46
<p>3. Rationalisation of Transhumance</p> <p>a) Purchase of small equipment necessary for transhumance (eg. belts, netting screens)</p> <p>b) Research which leads to the identification of sites having the best foraging potential for nomadic bees and the planning of routes</p>	€658.62	€329.31	€329.31
<i>Sub-total</i>	€658.62	€329.31	€329.31
<p>4. Support for laboratories carrying out analyses of</p>	€1,881.80	€940.90	€940.90

honey a) Number of physico-chemical analysis of honey b) Purchase of specialised research equipment c) Amount spent on the physico-chemical analysis of honey samples			
<i>Sub-total</i>	€1,881.80	€940.90	€940.90
5. Support for the restocking of hives a) Purchase of bee colonies, nuclei and queens in order to maintain the existing number of bee colonies b) Purchase of queen breeding apparatus and equipment (eg. breeder boxes, Queen cages, hair roller cages, specialised tweezers, Queen cups, etc.)	€2,201.70	€1,100.85	€1,100.85
<i>Sub-total</i>	€2,201.70	€1,100.85	€1,100.85
6. Cooperation with specialised entities to carry out research on the rearing of bees and apiculture products a) Cost of research carried out on the improvement of the quality of the apiculture products through physico-chemical and microbiological analysis and studies related to the typification of the same products on the basis of botanical and geographical origin b) Research carried out on bee diseases	€1,541.52	€770.76	€770.76
<i>Sub-total</i>	€1,541.52	€770.76	€770.76
Totale Euro	€28,274.00	€14,137.00	€14,137.00

In any event where the beneficiary is given undue funds, the Agriculture and Rural Payments Agency may request a refund. Such notification will be made in writing and shall be effective without the need for legal proceedings.

7. Controls and Inspections

The Agriculture and Rural Payments Agency is responsible for carrying out inspections and controls on the premises related to the application. This is done in order to verify the correctness of the information provided.

With regards to measures 2 and 5, the Control Officers will ensure that varroa strips or medicine are in use or at least that they are in place for whenever the need arises.

8. Irregularities

If during the inspections it is found that there are fewer colonies than stated on the application, the amount of funds will be deducted and the beneficiary will be paid on the amount of colonies found. This only applies if the discrepancy between the colonies found and those declared is not more than 9.99% of that stated in the application.

If the discrepancy found is equal to or greater than 10% of that stated in the application, but not greater than 19.99%, the amount of funds requested will be reduced by 50%.

The beneficiary will be excluded from payment during the current year if the discrepancy is equal to or more than 20% of that stated in the application.

If during the inspections it is found that there are more colonies than stated on the application, the beneficiary will be paid on the amount he has applied for in the application.

9. Application

Aid applications can be collected and completed at the Front Office of the Agricultural and Rural Payments Agency located at Pitkali Markets Ta 'Qali, limits of Attard and from the Gozo Office inside the Government Experimental Farm, Triq l-Imgarr, Xewkija, Gozo.

An electronic copy of the application may be requested by sending an email on arpa.mafa@gov.mt.

The application period will be open from Monday, 1st August 2022 to Friday, 12th August 2022. Office opening hours are Monday to Friday from 07:30am to 12:30pm.

Applications received after the deadline will not be accepted.