

## **Measure 7 “Farm diversification and business development”**

Expenditure linked to the following activities will be considered eligible:

- To raise the economic activity level in rural areas by developing additional business activities.
- To foster employment by creating new jobs and maintaining the existing jobs to reverse rural depopulation.
- To improve farmers' position in the value chain.
- To assist young farmers in diversifying into new economic activities, in addition to their farming production.
- To contribute to climate change adaptation and mitigation by supporting renewable energy investments.

The following **categories of project costs** should be considered as eligible:

- (Re) construction, extension and modernisation of buildings/facilities (including new equipment and electrical and plumbing facilities) for all sectors identified in the IPARD III programme, which contribute to the objectives of this measure, and especially for environmental objectives and the circular economy.
- Investments in the preparation and improvement of land for new plantations, including perennial plants.
- Architects', engineers' and other consultation fees, costs for establishment of collective projects, feasibility studies - eligible up to a ceiling of 10% of the investment costs.
- New machinery and equipment needed for renewable energy.
- New machinery and equipment needed to fulfil the relevant standards for the project.
- New material, machinery and equipment to diversify existing agricultural production, e.g. production of medicinal and aromatic plants, ornamental plants, mushrooms, snails, earthworms, ostriches, beekeeping, aquaculture, etc.
- New material, machinery and equipment needed for other economic activities not directly linked with the farming activity, e.g. on farm processing of own production, marketing of own production in facilities at farm gate and in urban areas, agro-tourism and associated recreational activities (horse riding, fishing, hunting,), educational farms, childcare activities.
- New machinery and equipment to strengthen collective projects, e.g. on sharing facilities, machines, equipment for production and processing of agricultural products, or establishing and developing short supply chains and local markets.
- New machinery and equipment to provide services, e.g. machinery rings, reparation of agricultural machinery.
- New equipment for providing any type of general services to rural population, e.g. kindergartens, IT centres, houses for the elderly, transport services, as well as establishing community village centres.

- New machinery and equipment for local craftsmanship and small-scale processing and marketing of local agricultural or forestry products, including traditional local food or non-food specialities.

NB! The purchase of agricultural production rights, animals, annual plants and their planting shall **not** be eligible for support.

NB! Costs connected with a leasing contract, such as lessor's margin, interest refinancing costs, overheads and insurance charges, shall **not** be eligible expenditure.