



**STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
**AND RURAL AREAS OF THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA FOR**  
**THE PERIOD 2023-2027**

**Intervention II.D.1.1. Investments in agricultural holdings aimed  
at protecting environmental components**

**Eligible applicants:**

- farmers;
- producer groups and organizations;
- cooperative associations of farmers;

**Farmers eligible for support must also meet the following conditions:**

1. be natural persons or;
2. be legal entities registered under the Commerce Act or the Cooperatives Act, the Religions Act or established under the Agricultural Academy Act.
3. be registered as farmers under the Agricultural Producers Support Act for at least 24 months prior to applying for support and have not ceased their activity during this period;
4. have income/revenue from agricultural activity and/or income/revenue from services directly related to agricultural activity and/or processing of agricultural produce and/or participation and support under the Single Area Payment Scheme and/or public financial assistance for their agricultural activity;
5. have a minimum standard production volume (SPO) of the farm over 8,000 euros;
6. For the activity "Reproduction and maintenance of the gene pool" are eligible farmers, raising animals of local (autochthonous) breeds.



7. have a developed business plan for the activities in the farm and proving the improvement of the farm's activities through the implementation of the planned investments and activities; The projects should be sustainable and financially viable.

**Producer groups and organizations eligible for support must meet the following conditions:**

1. be recognized as a group or organization of producers, in accordance with national and/or European legislation on organizations and/or groups of producers;
2. have income from the sale of agricultural products or processed agricultural products and/or received public financial assistance for the sale of the specified products;
3. have a developed business plan for the activities of the producer group/organization and proving the improvement of its activities through the implementation of the planned investments and activities;

Farmers with agricultural holdings, for which it is applicable, must meet the requirements of the Veterinary Medical Activity Act;

Support within the framework of the intervention is provided in accordance with Art. 73 of Regulation (EU) 2021/2115 of 02 December 2021 only for tangible and/or intangible assets, including machinery, facilities, equipment, including real estate, as well as general costs related to the supported activity.

**Objectives of the intervention:**

- contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation, including by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and enhancing carbon sequestration, and promoting sustainable energy
- promoting sustainable development and efficient management of natural resources, such as water, soil and air, including by reducing dependence on chemicals
- contributing to slowing down and restoring biodiversity loss, enhancing ecosystem services and preserving habitats and landscapes
- interdepartmental objective to modernize the sector by stimulating and sharing knowledge, innovation and digitalization in agriculture and rural areas and by promoting their uptake



**Eligible activities:**

1. Organic production:

1.1. creation of permanent plantations, including nurseries, in an organic way - purchase of planting material and other materials, agrotechnical measures for land preparation and planting, etc.;

1.2. construction/repair/reconstruction and equipment of livestock facilities for raising animals in an organic way;

2. Tangible and intangible investments for the application of precision/smart/digital farming technologies - optimization of soil cultivation, use of fertilizers and plant protection products, precision irrigation (systems and equipment used for collection, processing and analysis, remote control, management and monitoring of irrigation data, excluding investments in elements of irrigation infrastructure), prevention of animal diseases, regenerative/conservation agriculture, collection and analysis of data on waste generated by agricultural production, tracking of greenhouse gas emissions on the farm, such as (non-exhaustive list): sensors, drones, artificial intelligence, satellite images, automation and robotics, incl. agricultural machinery with such components.

3. Gene pool propagation and maintenance - construction/repair/reconstruction and equipment of livestock facilities for raising and breeding animals of local (autochthonous) breeds.

4. Investments for the production of energy from renewable energy sources (hydro, wind, solar, geothermal and residual/waste biomass) for own consumption for the needs of agricultural holdings;

5. Investments aimed at exceeding animal welfare requirements and increasing biosecurity.

**Conditions for eligibility of activities:**

Investments eligible for support under the intervention must:

·Be related to the production of agricultural products included in Annex I to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union or cotton, with the exception of fish and fishery products.



·In accordance with Article 93 of Regulation (EU) 2021/2115, the intervention shall support activities and investments that are entirely aimed at the specific objectives set out in Article 6(1)(d), (e) and (f).

Support is not provided for activities and investments that would harm the environment.

The investments included in the project proposal must be accompanied by a document from the competent environmental authority (RIESV/MEW/BD), issued in accordance with the procedure of the Environmental Protection Act and/or the Biodiversity Act and the Biodiversity Act.

The intervention supports activities and costs in organic production that are not supported under the interventions under Art. 70 and Art. 31 of Regulation (EU) 2021/2115 of December 2, 2021.

·The tangible and intangible investments included in the project proposal must be in accordance with the parameters and activities subject to support and included in the developed business plan.

·For collective investments - be related to the main agricultural activity of production and/or storage of agricultural products produced by their members, as well as preparation of the production for sale.

**Applicants with investments in organic production:**

-By the date of submission of the project proposal, they should have a contract concluded with a controlling entity, which has received permission from the Minister of Agriculture to carry out control of compliance of organic production, relating to the areas for permanent crops/existing livestock farms, the object of the investment. In the case of the construction of a new livestock farm, the contract with the controlling entity should be submitted by the date of submission of the application for final payment;

-By the end of the 5-year monitoring period, they should be certified as producers of organic production from the crops/livestock farms, the object of support.

·Investments in agricultural machinery are eligible for support only if they include a set of activities that contribute to environmental and climate protection and comply with the objectives set out in Article 6, paragraph 1, letter "d", letter "e" and letter "f" of Regulation (EU) 2021/2015;

·Financial support for investments to achieve compliance with newly introduced Union and national standards will be provided, and in order to comply with these requirements, support



may be granted within 24 months from the date on which the requirements become mandatory for agricultural holdings. For existing Union standards, support for investments going beyond the mandatory requirements is admissible.

Installations for the production of energy from renewable sources must comply with the sustainability conditions in the Renewable Energy Act.

When implementing the intervention activities, the requirements of the legislation on the environment, water and spatial planning, as well as the measures, conditions and prescriptions of the competent authorities, shall be complied with in order to:

- prevent activities that lead to changes in the hydrological regime of water-dependent natural habitats and habitats of species subject to protection in protected areas, and to the destruction of riparian woody vegetation;
- not allowing the implementation of activities to improve existing irrigation installations or elements of irrigation infrastructure during the breeding season of birds.

Support is provided in accordance with Art. 73 of Regulation (EU) No 2021/2115 of 02 December 2021.

**1. Financial assistance is up to 50% of the total amount of eligible costs.**

For each category of applicants, when starting admissions, it is permissible to define different financial conditions in the national rules for the implementation of interventions in terms of intensity and maximum amount of eligible costs after coordination with the Monitoring Committee of the Strategic Plan;

2. Depending on the amount of financial assistance for individual categories of agricultural holdings, the same may be increased by up to 25% for project proposals submitted by applicants, groups/organizations of producers and cooperative associations of farmers;
3. The financial assistance may be increased by up to 10% for project proposals implemented in sensitive sectors identified in the analysis of the SP;

The maximum levels of assistance may not exceed the maximum aid intensity referred to in Article 73(4) of Regulation (EU) No 2021/2115.

4. For the activity "Genetology propagation and maintenance", the financial assistance shall be up to 80% of the total amount of eligible costs, pursuant to the provisions of Article 73(4)(a)(i) of Regulation (EU) No 2021/2115 of 2 December 2021.

**5. The minimum amount of eligible costs for one project proposal is EUR 15,000.**



6. The maximum amount of eligible costs for one applicant for the period of implementation of the intervention and for one project is up to 1,000,000 euros;
7. The maximum amount of eligible costs for investments in agricultural machinery for one applicant for the period of implementation of the intervention is up to 450,000 euros.
8. The total maximum amount of eligible costs for intervention II. D.1 "Investments in agricultural holdings" and II. D.1.1 "Investments in agricultural holdings aimed at protecting environmental components" for one applicant for the period of implementation of the interventions is up to 1,800,000 euros;
9. The total maximum amount of eligible costs for intervention II. D.1 "Investments in agricultural holdings" and II. D.1.1 "Investments in agricultural holdings aimed at protecting environmental components" for investments in agricultural machinery for one applicant for the period of application of the interventions is up to 700,000 euros.
10. The maximum amount of eligible costs for one applicant corresponding to the definition of a producer group/organization, for the period of application of the intervention and for one project is up to 1,500,000 euros;
11. The maximum amount of eligible costs for investments in agricultural machinery for one applicant corresponding to the definition of a producer group/organization for the period of application of the intervention is up to 750,000 euros.
12. The total maximum amount of eligible costs for intervention II. D.1 "Investments in agricultural holdings" and II. D.1.1 "Investments in agricultural holdings aimed at protecting environmental components" for one applicant corresponding to the definition of a producer group/organization for the period of implementation of the interventions is up to EUR 2,000,000;
13. The total maximum amount of eligible costs for intervention II. D.1 "Investments in agricultural holdings" and II. D.1.1 "Investments in agricultural holdings aimed at protecting environmental components" for investments in agricultural machinery for one applicant corresponding to the definition of a producer group/organization for the period of application of the interventions is up to EUR 800,000.

**Priorities (projects that receive more points and are more likely to be financed):**

- projects for the introduction of new and energy-saving technologies or innovations in agricultural production



- projects promoting cooperation and integration between agricultural producers
  - projects demonstrating financial sustainability and developing and strengthening value chains from producer to consumer, including participating in quality schemes with the relevant product from the business plan
  - the entry of young farmers
  - applicants in areas with natural and other constraints
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- production of organic products
  - production of products registered under the quality schemes
  - projects promoting cooperation and integration between agricultural producers – organizations/groups of producers
  - financially stable applicants (this criteria is comparing the amount of the investment to the profits of the candidate)
  - projects of young farmers (18 – 40 years old)
  - projects in regions with natural and other constraints
  - applicants registered in the Agricultural and Accounting Information System (a BG official register)
  - Projects related to the production of renewable energy for the needs of the farm
  - Projects of applicants who haven't received financial support under the investment measures in the past