



GOVERNMENT
OF MALTA



DIRECT PAYMENTS INTERVENTIONS – SPECIFIC PROVISIONS



BISS

Basic Income Support for Sustainability



Funded by
the European Union

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DIRECT PAYMENTS INTERVENTIONS – SPECIFIC PROVISIONS

Basic Income Support for Sustainability - BISS

As from 2023 Malta shall cease using the payment entitlements allocated for the Basic Income Support. In line with Article 22 of Regulation (EU) No 2115/2021 Malta shall be paying a uniform rate per Hectare to all farmers for all eligible areas in Malta, hence the BISS shall not be based on payment entitlements. The eligible areas are determined through the LPIS.

BISS – Eligibility Criteria

- ▶ Comply with the definition of an active farmer as defined in the CAP SP;
- ▶ Must have a minimum total holding of 0.3 Ha of eligible agricultural area;
- ▶ At parcel level the minimum area is of 0.01 Ha;
- ▶ Applications are to be submitted within the deadlines as established by ARPA;
- ▶ Must be registered in the IACS Farmer Registry as maintained by ARPA and the Nitrates Registry as maintained by the Directorate of Agriculture at the time of application;
- ▶ All eligible hectares claimed should be unambiguously located on site and through satellite images and registered with ARPA at the time of application;
- ▶ Applicants shall be in line with standard mandatory agricultural conditions and thus should be able to provide records of their actions.

BISS – Payment Rate Calculation

- Minimum Rate set in CAP SP 2023-2026: €594.00
- Maximum Rate set in CAP SP 2023-2026: €637.72
- Minimum Rate set in CAP SP 2027: €81.09
- Maximum Rate set in CAP SP 2027: €86.56



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PSF Payment for Small Farmers



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DIRECT PAYMENTS INTERVENTIONS – SPECIFIC PROVISIONS

Payment for Small Farmers – PSF

As from 2023 Malta shall be providing this voluntary scheme under which small farmers may be paid a lump sum payment of €250 per year. This scheme replaces all Direct Payment interventions, and thus end farmers opting to apply for this intervention may not benefit from other DP interventions.

Farmers who apply for this intervention may opt out of this scheme by informing ARPA in writing during the request period as set by ARPA.

PSF – Eligibility Criteria

- ▶ Must have a minimum of 0.3 Ha of eligible agricultural area; and in the case of the payment for small farmers, active farmers must not have more than 1 eligible hectare declared under their name;
- ▶ At parcel level the minimum area is of 0.01 Ha;
- ▶ Complies with the definition of an active farmer as defined in the CAP SP;
- ▶ Applications are to be submitted within the deadlines as established by ARPA;
- ▶ Active farmers must be registered in the IACS Farmer Registry as maintained by ARPA and the Nitrates Registry as maintained by the Agriculture Directorate at the time of application;
- ▶ All eligible hectares claimed should be unambiguously located on site and through satellite images and registered with ARPA at time of application;
- ▶ The active farmer has not opted out of this scheme.

PSF – Payment Rate Calculation

Eligible applicants are paid a lump sum payment of €250 per year. Farmers with area determined of less than 0.3 Ha or more than 1 Ha shall be deemed ineligible for payment.



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DIRECT PAYMENTS INTERVENTIONS – SPECIFIC PROVISIONS



CISYF Complimentary Income Support for Young Farmers



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DIRECT PAYMENTS INTERVENTIONS – SPECIFIC PROVISIONS

Complimentary Income Support for Young Farmers - CISYF

The Complimentary Income Support for Young Farmers shall be paid at a flat rate per hectare, as a top up on the BISS payment and is payable to newly setup young farmers that comply with the Eligibility Conditions outlined under this intervention.

Support will be provided either:

- ▶ For five (5) years from the first year of submission of the application for this intervention;
 - ▶ Or in the case of those already receiving support under Article 50 of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 for the remainder of the five (5) year period from the first year of submission of the application;
 - ▶ Or five years from the first year of registration of the holding in the Nitrates Register; whichever comes first.
- ▶ Must have a minimum total holding of 0.3 Ha of eligible agricultural area;
 - ▶ Applications are to be submitted within the deadlines as established by ARPA;
 - ▶ All eligible hectares claimed should be unambiguously located on site and through satellite images and registered with ARPA at time of application;
 - ▶ Those already receiving support under Article 50 of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 are eligible for support for the remainder of the five (5) year period from the first year of submission of the application, given that they are eligible in line with the above criteria.

CISYF – Eligibility Criteria

- ▶ Comply with the definition of an active farmer as defined in the CAP SP;
- ▶ Comply with the definition of a young farmer farmers who have newly set up for the first time as defined in the CAP SP (“Newly setup for the first time” refers only to farmers who registered their holding in the Nitrates Register within the last 5 years as at the closing date of the application campaign);
- ▶ Comply with the definition of “head of holding” for the first time as defined in the CAP SP;
- ▶ Eligible parcels must be at least must have a minimum of 0.01 Ha;

CISYF – Payment Rate Calculation

- Minimum Rate set in CAP SP 2023-2026: €520.64
- Maximum Rate set in CAP SP 2023-2026: €560.00
- Minimum Rate set in CAP SP 2027: €70.00
- Maximum Rate set in CAP SP 2027: €80.00

The intervention shall take the form of an additional annual top-up payment per eligible hectare.



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DIRECT PAYMENTS INTERVENTIONS – SPECIFIC PROVISIONS



ES1 ECO-SCHEME 1 Dedicating Parcels to Enhance Biodiversity and Pollination



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DIRECT PAYMENTS INTERVENTIONS – SPECIFIC PROVISIONS

Eco-scheme 1 – Dedicating Parcels to Enhance Biodiversity and Pollination - ES 1

Beneficiaries must commit to dedicating a whole area of at least one (1) land parcel to biodiversity for 3 years by refraining from cultivating the land for crop production and without the use of Plant Protection Products, including fertilisers. The scheme shall compensate farmers who decide to forego their income on whole parcels whilst cultivating plants of high ecological value on that parcel.

ES 1 – Eligibility Criteria

- ▶ Farmers eligible for BISS;
- ▶ Committed parcels must at least have a total eligible area of 0.04 Ha throughout the commitment period;
- ▶ At commitment level the minimum area must at least be 0.04 Ha;
- ▶ Only one (1) eco-scheme shall be allowed per parcel;
- ▶ Farmer must declare the plant species in the IACS digital crop plan;
- ▶ The application may not be submitted unless the farmer indicates at least 3 of the indicated plants in the crop plan.
- ▶ The application may not be submitted unless the farmer indicates at least 3 of the plants listed in the CAP SP in the crop plan. Each plant must at least cover 10% of the eligible area;
- ▶ Farmer must upload photos through BiedjaCam each year as evidence of the adherence with the commitments under the scheme;
- ▶ Parcel must be maintained under annual minimum agricultural activity.

ES 1 – Commitments

- ▶ No Plant Protection Products or fertilisers shall be allowed;
- ▶ Whole eligible area of the parcels committed in holding dedicated to biodiversity for at least 3 years;
- ▶ Whole eligible area of the parcel must be planted with the plant species indicated in the CAP SP;

ES 1 – Payment Rate Calculation

- Minimum Rate set in CAP SP 2023-2026: €1,700.00
- Maximum Rate set in CAP SP 2023-2026: €2,500.00
- Minimum Rate set in CAP SP 2027: €1,100.00
- Maximum Rate set in CAP SP 2027: €1,197.70

The intervention shall take the form of an annual payment per eligible hectare covered by the commitment.



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DIRECT PAYMENTS INTERVENTIONS – SPECIFIC PROVISIONS



ES 2 ECO-SCHEME 2 Integrated Pest Management



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DIRECT PAYMENTS INTERVENTIONS – SPECIFIC PROVISIONS

Eco-scheme 2 – Integrated Pest Management

Farmers under this scheme shall be asked to follow an integrated approach in their agricultural activity, incorporating various agronomic practices, monitoring through enhanced knowledge and apply targeted solutions to specific problems.

ES 2 – Eligibility Criteria

- ▶ Farmers eligible for BISS;
 - ▶ Committed parcels must at least have a total eligible area of at least 0.04 Ha throughout the commitment period;
 - ▶ At commitment level the minimum area is 0.04 Ha;
 - ▶ Only one (1) eco-scheme shall be allowed per parcel;
 - ▶ Farmer must provide an integrated pest management plan issued by a recognised Farm advisory service in line with Legal Notice 99 of 2019 or by competent consultant as approved by the Plant Health Directorate;
 - ▶ The IPMP must be in line with guidelines issued by the Agriculture Directorate and should include at least 3 of the techniques included in the relevant measure guidance notes.
- ▶ protection of biodiversity and de-risking of contamination from PPPs;
 - ▶ Beneficiaries must install traps on parcels to allow the farmers to identify the kind of pest/severity of infestation. Installation of traps must be based on the plans;
 - ▶ Farmers are required to retain a record, which must cover the date when monitoring was performed, the pest the farmer was monitoring for, and the number of pest(s) recorded (if any);
 - ▶ Farmer must, before submitting the application, declare the crop type in BiedjaCam and record the use of PPPs on such crops;
 - ▶ Parcel must be maintained under annual minimum agricultural activity;
 - ▶ Farmers must attend training organized by Agri-Connect related to the crops under cultivations by the end of the commitment period.

ES 2 – Commitments

- ▶ Beneficiaries must follow the Integrated Pest Management Plan on the whole area of the land parcel/s, as identified at application stage, for at least three (3) consecutive years;
- ▶ The IPM Plan must be drafted by competent individuals;
- ▶ These plans must be in line with guidelines issued by the Agriculture Directorate where applicable with enhanced emphasis on specific monitoring, prevention and control mechanisms that favour the

ES 2– Payment Rate Calculation

- Minimum Rate set in CAP SP 2023-2026: €1,500.00
- Maximum Rate set in CAP SP 2023-2026: €2,000.00
- Minimum Rate set in CAP SP 2027: €900.00
- Maximum Rate set in CAP SP 2027: €958.00

The intervention shall take the form of an annual payment per eligible hectare covered by the commitment.



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DIRECT PAYMENTS INTERVENTIONS – SPECIFIC PROVISIONS



ES 3 ECO-SCHEME 3 Encouraging the use of Bio-mulch



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Eco-scheme 3 – Encouraging the use of Bio-mulch

Beneficiaries must commit to use Bio-degradable mulch for at least one crop cycle. Agricultural plastic mulch films are used in production of specialty crops to modify soil temperatures, conserve soil moisture and reduce weed pressure, ultimately improving crop productivity. The scheme intends to be tied to the purchase of biodegradable mulch given the positive environmental benefits associated with it. The use of biodegradable mulch results in reduced waste generation as compared to conventional mulch, which is nonrecyclable material and is thus disposed of in landfill with negative externalities associated with such practice.

ES 3 – Eligibility Criteria

- ▶ Farmers eligible for BISS;
- ▶ Committed parcels must at least have a total eligible area of 0.04 Ha (of crops cultivated using biodegradable mulch) throughout the commitment period;
- ▶ At commitment level the minimum area is 0.04 Ha;
- ▶ Only one (1) eco-scheme shall be allowed per parcel;
- ▶ Farmer must declare the crop type in the digital crop plan;
- ▶ Only arable land is eligible under this eco-scheme;
- ▶ Organic farmers are ineligible under this scheme.

ES 3 – Commitments

- ▶ Farmers must submit geo-tagged photos using BiedjaCam for that particular Calendar Year;
- ▶ Parcel must be maintained under annual minimum agricultural activity;

- ▶ No herbicides may be used, de-weeding may only be carried out through manual and/or mechanical means;
- ▶ Farmer must keep records of fiscal documents related to the purchase of the Bio-degradable mulch, clearly indicating the purchase of such mulch;
- ▶ Beneficiaries must commit to use bio-degradable mulch compliant with EU standard EN 17033 on at least the whole growing cycle of one crop;
- ▶ Farmer must declare the crop on which the Bio-degradable mulch shall be used.

ES 3 – Payment Rate Calculation

- Minimum Rate set in CAP SP 2023-2026: €400
- Maximum Rate set in CAP SP 2023-2026: €430
- Minimum Rate set in CAP SP 2027: €200
- Maximum Rate set in CAP SP 2027: €206.03

The intervention shall take the form of an annual payment per eligible hectare covered by the commitment.



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DIRECT PAYMENTS INTERVENTIONS – SPECIFIC PROVISIONS



CIS Coupled Income Support

CIS M1 Dairy Sector Measure



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Coupled Income Support

Coupled Income Support will support those sectors that are highly disadvantaged and that are important for socioeconomic or environmental purposes, namely, the dairy, beef, sheep, and tomatoes (for processing) sectors.

The small size of Malta combined with the island's insularity creates several natural and structural disadvantages for these sectors.

Dairy Sector Measure - CIS M1

This scheme shall be based on an automatic claim system as provided for under Article 65 of Regulation (EU) No 2116/2021 and based on the National Livestock Database administered by the VRD.

CIS M1 – Eligibility Criteria

- ▶ Must have a contract or agreement with a dairy processor which clearly stipulates the milk yield (in kgs) to be supplied;
- ▶ Must fulfil 75% of the milk yield set out in the contract or agreement with the dairy processor. In the case that this yield is not reached, beneficiaries will not be eligible for support under this intervention unless it can be proven that it was due to a Force Majeure or due to direction provided by the competent authority;
- ▶ For an animal to be eligible for funding, by the time of data extraction, it must be registered under the name of the applicant in the National Livestock Database for a period of at least three (3) months from 1st October till the end of December; is a female appertaining to a dairy cow breed; and has at least one calf registered to that animal;
- ▶ The number of eligible heads shall be determined by an automated extraction from the NLD that shall be checked for correctness by the LBMU;

- ▶ Comply with the minimum requirements on the identification and registration of bovine animals as set out in Regulation (EC) No 1760/2000 and European Parliament and Council Regulation (EU) No 2016/429 as applicable;
- ▶ Must express their interest in this intervention on an annual basis in line with the deadlines established by ARPA.

CIS M1 – Payment Rate Calculation

- Minimum Rate set in CAP SP 2023-2027: €380
- Planned Rate set in CAP SP 2023-2027: €405
- Maximum Rate set in CAP SP 2023-2027: €440

The intervention shall take the form of an annual payment per eligible head. A uniform flat rate amount per head will be paid.



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DIRECT PAYMENTS INTERVENTIONS – SPECIFIC PROVISIONS



CIS Coupled Income Support

CIS M2 Beef Sector



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Beef Sector - CIS M2

This scheme shall be based on an automatic claim system as provided for under Article 65 of Regulation (EU) No 2116/2021 and based on the National Livestock Database administered by the VRD.

CIS M2 – Eligibility Criteria

- ▶ Must have their bovines registered in the National Livestock Database under their name for a minimum period of six (6) months before the date of slaughter. The number of eligible heads shall be determined by an automated extraction from the NLD that shall be checked for correctness by ARPA;
- ▶ Must have slaughtered at least three (3) eligible bulls; or cows of a beef breed or cross breed with a beef breed having between 8 and 20 months of age in the year of application;
- ▶ Comply with the minimum requirements on the identification and registration of bovine animals as set out in Regulation (EC) No 1760/2000;
- ▶ Must express their interest in this intervention on an annual basis in line with the deadlines established by ARPA.

CIS M2 – Payment Rate Calculation

- Minimum Rate set in CAP SP 2023-2027: €200
- Planned Rate set in CAP SP 2023-2027: €207.90
- Maximum Rate set in CAP SP 2023-2027: €220

The intervention shall take the form of an annual payment per eligible head. A uniform flat rate amount per head will be paid.



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DIRECT PAYMENTS INTERVENTIONS – SPECIFIC PROVISIONS



CIS Coupled Income Support

CIS M3 Sheep Sector



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Sheep Sector - CIS M3

This scheme shall be based on an automatic claim system as provided for under Article 65 of Regulation (EU) No 2116/2021 based on the National Livestock Database administered by the VRD.

CIS M3 – Eligibility Criteria

- ▶ Must have at least 20 ewes of twelve (12) months or older;
- ▶ Must have the ewes registered in the National Livestock Database under their name for a minimum period of six (6) months, meaning from 1 June till the end of December. The number of eligible heads shall be determined by an automated extraction from the NLD that shall be checked for correctness by the LBMU;
- ▶ Comply with the minimum requirements on the identification and registration of ovine animals as set out in Regulation (EC) No 21/2004;
- ▶ Must express their interest in this intervention on an annual basis in line with the deadlines established by ARPA.

CIS M3 – Payment Rate Calculation

- Minimum Rate set in CAP SP 2023-2027: €20
- Planned Rate set in CAP SP 2023-2027: €25
- Maximum Rate set in CAP SP 2023-2027: €30

The intervention shall take the form of an annual payment per eligible head. A uniform flat rate amount per head will be paid.



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DIRECT PAYMENTS INTERVENTIONS – SPECIFIC PROVISIONS



CIS Coupled Income Support

CIS M4 Tomatoes for Processing



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CIS M4 - Tomatoes for processing

The intervention shall take the form of an annual payment per eligible hectare.

CIS M4 – Eligibility Criteria

- ▶ Comply with the definition of an active farmer as defined in the CAP SP;
- ▶ At parcel level the minimum area is of 0.01 Ha;
- ▶ Must have a contract with a Producer Organisation or cooperative within the tomatoes for processing sector by 15 May, and fulfil at least 50% of the yield as set out in the said contract unless it can be proven by the applicant that due to a Force majeure or direction from a competent authority they could not reach this yield;
- ▶ Cultivate the tomatoes (for processing) in the agricultural parcels as declared;
- ▶ Applications are to be submitted within the deadlines as established by ARPA;
- ▶ Must be registered in the IACS Farmer Registry as maintained by ARPA and the Nitrates Registry as maintained by the Directorate of Agriculture at the time of application;
- ▶ All eligible hectares claimed should be unambiguously located on site through satellite images and registered with ARPA at time of application.

CIS M4 – Payment Rate Calculation

- Minimum Rate set in CAP SP 2023-2027: €7,000.00
- Planned Rate set in CAP SP 2023-2027: €7,861.19
- Maximum Rate set in CAP SP 2023-2027: €8,500.00

The intervention shall take the form of an annual payment per eligible Ha. A uniform flat rate amount per Ha will be paid.