



Guidelines for
Applications for Sectoral Interventions to improve
the Conditions for the Production and Marketing
of Apiculture Products

Version 3



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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.

The objective of the apiculture interventions is to promote quality in honey production through actions that facilitate the dissemination of information and knowledge to beekeepers, control of diseases and support to the methods of production and quality control. These interventions contribute to the reduction of certain production costs, while providing assistance in certain activities, which enable beekeepers to increase the benefit generated by apiculture products, contributing to ensuring a fair standard of living for beekeepers and thus increasing their earnings.

In order to improve the production and marketing of Apiculture products, support is especially crucial to this sector whereby European Union (EU) funds are sought in aid of beekeepers. The national co-financing rate for these interventions is 50%.

2. Interventions

The Maltese Apiculture Programme 2023-2027 is made up of four (4) interventions in conformity with section 5.2 regarding apiculture products in the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) Strategic Plan 2023-2027, based on actions on interventions to improve the general conditions for the production and marketing of apiculture products.

ADVIBEEES(55(1)(a)) - Advisory services, technical assistance, training, information and exchange of best practices, including through networking, for beekeepers and beekeepers' organisations

- a) Organisation of training, information seminars and workshops on various topics related to beekeeping with special emphasis on beehive invaders, pests and disease management and identification, including modern varroa management techniques by local and foreign experts

Eligible activities	Ineligible activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Expert Speaker fees✓ Hiring of venue✓ Hiring of equipment to host training, information seminars and workshops	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✗ Refreshments and beverages✗ Attendance fees for courses not organised by applicant

- i. Maximum funding *per Action*: **€2,422.82**
- ii. Definition of Action: **one training or information session or workshop** on beekeeping-related topics, organised by the applicant
- b) Subscription to apiculture literature containing updated and recent information (e.g., DVDs, course materials, presentations, and subscriptions to specialist beekeeping journals/magazines)
- c) Publication and distribution costs of informative material on local beekeeping context and apiculture products (e.g., website and other knowledge transfer tools)

Eligible activities	Ineligible activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Subscription fees to apiculture-specific literature ✓ Membership fees in organisations disseminating latest apiculture literature ✓ Printing of informative material for distribution ✓ Printing of labels containing information derived from analysis of physico-chemical properties of honey (financed under Intervention 3A) ✓ Postage and delivery fees ✓ Fees related to hosting of apiculture websites ✓ Fees for publishing informative material on social media ✓ Website domain registration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Attendance to training sessions ✗ Buying books on apiculture ✗ Purchasing back issues of apiculture journals/magazines ✗ Fees for advertising of products ✗ Fees related to websites used for selling of apiculture products

- i. Maximum funding *per Action*: **€213.28**
- ii. Definition of Action: **one subscription or membership fee** OR fees related to **one distribution campaign** (i.e. printing and posting of one pack of informative material; costs related to one apiculture website, etc.)

Required Documentation:

- Copy of the Identity Card from both sides;
- A site plan clearly indicating where the bee boxes are kept;
- Invoice and proof of payment of the relevant costs incurred. This fiscal receipt needs to be issued between 1st August 2024 and 31st July 2025 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 payments, the invoice and fiscal receipt will suffice;
- If relevant, a profile showing the Expert Speakers' qualifications and experience
- If relevant, evidence of participation in relevant training, information seminar or workshop;
- If relevant, evidence of the publication of informative material;
- If relevant, the membership fees in an organization that disseminates information must include proof of such dissemination of information.
- In case of an association, cooperative or producer organisation, a copy of the latest Statute signed by the president and the secretary, a list of all committee members and a photocopy of their I.D. Card, a Programme of Activities, and the Financial Plan;
- In case of companies, the directors must be registered with the Apiculture Register held by the Veterinary Regulation Department (VRD);
- In case of beekeepers, these must be registered in the IACS Farmer Registry in order to be eligible;
- VAT number and copy of VAT Certificate in the case of a Competent Authority;
- Applications are to be submitted within the deadlines as established by the Agency.

INVAPI(55(1)(b)) - Investments in tangible and non-tangible assets, as well as other actions including for:

a) Measures to control varroasis including:

- Beekeepers will be supported to replace or convert normal hive floors with varroa floors. This will form part of the National Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Programme against varroa in the Maltese Islands.

Other useful techniques such as drone-brood trapping will also be implemented and supported in order to reduce the frequency of use of varroacides (e.g., Varroa flooring).

- Acquisition of the appropriate varroacides (e.g., strips, powder, sterilization).

- Costs related to the continuous screening for varroa resistance (e.g., laboratory analysis).

Eligible activities	Ineligible activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Purchase of varroa floors ✓ Purchase of drone foundation sheet for drone brood trapping ✓ Purchase of varroacides ✓ Costs of Laboratory analyses related to screening for bees' resistance to varroa resistance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Purchase of physical traps or chemical methods used to control hornets

i. Maximum funding *per Beekeeper*: **€199.16**

ii. Definition of Beekeeper: a beekeeper registered on the Apiculture Register, or a Beekeeping Association, or a Cooperative, or a Producer Organisation (PO), applying for funding

b) Measures to support the restocking of hives including:

- Acquisition of new healthy queens, colonies and nuclei following colony losses due to outbreaks of disease, pesticides and other factors which are beyond the control of the beekeeper, as well as eliminating losses as a result of human action.

- Costs incurred on activities to promote queen rearing (e.g., breeder boxes, Queen cages, hair roller cages, specialised tweezers, Queen cups, etc.).

Eligible activities	Ineligible activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Purchase of new, healthy queens ✓ Purchase of colonies and nuclei ✓ Purchase of breeder boxes ✓ Purchase of Queen cages ✓ Purchase of hair roller cages ✓ Purchase of Queen cell cups ✓ Purchase of specialised equipment for Queen rearing ✓ Purchase of wax foundation sheets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Purchase of consumables such as sugar, seeds or herbs ✗ Purchase of superstructures

i. Maximum funding *per Beekeeper*: **€385.46**

ii. Definition of Beekeeper: a beekeeper registered on the Apiculture Register, or a Beekeeping Association, or a Cooperative, or a Producer Organisation (PO), applying for funding

c) Measures rationalising transhumance

- Acquisition of small equipment like closure belts and other implements which are necessary for transhumance (e.g., belts, netting screens).
- Mapping of areas having the best foraging potential for nomadic beekeeping with special reference to garigue areas where wild thyme grows naturally (e.g., submission of mapped areas).

Eligible activities	Ineligible activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Purchase of belts✓ Purchase of netting screens✓ Fees related to mapping foraging areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✗ Purchase of equipment which is not specifically related with transhumance

- Maximum funding per Beekeeper: **€193.86**
- Definition of Beekeeper: a beekeeper registered on the Apiculture Register, or a Beekeeping Association, or a Cooperative, or a Producer Organisation (PO), applying for funding

Required Documentation:

- Copy of the Identity Card from both sides;
- A site plan clearly indicating where the bee boxes are kept;
- Invoice and proof of payment of the relevant costs incurred. This fiscal receipt needs to be issued between 1st August 2024 and 31st July 2025 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 payments, the invoice and fiscal receipt will suffice;
- If relevant, photographic evidence of the investment;
- If relevant, a copy of the laboratory report including a description of the analysis carried out, information on the need for such analysis, along with details on the samples analysed and details of findings;
- In case of an association, cooperative or producer organisation, a copy of the latest Statute signed by the president and the secretary, a list of all committee members and a photocopy of their I.D. Card, a Programme of Activities, and the Financial Plan;
- In case of companies, the directors must be registered with the Apiculture Register held by the Veterinary Regulation Department (VRD);
- In case of beekeepers, these must be registered in the IACS Farmer Registry in order to be eligible;
- VAT number and copy of VAT Certificate in the case of a Competent Authority;
- Applications are to be submitted within the deadlines as established by the Agency.

ACTLAB(55(1)(c)) - Actions to support laboratories for the analysis of apiculture products, bee losses or productivity drops, and substances potentially toxic to bees

- Analysis of honey samples to characterise the different productions during the three major honey flows with the aim to improve correct labelling and marketing of the product. The analysis of the physico-chemical properties of honey according to its botanical origin provides beekeepers with precise knowledge of the quality of the honey.
 - Costs incurred by beekeepers for the analysis of honey samples.
 - Costs incurred by beekeepers for the analysis of the physico-chemical properties of honey.

Eligible activities	Ineligible activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Laboratory costs incurred by beekeepers for the analysis of honey samples ✓ Laboratory costs incurred by beekeepers for the analysis of Bee samples, to test for productivity drops due to bee losses through diseases, pesticides etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Purchasing of equipment to carry out analyses of honey ✗ Cost of updating labels and marketing material with results of analyses

- i. Maximum funding *per Action*: **€1,881.80**
- ii. Definition of Action: **one sample submitted for laboratory analysis**

b) Research on different varroacides.

- Costs related to testing of different varroacides for their efficiency and suitability for usage in the local climatic conditions.

Eligible activities	Ineligible activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Laboratory costs incurred by beekeepers related to testing of different varroacides ✓ Laboratory costs incurred by beekeepers, to research the resistance of varroa mites to different varroacides 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Purchasing of equipment to carry out analyses of varroacides ✗ Costs of research on varroacides if research is conducted by applicant

- i. Maximum funding *per Beekeeper*: **€164.66**
- ii. Definition of Beekeeper: a beekeeper registered on the Apiculture Register, or a Beekeeping Association, or a Cooperative, or a Producer Organisation (PO), applying for funding

Required Documentation:

- Copy of the Identity Card from both sides;
- The laboratory accreditation certificate;
- If relevant, a copy of the laboratory report including a description of the analysis carried out, information on the need for such analysis, along with details on the samples analysed and details of findings;
- Invoice and proof of payment of the relevant costs incurred. This fiscal receipt needs to be issued between 1st August 2024 and 31st July 2025 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 payments, the invoice and fiscal receipt will suffice;
- In case of an association, cooperative or producer organisation, a copy of the latest Statute signed by the president and the secretary, a list of all committee members and a photocopy of their I.D. Card, a Programme of Activities, and the Financial Plan;
- In case of companies, the directors must be registered with the Apiculture Register held by the Veterinary Regulation Department (VRD);
- In case of beekeepers, these must be registered in the IACS Farmer Registry in order to be eligible;

- VAT number and copy of VAT Certificate in the case of a Competent Authority;
- Applications are to be submitted within the deadlines as established by the Agency.

COOPAPI(55(1)(e)) - cooperation with specialised bodies for the implementation of research programs in the field of beekeeping and apiculture products

a) Cooperation with specialised bodies for the implementation of research programmes in the field of beekeeping and apiculture products.

- Research on the incidence of serious bee diseases and pests present in the Maltese Islands will be carried out in collaboration with foreign stakeholders to prevent further spreading. Sampling will also be taken for surveillance against the possible introduction of new pests, such as the Small Hive Beetle.
- Studies in relation to the benefits of new hive products for the general well-being of humans.
- The use and effectiveness of modern advanced beekeeping techniques for the control of bee diseases, queen-rearing and harvest of bee products, amongst others, will be tried and tested in the local context.

Eligible activities	Ineligible activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Costs of commissioning a study or research by a specialised body regarding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the improvement of the quality of apiculture products (such as honey, royal jelly, beeswax and bee venom) through physico-chemical and microbiological analysis and studies related to the typification of the same products on the basis of botanical and geographical origin ○ bee diseases 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Costs of studies or research conducted by applicant

- i. Maximum funding *per Action*: **€770.76**
- ii. Definition of Action: **one research programme or study**

Required Documentation:

- Description of the research carried out, including the need for such research, its relevance to the local context and details of the findings.
- Invoice and proof of payment of the relevant costs incurred. This fiscal receipt needs to be issued between 1st August 2024 and 31st July 2025 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 payments, the invoice and fiscal receipt will suffice;
- In case of an association, cooperative or producer organisation, a copy of the latest Statute signed by the president and the secretary, a list of all committee members and a photocopy of their I.D. Card, a Programme of Activities, and the Financial Plan;
- In case of companies, the directors must be registered with the Apiculture Register held by the Veterinary Regulation Department (VRD);
- In case of beekeepers, these must be registered in the IACS Farmer Registry in order to be eligible;
- VAT number and copy of VAT Certificate in the case of a Competent Authority;
- Applications are to be submitted within the deadlines as established by the Agency.

3. Important Information

- For all interventions, the following eligibility conditions apply:

Beneficiaries must satisfy one of the following criteria in order to be eligible:

- Be registered with the Apiculture Register held by the Veterinary Regulation Department (VRD).
 - Qualify as a Beekeeping Association or Producer Organisation (PO).
 - Beekeepers, Beekeeping Associations, Cooperatives, or Producer Organisations who have already benefitted from funding for the same costs, activities or actions under other programmes under Regulation (EU) No 2021/2115 of the European Parliament and of the Council or Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council will not be eligible.
 - In the case of cooperatives, organisations and associations, all the documentation required by the Agency inter alia details identifying the registered and active members, statute of the organisation, financial plans and an activities programme should also be submitted in order to be eligible.
 - In the case of companies, the directors must be registered with the Apiculture Register held by the Veterinary Regulation Department (VRD);
 - In the case of beekeepers, these must be registered in the IACS Farmer Registry in order to be eligible.
- Additional specific conditions:

Beneficiaries applying under Intervention 3 and 4 must also satisfy the following criteria:

- Laboratories must be accredited by the National Accreditation Board of Malta (NAB-MALTA).
- Bank Payment Form
 - In cases where 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 attached Bank Payment Form in the name of the beneficiary. This can also be accessed from the Agency’s website: www.arpa.gov.mt.
 - Bees’ Productivity
 - Section 1.4 of the application will need to reflect the honey production information of the last 2 years. This information cannot be left out.

Production *	2024	2025
How many kilos of honey did you produce in the following years?	_____ kilos	_____ kilos
What was the price with which consumers purchased honey from you in the following years?	€ _____	€ _____
What was the price with which stores purchased honey from you in the following years?	€ _____	€ _____
How much do you estimate your earnings per kilo of honey you produced in the following years?	€ _____ / kilo	€ _____ / kilo
How much do you estimate the production cost per each kilo of honey in the following years?	€ _____ / kilo	€ _____ / kilo

*Note: The information provided above may be approximate.

4. Promotion of Interventions

For those interested in applying, a notification will be published through:

- Advert in the Government Gazette
- The Agency's website www.arpa.gov.mt
- Advert on social media
- SMS to beekeepers registered in the IACS Farmer Registry

5. Allocated Funds

Beneficiaries will be reimbursed for costs actually incurred upon presentation of documentation and proof of payment. Such reimbursement may not exceed the maximum funding per unit of output identified per sub-intervention.

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

The total amount of funds allocated for these interventions is €28,274.00. Under no circumstance may the amount of funds allocated by the European Union (EU) and the Government of Malta exceed the totals indicated in this table.

Intervention	Total	Government of Malta Contribution	EU Contribution
1. ADVIBEES(55(1)(a)) - Advisory services, technical assistance, training, information and exchange of best practices, including through networking, for beekeepers and beekeepers' organisations a) Organisation of training, information seminars and workshops on various topics related to beekeeping with special emphasis on beehive invaders, pests and disease management and identification, including modern varroa management techniques by local and foreign experts b) Subscription to apiculture literature containing updated and recent information. c) Production and distribution of informative material on the local beekeeping context and apiculture products.	€5,485.44	€2,742.72	€2,742.72
2. INVAPI(55(1)(b)) - Investments in tangible and	€18,541.96	€9,270.98	€9,270.98

<p>non-tangible assets, as well as other actions including for:</p> <p>a) Measures to control varroasis including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Beekeepers will be supported to replace or convert normal hive floors with varroa floors. This will form part of the National Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Programme against varroa in the Maltese Islands. Other useful techniques such as drone-brood trapping will also be implemented and supported in order to reduce the frequency of use of varroacides (e.g., Varroa flooring). - Acquisition of the appropriate varroacides (e.g., strips, powder, sterilization). - Costs related to the continuous screening for varroa resistance (e.g., laboratory analysis). <p>b) Measures to support the restocking of hives including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Acquisition of new healthy queens, colonies and nuclei following colony losses due to outbreaks of disease, pesticides and other factors which are beyond the control of the beekeeper, as well as eliminating losses as a result of human action. - Costs incurred on activities to promote queen rearing (e.g., breeder boxes, Queen cages, hair roller cages, specialised tweezers, Queen cups, etc.). <p>c) Measures rationalising transhumance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Acquisition of small equipment like closure belts and other implements which are necessary for transhumance (e.g., belts, netting screens). - Mapping of areas having the best foraging potential for nomadic beekeeping with special reference to garigue areas where wild thyme grows naturally (e.g., submission of mapped areas). 			
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<p>3. ACTLAB(55(1)(c)) - Actions to support laboratories for the analysis of apiculture products, bee losses or productivity drops, and substances potentially toxic to bees</p> <p>a) Analysis of honey samples to characterise the different productions during the three major honey flows with the aim to improve correct labelling and marketing of the product. The analysis of the physico-chemical properties of honey according to its botanical origin provides beekeepers with precise knowledge of the quality of the honey.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Costs incurred by beekeepers for the analysis of honey samples. - Costs incurred by beekeepers for the analysis of the physico-chemical properties of honey. 	€2,705.08	€1,352.54	€1,352.54
<p>4. COOPAPI(55(1)(e)) - cooperation with specialised bodies for the implementation of research programs in the field of beekeeping and apiculture products</p> <p>a) Cooperation with specialised bodies for the implementation of research programmes in the field of beekeeping and apiculture products.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Research on the incidence of serious bee diseases and pests present in the Maltese Islands will be carried out in collaboration with foreign stakeholders to prevent further spreading. Sampling will also be taken for surveillance against the possible introduction of new pests, such as the Small Hive Beetle. - Studies in relation to the benefits of new hive products for the general well-being of humans. - The use and effectiveness of modern advanced beekeeping techniques for the control of bee diseases, queen-rearing and harvest of bee products, amongst others, will 	€1,541.52	€770.76	€770.76

be tried and tested in the local context.			
Total for all Interventions	€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.

6. 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.

7. Irregularities

7.1 Irregularities identified during on-the-spot checks

7.1.1 Intervention 1A-C:

Checklist Penalties

In the case of cooperatives, organisations and associations, they are to identify one active member who has a minimum of one (1) active bee box.

Beneficiaries are to inform the competent authorities on the exact location in which the bee boxes are placed to ensure adequate traceability and controls.

Beekeepers are required to notify the Agency of the movements carried out within 10 working days and prior to an OTS inspection announcement.

Agency Officials shall confirm the presence of active apiculture activity whereby the beekeeper must keep and maintain a minimum of one (1) bee box in good health on the exact location as declared on application.

In case of breaches i.e., a minimum of one (1) active bee box is not found during OTS inspection by Agency Officials, a 100 % forfeiture shall be applied under the relevant intervention/s.

Payment Penalties

- Over declaration sanction

Payments shall be calculated on the basis of amounts found to be eligible during the administrative checks.

The Agency shall examine the payment claim received from the beneficiary and establish the amounts that are eligible for support. It shall establish:

- (a) the amount that is payable to the beneficiary based on the payment claim and the available funds;
- (b) the amount that is payable to the beneficiary after an examination of the eligibility of the expenditure in the payment claim.

If the amount established pursuant to point (a) of the second subparagraph exceeds the amount established pursuant to point (b) of that subparagraph by more than 10 %, an administrative penalty shall be applied to the amount established pursuant to that point (b). The amount of the penalty shall be the difference between those two amounts but shall not go beyond full withdrawal of the support.

However, no penalties shall be applied if the beneficiary can demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Agency that he is not at fault for the inclusion of the ineligible amount or if the Agency is otherwise satisfied that the beneficiary concerned is not at fault.

Penalties will be applied in the following order:

1. Over declaration at invoice level
2. Checklist penalties deducted lastly

7.1.2 Intervention 2A-C:

Checklist Penalties

In the case of cooperatives, organisations and associations, they are to identify one active member who has a minimum of one (1) active bee box.

Beneficiaries are to inform the competent authorities on the exact location in which the bee boxes are placed to ensure adequate traceability and controls.

Beekeepers are required to notify the Agency of the movements carried out within 10 working days and prior to an OTS inspection announcement.

Agency Officials shall confirm the presence of active apiculture activity whereby the beekeeper must keep and maintain a minimum of one (1) bee box in good health on the exact location as declared on application.

In case of breaches i.e., a minimum of one (1) active bee box is not found during OTS inspection by Agency Officials, a 100 % forfeiture shall be applied under the relevant intervention/s.

Agency Officials shall confirm functionality of the investment

- Beekeepers are required to retain boxes/packaging or provide timestamped photographic evidence of the investment.

In case of breaches i.e., no evidence of the investment is presented, a 100% forfeiture shall be applied of that part of the investment under the relevant intervention/s.

Payment Penalties

- Over declaration sanction

Payments shall be calculated on the basis of amounts found to be eligible during the administrative checks.

The Agency shall examine the payment claim received from the beneficiary and establish the amounts that are eligible for support. It shall establish:

- (a) the amount that is payable to the beneficiary based on the payment claim and the available funds;
- (b) the amount that is payable to the beneficiary after an examination of the eligibility of the expenditure in the payment claim.

If the amount established pursuant to point (a) of the second subparagraph exceeds the amount established pursuant to point (b) of that subparagraph by more than 10 %, an administrative penalty shall be applied to the amount established pursuant to that point (b). The amount of the penalty shall be the difference between those two amounts but shall not go beyond full withdrawal of the support.

However, no penalties shall be applied if the beneficiary can demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Agency that he is not at fault for the inclusion of the ineligible amount or if the Agency is otherwise satisfied that the beneficiary concerned is not at fault.

Penalties will be applied in the following order:

1. Over declaration at invoice level
2. Checklist penalties deducted lastly

7.1.3 Intervention 3A-B:

Checklist Penalties

In the case of cooperatives, organisations and associations, they are to identify one active member who has a minimum of one (1) active bee box.

Beneficiaries are to inform the competent authorities on the exact location in which the bee boxes are placed to ensure adequate traceability and controls.

Beekeepers are required to notify the Agency of the movements carried out within 10 working days and prior to an OTS inspection announcement.

Agency Officials shall confirm the presence of active apiculture activity whereby the beekeeper must keep and maintain a minimum of one (1) bee box in good health on the exact location as declared on application.

In case of breaches i.e., a minimum of one (1) active bee box is not found during OTS inspection by Agency Officials, a 100 % forfeiture shall be applied under the relevant intervention/s.

Payment Penalties

- Over declaration sanction

Payments shall be calculated on the basis of amounts found to be eligible during the administrative checks.

The Agency shall examine the payment claim received from the beneficiary and establish the amounts that are eligible for support. It shall establish:

- (a) the amount that is payable to the beneficiary based on the payment claim and the available funds;
- (b) the amount that is payable to the beneficiary after an examination of the eligibility of the expenditure in the payment claim.

If the amount established pursuant to point (a) of the second subparagraph exceeds the amount established pursuant to point (b) of that subparagraph by more than 10 %, an administrative penalty shall be applied to the amount established pursuant to that point (b). The amount of the penalty shall be the difference between those two amounts but shall not go beyond full withdrawal of the support.

However, no penalties shall be applied if the beneficiary can demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Agency that he is not at fault for the inclusion of the ineligible amount or if the Agency is otherwise satisfied that the beneficiary concerned is not at fault.

Penalties will be applied in the following order:

1. Over declaration at invoice level
2. Checklist penalties deducted lastly

7.1.4 Intervention 4A:

Checklist Penalties

In the case of cooperatives, organisations and associations, they are to identify one active member who has a minimum of one (1) active bee box.

Beneficiaries are to inform the competent authorities on the exact location in which the bee boxes are placed to ensure adequate traceability and controls.

Beekeepers are required to notify the Agency of the movements carried out within 10 working days and prior to an OTS inspection announcement.

Agency Officials shall confirm the presence of active apiculture activity whereby the beekeeper must keep and maintain a minimum of one (1) bee box in good health on the exact location as declared on application.

In case of breaches i.e., a minimum of one (1) active bee box is not found during OTS inspection by the Agency Officials, a 100 % forfeiture shall be applied under the relevant intervention/s.

Payment Penalties

- Over declaration sanction

Payments shall be calculated on the basis of amounts found to be eligible during the administrative checks.

The Agency shall examine the payment claim received from the beneficiary and establish the amounts that are eligible for support. It shall establish:

- (a) the amount that is payable to the beneficiary based on the payment claim and the available funds;
- (b) the amount that is payable to the beneficiary after an examination of the eligibility of the expenditure in the payment claim.

If the amount established pursuant to point (a) of the second subparagraph exceeds the amount established pursuant to point (b) of that subparagraph by more than 10 %, an administrative penalty shall be applied to the amount established pursuant to that point (b). The amount of the penalty shall be the difference between those two amounts but shall not go beyond full withdrawal of the support.

However, no penalties shall be applied if the beneficiary can demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Agency that he is not at fault for the inclusion of the ineligible amount or if the Agency is otherwise satisfied that the beneficiary concerned is not at fault.

Penalties will be applied in the following order:

1. Over declaration at invoice level
2. Checklist penalties deducted lastly

7.2 Undue Payments and Penalties

As per Article 9(1) of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) N0 2015/1368 ‘Undue payments and penalties’:

“Interest added to the amount of undue payments recovered in accordance with Article 54(1), 58(1)(e) or 63(3) of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 shall be calculated in accordance with Article 27 of Implementing Regulation (EU) No 908/2014.”

7.3 Irregularities due to fraud or negligence

As per Article 9(2) of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) N0 2015/1368 ‘Undue payments and penalties’:

“In case of fraud or serious negligence for which they are responsible, beneficiaries shall, in addition to repaying undue payments received and interest thereon in accordance with Article 63(3) of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013, pay an amount equal to the difference between the amount initially paid and the amount they are entitled to.”

7.4 Cases where no penalties are imposed

No penalties shall be imposed where:

a) The beneficiary has been unable to comply with the obligations as a result of Force Majeure or exceptional circumstances.

Cases of Force Majeure and exceptional circumstances shall be notified in writing to the competent authority (the Agency), with relevant evidence to the satisfaction of the competent authority, within fifteen (15) working days from the date on which the beneficiary or the person entitled through him, is in a position to do so. After consultation with the Force Majeure Board, the Agency will decide whether there is a case of Force Majeure or otherwise according to the parameters of the applicable EU Regulations. Should the Agency deem a case to be affected by a Force Majeure event, the beneficiary may be justified or excused, totally or partially, with respect to some default that there may be. However, if the Force Majeure application is rejected, the Agency may seek to recover or withdraw all funds related to this aid.

Further information on Force Majeure requests may be accessed from the Agency’s website at: www.arpa.gov.mt.

8. Application

The application period will commence from **28th July 2025** until **14th August 2025**. The application forms may be collected and filled in at:

- **Malta:** the ARPA Front Office, Pitkali Markets, Ta’ Qali limits of Attard, from Monday to Friday between **7:00am to 11:30am**; or
- **Gozo:** the Gozo Front Office within the Government Experimental Farm, Imġarr Road, Xewkija, from Monday to Friday from **7:30am to 12:30pm**.

Applications submitted after 14th August 2025 will not be accepted.

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