



Agriculture And Rural Development ISAMM CM

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Communication Display Page

Communication information

Form number:	000161	Member state:	Malta
Name:	Notification of apiculture programme	Status:	SENT
Business process:	Support programmes	Sector:	Apiculture products
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Legal base:	<u>Commission Regulation - R 2015/1368 Art. 3</u>		
Description:	Notification of apiculture programme		

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Annex - (1)

Evaluation of the results achieved to date during the implementation of the previous apiculture programme

▶ upload document	Annex I.docx
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Annex - (2)

Description of the method used to determine the number of beehives in accordance with Article 2 of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 2015/1366

▶ upload document	Annex II amended.docx
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Annex - (3) - Points (i) to (x)

A study carried out by the Member State on the producing and marketing structure in the beekeeping sector in its territory

▶ (i) The number of beekeepers	208
▶ (ii) The number of beekeepers managing more than 150 beehives	2
▶ (iii) The total number of beehives managed by keepers with more than 150 beehives	400
▶ (iv) The number of beekeepers organised in beekeepers' associations	115
▶ (v) The annual national production of honey in kg the last 2 calendar years preceding the notification of the apiculture programme for approval : 1st year	41 000.00 kg
▶ (v) ----- ----- 2nd year	41 000.00 kg
▶ (vi) The range of prices for multi-floral honey at the site of production - Average value	15.00 €/kg
▶ (vi) ----- Minimum value	€/kg
▶	€/kg

Annex - (3) - Points (i) to (x)

(vi) ----- Maximum value	
▶ (vii) The range of prices for multi-floral honey in bulk at wholesalers - Average value	15.00 €/kg
▶ (vii) ----- Minimum value	€/kg
▶ (vii) ----- Maximum value	€/kg
▶ (viii) The estimated average yield in kg of honey per beehive and per year	11 kg/beehive/year
▶ (ix) The estimated average production costs (fixed and variable) per kg of honey produced	12.00 €/kg
▶ (x) The number of beehives in the last 2 calendar years preceding the notification for approval by those Member States who did not have such a programme in place for the preceding 3 years: 1st year	
▶ (x) ----- 2nd year	
▶ upload document (optional)	No document selected

Annex - (4)

An evaluation of the needs of the apiculture sector in the Member State

▶ upload document	Annex IV.docx
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Annex - (5)

A description of the objectives of the apiculture programme and the link between those objectives and the apiculture measures selected in the list in Article 55(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013

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Annex - (6)

A detailed description of the actions which will be carried out under the apiculture measures selected in the list in Article 55(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013, including the estimated costs and a financing plan broken down by year and by measure

	Next year	The year after	And the year after
▶ (a) Technical assistance to beekeepers and beekeepers' organisations	3 233.37 €	3 233.37 €	3 233.37 €
▶ (b) Combating beehive invaders and diseases, particularly varroasis	9 728.76 €	9 728.76 €	9 728.76 €
▶ (c) Rationalisation of transhumance	388.23 €	388.23 €	388.23 €
▶ (d) Measures to support laboratories for the analysis of apiculture products	1 109.22 €	1 109.22 €	1 109.22 €
▶ (e) Restocking of hives	1 297.79 €	1 297.79 €	1 297.79 €
▶ (f) Applied research programmes	908.63 €	908.63 €	908.63 €
▶ (g) Market monitoring	0.00 €	0.00 €	0.00 €
▶ (h) Enhancement of product quality	0.00 €	0.00 €	0.00 €

Annex - (6) Upload document

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Annex - (6) Upload document

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Annex - (7)

Criteria established by the Member State to ensure that there is no double funding of apiculture programmes

▶	upload document	Annex VII.docx
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Annex - (8)

Performance indicators used for each apiculture measure selected. Member State shall select at least one relevant performance indicator per measure.

▶	upload document	Annex VIII.docx
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Annex - (9)

Implementing arrangements of the apiculture programme

▶	(i) Contact point responsible for the management of the apiculture programme (upload document)	Annex IXa.docx
▶	(ii) Description of the procedure for monitoring checks (upload document)	Annex IXb.docx
▶	(iii) Description of the actions to be taken in case of undue payments to the beneficiaries, including the penalties (upload document)	Annex IXc.docx
▶	(iv) The provisions to ensure that the approved programme is publicised in the Member State (upload document)	Annex IXd.docx
▶	(v) The actions taken to cooperate with representative organisations in the beekeeping field (upload document)	Annex IXe amended.docx
▶	(vi) Description of the method used to evaluate the results of the measures of the apiculture programme (upload document)	Annex IXf amended.docx

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1. Evaluation of the Results achieved to date during the implementation of the previous apiculture programme.

Between 2014 and 2015, a total of 27,099.97 euros was invested in the Maltese Apiculture sector, resulting in an EU aid yield of 13549.99 euros as explained in the following table:

Malta National Apiculture Programme 2014 - 2016								
Actual Expenditure and Aid per Measure per Year								
Measure	2014		2015		2016		Total Expenditure	Total Aid
	Expenditure	Aid	Expenditure	Aid	Expenditure	Aid		
1	€937.55	€468.78	€98.88	€49.44	no data	no data	€1,036.43	€518.22
2	€8,603.45	€4,301.73	€10,646.12	€5,323.06	no data	no data	€19,249.57	€9,624.79
3	€184.87	€92.44	€32.03	€16.02	no data	no data	€216.90	€108.45
4	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	no data	no data	€0.00	€0.00
5	€3,798.05	€1,899.03	€2,774.97	€1,387.49	no data	no data	€6,573.02	€3,286.51
6	€24.05	€12.03	€0.00	€0.00	no data	no data	€24.05	€12.03
Total:	€13,547.97	€6,773.99	€13,552.00	€6,776.00	no data	no data	€27,099.97	€13,549.99

For the purposes of evaluating the results of the previous apiculture programme 2014-2016, reference was made to the "Control Unit Control Report" for the years 2014 and 2015. The Report for the year 2016 will be compiled after the OTS checks for applications submitted in the year in question would have been carried out, but prior to disbursement of funds. This report is expected to occur in the third quarter of 2016 and as a consequence, this evaluation exercise does not take into account data for 2016.

The Control Reports are based on data acquired from a sample of 20% from the total population of beneficiaries. This total population amounted to 53 beneficiaries in 2014, and 52 in 2015. The sample size for the year 2014 amounted to 12 applicants selected for control while for the year 2015 the total number of applicants selected for control amounted to 11. It is observed that the same applicants who applied and benefitted in 2014 benefitted again in 2015, with one exception.

In addition to the sampling methodology described above the Control Reports compile data on the findings which include the following data sets:

- Declared number of Colonies
- Declared number of nuclei
- Colonies found in OTS checks,
- Nuclei found in OTS checks, and
- Discrepancy.

The Control Reports also compile and present data on the applications received per measure and the outcomes per measure.

An analysis of these Reports and other data compiled internally by the Paying Agency shows that for the year 2014, no discrepancy has been found between the declared number of colonies and nuclei and the actual number of colonies and nuclei found on site. The same analysis shows that the uptake was relatively high among the population of beekeepers but the distribution among the individual measures was not even. This distribution reflects the nature of the market where there are many individual beekeepers, none of whom are represented by legally incorporated persons, and one major beekeeper association. None of these beekeepers carry out any noteworthy research and development exercises and this fact is reflected in the type of assistance applied for.

In fact, the data of the whole population of beneficiaries shows that during 2014, while nearly all beekeepers who submitted an application opted for support in purchasing Varroa Treatments under Measure 2 *“Control of Varroasis”* (with the exception of the Malta Beekeepers Association) only two beneficiaries – the Malta Beekeepers Association and another beekeeper - applied for technical assistance to beekeepers and groupings of beekeepers under Measure 1 *“Technical Assistance to beekeepers and groupings of beekeepers”*.

The Malta Beekeepers Association was also the only one to apply under Measure 6 *“Cooperation with specialized bodies for the implementation of applied research programmes in the field of beekeeping and apiculture products”*.

It also results that only nineteen applicants applied for Measure 5 *“Measure to support restocking of hives”* while only two applicants applied for Measure 3 *“Rationalisation of transhumance”*. No applicants applied for Measure 4 *“Support for laboratories carrying out analysis of honey”*.

A very similar pattern appears in population data for the year 2015. In this year, there were some discrepancies recorded between the number of colonies and nuclei declared and the number of colonies and nuclei found. This discrepancy was registered in 3 respondents of a sample of 11 and peaked at 6% for one applicant.

Referring to the beneficiary population data, it is observed that the uptake was similar to that registered in the previous year. The distribution between the measures was also similar and all applicants applied for Measure 2 only one applicant applied for Measure 1. Three applicants for Measure 3, and seventeen applicants applied for Measure 5. There were no applicants who applied for Measure 4 or for Measure 6. This is probably due in large part to the fact that the Malta Beekeepers Association did not submit an application form for this year in question.

2. Description of the method used to determine the number of beehives

Honey bees in Malta do not winter. Currently the practice used to determine the number of beehives involves an annual direct visual inspection and manual count of the entire population of registered beehives. This is carried out by the Veterinary and Phytosanitary Regulation Department within Ministry of Sustainable Development, Environment and

Climate Change. This count is then used to determine the number of hives for the period between the 1st September and 31st December of each year as required by Article 2 of Delegated Regulation 2015/1366.

4. An evaluation of the needs of the apiculture sector in the Member State

Due to the relative small size of beekeeping businesses in Malta, the economy of scale means that production and marketing is very expensive. The high cost of production can be deemed as an entry barrier for new beekeepers. Furthermore, the same situation may discourage the restocking of hives and the proper management of apiaries.

The control of Varroa is one of the most cost incurring practices for beekeepers in Malta, but beekeepers are also incurring further costs to control other diseases mainly European Foulbrood and Nosema. It is considered that further studies regarding the prevention and control of such diseases in the Maltese Islands are still required.

The demand for Maltese honey is relatively high but many beekeepers still feel that more promotion and information about the Maltese honey is paramount to ensure that Maltese honey remains competitive on the market. The interest towards other hive products is relatively low, however the demand is on the increase for propolis, beeswax hand cream and raw beeswax.

9. Implementing arrangements for the apicultural programme

- (i) Designation of contact point.

Market Mechanisms Unit, Agriculture and Rural Payments Agency

10. Implementing arrangements for the apicultural programme

- (ii) Description of the procedure for monitoring checks

Controls are carried out to ensure effective verification on the applications submitted by the bee keepers for the current marketing Year and to be compliant with the terms specified in the National Programme.

The Control Unit conducts on the spot checks on applications submitted under the Malta National Programme for Improving the Production and Marketing of Apiculture Products. The total number of on the spot checks carried out on eligible applications (52) received in September 2015 was 11.

The sample for control is selected on the basis of the following criteria with a rate of 20%, including manual entries of applications.

Selection Criteria:

Random 20%
Risk 80%

- 25% largest number of colonies and nuclei declared in the aid application.
- 20% Applications with the greatest difference between declared and registered colonies and nuclei.
- 25% Applicants with the greatest number of measures applied for.
- 30% Not selected in previous controls (2012, 2013, 2014)
- A manual addition was included in order to cover Gozitan applicants.

11. Implementing arrangements for the apicultural programme

- (iii) A description of the actions to be taken in case of undue payments to the beneficiaries, including penalties

A control report is issued and passed on to the authorisation unit who decides on the actions to be taken on the basis of the findings of the controls.

12. Implementing arrangements for the apicultural programme

- (iv) The provisions to ensure that the approved programme is publicised in the Malta.

The programme is made available on the website of the Agriculture Directorate and registered bee keepers are informed accordingly.

9. Implementing arrangements for the apicultural programme

- (v) The actions taken to cooperate with representatives organisations in the beekeeping

The Agriculture Directorate within Ministry of Sustainable Development, Environment and Climate Change shall organize periodical information sessions and group workshops aimed at promoting the involvement of representative organisations in the beekeeping sector.

9. Implementing arrangements for the apicultural programme

- (vi) A description of the method used to evaluate the results of the measures of the apiculture programme for the apiculture sector of Malta

Success shall be evaluated in accordance with a set methodology developed especially for this Programme. This methodology is distinct from the methodology used to measure the general performance indicators of each measure and submeasure explained in Section 8 above.

In more specific terms, this methodology involves the scientific, systematic and standardized collection of data, about each measure as follows:

Measure 1. Technical assistance to beekeepers and groups of beekeepers

Quantitative Data Set 1a: number of participants, number of publications

Qualitative Data Set 1b: perception of beekeepers, groups of beekeepers and other participants.

Measure 2. Control of Varroasis

Quantitative Data Set 2a: primary data on colony collapse caused by Varroasis.

Qualitative Data Set 2b: perception of beekeepers, experts and stakeholders

Measure 3. Rationalisation of Transhumance

Quantitative Data Set 3a: percentage of colonies that are moved to at least one different location at least once a year.

Qualitative Data Set 3b: perception of beekeepers, groups of beekeepers

Measure 4. Measures to support laboratories carrying out analyses of the physico-chemical properties of honey

Quantitative Data Set 4a: number of laboratories supported, at least one.

Qualitative Data Set 4b: perception of, beneficiaries, researchers, experts and stakeholders

Measure 5. Measures to support the restocking of hives

Quantitative Data Set 5a: bee population,

Qualitative Data Set 5b: perception of beekeepers and stakeholders

Measure 6. Applied research programmes

Quantitative Data Set 6a: number of academic papers and studies published, at least one for the duration of the Programme

Qualitative Data Set 6b: perception of participants experts, and stakeholders

This data shall be collected in two separate instances, once at the launch of the programme and once at the termination of the programme.

Quantitative data shall be collected directly from source. Qualitative data shall be collected through a questionnaire and shall be collected and analysed in a manner that provides reliable and representative answers to a number of questions including:

- What future do you see for the Apiculture Sector in Malta?
- How necessary is the Apiculture Programme for the sustainable development of the Apiculture Sector in Malta?
- How successful has the Apiculture Programme been for the sustainable development of the Apiculture Sector in Malta?
- How effective do you think <insert measure> has been in achieving its objective?
- What are the main strengths and opportunities of <insert measure>?
- What are the main weaknesses and threats of <insert measure>?
- What are your wishes and aspirations with regards to EU aid for the Apiculture Sector?

The responses are to be collected, analysed for their meaning, and compared to one another and to other (quantitative) data already in possession of the Agency in order to uncover any common themes, patterns and tendencies of significance. At the end of the programming period, an analytical report shall drawn up.

In any event where the effects referred to above need to be distinguished from the effects resulting of other support measures, including any under the Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 the quantitative data relating to that effect needs to a reduced proportionately in accordance to this formula:

$$\frac{\text{Total support utilized under this Apiculture Programme}}{\text{Total support utilized for apiculture in Malta}} \times 100$$

The questionnaires, on the other hand, must emphasise the need for the respondents to distinguish the effects of this Programme, from any support that may be received from any other Programme and to provide feedback exclusively on their evaluation of this Programme.

In any event where the bee population needs to be counted, as is the case in Dataset 5a above, this shall be done through a categorical meta-analysis to assess pollinator population, in addition to the known bee population colonies. This analysis involves a

systematic analytical exercise of existing data and existing literature on bee population in total and as classified by species. Success will be then based upon the percentile increase of the pollinator population which shall indicate whether the measures of this programme are effective at promoting species richness and abundance of bees in local agro-ecosystems

5. The Objectives of the Apicultural Programme

The objectives of the Apicultural Programme are 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.

On the other hand, the measures financed through the RDP have separate objectives and finance different actions. The objective of measure is to incentivise beekeepers to set up bee boxes on agricultural land which is in the vicinity of garigue land. The intention is to support registered established beekeepers. This measure would be particularly beneficial in areas which have a high garigue/maquis to agricultural land ratio, due to the wild flower varieties naturally occurring in such areas.

This measure promotes biodiversity and supports local ecosystems and the species which reside within these systems. Farmers would be increasing the pollinator population which is an essential component of Maltese agricultural systems and elemental to enhancing the diversity of its animal and plant life

Whilst increasing the pollinator population, numerous other endemic and indigenous species which support the local biodiversity will benefit, enhancing the overall biodiversity of Maltese farm land and neighbouring ecosystems.

This will also have a positive impact on biodiversity, enhancing the countryside and promoting a practice which works in harmony with our unique ecosystems. Farming depends on biodiversity. Many crops need the pollination provided by bees and other insects - more than a third of the world's agricultural crops depend on pollination

6. The actions which will be carried out under the apicultural measures

A) Technical assistance to beekeepers and groups of beekeepers

(i) Seminars and workshops need to be organized for the Maltese beekeepers on various beekeeping subjects with special emphasis on pests and disease management and disease identification.

(ii) Subscription to apiculture literature containing updated and recent information will be encouraged.

(iii) Informative material on the local beekeeping context and apiculture products will be published and distributed to all beekeepers.

B) Control of Varroasis

- (i) Beekeepers will be supported to replace or convert normal hive floors with varroa floors. This will form part of the National IPM Programme against varroa in the Maltese Islands. Other useful techniques like drone-brood trapping will also be implemented and supported in order to reduce the frequency of use of varroacides;
- (ii) Acquisition of the appropriate varroacides;
- (iii) Continuous screening for varroa resistance;
- (iv) Testing of different varroacides for their efficiency and suitability for usage in the local climatic conditions. The most suitable ones will be selected and their mode of use together with other important product information will be taught to the beekeepers through presentations and practical demonstrations;
- (v) Training for beekeepers in modern varroa management techniques by local and foreign experts.

C) Rationalisation of Transhumance

- (i) Acquisition of small equipment like closure belts and other implements which are necessary for transhumance;
- (ii) Mapping of areas having the best foraging potential for nomadic beekeeping with special reference to garigue areas where wild thyme grows naturally.

D) Measures to support laboratories carrying out analyses of the physico-chemical properties of honey

- (i) Analysis of honey samples to characterise the different productions during the three major honey flows with the aim to improve the 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.

E) Measures to support the restocking of hives

- (i) Colony losses due to outbreaks of disease, pesticides and other factors which are beyond the control of the beekeeper will be replenished through the purchase of new healthy colonies and nuclei following intensive investigation;
- (ii) Activities to promote queen rearing will be funded;

(iii) Certified autochthonous queens will be acquired to replace failing non-productive queens or to save queen-less and / or laying worker colonies from collapse;

(iv) Purchasing of hives to replace hives which have come to the end of their useful lifespan.

F) Applied research programmes

(i) 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.

(ii) The benefits of new hive products for the general well being of humans will be studied in collaboration with local and foreign universities.

(iii) The use and effectiveness of modern advanced beekeeping techniques for the control of bee diseases, queen-rearing, harvest of bee products, etc will be tried and tested in the local context.

Financial Allocation per Measure per Year

2017

	Measure	Projected Expenditure		EU co-financing
		Total	50%	
1	Technical assistance to beekeepers and groupings of bees			
1.1.	Training Courses for beekeepers	€2,856.24	€1,428.12	€1,428.12
1.2.	Publications	€377.13	€188.57	€188.57
2	Control of Varroasis			
2.1.	Varroa Treatments	€9,243.48	€4,621.74	€4,621.74
2.2.	Research	€485.28	€242.64	€242.64
3	Rationalisation of transhumance			
3.1.	Purchase of equipment, mapping of foraging areas	€388.23	€194.11	€194.11
4	Support for Laboratories carrying out analysis of honey	€0.00		
4.1.	Honey Analysis	€1,109.22	€554.61	€554.61
5	Measure to support restocking of hives			
5.1.	Purchasing of Queens/ Queen Rearing equipment and colonies	€1,297.79	€648.89	€648.89
6	Cooperation with specialised bodies for the implementation of applied research programmes in the field of beekeeping and apiculture products.			
6.1.	Research on bee diseases	€908.63	€454.32	€454.32
	Totals	€16,666.0	€8,333.0	€8,333.0

Financial Allocation per Measure per Year

2018

	Measure	Projected Expenditure		EU co-financing
		Total	50%	
1	Technical assistance to beekeepers and groupings of bees			
1.1.	Training Courses for beekeepers	€2,856.24	€1,428.12	€1,428.12
1.2.	Publications	€377.13	€188.57	€188.57
2	Control of Varroasis			
2.1.	Varroa Treatments	€9,243.48	€4,621.74	€4,621.74
2.2.	Research	€485.28	€242.64	€242.64
3	Rationalisation of transhumance			
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4	Support for Laboratories carrying out analysis of honey	€0.00		
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6	Cooperation with specialised bodies for the implementation of applied research programmes in the field of beekeeping and apiculture products.			
6.1.	Research on bee diseases	€908.63	€454.32	€454.32
	Totals	€16,666.0	€8,333.0	€8,333.0

Financial Allocation per Measure per Year

2019

	Measure	Projected Expenditure		EU co-financing
		Total	50%	
1	Technical assistance to beekeepers and groupings of bees			
1.1.	Training Courses for beekeepers	€2,856.24	€1,428.12	€1,428.12
1.2.	Publications	€377.13	€188.57	€188.57
2	Control of Varroasis			

2.1.	Varroa Treatments	€9,243.48	€4,621.74	€4,621.74
2.2.	Research	€485.28	€242.64	€242.64
3	Rationalisation of transhumance			
3.1.	Purchase of equipment, mapping of foraging areas	€388.23	€194.11	€194.11
4	Support for Laboratories carrying out analysis of honey	€0.00		
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6	Cooperation with specialised bodies for the implementation of applied research programmes in the field of beekeeping and apiculture products.			
6.1.	Research on bee diseases	€908.63	€454.32	€454.32
	Totals	€16,666.0	€8,333.0	€8,333.0

7. The criteria established to ensure no double funding

In the new RDP support will be offered to beekeepers through AECM3, as described in point 5. The support granted under this measure is not in conflict with other schemes as it does not support the purchasing of bee boxes/ colonies or related apicultural supplies/ equipment.

8. The performance indicators used for each apiculture measure selected

The Performance Indicators for each Measure include both quantitative and qualitative criteria. These include:

Quantitative

- Participation by Quantity (Uptake – the more numerous the participants, the broader the reach of the measure and the more effective the measure)
- Participation by Value (Project size – the more valuable the project, the higher the returns and the more effective the measure)
- Variety of measures applied, by Applicant (same applicant benefitting under different schemes, for different projects – the greater variety the richer the project and the higher the likelihood of a positive performance)
- Sectoral economic data.

Qualitative

- Feedback from Beneficiaries and their representatives,
- Feedback from Paying Agency

- Feedback from Managing Authority and EU Commission
- Management Letters for audit, evaluation and monitoring bodies, national and EU.

Quantitative data can be collected from Paying Agency records while Qualitative data is to be collected directly from source.