Sustainable Aquaculture Scheme

What is Funded?

Applicants are required to show how their planned investment aligns with at least one objective of the scheme. Specific items of eligible expenditure are outlined, as examples, under each objective, but the applicant is also free to apply for other innovative investments that fulfil the objective.

- Productive investments for sustainable aquaculture
  - Setting up of sustainable aquaculture enterprises
  - Purchase and installation of new machinery and equipment and construction of new premises in relation increasing production in existing facilities
  - Any other investment which fulfils the objective above

- Development of product innovation
  - Diversification of aquaculture production and species cultured
  - Investment in new technologies or production systems
  - Integrated Multi-Trophic Aquaculture Systems (IMTA)
  - Any other investment which fulfils the objective above

- Investment in reduction of energy use and energy efficiency
  - Investments increasing energy efficiency and promoting the conversion of aquaculture enterprises to renewable sources of energy

- Investments reducing the negative impact or enhancing the positive effects on the environment and increasing resource efficiency such as,
  - Systems to reduce water use

- Investments in enhancing the quality of, or in adding value to, aquaculture products;

- Investments resulting in a substantial reduction in the impact of aquaculture enterprises on water usage and quality, in particular through reducing the amount of water or chemicals, antibiotics and other medicines used, or through improving the output water quality,

- Promotion of closed aquaculture systems where aquaculture products are farmed in closed recirculation systems, thereby minimising water use;

- Investments in safety equipment.
  - Modernisation of aquaculture units, including the improvement in working and safety conditions of aquaculture workers

- Investment in animal health and welfare
  - Including the purchase of equipment aimed at protecting the farms from wild predators.

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- Food quality and hygiene safety

- General non-statutory costs, such as architects' and engineers' fees, and construction insurance costs, up to a ceiling of 10% of the cost of the construction element of the project.

Ineligible Expenditure

Any expenditure incurred before the date of acknowledgement of receipt of the grant application is ineligible.

The following operations or expenditure are not eligible for support per the EMFAF Regulation:

- Expenditure for the purchase of land;
- Value added tax except, where it is non-recoverable by the beneficiary under law.
- Interest on debt, except in the form of an interest rate subsidy or guarantee fee subsidy.
- Goods purchased under Hire Purchase or Lease Purchase agreements;
- Second hand buildings, plant, machinery, equipment, etc. and any associated installation costs;
- Intangible costs, such as cost of pre-financing and of arranging loans and interest, administrative costs, patents, invitations to tender etc.;
- Repairs and maintenance work;
- Landscaping and other embellishment works, except those specifically required as a condition of planning and recreational equipment costs.
- Vehicles for passenger transport;
- Vehicles required for market distribution;
- Material which is normally written off within a year, including consumables (items deployed in the normal course of business operations that has a limited useful life, such as rubbers, hooks, wellingtons);
- Like-for-like replacement of equipment;
- Office equipment, including desktop computers, laptops and tablets;
- Consultancy costs not directly related to the planning, preparation and execution of the project, including costs of management consultancy;

The list of ineligible items may be added to in later calls.