



**Re: National Apiculture Programme 2019-2021 Stakeholder comment**

20 November 2018

Dear Stakeholder,

EU support for beekeeping is provided through the national apiculture programmes, which aim at improving the general conditions for the production and marketing of honey and other apiculture products in the EU. Ireland's current National Apiculture Programme 2016-2019, which received funding of €217,985, is due to end on the 31<sup>st</sup> July 2019.

The EU Commission has recently invited applications from Member States for funding towards a new 3 year programme beginning on the 1<sup>st</sup> August 2019, with member state submissions to be lodged by the 15<sup>th</sup> March 2019.

Under Council Regulation (EC) No 1308/2013 (Section VI, Special Provisions for the Apiculture Sector) provides for national apiculture programmes to be drawn up by Member States in close collaboration with representative beekeeping organisations every three years. **Eight specific measures** are eligible for funding:

- **technical assistance:** training for beekeepers and group of beekeepers, on topics such as breeding or disease prevention, extraction, storage, packaging of honey etc.;
- **combating beehive invaders and diseases, particularly varroasis;** varroa is an endemic parasite, weakening a bee's immune system and leading to the loss of bee colonies if not treated;
- **rationalisation of transhumance:** important for pollination but also for bee nutrition;
- **analyses of apiculture products:** honey, royal jelly, propolis, pollen and beeswax;
- **restocking of hives;**
- **applied research;**
- **market monitoring;**
- **enhancement of product quality** with a view to exploiting the potential of apiculture products on the market

**DAFM would like to engage with stakeholders and invite suggestions as to which of the measures are of most importance to the beekeeping sector and to consider the type of interventions required in delivering on the objective of the measure. Written responses should be submitted by 20<sup>th</sup> December 2018** by email or post to Fiona McKenna using the following contact details:



**Postal Address:**

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W23 X3PH

**Email Address:**

[beekeeping@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:beekeeping@agriculture.gov.ie)

We look forward to your engagement and views.

Is mise,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Eivers". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**John Eivers**

*Agricultural Inspector  
Horticulture and Plant Health Division*