



**European Union
Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance
For Rural Development - IPARD II**

**FORECAST NOTICE
THIRD CALL FOR APPLICATION
No. 03/2020
Under the IPARD II Programme**

Agriculture and Rural Development Agency of Albania and Managing Authority within the Ministry of Agriculture Rural Development are announcing the Third Call for Application under the IPARD II Programme from the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) for Rural Development (IPARD) with the aim of approving Grants to develop Agro Food Sector.

The Third Call is opened for all citizens (natural and legal persons) who work and operate within the territory of the Republic of Albania in the area of agriculture and agro processing on the following Measures:

Measure 1: “Investments in physical assets of agricultural holdings” with special focus on the following sectors:

- Milk
- Meat
- Fruit - Vegetables
- Vineyards

Measure 3: “Investments in Processing and Marketing of agriculture products and fishery” **only** in the following sector:

- Fruit and vegetable processing

The objectives and priorities of the selected IPARD II Programme measures are consistent of stated Strategy Paper objectives and contribute to them by:

- Supporting investments in agri-food sector aiming at improving competitiveness, compliance with EU standards and nature and environment preservation;
- Supporting investments in rural areas aiming at diversification of rural economy and business creation leading to improved employment opportunities and social inclusion.

The beneficiary of the grant is a natural or legal person receiving financial support from IPARD II. Investment activities (projects): consists of a series of activities for investment in movable and immovable assets, aiming the objectives of the supported sectors, specified in measures 1, 3 ,.

General expenses represent an expense referred to engineers and other consulting fees, feasibility studies, acquisition of patents or licenses rights.

Under this call the indicative overall available budget is consisted of 29.1 Million EUR public contribution out which 21.82 Million EUR, as EU contribution representing 75% of the overall public contribution and 7.28 Million EUR as National contribution representing 25% of the overall public contribution.

Measure 1: with total budget of **21. 5 Million EUR**, with minimum total eligible investment of 10,000 EURO and maximum total eligible investment of 500,000 EUR.

One applicant may be granted more than one project, but the total eligible cost of investments per recipient under this measure may not exceed EUR 1,500,000 for the whole programming period. Out of the total amount of EU contribution allocated to this measure, a maximum of 20% can be spent on tractors.

Aid intensity is:

up to 60% of the total eligible cost of the investment;

up to 65% if investments are made by young farmers (under 40 years of age at the time of when the decision to grant support is taken);

up to 70% for investments in mountain areas (see list of settlements in mountain areas in Annex 7. The same aid intensity is applied even when the applicant is a young farmer under 40,)

Measure 3: with total budget of **7.6 Million EUR**, with minimum total eligible investment of 25,000 EURO and maximum total eligible investment of 2,000,000 EUR.

Aid intensity is up to 50% of the total eligible cost of the investment.

Common eligibility criteria applicable to all measures

- i) the construction or improvement of immovable property, up to the market value of the asset;
- ii) the purchase of new machinery and equipment, including computer software up to the market value of the asset;
- iii) the general costs linked to the investment related expenditure (i) and (ii), such as architects', engineers' and other consultation fees, feasibility studies, business plan preparation, shall be eligible up to a ceiling of 12 % of the costs referred to in points (i) and (ii). The expenditures for preparation of a business plan should be maximum 4% of the costs referred to in points (i) and (ii) not exceeding equivalent of EUR 5,000.
- iv) General costs can only be considered eligible if the project to which they relate is actually selected and contracted by the IPARD Agency. The applicant must prove that he/she is the owner of the land/building/s relating to the investment or they have the right to use it for a minimum of 10 years counting from the date when the application is submitted. In case of investments in immovable property, irrigation, perennials, the applicant has to prove ownership of the land/building/s relating to the investment concerned or the right to use it for a minimum of 10 years counting from the date when the application is submitted.
- v) Eligible expenses are those done after the signing of the grant contract between the recipient of support and ARDA (excluding general costs for the respective investment costs).

- vi) Investment Projects remain Eligible to be financed by EU in the future, with the condition that no substantial change has been made within 5 years from the last payment of ARDA.

Attention: In call III, all sectors under the measure 1 of IPARD programme II will be eligible, whereas under Measure 3, **only** the sector of Fruit-Vegetables processing will be eligible. Other sectors under measure 3, will not be eligible under this call.

Also, the Guideline for Applicants and the official forms of the documents (Application Form, Business Plan forms) of Call III, can be downloaded from the following web sites: www.azhbr.gov.al; www.ipard.gov.al and <http://www.bujqesia.gov.al/>

This call will be opened from the 10th of December 2020 until 25th of January 2021. Deadline for submission of the application is 25th of January 2021, during working hours 08:00-16:30h.

The applications must be submitted in sealed envelope and must bear the title of the Call for Proposals, together with the title of the measure, the full name and address of the applicant and the words "Not to be opened before delivery".

Applications must be submitted **either**:

- by recorded delivery by post; **or**
- hand delivered (including courier services) directly to the Contracting Authority in return for a signed and dated receipt to:

<Agriculture and Rural Development Agency
Street Muhamet Gjollësja No.56
1001 Tirana, Albania>

Applications sent by any other means (e.g. by fax or by e-mail) or delivered to other addresses will be rejected.

Any application submitted or received after the date 25 January 2021 will be rejected. The above deadline will be calculated in accordance with the Administrative Code of Procedure.

The Contracting Authority retains ownership of all applications received. Consequently, applicants have no right to have their applications returned to them.

Notes for potential applicants:

Using other formats from the ones published in call 3, in the webpage: www.azhbr.gov.al, will lead to rejecting the application.

Applications submitted after the deadline will be rejected.

Applications missing the standard format of Application Form will be rejected.

Applications missing the standard formats of the Business Plan will be rejected.