



# Product and Process Innovation Grants

**STAR'UP\_PME**

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## Product and Process Innovation Grants

### Areas of intervention

This grant aims to contribute to the resilience and sustainable growth of the regional productive potential, mitigate the economic and social impact of the crisis on the agricultural and agri-food sector in the Azores and contribute to the dual climate and digital transition in this sector.

### Geographical area

Autonomous Region of the Azores.

### Funding rate

Support is awarded in the form of a non-repayable grant and complies with current Community rules on State aid. The eligible expenses provided for in point 3 of this CAA may benefit from the following rates of support:

- 75%, for SMEs;
- 50 per cent for non-SMEs.

### Minimum and maximum investment amounts

Public support per operation is limited to:

- 1 million euros, for SMEs;
- 700,000 euros for non-SMEs.

The total eligible cost of the proposed investments must be equal to or greater than 50 thousand euros.

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### Eligible entities

Eligible entities for this programme are SMEs (micro, small and medium-sized enterprises) and non-SMEs.

#### **They must fulfill the following criteria at the time the application is submitted:**

- a) Be legally constituted, in the case of legal persons;
- b) Have a regularized tax and social security situation, to be verified by the time the acceptance form is submitted;
- c) Have their situation regularised with regard to repayments under the financing of the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) and the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF);
- d) Comply with the legal conditions necessary to carry out the respective activity, directly related to the nature of the investment, in particular, have their licensing situation in order;
- e) In the case of investments in the fresh fruit and vegetable sector, be registered as a fresh fruit and vegetable operator;
- f) To keep accounts in accordance with the applicable legislation;
- g) Have, or be able to ensure until the application is approved, the human, technical, physical and financial resources needed to carry out the operation;
- h) Have a balanced economic and financial situation or demonstrate the ability to finance the operation;
- i) They do not fit into the concept of a company in difficulty;
- j) The company is not subject to an outstanding recovery order following a previous decision by the European Commission;
- l) You do not own or have owned more than 50 per cent of the capital of a company that has not complied with a notification to return support under an operation supported by European funds, by you or your spouse who is not separated, or by your ascendants and descendants up to the first degree, or by anyone living with you under conditions similar to those of your spouse;

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m) Have not submitted the same investments in an application where the decision process is still underway, or where the decision on the application for funding has been favourable, except in situations where a withdrawal has been submitted.

**Note:** *In the case of starting an activity or changing an existing activity, the criterion set out in point d) of the previous paragraph can be demonstrated up to the date of submission of the last payment request.*

## Eligible expenditure

This AAC aims to support the implementation of investments in tangible or intangible assets, so the eligible expenses are:

- 1-** Construction, acquisition, including leasing, or improvement of immovable property, with land only being eligible up to a limit of no more than 10% of the total eligible expenditure of the operation in question;
- 2-** Purchase or lease-purchase of machinery and equipment up to the market value of the asset;

**3 -** General costs related to the expenditure indicated in points 1 and 2, such as architects', engineers' and consultants' fees, environmental and economic sustainability counseling costs, including costs related to feasibility studies;

**4 -** Acquisition or development of software and acquisition of patents, licenses, copyrights and trademarks;

**5 -** Eligible expenditure under point 3 is eligible up to a limit of 10 percent of the total eligible cost of the investment project;

**6 -** Purchases must be made from suppliers with the capacity to do so and under market conditions, and consultations with at least three organizations must be submitted as part of the application.

## Target Audience

Natural or legal persons engaged in the processing and/or commercialisation of agricultural products may benefit from the support provided for in this decree.

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