



SUBSIDIES

NEW AND FULL NOTIFICATION PURSUANT TO ARTICLE XVI:1 OF THE GATT 1994 AND ARTICLE 25 OF THE AGREEMENT ON SUBSIDIES AND COUNTERVAILING MEASURES

MAURITIUS

The following communication, dated 13 May 2019, is being circulated at the request of the Delegation of Mauritius.

In accordance with Article 25.2 of the Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures and Article XVI:1 of the GATT 1994, the Government of the Republic of Mauritius notifies the Committee on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures data supplied by the authority in charge of the subsidy, as related in program financed by the Budget for 2017-2018. It is to be noted that this notification does not prejudice, under the GATT 1994 and the SCM Agreement the legal status of the notified programmes, their effects, or the nature of the programmes themselves.

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I. FISHERIES PROGRAMMES

1 ASSISTANCE FOR THE PURCHASE OF "CANOTTE"

1. Title of the subsidy

Assistance for the purchase of "Canotte"

2. Period covered by the notification

Financial year 2017-2018

3. Policy objective and/or purpose of the subsidy

To provide an alternative mode of livelihood and at the same time to diversify fishing effort from the heavily fished lagoon to off lagoon areas.

4. Background and authority for the subsidy

Budget Measure, Ministry of Ocean Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping

5. Form of the subsidy

A grant of 50% the value of canotte (Rs 200,000)

6. To whom and how the subsidy is provided

Registered fishermen

7. Total Amount of subsidy

Rs 4 Million

8. Duration

Annually

9. Statistical data permitting an assessment of the trade effects

No statistical data permitting an assessment of trade effects is available.

2 ASSISTANCE FOR THE PURCHASE OF SEMI-INDUSTRIAL VESSEL

1. Title of the subsidy

Assistance for the purchase of semi-industrial vessel

2. Period covered by the notification

Financial year 2017-2018

3. Policy objective and/or purpose of the subsidy

To encourage outer reef and bank fishing to reduce fishing pressure on the lagoon and for the protection of lagoon biodiversity.

4. Background and authority for the subsidy

Budget Measure, Ministry of Ocean Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping

5. Form of the subsidy

A grant of 50% the value of the vessel (a cap of Rs 4 M)

6. To whom and how the subsidy is provided

Fisheries Cooperatives Society

7. Total Amount of subsidy

Rs 12 Million

8. Duration

Annual basis

9. Statistical data permitting an assessment of the trade effects

No statistical data permitting an assessment of trade effects is available.

II. AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMMES

1 FREIGHT REBATE SCHEME

1. Title of the Subsidy Programme

Freight Rebate Scheme

2. Period covered by the notification

2017/2018

3. Policy Objective

To promote the exportation of various agricultural products grown in Mauritius and to increase local production of specific fruits, vegetables and flowers.

4. Authority for the subsidy

Budget Measure, Ministry of Agro Industry and Food Security

5. Form of the subsidy

This scheme is applicable to selected fruits, vegetables and flowers and comprises of a rebate on exportation freight costs of 25% to be shared equally amongst exporters and producers.

6. To whom and how the subsidy is provided

Beneficiaries

- Exporters registered with the Agricultural Marketing Board (AMB).
- Producers registered with the Small Farmers Welfare Fund (SFWF) and known to the Food and Agricultural Research Extension Institute (FAREI).

Condition of subsidy

- The eligible selected produce shall be either unprocessed or minimally processed (i.e produce which is peeled, sliced/carved, dried and vacuum packed).
- Pickles and other produce in jars/food containers shall not be eligible under this scheme.
- Scheme shall only be applicable to produce exported to countries with which Mauritius has international trade relations.

7. Total Amount of subsidy

Rs 5,000,000

8. Duration of the subsidy

Annual basis

9. Statistical data permitting an assessment of the trade effects

No statistical data permitting an assessment of trade effects is available.

2 TEA SECTOR SUPPORT SCHEME

1. Title of the Subsidy Programme

Tea Sector Support Scheme

2. Period covered by the notification

2017/2018

3. Policy Objective and Background

To assist tea planters in increasing their field productivity and production, in line with Government's objective of boosting the tea sector.

4. Authority for the subsidy

Budget Measure, Ministry of Agro Industry and Food Security

5. Form of the subsidy, To whom and how the subsidy is provided

To provide fertilizers free of charge (175 kg per arpent) to registered tea planters.

Beneficiaries

Subsidy is eligible to tea planters registered and licensed with the National Agricultural Products Regulatory Office (NAPRO) and with the Small Planters Welfare Fund (SFWF)

6. Total Amount of subsidy

Rs 8,000,000

7. Duration of the subsidy

Annual basis

8. Statistical data permitting an assessment of the trade effects

No statistical data permitting an assessment of trade effects is available.

3 SEED PURCHASE SCHEME (POTATO, ONION AND GARLIC)

1. Title of the Subsidy Programme

Seed Purchase Scheme (Potato, Onion and Garlic)

2. Period covered by the notification

2017/2018

3. Policy Objective

The seed purchase scheme help small planters meet the significant, high financial cost involved in the purchase of seeds for potato, onion and garlic.

4. Background and authority for the subsidy

Budget Measure, Ministry of Agro Industry and Food Security

5. Form of the subsidy, To whom and how the subsidy is provided

- To provide fertilizer, free of charge (175 kg per arpent) to registered tea planters.
- Subsidy is eligible to tea planters registered and licensed with the National Agricultural Products Regulatory Office (NAPRO) and with the Small Planters Welfare Fund (SFWF).

6. Total Amount of subsidy

Rs 5,000,000

7. Duration of the subsidy

Annual basis

8. Statistical data permitting an assessment of the trade effects

No statistical data permitting an assessment of trade effects is available.

4 BAT NET SCHEME FOR FRUIT GROWERS (MANGO, LITCHI AND LONGAN)

1. Title of the Subsidy Programme

Bat Net Scheme for Fruit Growers (Mango, Litchi and Longan)

2. Period covered by the notification

2017/2018

3. Policy Objective and Background

To protect fruit trees in orchards and in backyard from being attacked by bats.

4. Authority for the subsidy

Budget Measure, Ministry of Agro Industry and Food Security

5. Form of the subsidy, To whom and how the subsidy is provided

Details of subsidy

- Subsidy of 75% on costs for the purchase of anti-bird net to cover 50% of the extent of the orchard up to a maximum of 2 arpents.
- For backyards, subsidy of 75% on costs for the purchase of anti-bird net for a maximum of 5 fruit trees.
- Each beneficiary will be eligible for the Scheme only once in a fruit season.
- Fruit trees mainly concerned by the Scheme include: Mango, Litchi and Longan.

Beneficiaries

Member of the public, orchard owner, planters, members of Cooperatives Societies/Companies/Farmers Associations.

Eligibility criteria

Member of the public/orchard owner having at least one fruit bearing tree.

6. Total Amount of subsidy

Rs 25,000,000

7. Duration of the subsidy

Annual basis

8. Statistical data permitting an assessment of the trade effects

No statistical data permitting an assessment of trade effects is available.

5 AGRO-PROCESSING SMES (PREMARKET TESTS)

1. Title of the Subsidy Programme

Agro-Processing SMEs (Premarket Tests)

2. Period covered by the notification

2017/2018

3. Policy Objective

To provide support to agro processors/enterprises in meeting their cost of pre- market test and certification to ensure delivery of safe food to customers.

4. Background and authority for the subsidy

Budget Measure, Ministry of Agro Industry and Food Security

5. Form of the subsidy, To whom and how the subsidy is provided

Details of Subsidy

A grant of up to Rs 400, 000 will be provided to registered agro processors to meet the costs of the pre-market test and certification of their products at the Government Analyst Division (GAD), for a maximum of 10 products.

Beneficiaries

Agro processors/enterprises registered with the SFWF.

6. Total Amount of subsidy

Rs 6,000,000

7. Duration of the subsidy

Annual basis

8. Statistical data permitting an assessment of the trade effects

No statistical data permitting an assessment of trade effects is available.

6 CROP PRODUCERS (COMPOST)

1. Title of the Subsidy Programme

Crop Producers (Compost)

2. Period covered by the notification

2017/2018

3. Policy Objective and Background

To provide support to small planters to shift from the use of chemical inputs to organic ones so as to promote sustainable agriculture.

4. Authority for the subsidy

Budget Measure, Ministry of Agro Industry and Food Security

5. Form of the subsidy, to whom and how the subsidy is provided

A provision of locally produced compost up to a maximum of 1 ton/arpent.

Small planters registered with the SFWF and sugar cane planters registered with the Sugar Insurance Fund Board (SIFB)

6. Total Amount of subsidy

Rs 15,000,000

7. Duration of the subsidy

Annual basis

8. Statistical data permitting an assessment of the trade effects

No statistical data permitting an assessment of trade effects is available.

7 TECHNOLOGY INTRODUCTION AND DIFFUSION SCHEME

1. Title of the Subsidy Programme

Technology Introduction and Diffusion Scheme

2. Period covered by the notification

2017/2018

3. Policy Objective and Background

To facilitate the introduction of new animal breeds/crops as well as access to expert/consultancy services, high performing equipment/technology to foster innovative production systems and boost production in the non-sugar agricultural sub-sector including agro-processing activities.

4. Authority for the subsidy

Budget Measure, Ministry of Agro Industry and Food Security

5. Form of the subsidy, to whom and how the subsidy is provided.

Details of subsidy:

- (a) A cash grant representing 75% of costs of consultancy/expert services/equipment/breeding stock/crop/planting material up to a maximum of Rs 1 M payable as follows: 50% on approval of project and 25% on successful utilisation of project output.
- (b) A bonus of an additional 25% on successful dissemination of project output to other producers.
- (c) Scope of activities: Crops, livestock, cut flowers, ornamentals. Bio/organic farming undertaken under open-field or sheltered conditions including Agro-processing and apiculture activities.

Beneficiaries

Individual farmers registered with the SFWF; Cooperative societies/registered companies engaged in agro-based activities and having an annual turnover of less than Rs 20M.

6. Total Amount of subsidy

Rs 5,000,000

7. Duration of the subsidy

Annual basis

8. Statistical data permitting an assessment of the trade effects

No statistical data permitting an assessment of trade effects is available.

8 SCHEME FOR CERTIFICATION OF BIO FOODS

1. Title of the Subsidy Programme

Scheme for Certification of Bio Foods

2. Period covered by the notification

2017/2018

3. Policy Objective

To facilitate access of small scale food crop producers to internationally recognised organic certification systems which would enable their fresh farm products to be differentiated and formally

labelled as genuine organic farm products on both domestic and foreign markets, thereby assuring them with a prime price as well as adequate compensation for effort put in the production process

4. Background and authority for the subsidy

Budget Measure, Ministry of Agro Industry and Food Security

5. Form of the subsidy, To whom and how the subsidy is provided

Details of subsidy:

A cash grant of Rs 100,000 provided to beneficiaries for funding of costs associated with certification of organic fresh products produced on their own farms and payable by claim to the Certifying Body or its local agent as follows:

- An amount representing 50% of the approved grant to be disbursed at start of the certification process; and
- The remaining 50% paid at time of issue of the certificate.

Beneficiaries

Co-operative Societies, Agro-based Companies as well as individual farmers engaged in production of food crops on commercial scale and conducted under recommended organic farming systems on either owned or leased lands of area ranging from a minimum of 1 arpent to a maximum of 10 arpents.

Scheme shall be applicable if prospective applicant shall:

- hold valid Planters Registration Card issued by the Small Farmers Welfare Fund in case of individual farmers; or
- valid Registration Certificate/Business Registration Card, whichever applicable, with agricultural production as main field of activity in case of Co-operative Societies and Agro-Based Companies;
- have proof of adequate financial resources for funding of the remaining amount required to settle the full cost quoted for the certification process; and
- hold title deed or valid lease agreement (Minimum 5 years) for land hosting the organic farm.

6. Total Amount of subsidy

Rs 5,000,000

7. Duration of the subsidy

Annual basis

8. Statistical data permitting an assessment of the trade effects

No statistical data permitting an assessment of trade effects is available.

9 SCHEME TO ENCOURAGE USE OF BIO FERTILIZERS

1. Title of the Subsidy Programme

Scheme to encourage use of Bio Fertilizers

2. Period covered by the notification

2017/2018

3. Policy Objective

To enable farmers, have access to bio-inputs in line with government policy to promote bio-farming

4. Background and authority for the subsidy

Budget Measure, Ministry of Agro Industry and Food Security

5. Form of the subsidy, To whom and how the subsidy is provided

Details of the Subsidy

- Subsidy to a maximum of 60% per farmer on the cost of bio-inputs
- Subsidy will be provided for 3 crop cycles in one year over a maximum acreage of 5 acres

Beneficiaries

All registered planters with the SFWF on condition that they hold:

- Bio Development Certificate from Ministry of Agro Industry and Food Security (MAIFS)
- MauriGAP Certificate

6. Total Amount of subsidy

Rs 5,000,000

7. Duration of the subsidy

Annual basis

8. Statistical data permitting an assessment of the trade effects

No statistical data permitting an assessment of trade effects is available.

10 AGRICULTURAL CALAMITIES SOLIDARITY SCHEME (ACASS)

1. Title of the Subsidy Programme

Agricultural Calamities Solidarity Scheme (ACASS)

2. Period covered by the notification

2017/2018

3. Policy Objective

To enable farmers to restart production promptly after the occurrence of natural calamities, hence enhancing farmers' sustainability and reducing gap in supply of agricultural produce on the market

4. Background and authority for the subsidy

Budget Measure, Ministry of Agro Industry and Food Security

5. Form of the subsidy, To whom and how the subsidy is provided

Details of the Subsidy

The ACASS is a National Solidarity Fund consolidated from grant received from the Government and contribution from farmers to be used to provide support to planters whose crops would have been affected by natural calamities, namely cyclone, excessive rainfall and drought.

Beneficiaries

Small farmers registered with the SFWF and cultivating vegetables, fruits and/or flowers.

Conditions of subsidy

The amount of annual contribution will be Rs600 per arpent for a maximum of 24 arpents. Assistance will be provided for one crop loss in a year in case, an extent of 50% or more of the covered crop/s has/have been destroyed by the said calamities.

Financial Support will be provided to the tune of Rs 5000 per arpent.

6. Total Amount of subsidy

Rs 10,000,000

7. Duration of the subsidy

The coverage of ACASS will be for a period of 12 consecutive months as from the date the beneficiary has registered his/her crop under the scheme.

8. Statistical data permitting an assessment of the trade effects

No statistical data permitting an assessment of trade effects is available.

11 SHELTERED FARMING SCHEME

1. Title of the Subsidy Programme

Sheltered Farming Scheme

2. Period covered by the notification

2017/2018

3. Policy Objective and Background

To encourage farmers to shift from traditional open field cultivation to sheltered farming system. This will enable farmers to mitigate effects of adverse climatic conditions; improve production capacity and the quality of farm produce.

4. Authority for the subsidy

Budget Measure, Ministry of Agro Industry and Food Security

5. Form of the subsidy, To whom and how the subsidy is provided

Details of subsidy

- (a) A grant of 50% on investment on investment costs up to a maximum of Rs 400000.
- (b) The scope of the scheme is being extended to farmers engaged in production of cut flowers, ornamentals, as well as hydroponics and bio farming activities.

- (c) Farmers will also benefit from the scheme to have quick replacement of plastic cover of natural calamities.
- (d) Scheme applicable to Sheltered Farming activities are approved by FAREI.
- (e) Prospective applicants will benefit from the scheme only once.

Beneficiaries

Registered planters, Cooperative Societies, Agricultural Companies and Farmers Associations operating in the agro-industrial sector and engaged in production of high-value crops/horticultural crops on a minimum extent of 0.5 arpent and having a maximum annual turnover of Rs 3 million.

New promoters who are already owners of land or who hold land leases for at least 5 years and whose projects meet other conditions of the Scheme are also eligible.

Conditions of the subsidy

- Upon approval, an Agreement will be signed between the Ministry (represented by FAREI) and the beneficiary.
- All facilities funded under Sheltered Farming Scheme will be utilised solely for horticultural production.
- Mode of payment for the scheme will be 40% on submission of receipts and the remaining 60% on submission of project completion report.

6. Total Amount of subsidy

Rs 10,000,000

7. Duration of the subsidy

One time subsidy.

8. Statistical data permitting an assessment of the trade effects

No statistical data permitting an assessment of trade effects is available.

12 RAINWATER HARVESTING SCHEME

1. Title of the Subsidy Programme

Rainwater Harvesting Scheme

2. Period covered by the notification

2017/2018

3. Policy Objective

To encourage crop/livestock farmers 'harvest' rainwater to optimise use of water resources. The scheme provides partial funding as grant for acquisition of appropriate equipment to collect, store and supply of rainwater on-farm for the sole purpose of agricultural production.

4. Background and authority for the subsidy

Budget Measure, Ministry of Agro Industry and Food Security

5. Form of the subsidy, To whom and how the subsidy is provided

Details of subsidy

- (a) A grant of 50% on investment costs for installation of rainwater harvesting facilities up to a maximum of Rs 100,000.
- (b) The scheme caters for on-farm installation of rainwater harvesting system on existing shed or construction/setting up of a rain water collecting pond/or any other light structure for collecting rain water.
- (c) Construction of a new farm shed/store is excluded.

Beneficiaries

Individual planters/breeders registered with the SFWF; Cooperative societies/companies engaged in the commercial production of food crops, ornamentals and livestock.

Eligibility criteria for the scheme

- Holder of the relevant permits/licenses to carry out the farming activities where applicable;
- Have proof of funding for the remaining amount on proposed investment; and
- Holder of title deed or lease agreement (minimum 5 years) for land hosting the proposed rainwater harvesting facility.

6. Total Amount of subsidy

Rs 2,000,000

7. Duration of the subsidy

Annual basis. Prospective applicants will benefit from the subsidy only once.

8. Statistical data permitting an assessment of the trade effects

No statistical data permitting an assessment of trade effects is available.

13 CATTLE BREEDERS SCHEME

1. Title of the Subsidy Programme

Cattle Breeders Scheme

2. Period covered by the notification

2017/2018

3. Policy Objective

To enable breeders to purchase heifers/pregnant heifers/cows of genetically improved breeds.

The scheme provides partial funding as grant for acquisition of appropriate equipment to collect, store and supply of rainwater on-farm for the sole purpose of agricultural production.

4. Background and authority for the subsidy

Budget Measure, Ministry of Agro Industry and Food Security

5. Form of the subsidy, To whom and how the subsidy is provided

Details of subsidy

A 50% grant up to a maximum of Rs 50,000 per head on the cost of the animal up to a maximum of 10 heads will be refunded as approved by the Ministry.

The subsidy is provided on condition that:

- Holders of relevant permits/licences to carry out breeding activities
- Have the necessary funding for the remaining amount
- Have appropriate housing facilities for the animals

Beneficiaries

Registered breeders/Cooperative Societies/Companies.

6. Total Amount of subsidy

Rs 2,000,000

7. Duration of the subsidy

Annual basis. Prospective applicants will benefit from the subsidy only once.

8. Statistical data permitting an assessment of the trade effects

No statistical data permitting an assessment of trade effects is available.

14 PASTURE DEVELOPMENT

1. Title of the Subsidy Programme

Pasture Development

2. Period covered by the notification

2017/2018

3. Policy Objective

To encourage the production of good quality fodder for proper feeding of livestock.

4. Background and authority for the subsidy

Budget Measure, Ministry of Agro Industry and Food Security

5. Form of the subsidy, To whom and how the subsidy is provided

Details of subsidy

A 50% grant up to a maximum of Rs 20,000 per arpent on the cost of establishment of perennial fodder and maize up to a maximum of 25 arpents.

The subsidy is provided on condition that:

- The beneficiary shall complete the plantation within 3 months as from the date of first disbursement of grant allocated.
- The beneficiary shall maintain the fodder plantation under good cultural practices and keep the plantation for at least 5 years.

- The beneficiary shall provide monthly production data on harvest and its use.
- The Ministry will disburse 50% of the grant payable up to a maximum of Rs 10,000 per arpent upon plantation of 50% of the total acreage to be planted. The remaining 50% grant will be disbursed after the first harvest of fodder.

Beneficiaries

- Registered breeders/Cooperative Societies/Companies.
- The beneficiary should be owner of/lessee of agricultural land of at least 1 arpent for at least 5 years.

6. Total Amount of subsidy

Rs 1,000,000

7. Duration of the subsidy

Annual basis. Prospective applicants will benefit from the subsidy only once.

8. Statistical data permitting an assessment of the trade effects

No statistical data permitting an assessment of trade effects is available

15 CALF PRODUCTIVITY SCHEME / HEIFER

1. Title of the Subsidy Programme

Calf Productivity Scheme / Heifer

2. Period covered by the notification

2017/2018

3. Policy Objective

To encourage breeders to keep their calves healthy up to adult stage so as to increase production capacity in milk and meat.

To encourage breeders to take better care of their calves.

4. Background and authority for the subsidy.

Budget Measure, Ministry of Agro Industry and Food Security

5. Form of the subsidy, To whom and how the subsidy is provided

Details of subsidy

A cash grant of Rs 2,500 is payable to breeders under the Heifer Productivity Incentive Scheme, for each calf they have successfully bred up to 3 months and for a maximum of 30 weaned calves per year.

Beneficiaries

Small breeders registered with the Small Farmers Welfare Fund (SFWF).
The subsidy is provided on condition that:

- The breeder must be registered with the SFWF;
- The calf/calves must be duly tagged by the division of Veterinary Services (DVS);
- The calf/calves must be at least 3 months old; and

- The Cash Grant is payable to breeders who meet the eligibility criteria and after verification of the existence of the animal(s) on the farm.

6. Total Amount of subsidy

Rs 3,000,000

7. Duration of the subsidy

Annual basis. Prospective applicants will benefit from the subsidy only once.

8. Statistical data permitting an assessment of the trade effects

No statistical data permitting an assessment of trade effects is available

16 UPGRADING OF LIVESTOCK FARM / POULTRY SCHEME

1. Title of the Subsidy Programme

Upgrading of Livestock Farm / Poultry Scheme

2. Period covered by the notification

2017/2018

3. Policy Objective

To assist breeders in the upgrading / construction of livestock farms.

4. Background and authority for the subsidy

Budget Measure, Ministry of Agro Industry and Food Security

5. Form of the subsidy, To whom and how the subsidy is provided

Details of subsidy

A 50% grant up to a maximum of Rs 200,000 on the cost of the building project. Priority will be given to those engaging in production of small ruminants, rabbits, geese, turkeys, ducks and quails.

Beneficiaries

Registered breeders/Cooperative Societies/Companies.

The subsidy is provided on condition that:

- The applicant holds relevant permits/licences to carry out the project;
- The applicant has the necessary funding for the remaining amount; and
- Applicants who have benefitted previously from grants or other financial incentives for upgrading/construction of livestock farm buildings will not be considered.

6. Total Amount of subsidy

Rs 1,000,000

7. Duration of the subsidy

Annual basis. Prospective applicants will benefit from the subsidy only once.

8. Statistical data permitting an assessment of the trade effects

No statistical data permitting an assessment of trade effects is available

17 SCHEME FOR PURCHASE OF EQUIPMENT

1. Title of the Subsidy Programme

Scheme for Purchase of Equipment

2. Period covered by the notification

2017/2018

3. Policy Objective

To encourage farmers engaged in crop/livestock production activities and agro-entrepreneurs to acquire farm machinery/equipment for mechanisation of their production system and also venture in food processing or other value addition activities.

4. Background and authority for the subsidy

Budget Measure, Ministry of Agro Industry and Food Security

5. Form of the subsidy, to whom and how the subsidy is provided

Details of subsidy

A grant of 50% on the costs of investment up to a maximum of Rs 350,000 for the purchase of equipment for processing and/or mechanisation of agricultural operations. Scheme applicable to Agricultural/Processing equipment approved by FAREI.

Beneficiaries

Planters registered with the SFWF, Cooperative Societies, Agricultural Companies engaged in production of food crops and ornamentals and livestock on a minimum extent of 0.25 arpent, and agro-entrepreneurs holding a Business Registration Certificate from Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA).

New promoters who are already owners of land or who hold land leases for at least 5 years and whose projects meet other conditions of the Scheme are also eligible. The subsidy is provided on condition that:

- The applicant holds relevant permits/licences to carry out the proposed activities;
- The applicant has proof of funding for the remaining amount on proposed investment; and
- The applicant is a holder of title deed/lease agreement.

6. Total Amount of subsidy

Rs 6,000,000

7. Duration of the subsidy

Annual basis. Prospective applicants will benefit from the subsidy only once.

8. Statistical data permitting an assessment of the trade effects

No statistical data permitting an assessment of trade effects is available

18 INCENTIVES FOR MILK PRODUCTION

1. Title of the Subsidy Programme

Incentives for Milk Production

2. Period covered by the notification

2017/2018

3. Policy Objective

To provide a stimulus to small cow breeders to take better care of their heifers up to lactation period so as to boost up milk production.

4. Background and authority for the subsidy

Budget Measure, Ministry of Agro Industry and Food Security

5. Form of the subsidy, To whom and how the subsidy is provided

Details of subsidy

- A cash grant of Rs 5000 will be provided to all small dairy cows breeders registered with the SFWF for each of their heifers they have successfully reared up to the lactating period for a maximum of 40 cows per breeder;
- It would normally take 27 months for the heifer after birth, [i.e 9 months after the Artificial Insemination (AI)] to start lactating
- In this connection, the Scheme applies for all calves born as from 30 March 2014 and thereon which would start lactating as from June 2016 (i.e the start of FY 2016/17)

Beneficiaries

Small dairy cow breeders registered with the SFWF.

Eligibility criteria

The Scheme will apply only to dairy cows and not beef type cows.

- Breeders who have use Natural Service for conception would be eligible under the Scheme provided the DVS certify that the heifer is of milch type.
- In view of the funding provided in National Budget 2016/17 and administrative fee that would be required by the SFWF to operate the Scheme, the proposed cash grant of Rs 5,000 will be paid to a maximum of 560 cows.
- The Scheme will be extended on a first come first serve basis

6. Total Amount of subsidy

Rs 3,000,000

7. Duration of the subsidy

Annual basis. Prospective applicants will benefit from the subsidy only once.

8. Statistical data permitting an assessment of the trade effects

No statistical data permitting an assessment of trade effects is available

19 SCHEME FOR ACQUISITION OF CCTV CAMERAS

1. Title of the Subsidy Programme

Scheme for Acquisition of CCTV cameras

2. Period covered by the notification

2017/2018

3. Policy Objective and Background

To enable farmers engaged in vegetables, ornamentals, fruits, livestock production activities to acquire a CCTV Camera surveillance system at farm/field level, where applicable, to address the issue of theft of produce and equipment.

4. Authority for the subsidy

Budget Measure, Ministry of Agro Industry and Food Security

5. Form of the subsidy, To whom and how the subsidy is provided

Details of subsidy

- A grant of 50% on the cost of investment up to a maximum of Rs 50,000 for the purchase of CCTV camera surveillance system.
- Scheme is applicable to CCTV surveillance system approved by the Food and Agricultural Research and Extension Institute (FAREI).
- Prospective applicants will benefit from the scheme only once.

Beneficiaries

Farmers registered with the SFWF, Cooperative Societies; Agricultural Companies/Associations engaged in:

The Scheme will apply on the following conditions:

- Production of horticultural crops on a minimum area of 1.0 arpent.
- Protected/ hydroponic cultivation on a minimum area of around 300 m².
- Poultry and livestock farmers (cattle: ≥ 3 heads; goat & sheep: ≥ 20 heads; poultry: $\geq 1,000$ birds; pigs: ≥ 20 fatteners or ≥ 3 sows).

Eligibility Criteria

- Holder of the relevant permits/licenses to carry out the proposed activities;
- Have proof of funding for the remaining amount on proposed investment; and
- Holder of title deed/lease agreement (3 years as from date of application).

6. Total Amount of subsidy

Rs 2,000,000

7. Duration of the subsidy

Annual basis.

8. Statistical data permitting an assessment of the trade effects

No statistical data permitting an assessment of trade effects is available

20 CATTLE BREEDING SCHEME

1. Title of the Subsidy Programme

Cattle Breeding Scheme

2. Period covered by the notification

2017/2018

3. Policy Objective and Background

To enable breeders to purchase heifers/pregnant heifers/cows of genetically improved breeds.

4. Authority for the subsidy

Budget Measure, Ministry of Agro Industry and Food Security

5. Form of the subsidy, To whom and how the subsidy is provided and Subsidy per unit

A 50% grant up to a maximum of Rs 50,000 per head on the cost of the animal up to a maximum of 10 heads will be refunded as approved by the Ministry.

Beneficiaries

Registered breeders/Cooperative Societies/Companies.

Eligibility criteria:

- Holders of relevant permits/licenses to carry out breeding activities.
- Have the necessary funding for the remaining amount.
- Have appropriate housing facilities for the animals.

6. Total Amount of subsidy

Rs 2,000,000

7. Duration of the subsidy

Annual basis. Prospective applicants will benefit from the subsidy only once.

8. Statistical data permitting an assessment of the trade effects

No statistical data permitting an assessment of trade effects is available

21 GOAT/SHEEP BREEDING SCHEME

1. Title of the Subsidy Programme

Goat/Sheep Breeding Scheme

2. Period covered by the notification

2017/2018

3. Policy Objective

To enable breeders to purchase goats/sheep of genetically improved breed.

4. Background and authority for the subsidy

Budget Measure, Ministry of Agro Industry and Food Security

5. Form of the subsidy, To whom and how the subsidy is provided

A 50% grant up to a maximum of Rs 15,000 per head (on the cost of the animal up to a maximum of 25 heads will be refunded as approved by the Ministry.

Beneficiaries

Registered breeders/Cooperative Societies/Companies.

Eligibility criteria:

- Holders of relevant permits/licenses to carry out breeding activities;
- Have the necessary funding for the remaining amount; and
- Have appropriate housing facilities for the animals.

6. Total Amount of subsidy

Rs 2,000,000

7. Duration of the subsidy

Annual basis. Prospective applicants will benefit from the subsidy only once.

8. Statistical data permitting an assessment of the trade effects

No statistical data permitting an assessment of trade effects is available

22 SUBSIDY ON ANIMAL FEED

1. Title of the Subsidy Programme

Subsidy on Animal Feed

2. Period covered by the notification

2017/2018

3. Policy Objective

To enable breeders to purchase animal feed at subsidized rates

4. Background and authority for the subsidy

Budget Measure, Ministry of Agro Industry and Food Security

5. Form of the subsidy, To whom and how the subsidy is provided

Rs 4.00/ kg for a maximum of 20 heads

- 150 kg/ head: Cattle
- 50 kg/ head: Heifer
- 40 kg/ head: Pig
- 40 kg/ head: Goat

Beneficiaries

Registered breeders/Cooperative Societies/Companies.

All Registered breeders

Eligibility criteria:

All Registered breeders

6. Total Amount of subsidy

Rs 10,000,000

7. Duration of the subsidy

Annual basis. Prospective applicants will benefit from the subsidy only once.

8. Statistical data permitting an assessment of the trade effects

No statistical data permitting an assessment of trade effects is available

III. MANUFACTURING/ INDUSTRIAL PROGRAMMES**1 INVESTMENT TAX CREDIT**1. Title of the subsidy

Investment Tax Credit (Time bound)

2. Period covered by the notification

Financial year 2017/2018.

3. Policy objective

The objective of the Government is to encourage companies to invest in new technologies that would boost up output. The incentive is also to attract new investors in sectors using high tech Plant and Machinery so as to be in line with government policy of diversification of the economy.

4. Legislation and authority for the subsidy

The incentive is being provided under the Income Tax Act and administered by the Mauritius Revenue Authority which operates under the aegis of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development. The investment tax credit is being claimed by companies at the time of filing its annual income tax return.

5. Form of the subsidy

Tax credit of 5% or of 15% for 3 years for a company carrying business of manufacturing of specified goods or products in respect of capital expenditure incurred on new plant and machinery as follows:

Specified goods or products:

	Rate of annual tax credit allowable (% of capital expenditure)
Computers	15
Electronic or optical products	5
Electrical equipment	5
Film	15
Furniture	5
Jewellery and bijouterie	5
Medical and dental instruments, devices and supplies	5
Pharmaceuticals or medicinal chemicals	15
Ships and boats	15
Textiles	15
Wearing apparels	15

In addition, tax credit of 5% for 3 years in respect of the cost of new plant and machinery provided the company is engaged in the importation of goods in semi knocked-down form and there is at least 20% local value addition.

6. To whom and how the subsidy is provided

The incentives are given to manufacturing companies of specified goods or products on capital expenditure incurred.

7. Total Amount of Subsidy

Total incentive claimed for the year 2017/2018 is: Rs 126 Million

8. Duration

The rewarding of the incentives under the item 'Duration' is as follows:

A tax credit of 5% for 3 years will cover

- (i) expenditure incurred on new plant and machinery during the period 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2020; and
- (ii) expenditure incurred on new plant and machinery between 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2020 for company engaged in importation of goods on semi knocked down form.

9. Statistical data permitting an assessment of the trade effects

No effects on trade. The impact is negligible.

2 INCOME TAX HOLIDAY

1. Title of the subsidy

Income Tax holidays for specific duration to certain categories of companies

2. Period covered by the notification

Financial year 2017/2018.

3. Policy objective and/or purpose of the subsidy

To attract investment in new sectors.

4. Legislation and authority for the subsidy

The incentive is being provided under the Income Tax Act and administered by the Mauritius Revenue Authority which operates under the aegis of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development. The exemption is being claimed by companies at the time of filing its annual income tax returns.

5. Form of the subsidy

The incentive is in the form of an exemption from payment of income tax for a defined period of time.

6. To whom and how the subsidy is provided

The exemption is given to companies registered in Mauritius having:

- Income derived from their activities by small companies qualifying under a scheme of the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority Act
- Income derived from fishing activities by an industrial fishing company incorporated on or after 1 September 2016 and approved by the Board of Investment, starting as from the income year in which the company starts its operations
- Income derived from the manufacture of pharmaceutical products, medical devices and high-tech products by a company incorporated after 8 June 2017, starting from the income year in which the company starts its operations

- Income derived from food processing activities by a company incorporated under the Companies Act on or after 8 June 2017 and holding a registration certificate issued by the Economic Development Board to operate a food processing plant, starting as from the income year in which the company starts its operations.
- Income derived by a person from any activity under the sheltered farming scheme, set up by the Food and Agricultural Research and Extension Institute, as from the income year in which the person starts the activity
- Income derived by a company registered with the Economic Development Board and engaged in the manufacturing of automotive parts as from the income year in which the company starts the activity
- Income derived by a person engaged in a bio-farming project duly approved by the Food and Agricultural Research and Extension Institute or by the Commission responsible for the subject of agriculture of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly, as from the income year in which the person starts his activities,
- Income derived from their activities by a small enterprise under the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority Act 2009 subject to the enterprise being converted into a company
- Income derived by a company from activities carried out as a project developer or project financing institution in collaboration with the Mauritius Africa Fund for the purpose of developing infrastructure in the Special Economic Zones, starting as from the income year in which the company starts its activities.

7. Total Amount of Subsidy

Total income tax exemption claimed for the year 2017/2018 not available

8. Duration

The exemption covers a period of 4 to 8 years depending on the type of activity.

9. Statistical data permitting an assessment of the trade effects

No trade effects. The impact is negligible.

3 DOUBLE DEDUCTION OF EXPENDITURE

1. Title of the subsidy

Double deduction of expenditure related to R & D (Granted to all companies and time bound)

2. Period covered by the notification

Financial years 2017/2018.

3. Policy objective and/or purpose of the subsidy

The objective of the double deduction of expenditure is to encourage companies to invest in research and development activities including expenditure incurred on innovation, improvement or development of a process, product or service.

4. Legislation and authority for the subsidy

The incentive is being provided under the Income Tax Act and administered by the Mauritius Revenue Authority which operates under the aegis of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development. The double deduction is being claimed by companies at the time of filing its annual income tax returns.

5. Form of the subsidy

The incentive is to allow companies incurring expenditure in innovative processes and research and development to deduct twice the cost incurred on qualifying R&D and subject to certain conditions.

6. To whom and how the subsidy is provided

The exemption is given to all companies registered in Mauritius and incurring expenditure on qualifying Research and Development

7. Total amount of subsidy

Total income tax exemption claimed for the year 2017/2018 is: not available

8. Duration

The deduction covers the period in which the expenditure is incurred until 30 June 2022.

9. Statistical data permitting an assessment of the trade effects

No statistical data permitting an assessment of trade effects is available. The impact is negligible.

4 TRANSFER OF UNRELIEVED TAX LOSSES

1. Title of the subsidy

Transfer of unrelieved tax losses on the acquisition of an ailing company

2. Period covered by the notification

Financial year 2017/2018.

3. Policy objective and/or purpose of the subsidy

The objective is to facilitate the takeovers of a manufacturing company by another manufacturing company with the aim of safeguarding employment and the continuity of the business. Another objective is to facilitate transfer of the loss to encourage companies to invest by merging of companies.

4. Legislation and authority for the subsidy

The incentive is being provided under the Income Tax Act and administered by the Mauritius Revenue Authority which operates under the aegis of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development. Approval from the Ministry should be obtained prior the losses is being transferred.

5. Form of the subsidy

The transfer of unrelieved tax losses allow companies in the manufacturing industries to transfer the losses of the defunct company by the acquiring company.

6. To whom and how the subsidy is provided

The incentive is given in respect of the acquisition of manufacturing companies registered in Mauritius.

7. Total amount of Subsidy

Total income tax exemption claimed for the year 2017/2018 is not available

8. Duration

The unrelieved tax losses can be carried forward for a period of 5 consecutive years for trading losses and indefinitely for losses arising from allowance on capital expenditure.

9. Statistical data permitting an assessment of the trade effects

Being given that a company taking over the activities of another company there are no trade effects

5 EXEMPTION FROM REGISTRATION DUTY AND LAND TRANSFER TAX

1. Title of the subsidy

Exemption from Registration Duty and Land Transfer Tax on transfer of:

- (a) shares or property where:
 - (i) a manufacturing company takes over another manufacturing company; or
 - (ii) 2 or more manufacturing companies merge into one manufacturing company.
- (b) Land or land and buildings provided that the purchaser uses the land to construct a building to be used/building as a warehouse as certified by EDB;
- (c) Land or land and buildings provided that the purchaser uses the land to construct a building to be used/building as a food processing plant and registered with the EDB;
- (d) land/land and buildings provided that the purchaser uses the land to construct a building to be used/building primarily for high technology specified manufacturing activities certified by the EDB.

2. Period covered by the notification

Financial year 2017/2018.

3. Policy objective and/or purpose of the subsidy

The objective is to facilitate the takeovers of a manufacturing company by another manufacturing company with the aim of safeguarding employment and the continuity of the business.

4. Legislation and authority for the subsidy

The incentive is being provided under the Registration Duty Act and Land (Duties and Taxes) Act and administered by the Registrar General Department which operates under the aegis of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development. Approval from the Economic Development Board is required to benefit from the exemption.

5. Form of the subsidy

The transfer of the shares or immovable property is exempted from the payment of the 5% of registration duty and 5% of land transfer tax where applicable.

6. To whom and how the subsidy is provided

The incentive is given to all manufacturing companies registered in Mauritius on the acquisition or transfer of the shares or property.

7. Total amount of subsidy

Total exemption claimed for the year 2017/2018 is: not available

8. Duration

It is one off exemption on the transfer of the shares or property

9. Statistical data permitting an assessment of the trade effects

No impact on trade being given that a manufacturing company is taking over another company or a merger between two companies.
