

**SUPPORT PROGRAM ACCORDING TO COUNCIL
REGULATION (EC) No 1405/2006 laying down specific measures
for agriculture in favour of the smaller Aegean islands**

The exceptional geographical situation of the Aegean islands in relation to the sources of supply of food and agricultural products essential for everyday consumption or agricultural production on the Aegean islands imposes costs, which constitute a severe handicap to the sectors concerned. In order to offset this natural handicap specific supply arrangements were introduced for essential basic products, elements on which is based the establishment of the supply programme.

The support program gives special attention to the fact that the transport capabilities from the mainland to the Aegean islands, have not improved the last ten (10) years, basically due to the lack of enhancement of the current fleet. As a result, especially during winter season, the supply with foods and agricultural products for everyday consumption is not feasible for long periods due to severe weather conditions or to service needs of the available fleet.

It should be noted that current agricultural production of the smaller Aegean islands does not meet the requirements of the local market due to the reasons mentioned above, which is the main cause for the increase of the production cost and the product prizes.

The proposed support program focuses on the current production lines and the supply of raw material, in order to ensure the financial, social and environmental balance, so as to secure the high living level of their population, factors which are very important for the maintenance of agricultural activity on the islands.

Specific supply arrangements are introduced for the agricultural products, which are essential for human consumption and as inputs in agricultural production in the smaller Aegean islands as well as for processing. A forecast supply balance is drawn up stating the quantity of the agricultural products referred to in the above paragraph needed to meet supply requirements each year.

Aid per hectare is granted for:

- The cultivation of potatoes for human consumption and for the cultivation of seed potatoes, cultivated and harvested per year. The amount of the aid is not more than EUR 600 per hectare.

- The continued cultivation of vines for the production of V.Q.P.R.D wines, in specific areas. The amount of the aid is not more than EUR 625 per hectare per year. The aid shall be granted exclusively to producer groups or organisations initiating a measure to improve the quality of the wines produced.
- The maintenance of olive groves in traditional olive-growing zones, provided that the groves are kept and maintained in good production conditions (meet cross-compliance rules). The amount of the aid is not more than EUR 145 per hectare per year.
- The production of honey of specific quality from the smaller Aegean islands, containing a large proportion of thyme honey. The aid will be paid, on the basis of the number of registered hives in production, to associations of beekeepers recognised by the competent authorities, which undertake to implement annual programmes of initiatives designed to improve the conditions under which quality honey is produced. The amount of the aid is not more than EUR 12 per hive per year.

Finally, aid is granted to some new products such as Skopelos plums, some legumes, Santorini small tomato, Tinos artichokes, some citrus species such as oranges, lemons and mandarins and the maintenance of mastic trees. The proposed aid can be seen from the attached table.

In case there will be available financial sources an aid will be granted to the support of local traditional cheese production line.

The attached table refers to the distribution of the granted aid, which will be financed by the Community or in the case of the supply program partially by the Member State (Greece), after the approval of the Commission.

The criteria under which the aid will be granted have not changed for supply arrangements and products, such as wine, potato, olive groves and honey, which were receiving aid under the regulation (EEC) 2019/93. Concerning the new products detailed criteria were established.

	Amount(€)
SPECIFIC SUPPLY ARRANGEMENTS	5.470.000
Animal feed	4.566.000
Flour	904.000
	Amount(€)
LOCAL AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS	18.460.000
Skopelos Plums	63.278
Legumes	74.638
Honey	1.194.180
Wine V.Q.P.R.D	2.500.000
Mastic trees	900.000
Olive groves	13.084.831
Potatos	663.839
Santorini small tomato	11.773
Tinos artichokes	5.886
Citrus species	508.575