

## £800,000 food and drink scheme – expressions of interest window open

The Rural Business Investment Scheme – FOOD (RBISF), available under the EU-supported Rural Development Programme, is a capital investments programme to support projects that offer clear and quantifiable benefits to the food and drink industry in Wales.

The scheme is open to existing and start-up micro & small food and drink processors and manufacturers throughout Wales who are not eligible under the Welsh Government's Food Business Investment Scheme.

Eligible businesses can apply for up to £50,000 for any individual investment project. These projects must contribute to the Welsh Government's ambitious [Food Strategy Action Plan](#) (external link) with one or more of the following objectives:

- promote and develop a growing and vibrant food and drink sector in Wales
- continue to develop a green image based on sustainable production methods
- further build resilience into the industry to withstand market changes
- drive improvements in food safety and security
- promote technological innovation in both product and processes
- provide career opportunities at varying skill levels.

Ahead of the opening of the first window for expressions of interest, Lesley Griffiths said:

“Our Welsh food and drink industry is a real success story, experiencing impressive levels of growth in recent years. We are committed to maintaining this momentum by ensuring the right conditions are in place for businesses of all sizes to prosper.

“I would encourage small businesses to find out more about this scheme and if they are eligible, to apply for the funding.”

More information, including eligibility criteria, can be found on the [Rural Business Investment Scheme – FOOD \(RBISF\)](#) page .