14th October 2026

AIB reopens Growth and Sustainability Loan Scheme to help farmers and SMEs in Ireland to invest, adapt and grow

- Phase 2 provides new long-term funding for eligible farmers, foresters, fishers and agri-food businesses and other small businesses across Ireland
- Loans from €25,000 to €3 million can support farm development, productivity, resilience and sustainable investment
- Terms of seven to 10 years are available, with loans of up to €500,000 unsecured and additional discounts for eligible green projects

AIB has reopened applications under Phase 2 of the Strategic Banking Corporation of Ireland (SBCI) Growth and Sustainability Loan Scheme (GSLS), giving eligible farmers, foresters, fishers and SMEs access to competitively priced, long-term finance. The funding can support investment that improves farm productivity, strengthens resilience, reduces operating costs and enables more sustainable growth.

The Government-backed scheme has been expanded by a further €500 million, increasing total lending capacity to €1 billion, and extended until 30th June 2029 or until fully subscribed, whichever is earlier. The additional capacity will enable more farm families and agri businesses and SMEs to make the long-term investments needed to remain or become more productive, competitive, sustainable and resilient.

Eligible agri and SME customers can apply for loans from €25,000 to €3 million, with repayment terms of seven to 10 years. Loans of up to €500,000 may be available unsecured, subject to scheme eligibility and AIB's normal lending assessment. The longer repayment period can help farmers align finance with the return from significant capital investment, while qualifying green projects can benefit from an additional interest-rate discount.

Subject to scheme eligibility, funding can support a broad range of investments designed to improve productivity, sustainability and business growth. These can include buildings and equipment, electric vehicles and charging infrastructure, energy efficiency and renewable energy, digital technology, research and innovation, and business expansion. For farming and agri-food businesses, funding may also support investment in areas such as animal welfare, precision agriculture, emissions reduction, water and nutrient management, and biodiversity.

Speaking about the development, **Elaine Downey, AIB Head of Retail SME** said *"The Growth and Sustainability Loan Scheme continues to play an important role in helping farmers, fishers, foresters, SMEs and agri-food businesses invest for the future. This additional funding allows AIB to support more Agri customers as they strengthen their businesses, improve resilience and invest in sustainable growth initiatives.*

"Farmers and SMEs are making important decisions about the future of their businesses - from upgrading buildings and equipment to improving energy efficiency, adopting new technology and investing in lower-emission practices. Access to affordable, long-term finance can help farm families and SMEs manage these investments, protect competitiveness and build resilient businesses for the next generation.

"We are delighted to continue our partnership with the SBCI and make this funding available immediately to eligible customers across Ireland. AIB has the largest Agri Advisor team in the country, and that dedicated team understands the realities of farming. The AIB Agri Advisor and Business Advisor teams are available to support customers as they consider investments to improve productivity, resilience and environmental performance."

The scheme is managed and delivered by the Strategic Banking Corporation of Ireland (SBCI) in co-operation with the European Investment Bank Group, the Department of Enterprise, Tourism and Employment and the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine. AIB is one of five participating finance providers.

Applications: Eligible customers can speak to their AIB Agri adviser or AIB Business Advisor or visit aib.ie/sbcigrowth for further information and the SBCI lending form.

For more on AIB's Steps to Sustainability, see Steps to Sustainability

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