

 <p>МІНІСТЕРСТВО АГРАРНОЇ ПОЛІТИКИ ТА ПРОДОВОЛЬСТВА УКРАЇНИ</p>	 <p>Проект фінансується Європейським Союзом</p>	 <p>Проект впроваджується консорціумом на чолі з WYG International</p>
<p><i>Implementation of Ukrainian's Commitments under WTO and ENP Frameworks in the Rural sector EuropeAid/126205/C/SER/UA</i></p>		

Overview of Latest Rural Developments

22 - 28 December 2011

WTO and Neighbourhood Policy

Ukraine and Turkey will start negotiations on FTA. Such an agreement was reached at the meeting of the Ukraine-Turkey Top-Level Strategic Board and announced by Ukraine's President Viktor Yanukovich and Turkey's Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan at a press conference in Ankara. "Launching negotiations on free trade zone is a topical issue", Mr. Yanukovich said.

The sides agreed to deepen cooperation to remove customs barriers to facilitate the movement of goods and capital and increase the trade turnover between Ukraine and Turkey.

Presidential Press Service, 22.12.2011

Ankara, Ukrainian Minister of Agrarian Policy and Food Mykola Prysiyazhniuk and Turkish Minister of Agriculture Mehmet Mehdi Eker signed the Agreements between the Government of Ukraine and the Government of the Republic of Turkey On Cooperation in Quarantine and Plant Protection Matters and On Cooperation in Fisheries.

According to Mr. Prysiyazhnyuk, the agreement on quarantine and plant protection will ensure mutual exchange of information, official documents and developments in phytosanitary area both on technical and strategic level, and strengthen the cooperation between the countries in quarantine and plant protection matters which will be based on the principles of sovereign equality and mutual respect. The agreement on cooperation in fisheries will regulate and enhance cooperation in the field of aquaculture.

MAPF Press Service, 22.12.2011

December 22, Brussels, Technical reconciliation of FTA related provisions of the draft Association Agreement was carried out in accordance with agreements reached during the Ukraine-EU Summit, the First Deputy Prime Minister/Minister of Economic Development and Trade Andriy Klyuyev said. According to him, the heads of delegations, Ukraine's Government Commissioner for European Integration Valeriy Pyatnitsky and the Director of the EC Directorate-General for Trade Rupert Schlegelmilch signed a corresponding protocol. Mr. Klyuev said that the parties will now proceed to the procedures necessary for initialling the Agreement.

<http://www.unian.net>, 23.12.2011

Food Safety

According to RosSelhozNadzor (Russian Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance), veterinary officials of the Customs Union member states agreed to abolish temporary restrictions on imports of products from the following Ukrainian companies: "Molis",

"Zeus Company", "Zorya Meat Plant", "Bila Tserkva Milk Factory" and "Konotop Meat". Import restrictions were abolished since deficiencies, which Russian and Kazakh inspectors found on Ukrainian enterprises on June 6-17, 2011, were rectified, and since Ukrainian companies provided sufficient assurances that they will comply with CU veterinary and sanitary requirements and standards.

LIHABusinessInform, 22.12.2011

The Central Research Quarantine Laboratory held more than 30 thousand tests of imported and domestic products last month. Quarantine weeds were detected in 166 cases. In 162 cases these were batches of soybean, corn and sunflower of domestic production where quarantine weeds were detected and in 4 cases these were flowers and lettuce from Israel, the Netherlands and Poland where western flower thrips was detected. Non-quarantine pests were detected in some 20,000 cases.

www.vet.gov.ua, 26.12.2011

The Cabinet of Ministers adopted the decree #1300 establishing regional offices of the State Inspectorate for Agriculture in accordance with presidential decrees № 1085 "On Optimization of the Central Executive Power System " from 09.12.2010 and № 459 "On State Inspectorate for Agriculture" from 13.04.2011, and in order to fulfill Inspectorate's tasks at regional level. The decree provides for establishing Inspectorate's branches in all oblasts and rayons, and in Crimea, Kyiv and Sevastopol.

The Press Service of the State Inspectorate for Agriculture, 27.12.2011

Market Infrastructure

The Parliament adopted the law № 9026 amending Art. 13 of the law "On State Support to Agriculture".

The amendments provide for financial support to farmers and agri businesses through cheaper loans and compensations for lease of equipment. The Government plans to provide subsidies for farmers to partially cover bank interests and machinery lease payments.

<http://economics.unian.net/>, 22.12.2011

The Parliament adopted the law № 8370-1 On Food Security defining legal, economic and organizational basis for the State to protect national interests and ensure food security of Ukrainian citizens, and establishing State's responsibilities in the field of food security. The law applies to the following sector: agricultural and fishery production, food storage, processing and marketing, agricultural research and education. The law defines the main objectives in the field of food security.

RBC-Ukraine, 22.12.2011

The Danone-Ukraine company intends, with the support of Danone Ecosystems Fund and The Communities Welfare international charitable organization (former Heifer Project International), to develop the Ecofruit project which aims at supporting small producers in growing strawberries and creating strawberry cooperatives in Western Ukraine. The first cooperative will be established in the village of Losyatyn, Ternopil oblast. During the first phase (2012-2013) investments will amount to some USD 12.5 million which will be spent for planting strawberries on 17 hectares of land. The expected yield is 20 tonnes per ha. In implanting the strawberry cooperatives project the Danone company was inspired by the success of its another initiative, namely dairy cooperatives project. It is very promising to establish cooperatives consisting of backyard holdings in Ukraine, since the share of backyard holdings in fruit, meat and milk production is about 80%.

Delo.ua, 23.12.2011

Rural Development

The Parliament adopted the law № 8489 amending the Land and Forest Codes in what regards the preservation of forests. The amendments provide for redistribution of powers between the Cabinet of Ministers, the Council of Ministers of Crimea, oblast, Kyiv and Sevastopol and rayon state administrations in what regards the transfer, lease or removal of public lands. The law also determines the scope of authority of village, town and city councils in what regards the separation of state and communal property.

<http://economics.unian.net>, 22.12.2011

December 26, the Minister of Agrarian Policy and Food Mykola Prisyazhnyuk attended the founding meeting of the NGO Council under MAPF. He stressed the importance of cooperation between state authorities and agricultural NGOs.

According to Mr. Prisyazhnyuk, many agricultural NGOs are very active. "The Ministry is trying to fully support non-governmental organizations. We have spurred the activities of trade unions. The agricultural trade union is the largest in Ukraine consisting of about one million members", the Minister stressed.

MAPF Press Service, 26.12.2011

Backyard holdings which occupy some 3 million hectares of arable land are a big positive factor for Ukraine, the Minister of Agrarian Policy and Food Mykola Prisyazhnyuk stressed at the final meeting of MAPF officials.

"It is important for MAPF to support small private farms and backyard holdings which today cover some 3 million hectares. It is Ukraine's peculiarity which we should preserve", he said.

UKRINFORM, 26.12.2011

In 2011 7 tourist events were held to develop the tourism sector in Bukovina: the Christmas Fair, the first Malanka folklore-ethnographic festival, the seventh Bukovina tourist fair, the Ivana Kupala celebration, Meridian Czernowitz (the second international poetry festival), the celebration of the World Tourism Day, and Zaharetskyy Harchyk (the ninth Hutsul folklore-ethnographic festival), the head of the Tourism Infrastructure Department of Chernivtsi Oblast State Administration Dmytro Pavel said during a press conference. According to Mr. Pavel, the development of green tourism is among priorities of the Bukovina tourism sector. Today there are 102 rural households officially engaged in green tourism in Bukovina.

The Governmental Portal, 27.12.2011